Tulare County is regarded as the poorest county per capita in California. The city of Richgrove and its surrounding service areas are in the unfortunate position of being one of the poorest areas of the county. Richgrove California has an extended array of unfortunate issues. We at Richgrove School District struggle to address the extreme socio-economic malaise that the region is currently mired in. The issues are massive yet not impossible to answer. However, to paint the full picture, you must understand the targeted service area's is inhabited with 99% minority and immigrant households that live at or below the poverty line. California has 14% unemployment and Tulare County's unemployment is 18% and climbing. The local economy is largely based on agricultural field labor which is seasonal employment periods.

Along with the extremely depressed economy in the region, other issues that are faced by area residents include; many residents that have experienced over-exposure to pesticide drift, the central valley has the second worst air in the United states, low-graduation rates, low paying job, multiple gangs who are constantly having conflicts, poor health such as high rates of Diabetes, highest teenage pregnancy in California, high crime, etc. The surrounding area is known for supplying the US with a large portion of Meth and when a crime is reported it can take the sheriffs up to 2 hours to respond. This is guaranteed to repeat itself for each generation. Until 2 years ago Richgrove had no curbs, gutters or sidewalks.

Richgrove School District will host 2 0c3 circuits @ the full bandwidth and provide 5-7 mbps of WIFI bandwidth to all households and citizens within the reach of multiple Wi-Fi Hotspots in the greater areas. The Broadband-WIFI-job-creation@richgrove.org project will provide the local fire-department, Post office, Richgrove community water district, Richgrove public computer
center with 20MBs of dedicated bandwidth. All internet access will be filtered according to CIPA standards using Lightspeed Total Traffic Solution. We currently have certified technicians who have years of experience in providing technology support for WAN/LAN, Wi-Fi, VOIP Telephony, PC/Laptops & servers. We also have a bevy of teachers, trainers, tutors & volunteers ready to begin this program once it is approved by NTIA/BTOP.

Due to budget concerns Richgrove School District is expected to close summer school and winter cession indefinitely starting in 2010. These programs serve both children and adults of the Richgrove service area. To counter this loss to the students and adults of the Richgrove Service Area Our PCC project will provide 400 laptops in a combination of Stationary & mobile computer labs as well as "House-calls" and "One to One" initiatives to the community. The House calls and One to One initiatives will allow our staff to reach the affirmed, disabled, seniors, children and other vulnerable populations who lack the transportation to attend the PCC programs on site. Those participants who participate at the computer center or the associated initiatives, will complete at a minimum of 100 hours of program and or school approved tutoring (hours normally spent in summer school and or Winter cession) that they would otherwise lose due to the budget cuts. The fact that these programs will go year round, will give participants from 100 to 500 hours of training in our core curriculum components each year based on the participants availability. The Wi-Fi system would implement assistive technology workstations and laptops to support handicap population. The Programs proposed services will include:

Provide GED services for high school dropouts. Assist with resume development, career inventory, apply for online jobs and promote professional success. The public computer center also will provide a clean and orderly environment in which to learn and grow their skills and also promotes success; we will monitor and review all lab activity. Any activities not conducive to the community computer center will be documented and if deemed unacceptable to our Acceptable Use Policy that user will be informed and if needed, removed or suspended from the program for a period of time. The public computer center will work closely and act as an extension of RSD for software licensing which will allow software to transfer between campuses to which will greatly assist in reducing costs and allow for a seamless support the summer & winter sessions as well as year round training. All participants will benefit from the proposed collaboration. During the second and third year of the project we will include several feeder high schools vocational programs and implement this program as well. Best practices will be used for the administration of the program. Some areas of program administration and outreach include: Participants will be assigned program ID cards to track participation and use of equipment and resources.

Offer the safety & emergency service personnel the opportunity to pursue professional continuing education courses with the expanded hours on site and mobile laptop labs that can be taken on the station sites. Assist farmers in creating pesticide free crops, improve shipping, best practices and promoting local usage of local grown crops. This grant will allow RSD to extend the hours & capability of the local library and provide job searches to 100 + users per week. A regional portal website would be
operated and kept current by in-house web master that would allow for user "lockers" and resource sharing and collaboration.

Promotion of the program would be provided by all of local and regional education agencies, Health & Human Service agencies, Non-profits and churches in the service areas on a regular basis. Laptops would be split between support for onsite needs as well as the "off-site" initiatives detailed previously. There would be HD video conferencing equipment used for; education, tele-medicine, vocational training & other uses germane to the program. We intend to have compliance and auditing standards which will go above and beyond standards as to insure public funds are spent in accordance with all government and grant polices. The Community computer center will employ 10 trainers and is expected to initially train 15-20 tutors as well as more than a dozen volunteers. We expect to train 15-25 tutors and volunteers each year to meet the expected need for this program as well as for advanced community support and outreach. As an educational institution we qualify for nearly 50-70% discount on software, hardware and other technology related services. We can leverage Federal monies further than most institutions with the E-rate program (recent FCC ruling allows for such use to the community).

Our Project will offer A+ Certification courses, Microsoft Office 2003 and 2007, Basic Business skills, Adobe CS3 and CS4, Basic and Intermediate Math to all 600 households.

Our goal, which is certainly attainable, is to transition the population from its current dependence on seasonal agriculture and public assistance to more stable employment and economic diversity. The total cost to transform a desperate region with this program is:

$1,844,417.40