



BROADBANDUSA

CONNECTING AMERICA'S COMMUNITIES

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Organization:	City of Milwaukee
Project Name:	Connecting Milwaukee Communities
Project Type:	Public Computer Center
State:	Wisconsin
Federal Award:	\$2,479,742

ABOUT THE PROJECT

In recognition of the importance of computer access in public spaces, the **City of Milwaukee** proposes to enhance broadband capacity and availability at libraries, public housing sites, and a senior center. The Connecting Milwaukee Communities project intends to reach economically vulnerable populations, such as at-risk children, seniors, Spanish speakers, and low-income families by focusing its efforts on areas in the city with higher poverty and unemployment rates. Upgraded centers will provide opportunities for underserved residents to connect with the full benefits of broadband access, including computer training, online education, job skill development, personal money management skills, and access to online health information. The project also plans to deploy self-serve broadband kiosks in targeted housing projects and provide a one-stop website for users to obtain information about public computer center classes and locations, online courses, and other relevant community information.

Connecting Milwaukee Communities also proposes to:

- More than double the current level of computer availability by deploying as many as 270 new workstations and upgrading up to 15 more, increase citywide hours of operation by up to 60 hours per week, and serve up to an additional 7,000 weekly users.
- Train as many as 5,000 residents with an estimated 800,000 hours of teacher-led training over the three-year life of the project.
- Upgrade broadband speeds at the computer centers by an average of more than 16 Mbps.

ORGANIZATION'S HISTORY

The Information and Technology Management Division in Milwaukee's Department of Administration leads the City's efforts in using and sharing information in ways that will provide the maximum efficiency and greatest benefit to Milwaukee citizens, businesses, and city government. Milwaukee has been providing public access computers as a regular part of its library services for several years, and has experience with federal funding regulations and requirements, having received Recovery Act funds from the Department of Housing and Urban Development and other federal and state awards.

PROJECT PARTNERS

- Milwaukee Public Library
- Milwaukee Housing Authority
- Milwaukee Area Workforce Investment Board
- United Community Center
- Trinidad Group

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.

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