



# BROADBANDUSA

CONNECTING AMERICA'S COMMUNITIES

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<b>Organization:</b>	Tennessee State Library & Archives
<b>Project Name:</b>	Bridging the Gap: Bringing Broadband Technology to Tennessee's Impoverished and Unemployed
<b>Project Type:</b>	Public Computer Center
<b>State:</b>	Tennessee
<b>Federal Award:</b>	\$ 557,020

## ABOUT THE PROJECT

Many of Tennessee's libraries that serve economically vulnerable populations are increasingly unable to meet the bandwidth needs of their constituents. The **Tennessee State Library & Archives** proposes to expand 29 public computer centers as part of its Bridging the Gap project, which will leverage the support of local community organizations to stimulate participation among patrons in the community. Seventeen libraries will add equipment, staff, connectivity, and software to support the educational and career goals of Tennessee's most disadvantaged citizens, including those with high levels of poverty, unemployment, or disability, as well as senior citizens and youth.

The Bridging the Gap project also plans to:

- Serve more than 18,700 new weekly users with as many as 320 new workstations, more than doubling the current number of workstations and establishing a minimum connection speed of 6 Mbps at all participating libraries.
- Train as many as 200,000 residents, with as many as 2 million hours of teacher-led training.
- Work with local colleges, other state institutions, and local professionals to provide access to job-related training and tools, health information, and digital literacy assistance. Children will have access to specialized workstations geared toward basic literacy skills and English as a Second Language needs.

## ORGANIZATION'S HISTORY

The Tennessee State Library & Archives, originally established in 1854, is part of the Tennessee Department of State, and collects and preserves books and records of historical, documentary, and reference value while also promoting library and archival development throughout the state. It has extensive experience managing federal grants from the Institute of Museum and Library Services and other federal agencies..

## PROJECT PARTNERS

- The United Way of Rutherford County
- The Blount County Adult Education Program
- The Johnson City Power Board
- Pellissippi State Community College
- The Morristown Citizen Tribune (a small business)

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.ntia.doc.gov/broadbandusa](http://www.ntia.doc.gov/broadbandusa).

For press-related inquiries, contact 202-482-7002 or [press@ntia.doc.gov](mailto:press@ntia.doc.gov). For the general public, contact [BTOP@ntia.doc.gov](mailto:BTOP@ntia.doc.gov).

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