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Organization:	Virgin Islands Public Finance Authority
Project Name:	viNGN Public Computer Centers Program
Project Type:	Public Computer Center
State:	US Virgin Islands
Federal Award:	\$3,021,867

ABOUT THE PROJECT

To address the lack of broadband technology access and the relative isolation and economic hardship faced by many Virgin Islands residents, the **Virgin Islands Public Finance Authority** is proposing a program to establish or upgrade more than 50 public computer centers at libraries and community centers across the territory. The program plans to provide access to more than 700 new computer workstations, training in computer literacy skills, high-definition teleconferencing capabilities, and technology services for small businesses. The project includes 420 new workstations that can be checked out as part of a unique telework program with partner BetterWorld to train island residents for work-at-home call center jobs.

The viNGN project also proposes to:

- Deploy as many as 740 new workstations in over 40 new and five upgraded computer centers, increasing public access to computer centers by up to 1,500 hours per week and accommodating approximately 13,000 additional users each week.
- Train as many as 1,000 residents with up to 250,000 hours of teacher-led training annually over the two years of the project.
- Complement BTOP comprehensive community infrastructure and sustainable broadband adoption awards to bring the benefits of broadband to all Virgin Islands residents.

ORGANIZATION'S HISTORY

The Virgin Island Public Finance Authority was created in 1988 by the US Virgin Islands Legislature and is a public corporation and autonomous government instrument for the purposes of aiding the territorial government in the performance of its fiscal duties. The Virgin Island Division of Libraries, Archives, and Museums will implement, manage, and operate the program stemming from this award.

PROJECT PARTNERS

- National Education Foundation
- Radio Shack Corporation
- US Virgin Islands Department of Planning and Natural Resources, Division of Libraries, Archives, and Museums
- VI Technical Services, LLC
- Alliance Data Services
- BetterWorld Telecomm
- US Virgin Islands Housing, Parks & Recreation

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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