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Organization:	Boat People SOS, Inc.
Project Name:	Neighborhood Empowerment and Support through Teamwork Community Technology Center – Louisville
Project Type:	Public Computer Center
State:	Kentucky
Federal Award:	\$392,000

ABOUT THE PROJECT

Boat People SOS's Neighborhood Empowerment and Support through Teamwork project proposes to provide broadband access, training, education, and support for the underserved 7,000-household Vietnamese immigrant and refugee community in South Louisville and the surrounding areas in Jefferson County, Kentucky.

The project will increase local Vietnamese Americans' access to critical services, improve low literacy levels, and expand job options via training in computer abilities and other relevant job skills. The program also intends to provide a safe place for youth to obtain educational opportunities under the guidance of tutors, and better equip parents to contribute to the education of their children.

The Neighborhood Empowerment and Support project also proposes to:

- Provide 20 new workstations at two public computer centers, including upgrading one center with eight new workstations and building another center at St. John Vianney Church with 12 new workstations.
- Enable access for as many as an additional 840 users at libraries each week and increase the average speeds available at each public center by as much as 5 Mbps.
- Train as many as 250 residents with approximately 4,000 hours of teacher-led training over the two years of the project.

ORGANIZATION'S HISTORY

Since 1980, Boat People SOS has provided assistance to one in ten Vietnamese Americans, whether on the seas, in a refugee camp, or after arriving in the United States. Through its 18 office locations in the U.S. and four office locations in Southeast Asia and Taiwan, Boat People SOS provides a comprehensive series of services to support individuals, families, and communities. Boat People SOS has been providing public access computers to its clients for ten years.

PROJECT PARTNERS

- St. John Vianney Church

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.

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

