

Broadband USA Applications Database

Applicant Name: City of Los Angeles

Project Title: Los Angeles' Computer Access Network ("L.A.-CAN")

Project Type: Public Computer Center

Executive Summary

Executive Summary of the Project

Challenge

While the City of Los Angeles looks forward to the day that all 4 million Angelenos have a high-speed connection to the Internet from their residences, that day has not yet arrived. Research reveals that over a million households in the City of Los Angeles lack a computer at home and that half of all residents do not have, or choose not to subscribe to a high speed connection at home.

The reasons for those not subscribing are numerous. In addition to those that lack a computer at home, others cannot afford a broadband connection or have not yet come to understand the value such a connection plays in education, employment, economic development and enhanced health care delivery. Increasingly in Los Angeles, such a connection also is necessary to participate in our democracy.

Current facilities, staffing and services available to existing end users are not assured of continued existence due to current budget challenges, and but for the BTOP funding, the City could not provide the services it outlines in this project statement within the time period covered by the BTOP program.

Proposed Solution

The City's approach to addressing this multi-dimensional challenge is to strategically deploy 188 public computer centers throughout the City of Los Angeles' diverse neighborhoods at libraries, workforce training centers, youth and family centers, parks, recreation and community centers. The project will be known as the Los Angeles Computer Access Network or "L.A.-CAN". L.A.-CAN will leverage city resources such as existing staffing and facilities to empower over half of our residents with access to the benefits of the information age, including training and guidance. For many Angelenos, L.A.-CAN will provide their only means of accessing broadband Internet services and will do so within a short walk of

their residence. The project will be a joint effort of four City of Los Angeles departments: the Los Angeles Public Library; the Los Angeles Recreation and Parks Department, and the Los Angeles Community Development Department/Family Source System. Project management will be provided by the City of Los Angeles' Information Technology Agency (ITA).

Area Served

The L.A. - CAN project service area includes the entire City of Los Angeles, which encompasses over 469 square miles in land area (As a means to provide a perspective of just how large such an area is, it is larger than the combined total land area of the cities of Milwaukee, Cleveland, Saint Louis, Pittsburgh, Minneapolis, Boston, San Francisco, and the borough of Manhattan). The total population (2007) is 4,018,080, and the City's residents comprise one of the nation's most ethnically and culturally diverse populations. According to the 2000 Census, the city's population consists of 46.5 % Hispanic, 30.1 % non-Hispanic White, 11.2 % Black, 10.0 % Asian, 0.8 % Native American, 0.2 %, and Pacific Islander. Los Angeles has been described as an "immigrant metropolis." Immigration patterns have resulted in significant populations of people from Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, Nicaragua, China, Japan, Korea, and Vietnam. In addition, there are sizable numbers of Armenians, Arabs, Iranians, Israelis, and Jews. Almost 41% of the city's population is foreign born compared to the national average of 11% (2000 Census). Over 2.2 million residents (approx. 57.7% of the City's population) speak languages other than English at home compared to the national rate of 7.9% (2000 Census).

We know there is a strong correlation between broadband adoption and household income. Over 22% of the Los Angeles population (801,050 individuals) is living in poverty compared to 12.4% nationally (2000 Census). The Employment Development Department of the State of California reports that the Unemployment Rate for the City of Angeles for June 2009 was 12.5%. For the same month, the Unemployment Rate for the nation was 9.5%.

L.A.-CAN facilities are strategically located throughout the City, with most sites are in or adjacent to our most vulnerable populations. We would direct the reviewer to project area maps Vulnerable Population (Income) Census Tracts and Vulnerable Population (non-English) Census Tracts.

158 of the 188 L.A.-CAN Centers are located in or adjacent to census tract clusters in which 50% or more of the households are at low to moderate income levels. 128 of the 188 L.A. CAN Centers are located in or adjacent to census tracts where 50% or more of the households are non-English speaking.

Jobs

The City believes that no fewer than 50 jobs will be saved at the manufacturers, sales offices, and workforces of the vendors from whom the city purchases its equipment and broadband services. And

since the City works with many small and disadvantaged firms, some of these positions are likely to be vulnerable population jobs. Also, L.A. – CAN will directly create at least one city job in 2010. Finally, the City can only hope that, of the millions of end users that come to L.A.-CAN centers and are given job training, computer training and afforded access to online search engines, including the Library's recently developed Job Hunting Guide (available at www.lapl.org), that one percent will find jobs. That could be as many as 20,000 people.

Cost

The total cost of the two year project is \$15,439,125 which the City seeks only \$7,496,157 from the Federal government. We estimate that the federal government will not only leverage more than \$7,942,968 in local funds (matching funds), but also provide or preserve broadband access to Angelenos for about \$0.36 cents of ARRA funds per consumer served in one year.