Broadband USA Applications Database

Applicant Name: Longmont, City of

Project Title: Longmont Digital Inclusion Project

Project Type: Public Computer Center

_____**Executive Summary**_____

Longmont BTOP Broadband Network

Public Computer Center Application

a) A statement of the problem or need.

There exists within the community of Longmont, Colorado an ever increasing gap between those who use computers and their ability to have access to the internet and those who do not have computer access, which is most commonly known as the digital divide. The existing and aging computer lab at the Main Library of Longmont, Colorado has seen a consistent and steady increase in demand for the computer center lab. This application seeks to improve the main library computer center, create a Business Center computer lab and enhance two new public computer centers with Internet access at the Youth Center and the Senior Center located in Longmont, Colorado.

Below is 2009 data collected by the Library documenting the increasing demand and need for the Public Computer Centers, Internet and Broadband access.

2009	2009 YTD	Previous YTD	%Change
Computer Lab Use	35725	31855	12%
Child/Teen Comp. Lab Use	10065	9045	11%
Reference Comp. Lab Use	8290	8386	-1%
Periodicals Comp. Lab Use	2201	1938	14%
TOTAL PUBLIC COMP. USE	56281	51224	10%

Socioeconomic status, income, education and race are among other factors associated with limited computer and broadband access in the Longmont area. With the funding of this application, along with matching funds and supportive community partnerships, the City of Longmont will be able to measure and improve everyday life for those on the margins of society and to achieve greater social equity and empowerment through these public computer centers.

b) Overall approach to addressing the need and how this approach is innovative.

This plan builds on the Internet services already available and to further leverage those services to more fully meet the needs of our residents by expanding locations for Internet access, making classes and instruction available to all residents including the disabled, youth and seniors; providing ADA accessible computer labs; and providing a dedicated place for business people and job seekers to gain access to the Internet.

These computer centers will be located at the main library, youth and senior centers. These centers can increase democratic and civic participation, improve access to the delivery of health care (Colorado rates 48th out of 50 states in the number of uninsured children under the age of 18), education, job training and public safety.   These three centers will offer increased access to the Internet for these targeted and vulnerable populations in Longmont and in locations were they most often seek other services. Estimated number of potential users of these enhanced and new public computer centers (based on current use and traffic) is 58,250 public computer users.

Main Library Clients	Youth Center Clients Annually	Senior Center Clients
53,000	1,500	3,750

c) Area to be served, population of the target area, including demographic information.

Source: US Census, 2005-2007American Fact Finder Survey

Size

City of Longmont, Colorado population was 84,936. The median age was 35 years. Twenty-six percent of the population were under 18 years and nine percent were 65 years and older.

Income

The median income of households in Longmont city was $56,255. Eighty-five percent of the households received some earnings and 14 percent received retirement income other than Social Security. Twenty percent of the households received Social Security. The average income from Social Security was $13,516.

Education

From 2005-2007, 87 percent of people 25 years and over had at least graduated from high school and 37 percent had a bachelor's degree or higher. Thirteen percent were dropouts; they were not enrolled in school and had not graduated from high school.

Poverty

From 2005-2007, 11 percent of people were in poverty. Fifteen percent of related children under 18 were below the poverty level, compared with 9 percent of people 65 years old and over. Nine percent of all families and 31 percent of families with a female householder and no husband present had incomes below the poverty level.

Ethnicity and Race

For people reporting one race alone, 85 percent was White; 1 percent was Black or African American; 1 percent was American Indian and Alaska Native; 3 percent was Asian; less than 0.5 percent was Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, and 11 percent was some other race. Two percent reported two or more races. Twenty-four percent of the people in Longmont city was Hispanic. Seventy-one percent of the people in Longmont city was White non-Hispanic. People of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

d) Qualifications of the City of Longmont

The City of Longmont Library has operated an extensive public computer lab since 1994 and has consistently received excellent ratings for customer service from the annual Longmont Citizen's Survey.

e) Jobs to be saved or created.

It is anticipated that grant funding will fund one full time library position to oversee, implement and report on achieving the Public Computer Centers grant objectives. With the increased collaboration with the county's job placement programs it is projected to help 8-14 citizens achieve employment during the first year of the implementation of this grant.

f) Overall cost of the proposed project.

$407,516