BROADBANDUSA
CONNECTING AMERICA'S COMMUNITIES

Organization:	**Maine State Library**
Project Name:	**Maine Public Library Information Commons Project**
Project Type:	**Public Computer Center**
State:	**Maine**
Federal Award:	**$1,362,459**

ABOUT THE PROJECT

In Maine, where a majority of the population lives in rural areas, broadband access and videoconferencing services can be crucial for fostering economic development, expanding training opportunities, and providing support to community-serving organizations. The **Maine State Library** plans to upgrade public computer centers at as many as 107 public libraries statewide and increase the number of available broadband workstations by as much as 60 percent by deploying approximately 500 new workstations and upgrading an additional 150. It also plans to enhance training opportunities by deploying 11 video conferencing regional hubs and three mobile computer labs to enable hands-on training in remote rural locations. The project plans to leverage the resources of three existing Maine State Library programs, which aim to improve employment-related services offered by libraries and make legal information and services more accessible to the public.

The Maine Public Library Information Commons Project proposes to:

- Serve an additional 7,000 users per week, for a total of as many as 24,300 users served weekly.

- Utilize up to 240,000 hours of teacher- and librarian-led instruction to provide training for up to 120,000 residents over the project's two-year span.

- Provide assistance to economically vulnerable groups, including the unemployed, elderly, and people with disabilities.

ORGANIZATION'S HISTORY

The Maine State Library, established in 1836, is a state government entity that offers a combination of information and administrative services for the public and for librarians statewide. MSL has extensive experience with federal funding regulations and requirements, having been the recipient of Library Services and Technology Act and other federal funds, and has successfully partnered with technology and education projects, such as Maine InfoNet, for more than a decade.

PROJECT PARTNERS

- Maine Information Network
- Access to Justice
- Project Compass
- Maine InfoNet

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