PROBLEM STATEMENT: St Petersburg is a recurring victim of hurricanes and natural disasters. It has lower (than state and national goals) public subscription to commercial broadband. Adoption of broadband communications in support of St Petersburg's underserved population is essential to integrate survivable communications to meet educational and public safety requirements. Public safety entities require significant survivable communication capabilities which are largely underutilized unless there is a disaster. Conversely, schools, libraries, colleges, and community centers all need communications capabilities which are underused during disaster response. Ironically, these schools, libraries, and community centers are often visited by the general public and are essential shelters, points of distribution, and staging areas during disaster response. A sustainable business model is required that supports broadband service adoption for both training/educational public use and the essential disaster response efforts of the public safety community. This same capability needs to be integrated into efforts to reach out to underserved populations. PROPOSED SOLUTION: Leverage a combination of locations in St Petersburg to create an integrated broadband capability that supports approximately 264,000 residents, education and public safety users. The concept combines point-to-point wireless, and local area wireless communications. It collaboratively supports enhanced public access to broadband communications, delivery of course content and training to schools and colleges, and the essential requirements of public safety. Deployment of the network will place voice, data and video capabilities in community support centers, public libraries, fire stations and public safety centers throughout the city. This will enable remarkable 'non-emergency' uses such as education, first responder training, administration, etc. During disasters, such as hurricanes, storms, etc. communications capabilities will survive in the disaster area to support consequence management, shelters, and other essential requirements. Acts of terror, use of weapons of mass destructions, and other non-traditional disasters will benefit from survivable communications in support of first responders and synchronization of efforts with border localities and states. Middle mile connectivity is essential to interagency, interoperable, disaster response communications. A sustainable business model is proposed that supports broadband service adoption for both training/educational public use and the essential disaster response efforts of the public safety community. INNOVATIVE APPROACH: Broadband and wireless communications capabilities will be installed in each of the anchor institutions in St Petersburg, at a total of approximately 40 locations citywide These will provide robust connectivity for, education and public safety to underserved populations. Specifically, point-to-point wireless will be used to provide connectivity between key institutions (police, municipal office, public libraries, etc.). These aggregated
wireless connections will link to existing terrestrial broadband communications and be augmented with broadband linking to government and other institutions. Public Computer Centers will be installed to extend access to underserved populations. St Petersburg is vulnerable to a range of natural disasters, including the catastrophic effects associated with recurring hurricanes, floods, storms, and the potential for manmade events (such as WMD and/or acts of terrorism). This three-year project will deliver interoperable communications capabilities in support of community information services, natural disaster, educational, and daily administration activities. Extension of the broadband network would consist of providing connectivity to local networks in facilities via wireless PTP. The proposed network capacity will support existing and enhanced requirements in many functional areas: 'Public Library Middle-Mile connectivity and Last-Mile service for expanded computer training and public computer labs. 'First Responder Training/Disaster Response Exercises 'by delivering course content right into the community where the first responder lives, using internet, email or video conferencing. 'Local Law Enforcement training and operations. 'Fire and EMS training and support. DESCRIBE POPULATION: The goal is to connect approximately 40 locations, with an emphasis on those sites that are: 1) points where the education/training can be delivered (Public Libraries, community recreation centers, Office on Aging, colleges etc.); 2) points that are essential to public safety/continuity of government (police, fire, Public Utility facilities, etc.); 3) points that are essential to providing shelter/staging during disaster community recreation centers, libraries, etc. Because the capability reaches out to every economic, ethnic and social group, all will have new access to these resources. Five computer workstations will be embedded in library locations, which will create the ability for underserved persons to concurrently have access to broadband communications at each location. By having up to 40 locations spread throughout the St Petersburg, more than 264,000 city residents will have new access. QUALIFICATION Collaboration with local government will ensure that this project benefits a wide cross section of St Petersburg residents. The synergies of this collaboration will ensure that this capability is integrated into education, training, disaster response, and public safety, in addition to the benefits of individual broadband access at these locations. Intelligent Decisions, which is teamed with Lets Think Wireless, St Petersburg and others, has successfully designed, built and implemented major enterprise-level networks nationally. Community Anchor Institutions include: schools and libraries, community colleges and institutions of higher learning, medical and healthcare providers, public safety entities and other community support entities. SUMMARY OF JOBS This project will create or save 78 jobs. Activities associated with design and development, construction, implementation and training will directly create or preserve approximately 49 jobs. An additional 29 indirect or induced jobs will also be created. OVERALL COST The overall cost of this project is $7,500,000. $5,250,000 is funded through BTOP grant and $2,250,000 is matched by St Petersburg contribution and outside investment.