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Organization:	State Library of Louisiana
Project Name:	Louisiana Libraries Connecting People to Their Potential
Project Type:	Public Computer Center
State(s):	Louisiana
Federal Award:	\$8,797,668

ABOUT THE PROJECT

The Louisiana Libraries Connecting People to Their Potential project plans to deploy more than 760 computer workstations to meet the needs of every library in the state library system. The program will encompass 340 libraries in 64 parishes. In addition, the project expects to establish wireless hotspots and deliver broadband speeds of up to 100 Mbps in each location, and will deploy four mobile computer and training labs to provide enhanced broadband training opportunities to deliver targeted Internet and job skills training to remote areas. The public computer centers are expected to serve an additional 42,000 users per week.

The Louisiana Libraries Connecting People to Their Potential project also proposes to:

- Deliver more than 2,700 training sessions over three years via four mobile computer labs equipped with 16 laptop computers each.
- Provide ten laptops to libraries in each parish that can be securely checked out by library patrons.
- Offer assistive technology workstations in each of Louisiana's 64 parishes.
- Offer access to online career development tools, health and wellness information, and online tutoring for all ages, in addition to digital literacy courses.

ORGANIZATION'S HISTORY

The State Library of Louisiana, which is Louisiana's system of public libraries, has substantial grants management experience, both federal and private, as well as comprehensive information technology management skills. The State Library has a long history of initiating new services and underwriting costs for several years until the public libraries can assume ongoing costs. The State Library will work closely with local branches to implement this innovative program.

PROJECT PARTNERS

- 68 Louisiana Local Public Libraries
- Affiliated Blind of Louisiana
- Lighthouse for the Blind in New Orleans
- Louisiana Assistive Technology Network
- Louisiana Center for the Blind
- Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals
- Louisiana Office on Elderly Affairs and the Council on Aging
- Louisiana Public Broadcasting
- Louisiana Rehabilitation Services

Data provided in the project description is based on information supplied by the applicant. An executive summary of this application can be found on www.broadbandusa.gov.

For press-related inquiries, contact 202-482-7002 or press@ntia.doc.gov. For the general public, contact BTOP@ntia.doc.gov.

