7. Executive Summary of Overall Proposal:

a. A statement of the problem or need

Oklahoma City University (OCU) is located in a largely low-income area of Oklahoma City ███ The schools have extremely limited broadband technology ███████████████████ Many residents in this part of the city do not have access to a computer or the internet.

███ The potential for economic growth and full employment for area residents can never be realized without computer and broadband access combined with targeted instruction and support.

b. Your overall approach to addressing the need

The Intergenerational Center is a concept that will allow OCU to meet educational, healthcare, daycare, and computer needs in its community. Once complete, clients of all ages will be provided with a variety of services designed to address personal and professional needs from childhood through senior years.

The computer center intends to address many of the above problems by providing the means to the internet through open access as well as structured educational programs. These programs will directly address issues such as basic computer use, searching the internet, employment searches and applications, educational deficiencies, tutoring for success, and language instruction. This will take place under the guidance of university faculty and selected students with expertise in these areas.

Once clients understand the power of broadband and all of its applications, they will recognize its ability to enhance everyday life and expand career opportunities.

c. Area(s) to be served; population of the target area(s), including demographic information; and estimated number of potential users of your public computer center

The Intergenerational Public Computer Center will be open to anyone in the greater Oklahoma City area who would like to use the facility. We have identified an area (known as the Target Area) that we intend to specifically address. This area is more fully described in a supplemental material, but it extends for roughly 15 square miles around the university.

The Target Area has a population of approximately 60,000 people and has a very high unemployment rate of approximately 20%. Some of the demographic information available for the population in this area includes
- more than ███ are in a disadvantaged ethnic minority group
- approximately ███ live at or below the poverty level
- over ███ speak no English in the home, and more than an additional ███ use English as a second language

OCU has already received strong expressions of interest as well as verbal commitments from a number of community organizations who work with clients in the Target Area. Additional partners and referral sources will be sought to work with The Center. (See supplemental materials for support letters from some of these organizations.)

Assuming The Center has a utilization rate of about two-thirds, it is reasonable to assume that ██████ will use the facility each year. While this number includes some repeat users, it is a fair estimate of total annual usage.

d. Qualifications of the applicant that demonstrate the ability to implement the project and achieve its intended results

Oklahoma City University has a highly talented faculty, over 80% of whom have terminal degrees in their areas of expertise. OCU has a strong track record for successfully managing grants and then sustaining and even expanding the grant projects after the grant expires. OCU's technology department currently manages and supports 19 computer labs and 81 classrooms and conference rooms with computer and broadband technology.

OCU's commitment to the community is unsurpassed and the university's mission expresses service learning and stewardship as some of our strongest core values.

e. Jobs to be saved or created

Initially, three full-time professional positions and approximately 15 part-time student positions will be created at OCU. The student positions are usually filled each semester, so dozens of students will have an opportunity to work that might not otherwise have found employment. A significant number of positions, both internal and external, will be impacted by and involved in work at The Center. The need for these services is created directly by The Center and has the potential to preserve positions that might otherwise have been eliminated or reduced to part-time.

Perhaps the greatest impact will come once The Center has been established. By teaching job skills to those who are unemployed or underemployed, they become more marketable and more likely to gain employment.

f. Overall cost of the proposed project

The total cost for the proposed project is just under $1.9MM. The actual grant request, however, is only for $1.3MM as Oklahoma City University is providing $0.6MM (roughly 30%) of the total project cost. By strategically selecting a specific combination of equipment types and this particular space to locate The Center, we have significantly reduced the costs required to provide this robust offering of services. Approximately ████ of the project costs are for equipment (hardware and software), and direct personnel costs (salary and benefits). Through internal efforts, we were able to reduce the total project cost by ████████.

The proposed budget is extremely reasonable given the depth and breadth of services that will be offered to a very sizable population for this modest cost. OCU looks forward to beginning this important work.