HENRY STOKES

(512) 463-6624 (work) | ███████████

hstokes@tsl.state.tx.us

EDUCATION

M.S. in Information Science, University of Texas at Austin   *2007*

B.F.A. (Art), University of Texas at Austin   *1999*

EXPERIENCE

Library Technology Consultant, LD Division, Texas State Library and Archives Commission   *2008 to present*

- Consults with Texas librarians, library systems, library boards and interested citizens on topics related to library technology.
- Plans, coordinates, implements, presents, and evaluates a statewide program of continuing education in library technology and related topics.
- Serves as agency liaison on technology initiatives such as E-rate, TIF, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation grants, etc.

Web Designer, Workplace Wellness Taskforce, American Library Association   *2007 to 2008*

- Responsible for design, information architecture, image editing, and maintenance of ALA president's taskforce web site.
- Worked closely with content authors to develop desired site aesthetic.

Library Assistant II, Serials & Electronic Resources Department, UT Austin   *2002 to 2008*

- Ensured public service interface met user needs by activating and linking to accessible e-resources in library catalog.
- Provided information help to meet research needs of students and faculty for the library help desk and chat service.

Interface Developer, Open Video Digital Library Toolkit Project, School of Information, UT Austin   *2006 to 2007*

- Collaborated with a team to develop an open-source toolkit to enable libraries and museums with multimedia archives to create their own web-based digital video library interfaces.
- Documented requirements of features and functions through the analysis of user surveys and interviews.
- Researched integration of latest Web 2.0 applications and standards to incorporate into user-friendly, advanced design.

Library Assistant I, Audio Visual Library, UT Austin   *1999 to 2001*

- Collaborated with UT faculty to coordinate reservations of audio visual material and facilities.
- Supervised reservations database of over 700 audio visual media, ensuring accountability and consistency.

Web Artist, Digital Information Literacy Office, UT Austin   *1998 to 1999*

- Provided graphics and animations for award-winning library instruction website, Texas Information Literacy Tutorial.
- Provided feedback on design, layout, and editing of web content.

Lab Technician Assistant, Electronic Information Center, UT Austin   *1998 to 1999*

- Assisted patrons with computer-related questions in a lab of 25 PC and Macintosh computers.
- Troubleshooted software and computer issues.

Clerical Assistant, Fine Arts Library, UT Austin   *1997*

- Performed library functions, including circulation and stack maintenance.
- Helped students and faculty with reference questions and directed them to available resources.

Christopher Jowaisas

Education
Master of Library and Information Science
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI, September 1993 – December 1995

Bachelor of Arts in History
University of Oklahoma, Norman, OK, September 1990 – May 1992

Work Experience
Texas State Library & Archives Commission, Austin, TX
Grants Administrator, Library Development Division, July 2006 – present
• Manage federally-funded grant portfolio of $5+ million focused on statewide library development and technology assistance.
• Primary duties include developing program guidelines, ensuring effective implementation of grant activities, and program evaluation and measurement.
• Implemented new $1.5 million state-funded grant program focused on creating solutions for workforce development, family literacy, and early literacy programs in libraries.

Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Seattle, WA
Associate Program Officer, United States Library Program, July 2005 – July 2006
• Oversee grant portfolio focused on sustaining public access computing programs in public libraries.
• Primary duties include managing grantee relationships to ensure successful grant program outcomes, evaluating grant proposals, and developing networks within the library field.
• Implemented computer hardware upgrade grant program with $30+ million grant awards on schedule and budget.

Manager, Network Deployment, U.S. Library Program, February 1999 – June 2005
October 2003 – June 2005 (*Post Program Implementation*)
• Refine strategic focus and create proposals for internal consideration for future grant programs.
• Communicate ongoing strategic plans for foundation library program to outside organizations and solicit feedback.

March 1999 – September 2003 (*Program Implementation*)
• Manage group of 6.5 FTE staff responsible for developing technology solutions for grantees.
• Provide guidance on technology guidelines and policies to US Library Program Manager and Technology Division Manager for the US and International Library Program implementation.
• Communicate vision and goals of US Library program to various stakeholders, including internal staff, grantees, and state library agency personnel.

Deborah Littrell

Education
Master of Arts, Public Administration, Ohio State University, 1989.
Master of Science, Library Science, University of Illinois, 1975.
Bachelor of Arts, Art History, cum laude, Ohio State University, 1974.

Professional Experience

Director, Library Development Division, Texas State Library and Archives Commission, Austin, Texas, December 2000 – present. Manage division of ten professional librarians and six support staff providing diverse services to libraries in the state to aid in the development of local libraries, including: coordinate federal LSTA program and grants, regional library systems, state aid to public libraries, statewide continuing education and consulting, public and academic library statistics, public library accreditation, school library standards, and statewide summer reading program. Manage special programs and studies, staff and budget, biennial legislative appropriations request for division, and present information on division activities to diverse audiences. Serve on agency administrative team.

TexShare Coordinator, Texas State Library and Archives Commission, Austin, Texas, April 1999 – December 2000. Manage TexShare consortium of academic and public libraries in Texas; manage the six programs of the consortium, coordinate work of advisory board and program working groups, manage budget, web site and administrative rules for project; present information on consortium to librarians in Texas and beyond.

Outreach Coordinator, Center for Middle Eastern Studies, University of Texas, Austin, Texas, September 1989 – March 1999. Contact and provide training and information services to pre-collegiate teachers and community groups; write grants for Department of Education funding and special projects; participate in national Middle East Outreach Council cooperative efforts; work with appropriate organizations and agencies including Texas Education Agency, Texas Council for the Social Studies, Texas Humanities Resource Center; acquire and develop outreach and curriculum materials; manage budget and staff; produce newsletter; arrange for speakers and exhibits; designed and managed Center website and served as Center technology coordinator; managed resource center materials; provided research assistance to faculty and students; planned conferences, lecture and film series.

Consultant, Ohio Department of Health, Refugee Health Service, Columbus, Ohio; **Ohio Wesleyan University, Beeghly Library**, Delaware, Ohio; 1987 -1988. Analyzed department procedures and policies and recommended changes at the two agencies; prepared a department manual for Refugee Health Service; performed research for special projects at Beeghly Library.

Coordinator of User Services, Worthington Public Library, Worthington, Ohio, July 1982 - June 1987. Managed public services for library. Hired, trained, supervised, and evaluated all public service staff including six professional librarians and ten support staff; monitored materials budget; provided policy direction and planned new services as part of administrative team; coordinated public services with other library operations; evaluated library materials collection and wrote development plan; wrote and administered federal grant for a local business database; planned for online database and CD-ROM services; presented library materials and services in speeches to the public.

Assistant Department Head, Art/Music/Recreation Department, January 1979 - June 1982/ **Librarian I, Art/Music/Recreation Department, Memphis Public Library**, Memphis, Tennessee, November 1975 - January 1979. Trained and supervised department support staff and volunteers; developed art collection; initiated contacts with and spoke to local arts organizations; developed and did all promotion for library art gallery; coordinated arts grants workshops; assisted in budget preparation and monitoring; provided reference service to the public; provided instruction in library use to classes; member of library online computer search service.

Peggy D. Rudd
Vita

EDUCATION

M.L.S., 1975, University of Texas at Austin
B.A., 1972, Stephen F. Austin State University, Nacogdoches, TX
    Majors: English, Political Science

PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

September 1975 - March 1978
Reference Librarian, Central Library, Austin (TX) Public Library

March 1978 - October 1978
Children's Librarian, Old Quarry Branch, Austin (TX) Public Library

October 1978 - December 1981
Children's & Outreach Services Consultant, Central Texas Library System, Austin, TX

January 1982 - August 1983
Special Services Librarian, Northeast Texas Library System, Dallas, TX

September 1983 - December 1987
Media Services Librarian, Northeast Texas Library System, Garland, TX

February 1988 - May 1994
Assistant Director for Planning, Evaluation, and Research, Library Development and Networking
Division, Library of Virginia, Richmond, VA

June 1, 1994 – August 31, 1999
Chief, Bureau of Library Development, State Library of Florida, Tallahassee, FL

October 1, 1999 -- Present
Director and Librarian, Texas State Library and Archives Commission, Austin, TX

WORKSHOP/PROGRAM PRESENTATIONS AND CONSULTATIONS

From 1980 to the present, I have presented workshops, delivered conference addresses, and
provided consultations in the following areas of expertise:

- Children's and young adult services and programming
- Using video and cable television as educational tools
- Reading readiness
- Long-range planning and community analysis

- Family literacy
- Evaluating library programs and services, including outcome-based evaluation
- Leadership
- Digital Divide

RECENT PROFESSIONAL LEADERSHIP

1999-Present, Member, Steering Committee, Texas Book Festival

2000-2002, Chair, Texas Records Management Interagency Coordinating Council

2000-Present, Member, Board of Advisors, University of North Texas, School of Library and Information Sciences

2001, Participant in Governor's Executive Development Program Class XX

2002-Present, Member, Library Science Advisory Committee, Texas Woman's University, School of Library and Information Studies

2002-2004, Member, Executive Board of Directors, Chief Officers of State Library Agencies

2004-2005, President, Association of Specialized and Cooperative Library Agencies

2004-Present, Member, Library Statistics Working Group, Institute of Museum and Library Services

2008-2011, President, Western Council of State Libraries

PUBLICATIONS

Documenting the Difference: Demonstrating the Value of Libraries Through Outcome Measurement, Perspectives on Outcome Based Evaluation for Libraries and Museums, Washington, DC: Institute of Museum and Library Services, 2000.

"Libraries & Access to Digital Information," Texas Library Journal, volume 76, no. 4, winter 2000, pp. 150-152.

"Texas Libraries – Facing Challenges in a New Century," Texas Library Journal, volume 78, no. 1, spring 2002, pp. 34-37.

Foreword to A Chronology of Texas Library History 1685-2000, Austin, TX: Eakin Press, 2002.

VINCENT R HOUSTON

(512) 388-4746 (Fax)

Work History

Dec 07, 2009	**Texas State Library & Archives Commission** - Austin, Texas

Director of Administrative Services

Oversees the Administrative Services division including Accounting, Human Resources, Purchasing, and Support Services. Serves as Chief Fiscal Officer, HUB Coordinator and Risk Manager for the agency. Work involves establishing goals and objectives; developing guidelines, procedures, policies, rules, and regulations; developing schedules, priorities, and standards for achieving established goals; coordinating and evaluating program activities; and developing and evaluating budget requests. Plans, assigns, and supervises the work of others.

Jan 01, 2009 - Dec 04, 2009   **Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists**

Director of Admin/Chief Financial Officer

Consults with the Executive Director on work that involves preparing financial analyzes and reports (Strategic Plan, Performance Measures, Operating Budget and LAR). Represents the agency in the absence of the Executive Director. Oversees for the Executive Director the daily operations of the agency. Manages the Accounting and all Administrative functions of the agency (HR, Purchasing). Liaison with other agencies and companies on financial and administrative matters. Serves as agency Benefits Coordinator. Provides testimony at legislative hearings and committee meetings. Prepares agency budgets and budget requests (LAR), project expenditures and monitors appropriation balances, . Administers agency contracts. Responsible for reporting, analysis and any revisions to performance measures definitions, text and reporting requirements and/or revisions. Works closely with LBB analyst to accomplish this goal.

Jul 01, 2006 - Dec 31, 2008   **Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists**

Acting Executive Director/Chief Financial Officer

Directed State Agency operations, supervised staff, worked under a governor appointed Board of Directors. Improved accountability by working with Governor's Office, Texas Legislature, Legislative Budget Board and the State Auditors Office. Oversaw licensing program of 6,500 licensees, supervised testing of geoscientists, enforcement compliance. Guided the development of policy and procedures, ensured adherence to rules and regulations. Presented Legislative Appropriation Request; represented Board before Legislative hearings. Oversaw Board's testimony. Collaborated and communicated with the Legislative Budget Board, Governor's Office and legislative committees about agency policy, operations, interim studies and projects. Guided Board on the development of policy and procedures for the agency and staff, including internal controls on audit findings and recommendations. Supervised all external communications. Successes: Gained knowledge of state agency regulatory practices and statutes, maintained fiscal responsibility each fiscal year. (Agency is 6 years old). Provided guidance and direction to agency board members, managers and staff on agency's daily operations.

Sep 01, 2004 - Jun 30, 2006   **Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists**

Deputy Executive Director

Consults with the Executive Director on work that involves preparing financial analyzes and reports. Represents the agency in the absence of the Executive Director. Represents the agency at meetings and conferences to keep abreast of changes and updates that affect the agency and industry. Oversees for the Executive Director the daily operations of the agency. Manages the Accounting and Administrative functions of the agency. Liaison with other agencies and companies on financial and administrative matters. Prepares agency budgets and budget requests (LAR), project expenditures and monitors appropriation balances. Administers Human Resources programs, ensuring compliance with state and federal laws and regulations. Agency Risk Manager and Safety Officer. Administers agency contracts and the review of license applications as needed.

Sep 01, 2003 - Aug 31, 2004   **Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists** - Austin, Texas

Chief Financial Officer/Director of Administration

Manages the accounting, budgeting and administrative functions of the agency. Established and maintained accounting systems, procedures and controls and prepared agency budgets. Oversaw the agency's use of USAS as the internal accounting system. Responsible for the accurate reporting of agency revenue and expenditures. Prepared agency budgets, project expenditures and monitored appropriation balances. Acted as the agency IT contact with DIR. Oversaw the review and approval of agency contracts, license applications and human

resource programs.

Sep 01, 2001 - Aug 31, 2003	**Texas Commission on Jail Standards** - Austin, Texas Deputy Director- Finance & Administration Performed complex accounting, budgetary, fiscal, personnel and administrative activities for the Commission. Work involved managing accounting and purchasing operations, maintaining budgetary controls, and preparing Legislative Appropriation Requests and the Biennial Operating Plan. Also entered this data into ABEST. Prepared Appropriation Allocations schedules. Served as personnel, purchasing and inventory manager. Oversaw all financial transactions. Work was performed under general guidance and policy of the agency. Responsible for monitoring all contracts for the agency and preparing Federal Grant Applications on an Annual basis. Agency Payroll Officer, Risk Manager and Safety Officer. Assisted with the planning of the preparation of agency strategic goals and performance measures. Agency liaison with other state agencies and legislative personnel. Testified at legislative hearing. Attend committee and advisory board meetings affecting budgetary, financial and personnel matters. Advised the Executive Director on budget development and submission procedures to include strategies and tactics to achieve the most favorable reception of the agency budget.
May 01, 2000 - Aug 31, 2001	**Texas Commission on Jail Standards** - Austin, Texas Manager II (Chief Fiscal Officer) Performed complex management activities for the daily operations of the Commission. Work involved developing guidelines, procedures, rules and regulations. Planned, assigned and supervised the work of others. Activities included accounting, budgetary, fiscal, personnel and administrative activities for the Commission. Work involved managing accounting and purchasing operations, maintaining budgetary controls. Responsible for budgetary approval of any purchase documents. Prepared Legislative Appropriations requests. Biennial Operating plan, ABEST reconciliation. Coordinated the preparation of the Annual Financial Report. Prepared and monitored monthly budget reports and investigated any differences. Prepared monthly payroll. Agency liaison with other state agencies and legislative personnel. Testified at legislative hearings.
Apr 01, 1997 - Apr 30, 2000	**Texas Commission on Jail Standards** - Austin, Texas Staff Services Officer III Prepared financial statements with schedules. Reconciled accounting data to USAS records. Researched reconciliation discrepancies and reported findings. Prepared and posted various vouchers and audited vouchers for accuracy. Provided technical assistance to staff in handling accounting transactions. Supervised staff. Maintained agency property and equipment control. Assisted in development of agency Budget, policies and regulations. Assisted in processing payroll and new hires. Work involved planning, directing and coordinating several key staff services functions such as human resources, accounting, budgeting, purchasing, training and property management.

Education

Jun 1977 - May 1979	**Austin Community College** - Austin, Texas Education Level: Bachelors Degree Major: Accounting Minor: NA Total Hours: 9.0 Graduated: No
Sep 1976 - May 1980	**Southwest Texas State University** - San Marcos, Texas Education Level: Bachelors Degree Major: Accounting Minor: NA Total Hours: 85.0 Graduated: Yes
Sep 1975 - May 1976	**Prairie View A & M University** - Prairie View, Texas Education Level: Bachelors Degree Major: Accounting Minor: NA Total Hours: 31.0 Graduated: No

DAWN VOGLER

dvogler@tsl.state.tx.us • (512) 936-4449

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

TEXAS STATE LIBRARY & ARCHIVES COMMISSION – Austin, TX   October 2008 - present

Manager, Continuing Education & Consulting

Manage 5 continuing education consultants, programs and training for library staff for state.
- Provide consulting and continuing education using multiple delivery formats in areas such as collection development, early literacy, library management, weeding and internet/database searching.
- Plan, coordinate and manage a statewide continuing education program within the overall Library Development plan.
- Manage workflow and project planning for 5 professional librarian/trainer consultants and one administrative assistant.
- Oversee the management of the Library Science Collection, the Texas Reading Club, statewide divisional blog, other training publications, and special grant-funded projects.
- Prepare and control a performance-based budget for continuing education programs.
- Monitor employee performance, coach newer employees and mentor longer term staff.
- Represent the agency and division on statewide committees and national projects.
- Assist Division Director with long-range planning and strategic direction for the division.

TEXAS STATE LIBRARY & ARCHIVES COMMISSION – Austin, TX   2001 – 2003 and 2006 - 2008

Library Management Consultant & Continuing Education Consultant

Taught a variety of statewide continuing education programs, coordinated statewide database training and managed the Small Library Management Training Program.
- Provided continuing education opportunities to non-MLS library staff through program management and content development of the Small Library Management Training Program.
- Coordinated statewide electronic database training for all levels of library staff with companies such as EBSCO, Gale, Proquest and OCLC FirstSearch.
- Created, marketed, delivered and evaluated workshops on a diverse array of topics in multiple delivery formats to public, school and academic libraries throughout Texas.
- Consulted with Texans and public library staff on a wide range of library development topics such as public library start-up, policies, procedures, standards of practice, collections, etc.

LAVERY LIBRARY, ST. JOHN FISHER COLLEGE – Rochester, NY   2004 to 2006

Instruction & A/V Librarian

Provided reference and instruction services to users of a small, private liberal arts college community.
- Provide reference/research assistance to students, faculty, and staff at the Reference Desk and in individual consultation, utilizing print and electronic resources on a variety of subjects. Maintain current awareness of emerging information and library technologies, specifically electronic information and Internet resources.
- Coordinate the library instruction program including planning, scheduling, assessing, and teaching general and course-related classes. Plan, develop, promote, and assess college-wide information literacy programs.
- Support students in business and international studies programs, undergraduate and grad levels.
- Supervised 2 student workers and 1 part-time clerical position in acquisition, processing and management of campus audio-visual collection.

DAWN VOGLER

MOTOROLA SPS GLOBAL INFORMATION CENTER - AUSTIN, TX   9/1999 – 2/2001
LIBRARIAN

Solo technical librarian for semiconductor fabrication facility providing research and responsive library service to business and engineering staff.
- Performed a variety of searches on technologies, processes, patents, competitors, products and business practices relevant to the high-tech industry and general business areas.
- Consulted with customers to create customized periodic alerts on topics of interest.
- Management of a full-service technical library with implementation of continuous improvements.
- Educated engineering community to improve individual search capabilities for effective use of desktop information resources.
- Marketed both physical library services and research capabilities.
- Played an active role in development of the GIC website including creation and maintenance of virtual library links relevant to the high-tech employee population.
- Partnered across the globe and across functions on GIC projects such as database trials and electronic product evaluations.
- Managed book and journal acquisition budgets, in addition to working with database vendors on subscriptions and contracts.

EDUCATION
Masters of Library and Information Science, University of Texas at Austin, May 1999,
Bachelor of Arts, Art History & Studio Art, Marymount College, May 1994

HIGHLIGHTS

Employee of the Quarter, Spring 2009, Texas State Library

Workshops Created and Conducted:
Library Merchandising Techniques
Attack Your Collection: The CREW Method
Early Literacy Kits on a Dime
Basic Reference Training (Small Library Management Training Program)
Basic TexShare Database Training
Collection Development (Small Library Management Training Program)
Basic Library Website Usability
Getting to Good Graphics for Libraries

Currently involved in administering the Gates Foundation Grant called Opportunity Online to bring better connectivity speeds to all libraries in Texas.

Consulting:

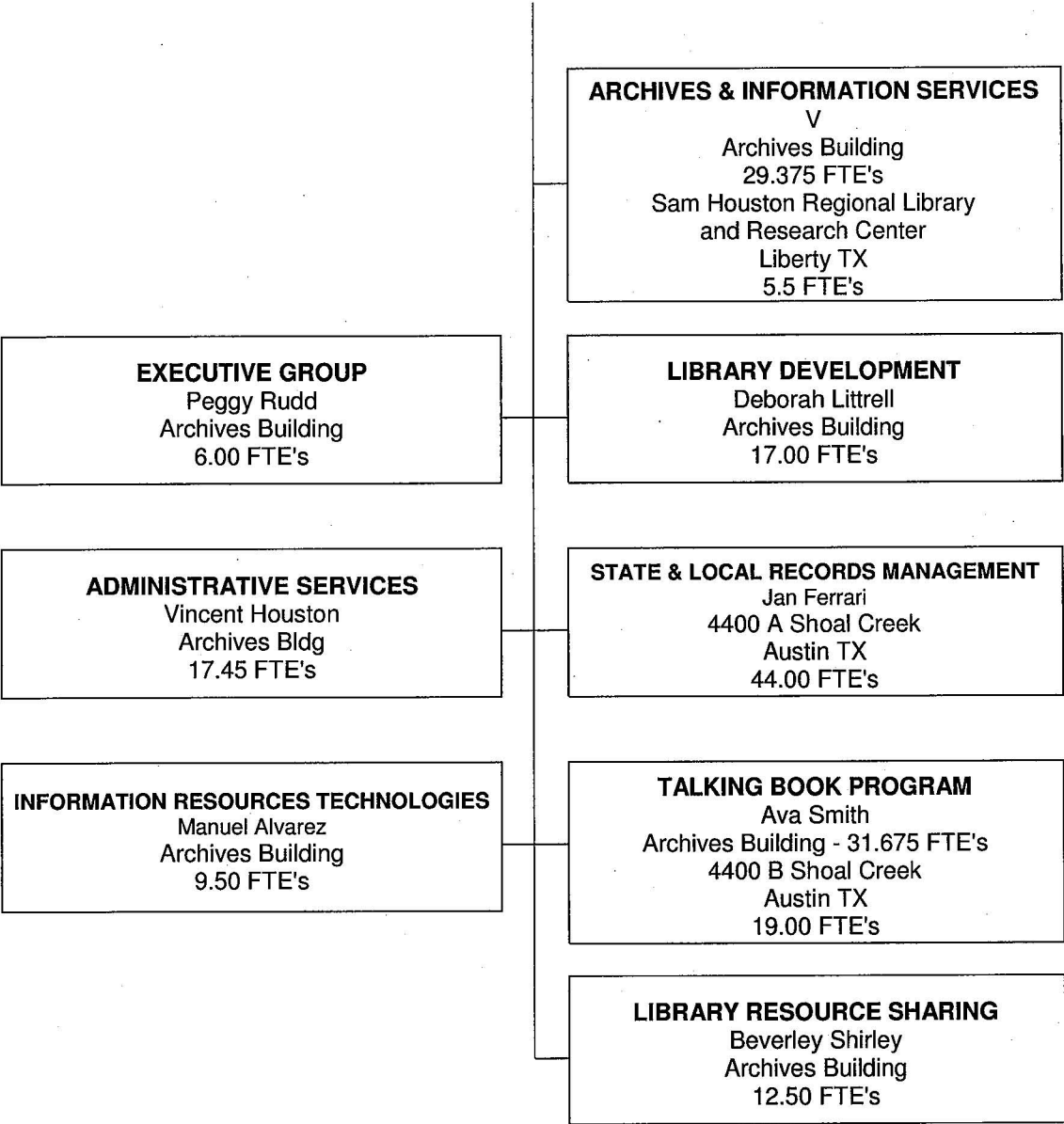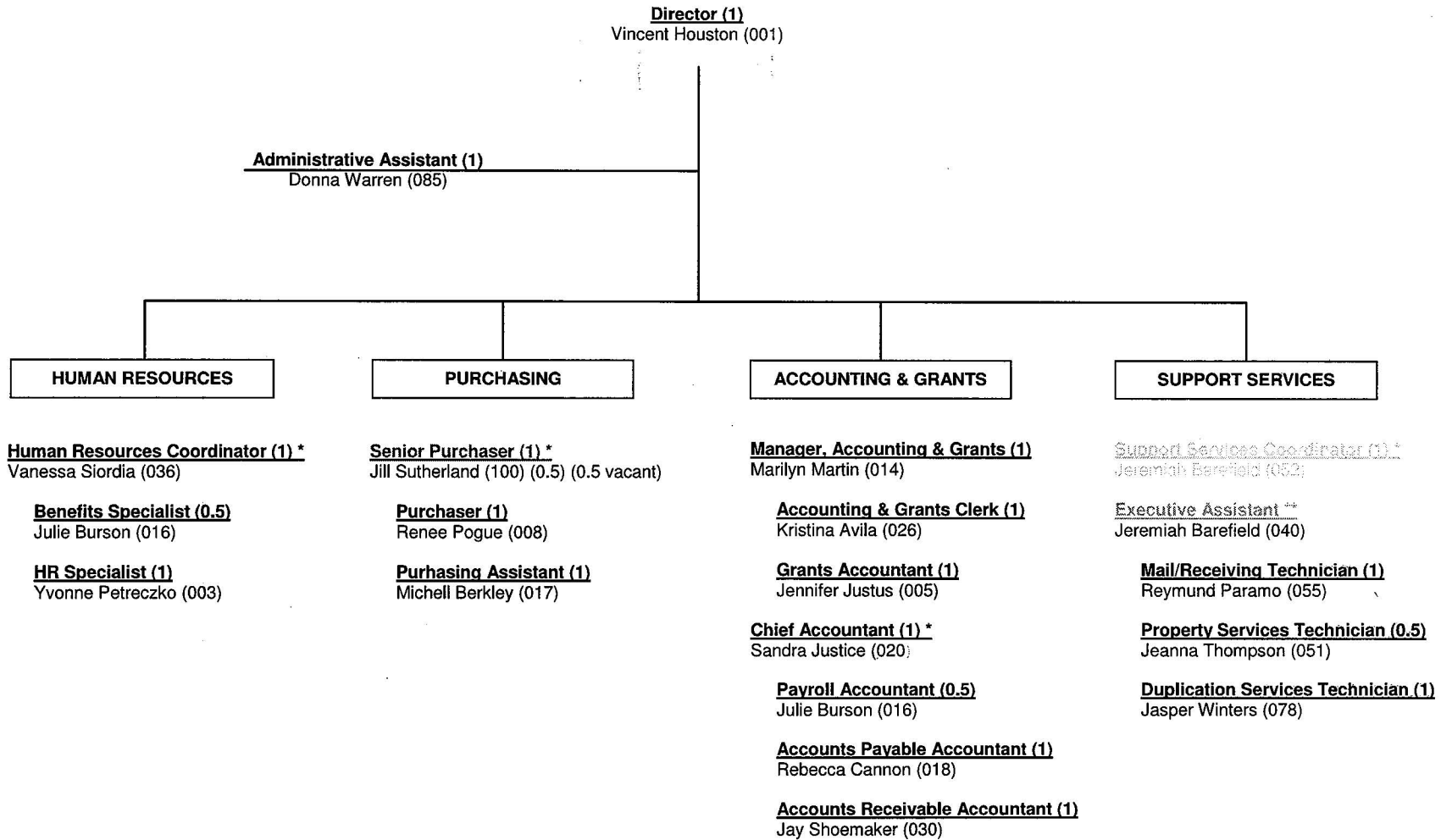|	
Space planning & merchandising	Marketing & publications
New library creation	Website usability
Public library standards	General library management
Weeding	Collection development

GOVERNOR

STATE LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES COMMISSION
1201 Brazos
Austin TX 78701
DIRECTOR-LIBRARIAN - Peggy Rudd

ASSISTANT STATE LIBRARIAN - Edward Seidenberg

ARCHIVES & INFORMATION SERVICES
V
Archives Building
29.375 FTE's
Sam Houston Regional Library
and Research Center
Liberty TX
5.5 FTE's

EXECUTIVE GROUP
Peggy Rudd
Archives Building
6.00 FTE's

LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT
Deborah Littrell
Archives Building
17.00 FTE's

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES
Vincent Houston
Archives Bldg
17.45 FTE's

STATE & LOCAL RECORDS MANAGEMENT
Jan Ferrari
4400 A Shoal Creek
Austin TX
44.00 FTE's

INFORMATION RESOURCES TECHNOLOGIES
Manuel Alvarez
Archives Building
9.50 FTE's

TALKING BOOK PROGRAM
Ava Smith
Archives Building - 31.675 FTE's
4400 B Shoal Creek
Austin TX
19.00 FTE's

LIBRARY RESOURCE SHARING
Beverley Shirley
Archives Building
12.50 FTE's

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

Director (1)
Vincent Houston (001)

Administrative Assistant (1)
Donna Warren (085)

| HUMAN RESOURCES | PURCHASING | ACCOUNTING & GRANTS | SUPPORT SERVICES |

Human Resources Coordinator (1) *
Vanessa Siordia (036)

Benefits Specialist (0.5)
Julie Burson (016)

HR Specialist (1)
Yvonne Petreczko (003)

Senior Purchaser (1) *
Jill Sutherland (100) (0.5) (0.5 vacant)

Purchaser (1)
Renee Pogue (008)

Purhasing Assistant (1)
Michell Berkley (017)

Manager, Accounting & Grants (1)
Marilyn Martin (014)

Accounting & Grants Clerk (1)
Kristina Avila (026)

Grants Accountant (1)
Jennifer Justus (005)

Chief Accountant (1) *
Sandra Justice (020)

Payroll Accountant (0.5)
Julie Burson (016)

Accounts Payable Accountant (1)
Rebecca Cannon (018)

Accounts Receivable Accountant (1)
Jay Shoemaker (030)

Support Services Coordinator (1) *
Jeremiah Barefield (052)

Executive Assistant **
Jeremiah Barefield (040)

Mail/Receiving Technician (1)
Reymund Paramo (055)

Property Services Technician (0.5)
Jeanna Thompson (051)

Duplication Services Technician (1)
Jasper Winters (078)

EXECUTIVE GROUP

Director - Librarian (1)
Peggy Rudd (001)

Intergovernmental Project Coordinator (1)
V

Assistant State Librarian (1)
Edward Seidenberg (002)

EXECUTIVE SUPPORT / COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE

Communications Officer (1)
Derick Hackett (010)

Executive Secretary (1)
Tracy Kuhn-Lash (018)

Graphic Designer (1)
V (030)

Webmaster (1)
V (025)

Welcome Desk Receptionist (1)
Mary Jane Richter (019)
(funded by ARIS & TBP)

* Designated Team Leader
** Temporary Assignment

Authorized FTEs: 7.00   Actual: 8   Vacant: 3.00

02/28/2010

LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT

Director (1)
Deborah Littrell (001)

LD Program Coordinator (1)
Stacey Malek (041)

Administrator, State Grants (1)
Gwendolyn Clark (400)

LSTATexas Reads Grants (1)
Jennifer Peters (044)

Administrator, Library Systems Grants (1)
Christopher Jowaisas (049)

CONTINUING EDUCATION & COUNSULTING SERVICES

Manager, Continuting Education & Consulting (1)
Dawn Vogler (006)

CONSULTING & TRAINING

Library Technology Consultant (1)
Henry Stokes (056)

Distance Learning Consultant (1)
Naomi DiTullio (012)

Library Services Consultant (1)
V (065)

Youth Services Consultant (1)
Christine McNew (045)

LIBRARY SCIENCE COLLECTION

Library Science Collection Librarian (1) *
Anne Ramos (080)

Library Science Collection Assistant (1)
Patricia Carlson (008)

OFFICE SERVICES

Office Services Coordinator (1) *
Michael Shea (027)

Statistics Assistant (1)
Bell Clarke (030)

Publication & Graphic Design (1)
Suzanne Holman (068)

Web Editor (1)
Jaime Reyes (040)

Administrative Assistant (1)
Valicia Greenwood (077)

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* Designated Team Leader
** Temporary Assignment

Authorized FTEs: 17.00   Vacant: 0.00

02/28/2010

OUR SERVICE AREA

The Library at Cedar Creek Lake is located at Seven Points in Henderson County. Henderson County has an estimated population of well over 76000. The local population is characterized by low educational achievement and family income well below the national averages as reported by the recent census data. Nineteen percent of the people in our service area are in poverty, and 39% of adults over the age of 25 in Seven points have less than high school education, as compared to the national 20% average. Our rural area population is widely scattered and without easy access to phone and internet services. Offering opportunities and support to improve their employment potential as well as household income is a primary goal of the Library.

OUR HISTORY

The history of our Library reads like a fairy tale, from humble beginnings in the 1970's as a bookmobile to the ten year celebration in its current modern building. Today it has grown to become the focal point of most intellectual and cultural activities, as well as most important resource center for the surrounding communities. The Library had over 100.000 visits last year, with a monthly count of more then 12.000 in the summer. The Library offers an extensive collection of books and DVD's, wireless and broadband service, daily GED, Literacy and ESL classes, basic computer class and TVCC College & Workforce supported office skills and career support classes.
The library Community Room has ongoing activities like spring and fall cultural programs (art, photography), summer entertainment & reading programs for the children, medical & health support classes (diabetes & Alzheimer's) and weekly programs by Civic & Literary organizations. The Library works together with the Chamber of Commerce, the Kiwanis Club and Optimist Club on several programs as well.

OUR NEEDS

We are a non profit independent public organization and in need of ongoing support from the City of Seven Points and Henderson County, local communities and individual donations.
Private support and fundraisers are of great importance to continue our services to the public.
We are looking to expand our services in the form of classes and would like to add more internet accessibility. The grant funds would help us purchase laptops and add to our wireless stations in order to serve more participants in the classes and programs offered.

Sondra Price
Library Director
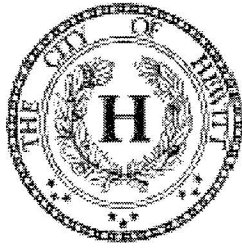
March 12, 2010

Ms. Peggy Rudd, Director and State Librarian
Texas State Library & Archives Commission
1201 Brazos St.
Austin, TX 78711

Dear Ms. Rudd:

The City of Hewitt has a population of just under 13,000 and in 2007, was voted one of Money magazines' Great American Towns/ Places to Live in America. Libraries play a vital role in establishing a community as a great place to live and the Hewitt Public Library hopes to continue providing a high-level of public access computer service and broadband connectivity support within the community to as to remain one of those great places to live! The BTOP Public Computer Center Grant would allow the library to add 4 additional public access computers to relieve wait times and allow more users access to vital educational, health and workforce development information.

Hewitt has 3,931 households out of which 45.6% have children under the age of 18 living with them. The library plays an integral role in providing electronic resources and 21st century information literacy skills to our youth, chiefly through our public access computers.

The library also proposes a new set of training classes with the additional computers. These classes will provide consumer health resources and convey health information literacy concepts, using websites such as Medline Plus and the TexShare databases.

With this grant, more than half of our computers could be upgraded to provide a higher level of access to the most current software programs for our community. This is something we would otherwise need to put on hold for an undetermined period of years with the squeeze in city funding. We appreciate your consideration in including our library in this project.

Sincerely,

Waynette Ditto
Director
Hewitt Public Library

Lee Public Library

312 W. Pacific Avenue
Gladewater, TX 75647
Phone 903.845.2640
Fax 903.845.2648

March 1, 2010

Peggy Rudd, Director and State Librarian
Texas State Library & Archives Commission
1201 Brazos Street
Austin, TX 78711

Re: Letter of Support for the BTOP PCC Grant

Dear Ms. Rudd,

In this letter of support, Lee Public Library wishes to convey the overwhelming need and the impact that the BTOP PCC program would have in our community.

Lee Public Library is located in Gladewater, Texas, a small rural town in Northeast Texas. Gladewater is located on a three county line, which includes Gregg County, Upshur County and Smith County. The 2000 Census shows the population as 6,078. The surrounding area outside our city limits brings that number to approximately 11,840. The high school graduation rate is 84.4% and the drop out rate is 8.6%.

The poverty level for families is 11.9% and 15.6% for individuals below poverty level. Much of the vulnerable population is in close proximity to the library. Government housing is next to the library and other housing units are approximately one mile away. The library is the hub of our community. Many people do not have transportation, so therefore they walk to the library.

Gladewater's economic base is primarily oil/gas industry, manufacturing and tourism. All of these economic factors have been on the decline. Several antique/tourism businesses have been forced to close due to the economic situation. Many people have lost their jobs in layoffs, reduction in workforce, store and plant closings.

The library has provided Internet access for approximately the past seven years. There has been a steady increase in the demand and use of public use computers in the past several years. More and more employers require that applications for employment be done on-line. They come to the library seeking help with on-line applications, resume preparation and job searches. Unfortunately, many have never used a computer. Occasionally there is a qualified volunteer at the library who helps, but they are not always available.

Currently there are 4 public use computer stations in the library. There are approximately 35-40 sessions per day. We have a waiting list several times a day.

We currently give extra time to those who are searching for a job, working on a resume, doing on-line job applications and distance learning when time allows and there are no patrons waiting for a computer.

With all of this said, there is a genuine need in our community for extra computers. Our library does not have the space for extra computer stations, but with laptops we could serve more patrons as well as offer computer training classes. Our library does have an all purpose meeting room in which computer classes can be offered with the laptops. There is a real need in our community for many people to learn basic computer skills. Our community has many senior citizens who are on fixed incomes that have never used computers. The only outlet for many people with low incomes to learn computers is at their local library. We are asked almost daily where they can take basic computer/Internet classes.

The people we are able to help, even with our small staff and volunteers, often come back to thank us after they have obtained a job, learned how to e-mail, etc.

Lee Public Library is fortunate to have a partnership with Friends of the Library. The Friends group would certainly support our effort to offer computer training classes with the help of the BTOP PCC grant.

If it were not for Federal funding, we would not be able to complete this project during the grant period. Due to budget cuts and lack of local funding our library is unable to meet the needs related to PCC components requested through the grant.

Summary of what we are requesting:
- 6 laptops
- 1 cart
- 2 surge protectors
- 1 overhead projector

              TOTAL: $7,000

              MATCH: $1,400   In-kind + Monetary if Needed

The BTOP PCC Grant will address our community needs in two ways. One being that it will give us the equipment and tools to expand our capacity to offer more Public-Use Computers. The second way that our community needs can be met, is through having the requested laptops and equipment to offer Basic Computer Classes to the public.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Judy Hagle, Librarian
Lee Public Library

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

March 15, 2010

The Honorable Lawrence E. Strickling
Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information
U.S. Department of Commerce
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
1401 Constitution Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Assistant Secretary Strickling:

I am pleased to write in support of the Texas State Library and Archives Commission's Broadband Technology Opportunities Program Public Computer Center Grant for Texas libraries. I am told that this project will bring much-needed increased computer and broadband Internet access capacity to almost 10 million Texans.

The Texas population has grown much faster than the population of the United States as a whole over the past decade, and with that growth has come increased challenges in the areas of education, English language proficiency, economic development, job creation, and social services. I understand that the project you propose will help alleviate pressures in these areas by focusing resources on building and sustaining a technology infrastructure in communities and institutions, large and small, that will empower citizens to take control of their futures and improve their quality of life.

By increasing the number of computers for public access in our libraries, supporting more robust telecommunications capacity, and reducing the wait time for computer access, this project will address the highest purposes of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. These improvements will make it possible for Texas libraries to help more people acquire and increase computer skills, develop professional resumes, search and apply for jobs, take distance learning courses, work toward receiving a GED or other educational certification, access e-government services, and much more.

I urge the full and fair consideration of the Texas State Library and Archives Commission's proposal.

Sincerely,

Lloyd Doggett

The Smithville Public Library
507 Main Street
Smithville, Texas 78957
Phone: 512/237-3282 ext 2401

Peggy Rudd, Director and State Librarian
Texas State Library & Archives Commission
1201 Brazos Street
Austin, TX 78711

9 March 2010

Dear Ms. Rudd,

On behalf of the Smithville Public Library and the community of Smithville, I am pleased to have the opportunity to join forces with the Texas State Library and Archives Commission on the proposed Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) Public Computer Center (PCC) grant. For over ten years now, the Smithville Public Library has offered free computer and internet access to the greater Smithville community. With funds from the proposed project, our library could maintain current technology so that we could continue as a public access center and perhaps increase our computer use statistics. An increase in the number of computer users through our doors is positively correlated to an increase in library circulation and services.

Records kept over recent years help us identify technology needs in our community. With 17 computers, the Smithville Public Library is a hub for free computer access for the Smithville community, and as such, we see continuous patron computer use. In 2008-09, our monthly public access computer use averaged 818 users and 791 hours. Although we do not often experience extended wait times for the computers, this usage translates to a constant stream of patrons. Evidence of the importance of our computers can be seen as recently as January 2010. For one week, we had internet service problems and our computer usage numbers dropped. As a result, the number of patrons through our doors, and consequently our circulation numbers also decreased. In February, a shorter month, all of those related patron and circulation numbers went back up with full computer access.

It is imperative that our technology capabilities keep pace with the needs of our patrons, but budgetary constraints hold us back. The existing computers have been upgraded in stages; the five oldest ones were purchased with a Smithville Community Network Technology Infrastructure Fund (TIF) Grant (2001-2003). As a department within the City of Smithville, the library is committed to provide the necessary support to sustain a community public access computer network. With budgets as they are, the library cannot rely on municipal funding for technology -- we would be forced to choose between purchasing new equipment or keeping staff and maintaining hours of operation.

As such, we are proposing almost $32,000 be allocated for the PCC project, with almost $23,500 coming from the BTOP-PCC grant. These funds will provide new equipment and software (~$12,000 BTOP out of $15,000 total) and personnel and training so that we may provide computer training and technical support to our staff and patrons (~$11,000 BTOP out of $16,000 total). We will continue to partner with the Smithville Community Network, a local volunteer organization that helps secure safe internet service for the community and would also help the library provide computer training to the general public.

The Smithville Public Library is considered a small public library. While our city population is approximately 4000 people, we serve many outside our city limits and therefore use our school district population (~7500) as our service population. Our library patrons and computer users closely reflect our population demographics. Based on 2000 Census data (the latest data available), Smithville is comprised of about 15%

Hispanic and 14% African American residents, as well as 17% aged 65 and over and 16% under 10 (more seniors and youth than our surrounding community and more than the national average). At 16% below poverty level and 25% (over 25 years old) with less than a high school education, too many families in our community do not have the financial capability to purchase their own books or computers and truly need the additional resources and training that our library can provide at no cost.

Many adults in our community and from the surrounding region use the public computers, browse the stacks, and participate in community activities. Our patron numbers swell from September to March as many winter residents seek information about and connection to their summer communities. On a weekly basis, we receive multiple calls or have patron visits seeking assistance with computer basics to be able to complete an employment application, or print their tax forms – activities that some agencies now require to be done electronically. Our library also has a strong adult literacy program, and job-seekers come to the library to search for employment and participate in training - technology assists our ability to provide services for all these groups.

The computer center is also critical to our younger patrons. Our children's programming (i.e., our Little Bookworms Children's Storytime and After School Mentorship programs) fosters a love of reading and learning at the earliest ages, and uses technology to the fullest potential possible to help older students research assigned topics and to help younger students learn to read through creative programming. After school, Smithville ISD students often use the library computers to complete their assignments and to gain access to the internet, many using them to play web-based games. During school holidays, our students keep our computers busy with less academic, but nonetheless important play that hones technical skills.

In order to provide current technology to keep up with the demands of our public computer center, we are proposing funding through the BTOP-PCC grant that would increase the number of workstations and the connection speed that will enable us to meet the increases in the number of persons served. As mentioned earlier, more computer users results in more library patrons. Federal funding is also necessary for updating outdated equipment, as municipal budgets cannot provide these services. Even as we apply for grants through various foundations and private funding sources, we are seeing decreasing willingness to approve technology expenditures. Through the funds available in our public and private sources, we would be able to provide approximately 25% of the funding required to complete this upgrade to our public access computer center and toward the training required to assist our computer patrons.

I look forward to working with the Texas State Library and Archives Commission as we ensure technology to assist our library patrons. Please do not hesitate to contact me if there are any questions or comments regarding the Smithville Public Library's participation in this project. I can be reached at 512/237-3282, ext 2424 or by e-mail: jmbergeron13@yahoo.com if that is preferred.

Sincerely,

Judith M. Bergeron
Library Director

Texas Workforce Commission
A Member of Texas Workforce Solutions

Tom Pauken, Chairman

Ronald G. Congleton
Commissioner Representing
Labor

Andres Alcantar
Commissioner Representing
the Public

Larry E. Temple
Executive Director

March 11, 2010

Ms. Peggy Rudd, Director and Librarian
Texas State Library and Archives Commission
P.O. Box 12927
Austin, Texas 78711-2927

Dear Ms. Rudd:

The Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) is excited to support your application for a Broadband Technologies Opportunity Program and Public Computer Center (BTOP/PCC) grant. We are committed to partnering with the Texas State Library and Archives Commission and public libraries to expand the public's access to computer centers throughout Texas.

In Texas, 28 Local Workforce Development Boards (Boards) and their Texas Workforce Centers provide computer and Internet access to individuals so they can search for employment and access training. Many of these individuals—who include unemployment insurance recipients, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program recipients, low-income senior citizens, and other low-income job seekers—would not otherwise have access to these important resources. Unfortunately, shrinking resources in the past few years along with the current economic climate have strained the Texas workforce system's ability to provide these services in many parts of the state.

Lacking access to computers or the skills to perform job duties requiring basic computer skills significantly limits individuals' options for sustainable employment. Adding local access points for the following types of training would be very beneficial:
- Workforce or job skills development—WorkInTexas.com training, résumé and cover letter writing, work-related software instruction (Microsoft Office), and online job search strategies
- Educational attainment—computer or Web-based instruction for English as a Second Language and GED certification, as well as computer time for distance-learning students to complete coursework
- Technology literacy—basic computer skills training

If the Texas State Library and Archives Commission receives a BTOP/PCC grant, TWC is committed to supporting the grant's goals in the following ways:
- Promoting awareness of the resources and training options available at local public libraries
- Providing training to library staff on workforce tools such as WorkInTexas.com and other automated job search tools, job search techniques, and services available through the Texas workforce system
- Assisting in analyzing data to determine areas where resources such as computers and broadband connectivity are limited, yet demand is significant

101 E. 15th Street • Austin, Texas 78778-0001 • (512) 463-2222 • Relay Texas: 800-735-2989 (TDD) 800-735-2988 (Voice) • www.texasworkforce.org
Equal Opportunity Employer / Services

TEXAS
WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS

In addition, in some areas of the state, Boards and their Texas Workforce Center staff may be able to partner with the local library in the delivery of workforce services, including periodically assigning staff to the libraries for workforce related events, such as employment workshops, job clubs, and other in-person training.

Boards routinely coordinate with other entities—such as schools, community colleges, community-based organizations, and faith-based organizations—that also serve customers needing access to computer resources. Through our partnership with the public libraries, we will be able to assist local job seekers more effectively with the resources and skills of each of TWC's partners.

We look forward to working together to better serve the employment needs of Texans. If you have questions, please contact me or Laurie Biscoe at (512) 936-9256 or laurie.biscoe@twc.state.tx.us.

Sincerely,

Larry E. Temple
Executive Director

cc: Tom Pauken, Chairman
        Ronald G. Congleton, Commissioner Representing Labor
        Andres Alcantar, Commissioner Representing the Public

THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

COMMITTEES

NOMINATIONS, *CHAIR*
AGRICULTURE & RURAL AFFAIRS
BUSINESS & COMMERCE
NATURAL RESOURCES
STATE AFFAIRS

MIKE JACKSON

March 10, 2010

Peggy D. Rudd
Director and Librarian
Texas State Library and Archives Commission
1201 Brazos Street
Austin, TX 78701

Dear Ms. Rudd:

I am pleased to write in support of the Texas State Library and Archives Commission's Broadband Technology Opportunities Program Public Computer Center Grant for Texas Public Libraries. Public libraries are an invaluable community asset for our fast growing and increasingly diverse population.

Between 2000 and 2008, the population of Texas grew by almost 17%, more than twice that of the United States as a whole. Presently, it is estimated that 1,000 people per day are moving to Texas. And Texas is rapidly becoming a majority minority state.

We are proud of the unique elements that draw people to our great state, and we embrace the great melting pot of cultures and languages that we are experiencing; however, we are mindful of the tremendous challenges this poses as we in positions of state leadership focus on high standards for economic stability and growth, educational achievement, and personal betterment while facing a looming multi-billion dollar state deficit.

The Public Computer Center grant you are submitting will increase the number of computers for public access in our libraries, support more robust telecommunications capacity, and reduce the wait time for computer access. These improvements will make it possible for Texas public libraries to help more people acquire and increase computer skills, develop professional resumes, search and apply for jobs, take distance learning courses, work toward receiving a GED or other educational certification, access e-government services, and much more.

I support this proposal and pledge to help make this program successful.

Sincerely,

Mike Jackson
State Senator
District 11

CAPITOL OFFICE

P.O. BOX 12068
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711
512/463-0111
FAX: 512/475-3727
MIKE.JACKSON@SENATE.STATE.TX.US
DIAL 711 FOR RELAY CALLS

SENATE DISTRICT 11

PASADENA DISTRICT OFFICE

1109 FAIRMONT PARKWAY
PASADENA, TEXAS 77504
713/948-0111
FAX: 713/948-0004

MARK WHITE

Peggy D. Rudd
Director and Librarian
Texas State Library and Archives Commission
1201 Brazos Street
Austin, TX 78701

Dear Ms. Rudd:

I am pleased to write in support of the Texas State Library and Archives Commission's Broadband Technology Opportunities Program Public Computer Center Grant for Texas Public Libraries. Public libraries are an invaluable community asset for our fast growing and increasingly diverse population.

Between 2000 and 2008, the population of Texas grew by almost 17%, more than twice that of the United States as a whole. Presently, it is estimated that 1,000 people per day are moving to Texas. And Texas is rapidly becoming a majority minority state.

As a former Governor of Texas, I know that our citizens have always embraced the great melting pot of cultures and languages in our state. However, we are mindful of the tremendous challenges this poses as we focus on high standards for economic stability and growth, educational achievement, and personal betterment while facing a looming multi-billion dollar state deficit.

The Public Computer Center grant you are submitting will increase the number of computers for public access in our libraries, support more robust telecommunications capacity, and reduce the wait time for computer access. These improvements will make it possible for Texas public libraries to help more people acquire and increase computer skills, develop professional resumes, search and apply for jobs, take distance learning courses, work toward receiving a GED or other educational certification, access e-government services, and much more.

I support this proposal and pledge to help make this program successful.

Sincerely,

Mark White

Mark White

The Senate of The State of Texas

Senator John Whitmire
Dean of the Texas Senate

March 11, 2010

Peggy D. Rudd
Director and Librarian
Texas State Library and Archives Commission
1201 Brazos Street
Austin, TX 78701

Dear Ms. Rudd:

I am pleased to write in support of the Texas State Library and Archives Commission's Broadband Technology Opportunities Program Public Computer Center Grant for Texas Public Libraries, which includes Houston Public Library and Harris County Public Library.

The Public Computer Center grant you are submitting will increase the number of computers for public access in our libraries, support more robust telecommunications capacity, and reduce the wait time for computer access. These improvements will make it possible for Texas public libraries, including the Houston and Harris County Public Libraries, to help a far greater number of people acquire and increase computer skills, develop professional resumes, search and apply for jobs, take distance learning courses, work toward receiving a GED or other educational certification, access e-government services, and much more. The grant would provide resources for these libraries to advance towards their stated goal of "digital inclusion" for all their patrons.

If I can be of any assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

JOHN WHITMIRE

JW: jm

DONNA HOWARD

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

DISTRICT 48

March 10, 2010

Peggy D. Rudd, Director and Librarian
Texas State Library and Archives Commission
1201 Brazos Street
Austin, TX 78701

Dear Ms. Rudd:

I am pleased to write in support of the Texas State Library and Archives Commission's Broadband Technology Opportunities Program Public Computer Center Grant for Texas Public Libraries. Public libraries are an invaluable community asset for our fast growing and increasingly diverse population.

Between 2000 and 2008, the population of Texas grew by almost 17%, more than twice that of the United States as a whole. Presently, it is estimated that 1,000 people per day are moving to Texas. And Texas is rapidly becoming a majority minority state. We are proud of the unique elements that draw people to our great state, and we embrace the great melting pot of cultures and languages that we are experiencing. Nevertheless, as an elected official at the state level, I am mindful of the tremendous challenges my colleagues and I will face to support high standards for economic stability and growth, educational achievement, and workforce development while facing a looming multi-billion dollar deficit at the state level. Most of our local governments are facing similar daunting deficits.

As you know, Texas has 863 physical library locations and 12 bookmobiles that serve over 24 million residents. Most of these libraries are organized by local governments and non-profit organizations. Our state's limited tax base, large population and huge geography, have resulted in operating expenditures per capita in Texas ($17.92) totaling half that of the national average ($33.24)

The Public Computer Center grant you are submitting will increase the number of computers for public access in our libraries, support more robust telecommunications capacity, and reduce the wait time for computer access. These improvements will make it possible for Texas public libraries to help more people acquire and increase computer skills, develop professional resumes, search and apply for jobs, take distance learning courses, work toward receiving a GED or other educational certification, access e-government services, for which demand continues to grow as the recession in Texas deepens, and much more.

I support this proposal and pledge to help make this program successful.

Sincerely,

Donna Howard

DH/sw

The current population of Huntsville is 37,790 and Walker County's population is 65,255 Huntsville is the County Seat and located in center of the County. This allows us to serve, not only Walker County, but the surrounding counties as well. The Huntsville Public Library has been serving the needs of the community and region for over 40 years in its original 7,000 square foot building. The library has seen the demand for services increase greatly over those 40 years. In response to the increased need of the region, the citizens of Huntsville passed a $3.5 M bond election for the renovation and expansion of the existing building. Unfortunately, this bond could not provide any funds for upgrading our computers or programs which serve our population. We want to be able to increase our educational and training programs in our expanded building space in order to better serve our growing needs, but can only do this with your assistance.

Over the last two years we have seen our limited computer capacity use increase by 13%. The library is a vital source of computers for our citizens and those in the surrounding communities. Our customers range from children to adults, those doing research to those searching for job opportunities. This is a vital necessity in our present depressed economy.

Huntsville is the administrative home of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice with five prisons within the city limits and Sam Houston State University. Walker County as an addition two prisons and is home to Sam Houston State Park and the Sam Houston Nation Forrest. While this seems like an asset, it also means that over 60% of the property is State or Federally owned. This reduces the property tax base for the City and the County. This is another reason why this funding is of vital importance to our citizens. The City of Huntsville does not have the means to expand the Library and completely fund furnishing the equipment. Nor do the citizens have the means to completely fund the furnishing of the Public Computer Center. The Median income levels in Huntsville are:

- $27,054 per household
- $36,187 per family,
- $12,390 per capita

The per capita income is only 47.3% of the national average. In fact, among cities in Texas with populations between 25,000 and 50,000, Huntsville has the 8th highest

ADMINISTRATION

1212 Avenue M   Huntsville, TX 77430-4608 – 936.291.5400 – 936-291-5409 fax – www.huntsvilletx.gov

Our vision for the City of Huntsville is a community that is beautiful, historic, culturally
Diverse, affordable, safe and well planned with great opportunity for our citizens.

poverty rate. This means that only 7 cities have higher rates of poverty than Huntsville. Walker County is ranked only 14th among counties.

Our minority population is 42% of our community as of 2000 and consisted of 26% African American and 16% Hispanic. Currently, we have 3,989 children enrolled in our public schools from elementary through middle/intermediate levels. The number of students who receive free or reduced lunch programs range from 70% in some schools to 54% in other schools.

The Huntsville Public Library has for some time been aware of the need for literacy, citizenship, early childhood reading readiness, ESL and other training programs and has provided these opportunities as best it could within our limitations of space and equipment. We are acutely aware that our most vulnerable populations; minorities, senior citizens, the unemployed, low income and non-English speaking citizens look to the public library as a source of information, training and opportunity not available elsewhere. Recently, due to the present economy our library budget has been cut, resulting in a reduction of staffing and hours open to the public. In spite of all of this, the library has seen an increase in the use of our facilities with a dramatic increase in computer use. This increase in computer use and need is also reflective of the economy as a whole.

In order for the library to conduct the many special programs we presently have for the community we have been forced to limit public access. With these funds we will be able to both increase the number of computers and laptops available so that we will no longer have to penalize our citizens by disrupting public access. With the increase from 27 computers to 54 and the addition of 10 laptops we will be able to better serve our clients and increase our educational programs. These funds will allow the library to institute and grow programs such as:

- citizenship training
- work force training
- ESL
- literacy
- adult basic education
- at risk reading programs for 3rd grade and below students
- after school math and science tutoring for intermediate students
- establishment of a fully equipped computer lab.

We are proud to report that the aforementioned $3.5M bond was passed by 81% of the voters of Huntsville. This demonstrates the strong commitment by the citizens to the

ADMINISTRATION

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Diverse, affordable, safe and well planned with great opportunity for our citizens.

library and our programs. Additionally, the Huntsville Public Library Friends have seen a dramatic increase in their membership over the last several years; further evidence of a strong desire in the community to see the public library continue to perform its vital role in the community. The Friends organization has agreed to raise funds to furnish the expanded space of 22,000 square feet and has agreed to provide $20,000 match for the funds being sought by this grant application. With the in-kind match of the city, we have a 21.5% match for the grant. Without the funds from this grant and the support from the Friends we fear that we may have a 22,000 square foot facility which will not be able to fulfill its intended mission of providing all of the services which our community needs and wants.

Respectfully,

Sherry McKibben
Community Development Specialist

ADMINISTRATION

1212 Avenue M   Huntsville, TX 77430-4608 – 936.291.5400 – 936-291-5409 fax – www.huntsvilletx.gov

Our vision for the City of Huntsville is a community that is beautiful, historic, culturally
Diverse, affordable, safe and well planned with great opportunity for our citizens.

CITY OF SAN ANTONIO
SAN ANTONIO PUBLIC LIBRARY

March 12, 2010

Peggy Rudd, Director and State Librarian
Texas State Library & Archives Commission
1201 Brazos Street
Austin, TX 78711

Dear Ms. Rudd:

The San Antonio Public Library (SAPL) is pleased to join the Texas State Library and Archives Commission (TSLAC) in submitting an application for the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program- Public Computer Centers. The San Antonio Public Library is requesting $1.5 Million in funding as a part of TSLAC's application. SAPL also is pledging the 20 percent cash match required for this application.
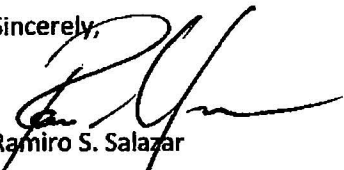
The San Antonio Public Library plays a critical role in building a stronger San Antonio by making a difference in the areas of education, early childhood and adult literacy, bridging the "digital divide," workforce and economic development, and empowering people with knowledge. San Antonio Public Library's proposal provides the necessary infrastructure to increase the number of Broadband Internet workstations available through the Library, boost the Library's WiFi signal, and enhance training opportunities available through collaborations and partnerships.

San Antonio is a community where many citizens depend on the Library for access to technology. According to a market penetration analysis from Business Decision, 60% of San Antonio residents do not have access to broadband internet access at home. Lack of access coupled with an unemployment rate hovering around 6.8%, according to the local Workforce Solutions office, mean that the Library's free resources and services are more valuable than ever before. Consumers, who cannot afford Broadband Internet service, to buy a computer, or pay for services such as employment test preparation, turn to the Library for these valuable resources.

The City of San Antonio, as other cities around the country, is feeling the results of a struggling economy. Demand for social services, such as library services, is on the rise while funding to meet this new demand is diminishing. Funding awarded through the BTOP PCC program would provide support not otherwise available to the San Antonio Public Library.

We are pleased to be joining the Texas State Library and Archives Commission's in our respective efforts to expand computer connectivity to all Texans.

Sincerely,

Ramiro S. Salazar
Director

600 Soledad Street • San Antonio, Texas 78205-1208 • Tel. (210) 207-2500 • Fax (210) 207-2603 • www.mysapl.org

March 9, 2010

Mr. Anthony Wilhelm
Director, BTOP
Office of Telecommunications and Information Applications
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue
N.W. HCHB Room 4887
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Mr. Wilhelm:

The San Antonio Public Library plays a critical role in building a stronger San Antonio by making a difference in the areas of education, early childhood and adult literacy, bridging the "digital divide," workforce and economic development, and empowering people with knowledge. To persist in this critical role, the library must be strengthened through continued investments in areas such as Broadband technology and training. Therefore, I am pleased to offer my support for the San Antonio Public Library's proposal in the Texas State Library and Archives Commission application to the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program- Public Computer Centers.

In a city like San Antonio where many citizens depend on the Library for access to technology, it is crucial to stay abreast of innovations and trends in order to provide the best possible resources and services to the community. The Library's free resources and services have become more valuable than ever as the economy weakens and the unemployment rate hovers around 6.8%. Consumers who cannot afford Broadband Internet service, to purchase a computer or pay for services such as employment test preparation, turn to the Library for those resources. Far from becoming less relevant in the electronic information age, libraries become more and more important every day, making resources and services available to those who might otherwise have been run over on the information highway.

The Goodwill Industries of San Antonio (Goodwill) is a nonprofit organization that helps to change lives through the power of work. In recent months, Goodwill has seen an increase in the demand for the services we provide. Witnessing the increased demand for assistance, given the condition of the current economy, Goodwill believes that access to free Internet, public computers and computer training through the public library is extremely important to the San Antonio community. Enhancing Broadband technology and training opportunities through the BTOP grant will provide much needed resources to the San Antonio community.

I have the utmost confidence that the services proposed to the San Antonio community will continue to bring both viable and vital resources to our residents. I look forward to the continued success of this stellar organization.

Sincerely,

Robert P. Dugas
President/CEO

SAN ANTONIO METROPOLITAN HEALTH DISTRICT

332 West Commerce
San Antonio, Texas 78205-2489
PHONE (210) 207-8780 FAX (210) 207-8999

March 4, 2010

Mr. Anthony Wilhelm
Director, BTOP
Office of Telecommunications and Information Applications
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue
N.W. HCHB Room 4887
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Mr. Wilhelm:

The San Antonio Public Library plays a critical role in building a stronger San Antonio by making a difference in the areas of education, early childhood and adult literacy, bridging the "digital divide," workforce and economic development, and empowering people with knowledge. To persist in this critical role, the library must be strengthened through continued investments in areas such as Broadband technology and training. Therefore, I am pleased to offer my support for the San Antonio Public Library's proposal in the Texas State Library and Archives Commission application to the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program- Public Computer Centers.

In a city like San Antonio where many citizens depend on the Library for access to technology, it is crucial to stay abreast of innovations and trends in order to provide the best possible resources and services to the community. The Library's free resources and services have become more valuable than ever as the economy weakens and the unemployment rate hovers around 6.8%. Consumers who cannot afford Broadband Internet service, to purchase a computer or pay for services such as employment test preparation, turn to the Library for those resources. Far from becoming less relevant in the electronic information age, libraries become more and more important every day, making resources and services available to those who might otherwise have been run over on the information highway.

Enhance Broadband technology at the San Antonio Public Library is important for the San Antonio Metro Health District (Metro Health). Metro Health has a team of trained professional staff in the Food and Environmental Health Services Division who could benefit from continued

METRO HEALTH.
SAN ANTONIO'S PUBLIC HEALTH TEAM

professional development and test preparation through the San Antonio Public Library's online resources and databases.

I have the utmost confidence that the services proposed to the San Antonio community will continue to bring both viable and vital resources to our residents. I look forward to the continued success of this stellar organization.

Sincerely,

Fernando A. Guerra, M.D., M.P.H.
Director of Health

TEXAS SENATE

STATE CAPITOL, ROOM E1.804
P.O. Box 12068
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711
(512) 463-0106
FAX (512) 463-0346
DIAL 711 FOR RELAY CALLS

2205 CLINTON DRIVE
P.O. Box 41
GALENA PARK, TEXAS 77547
(713) 678-8600
FAX (713) 678-7080

MARIO GALLEGOS, JR.

March 11, 2010

Peggy D. Rudd
Director and Librarian
Texas State Library and Archives Commission
1201 Brazos Street
Austin, TX 78701

Dear Ms. Rudd,

I am pleased to write in support of the Texas State Library and Archives Commission's application for a Broadband Technology Opportunities Program Public Computer Center Grant for Texas Public Libraries under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. As the elected Senator from District 6, which is located in Harris County, I know this project will help the Harris County Public Library make great strides in addressing its highest priorities of improving community health, education, and services to children.

Harris County is one of the most populace and fastest growing counties in the country, which is comprised of 40% Hispanic, 36% of whom speak a language other than English at home. As low levels of educational attainment impact us (74.6% of those 25 years of age and older graduated high school) and increase the scope of vulnerable populations in the county, assistance is greatly needed. Just over 15% of the population lives in poverty. These statistics pose great challenges for public services, including those provided by our libraries. This grant would greatly benefit these numbers and help by offering resources to our areas in Harris County that need them the most.

The Public Computer Center grant you are submitting will enable Harris County Public Library to upgrade broadband connections, increase networking capacity, replace old computers and increase the number of computers for public access in our libraries, and reduce the wait time for computer access. These improvements will make it possible for my library and other Texas public libraries to help more people acquire and increase computer skills, develop professional resumes, search and apply for jobs, take distance learning courses, work toward receiving a GED or other educational certification, access e-government services, and so much more.

I fully support this proposal and pledge to help make this program successful. If you should have any question please do not hesitate to contact our office.

Sincerely,

Mario Gallegos, Jr.
Texas Senate
District 6

Edward Lopez, Library Director

March 5, 2010

Peggy Rudd, Director and State Librarian
Texas State Library & Archives Commission
1201 Brazos Street
Austin, TX 78711

Hidalgo is located in South Texas on the U.S./Mexico border. It is south of McAllen and just across the border from Reynosa, Mexico. Hidalgo Public Library opened its doors on April 8, 1998. When it opened its doors, the library had a few books ready to be checked out. Shortly after a computer system was added which offered 6 stations for public use.

In 2004, the library had an expansion made to the original building, giving us double the capacity of the original building's size. With this expansion came a computer lab that can hold up to 50 computer stations. In that computer lab we have 18 computer stations that are utilized every day from opening to closing. An average of 75 patrons use our computer lab for many different reasons; checking email, homework, online courses, online payments and the list goes on and on. Replacing/Upgrading these machines is a must. 12 of the computers in the computer lab were originally purchased in 2001 and six others in 2007. As technology moves forward these computers are getting slow and obsolete. Finding replacement and/or upgrade parts is becoming more and more difficult.

Budget is playing a big role in the acquisition of new computers. This year our budget for equipment is $0. This comes at a time when we are seeing attendance at the library for computer usage doubled. We just don't have enough workstations to keep up with the community needs. Unemployment has been one of the main reasons patrons come to use the library, we've seen more and more patrons asking for help to fill out applications online. We help as much as we can, but with limited resources, things are a lot more difficult.

Hidalgo's population in the 2000 census was 7,322. At the end of 2009 it is estimated at 13,956. The population in the Rio Grande Valley increases each winter as the valley becomes home to 150,000 "Winter Texans" or retirees who spend their winters in the south.

The library serves two school districts, Hidalgo ISD and Valley View ISD. The library serves not only patrons of our community, but also several surrounding communities as well. Pharr, San Juan, McAllen and Alamo are surrounding cities that have population near our library.

We really need your help to continue to serve our communities. We believe that we are making a difference in the improvement of life of our families and students. With this grant, we could improve our efforts to serve and educate our community.

Sincerely,

Edward Lopez

Digitally signed by Edward Lopez
DN: cn=Edward Lopez, o=Hidalgo
Public Library, ou,
email=eddie@hidalgo.lib.tx.us, c=US
Date: 2010.03.12 15:06:36 -06'00'

Library Director

KIRK WATSON

STATE SENATOR
DISTRICT 14

March 12, 2010

Peggy D. Rudd
Director and Librarian
Texas State Library and Archives Commission
1201 Brazos Street
Austin, TX 78701

Dear Ms. Rudd:

I am pleased to write in support of the Texas State Library and Archives Commission's Broadband Technology Opportunities Program Public Computer Center Grant for Texas Public Libraries. Public libraries are an invaluable community asset for our fast-growing and increasingly diverse population.

Between 2000 and 2008, the population of Texas grew by almost 17%, more than twice that of the United States as a whole. Presently, it is estimated that 1,000 people per day are moving to Texas. And Texas is rapidly becoming a majority-minority state.

We are proud of the unique elements that draw people to our great state, and we embrace the great diversity of cultures and languages that we are experiencing. However, we are mindful of the tremendous challenges these changes pose as we work to maintain and increase economic stability and growth, educational achievement, and personal betterment - all while facing a multi-billion dollar state deficit.

The Public Computer Center grant you are submitting will increase the number of computers for public use in our libraries, support more robust telecommunications capacity, and reduce the wait time for computer access. These improvements will make it possible for Texas public libraries to help more people acquire and build on computer skills, develop professional resumes, search and apply for jobs, take distance learning courses, work toward receiving a GED or another educational certification, access e-government services, and much more.

I support this proposal and pledge to help make this program successful.

Sincerely,

kirk Watson

STATE OF TEXAS
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

LOIS W. KOLKHORST
DISTRICT 13

P.O. BOX 2910
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78768-2910
(512) 463-0600
Fax: (512) 463-5240
E-mail: lois.kolkhorst@house.state.tx.us

P.O. BOX 1867
BRENHAM, TEXAS 77834
(979) 251-7888
FAX: (979) 251-7968

March 11, 2010

Peggy D. Rudd
Director and Librarian
Texas State Library and Archives Commission
1201 Brazos Street
Austin, TX 78701

Dear Ms. Rudd:

With this letter I would like to lend my support to the Texas State Library and Archives Commission's Broadband Technology Opportunities Program Public Computer Center Grant for Texas Public Libraries. Specifically I hope to see the inclusion of the Huntsville Public Library in this project. As the elected State Representative for House District 13, which includes Huntsville, I know firsthand about the invaluable services their library offers to meet those needs. The local Huntsville Public Library includes emergent literacy programs for children, adult literacy program, computer training classes, citizenship classes, to name a few.

Texas has an explosive population that grew by almost 17% between 2000 and 2008, more than twice that of the United States as a whole. Estimates show that 1,000 people per day are moving to Texas. I'm proud of the unique elements that draw people to our great state. Our state embraces the great melting pot of cultures and languages that we are experiencing; however, we are mindful of the tough challenges this poses as we in positions of state leadership focus on high standards for economic stability and growth and educational achievement while at the same time we are facing a looming multi-billion dollar state deficit.

The Public Computer Center grant you are submitting will increase the number of computers for public access in our libraries, support a robust telecommunications capacity, and reduce the wait time for computer access. This will hopefully allow places like the Huntsville Public Library to help more people acquire and increase computer skills, develop professional resumes, search and apply for jobs. Better yet, more people could take distance learning courses, work toward receiving a GED or other educational certification, or simply access e-government services.

I support this proposal and pledge to help make this program successful.

Sincerely,

Rep. Lois W. Kolkhorst
District 13 State Representative

Representative Jim Pitts

March 12, 2010

Peggy D. Rudd
Director and Librarian
Texas State Library and Archives Commission
1201 Brazos Street
Austin, TX 78701

Dear Ms. Rudd:

I am pleased to write in support of the Texas State Library and Archives Commission's Broadband Technology Opportunities Program Public Computer Center Grant for Texas public libraries. This type of grant would help improve the lives of many a Texan.

As you know, public libraries are an invaluable community asset for our fast growing and increasingly diverse population, which has grown more than 17 percent since 2000. We are proud of the unique elements that draw people to our great state, and we embrace the great melting pot of cultures and languages that we are experiencing. At the same time, we face multi-billion dollar challenges in the next budget cycle that will be exacerbated by population growth poses during these challenging times.

Despite these difficult budgetary times, the Public Computer Center grant you are submitting will increase the number of computers for public access in our libraries, support more robust telecommunications capacity, and reduce the wait time for computer access. These improvements will at the least make it possible for Texas public libraries to help more Texans improve computer skills, develop professional resumes, search and apply for jobs, take distance learning courses, work toward receiving a GED or other educational certification, and access government services.

For the reasons stated, I support this proposal and applaud your efforts in serving the citizens of the State of Texas.

Sincerely,

Rep. Jim Pitts

State of Texas
House of Representatives

Representative Jim Pitts

March 12, 2010

Peggy D. Rudd
Director and Librarian
Texas State Library and Archives Commission
1201 Brazos Street
Austin, TX 78701

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For the reasons stated, I support this proposal and applaud your efforts in serving the citizens of the State of Texas.

Sincerely,

Rep. Jim Pitts

P.O. BOX 2910
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78768-2910
512-463-0516
Fax: 512-463-1051

310 W. Jefferson St., Suite 1
WAXAHACHIE, TEXAS 75165
972-938-9392
FAX: 972-937-2842

March 12, 2010

Peggy D. Rudd
Director and Librarian
Texas State Library and Archives Commission
1201 Brazos Street
Austin, TX 78701

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For the reasons stated, I support this proposal and applaud your efforts in serving the citizens of the State of Texas.

Sincerely,

Rep. Jim Pitts

State of Texas
House of Representatives

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512-463-0516
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310 W. Jefferson St., Suite 1
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Representative Jim Pitts

March 12, 2010

Peggy D. Rudd
Director and Librarian
Texas State Library and Archives Commission
1201 Brazos Street
Austin, TX 78701

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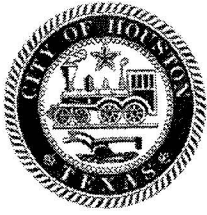
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For the reasons stated, I support this proposal and applaud your efforts in serving the citizens of the State of Texas.

Sincerely,

Rep. Jim Pitts

Annise Parker

Mayor

Rhea Brown Lawson, Ph.D.
Director
Library Department
820 Marston
Houston, Texas 77019

T. 832-393-1300
F. 832-393-1324
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March 12, 2010

Peggy D. Rudd
Director and Librarian
Texas State Library & Archives Commission
1201 Brazos
P.O. Box 12927
Austin, Texas 78711-2927

Dear Ms. Rudd:

The City of Houston and the Houston Public Library (HPL) are pleased to support the Texas State Library's statewide application for federal Broadband Technology Opportunities Program Public Computer Center funding to create and/or expand public computer centers across Texas and in the Houston metropolitan area. This assistance will be invaluable as we work to improve the quality, availability and accessibility of public computing resources for underserved residents throughout America's fourth-largest city. Through this Public Computer Center proposal, the City of Houston seeks to expand its digital inclusion initiative, WeCAN (Wireless Empowered Community Access Network). The vision for WeCAN is to create a digital future for all Houstonians by fostering an environment that affords everyone equal access to broadband and the Internet. As a digital literacy effort, WeCAN focuses on drop-out prevention/GED recovery and job/workforce readiness. This is being accomplished in partnership with key stakeholders to create neighborhood "networks" of access, awareness, and programs and services.

Specifically, the City proposes to:

- Improve broadband Internet and computer access at 83 computer centers in 17 high-need neighborhoods through creation of 23 new public computer centers, extension of first-time broadband access to 26 centers, and expanded access to technology at 60 conveniently located public computer centers including City libraries, health centers, community centers and community college library branches;
- Equip the 83 new or expanded centers with more than 1,800 devices and/or workstations, including 426 Netbooks, 213 Kindles, 426 iPod Touches, 750 Macbooks and 10 computer workstations;
- Create more than 55 full- and part-time jobs by staffing the public computer centers with trained "Civic Connectors", who will provide workforce and digital literacy training and help residents access online resources; and

- Increase by more than 23 percent the number of constituents using public computers and/or receiving other WeCAN program benefits by assisting an additional 296,000 users of public computers and/or training programs.

With a population estimated at 2,257,412 as of January 2010, Houston is actively engaged in development of a municipal broadband network that will support public safety, public services, and public access. The proposed municipal broadband network will establish planned WiFi hot zones in underserved neighborhoods impacting more than 540,000 residents according to the most recent data available. These neighborhoods, which are spread across the city's 640 square miles and range from dense multi-family developments to sprawling single-family neighborhoods with a more rural/suburban feel, include a variety of vulnerable populations: 44 percent of households have annual income at or below $25,000, 36 percent are African-American and 59 percent are of Hispanic heritage, and only 21 percent reported home broadband access (approximately 30 percent are estimated to have some kind of Internet access at home). Of those without Internet access, libraries joined school and work as the top places to access the Internet. Aside from the challenges of limited Internet access and low household incomes, these residents must also contend with a struggling local economy, which remains sluggish after weathering the downturn seen throughout much of the nation. Houston's 8.8 percent unemployment rate for January 2010 was the highest of any metropolitan area in Texas, well above January's statewide figure of 8.2 percent. Economic projections from entities such as the University of Houston Institute for Regional Forecasting indicate that the present downturn is the worst to strike Houston since the 1980s energy bust, with per capita income slipping 1.1 percent in 2009.

Demand is high and rising for public computer center services, which the Houston Public Library initiated in 1993. With more than 1,309 user hours logged monthly by more than 105,600 patrons, average wait is nearly 12 minutes system wide, but wait times of 45 minutes to 3 hours are typical during after-school and evening peak times. Anecdotal feedback from digital literacy instructors indicates a growing demand for training, an observation supported by increasing digital literacy wait lists. For most of Houston's underserved neighborhoods, HPL serves as the only and/or primary provider of free public broadband Internet. Through its network of 44 locations located in all parts of the city, particularly in underserved communities, HPL offers access to learning opportunities and innovative technology to nearly 30,000 computer users monthly. Through this expansion, WeCAN has the potential to positively impact approximately 296,000 additional Houstonians residing in these underserved neighborhoods, an increase of more than 20 percent in the number of people served annually. Library staff indicates that job searches are a prevalent use among adults, while younger users focus on educational and recreational pursuits. Computers at public libraries are generally available at least six days a week, up to a maximum of 70 hours weekly. The City and its partners intend this proposal as an essential component of the City's response to residents' challenges in light of the demographics and economic data presented above through dramatic expansion of workforce and digital literacy training, GED support, and broadened outreach to underserved communities.

The City's outreach for the WeCAN initiative includes numerous community partners from the education, non-profit, social-service and private sectors. This proposal's key partners include the Houston Area Library Access Network (HALAN), which includes libraries in six surrounding communities. Other partners include the City's Health & Human Services, Parks & Recreation, Information & Technology, and Houston Community College System. Following are the roles that each will play in this expanded effort:
- Houston Public Library (HPL), Ron Stauss, Chief Technology Officer – HPL will create new and expanded computer and broadband capacity at 47 libraries, including a consortium of libraries in surrounding HALAN partner communities. The primary core of instructors will consist of 14 Houston

Public Library training staff that will be responsible for conducting train-the-trainer sessions to public computer center staff.

- Parks & Recreation (PR), Joe Turner, Director - PR operates 57 community centers across the city. Services and programs range from adult basic education, youth after-school and summer programs, athletics, crafts, community meetings, and more. A total of 15 new broadband computer and Internet public computer centers will be established in community centers across targeted neighborhoods.

- Health & Human Services (HHS), Ernest Teves, Sr. IT Program Manager – HHS will create eight new public computer centers with broadband capacity at HHS Multi-Service Centers while also extending broadband to three existing centers that have not had such access to date. The Multi-Service Centers house most of the neighborhood services including health centers, WIC centers, and dental health centers. Additionally, the centers house agencies such as Head Start, day care, after school programs and senior programs. While it is not included in the budget, HHS will provide (1) PC Mentor for each site that will be trained to assist clientele with training and online services.

- Houston Community College System (HCCS), Angela Secrest, Director of Library/LRC Support – Drawing students from near and far, Houston Community College mirrors Houston's diversity, openness and opportunity. HCCS has served an estimated 1.3 million students since its opening in 1971; the system now provides academic courses for transfer to four-year institutions, terminal degrees and certificates in more than 70 fields of work, continuing education and corporate training. HCC has identified a total of 10 campus locations where broadband digital resources will be made accessible via campus libraries and computer centers.

- Information Technology Department (ITD), Richard Lewis, Chief Information Officer/Director of Information Technology Director – ITD will provide the technical foundation and support for the broadband connectivity of public computer centers by developing and deploying the municipal broadband network as outlined in the City's Comprehensive Community Infrastructure proposal.

Following WeCAN's launch in March 2008, success stories have begun to show themselves. In Houston's Gulfton neighborhood, the first to see WeCAN assistance, the percentage of individuals connecting to the Internet via broadband or other high-speed connection has increased from 23 percent to 32 percent. The City's WeCAN network sees 15,000 unique users per month from the neighborhood while an estimated 5,000 people monthly benefit from education and training at WeCAN community access locations, several of which are operated by local non-profits. In April 2009, the City launched WeCAN Works, the workforce capacity-building and training solution of WeCAN. Since then, more than 340 underemployed and unemployed individuals have taken and passed the GED exam after receiving WeCAN training and assistance. And nearly 24,000 others have benefited from digital literacy training and workforce development job seminars. "This program helping so much because we don't have a money for pay other school," wrote one participant in a follow-up survey to GED training. "You know I can get enough skill within one month that it can take more than three months in my homeland," added a digital literacy trainee. "It is like a new day, new skill as well. A great access to technology."

Without federal assistance, the City of Houston will not be able to complete the proposed project. As suggested above, though the international economic crisis of 2008 and 2009 had a delayed impact on the City's finances, its effects are making themselves painfully evident as the City prepares its budget for the fiscal year beginning in mid-2010. A March 10 *Houston Chronicle* story highlighted an anticipated $110 million City budget shortfall over the next two years, driven by a $43 million drop in City revenues for the upcoming year while personnel-related costs and energy expenses continue to rise. Mayor Annise Parker has presented cost-cutting options to council including furloughs for city employees, across-the-board budget cuts in all departments, delaying pay raises or debt payments, and selling City property, according to the *Chronicle* story. While the City may be able to attain its goal of 10 "connected" neighborhoods by

the end of this calendar year, efforts to serve the 17 neighborhoods included in this proposal will be severely hampered or unsuccessful without BTOP assistance.

The total project cost is $5,990,270, of which $3,793,089 is requested in federal funding against a local match of $2,197,181. The match includes $275,000 cash from the City of Houston ($175,000) and the Houston Community College system ($100,000), along with $1,922,181 worth of in-kind labor and facility space contributions from the City, HCC and HALAN members. The 83 centers proposed for funding will draw from a menu of core offerings including:

- Free community broadband Internet access, including high-capacity wireless broadband connection equipment established through the City's BTOP infrastructure grant application
- Free network customer support from City of Houston IT
- Free "train the trainer" digital literacy training and workforce readiness job-skills training
- Up to (10) new computer workstations per site or other broadband devices (i.e. Kindles, iPod Touches, web cams, etc.), for a total of over 1,800 devices

Thank you and we look forward to working with you to achieve our shared goal of improving public computer centers and upgrading broadband capacity in Texas' public libraries and other community anchor institutions. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact my office at 832.393.1559.

Sincerely,

Nicole H. Robinson
Director, Digital Inclusion

BILL & MELINDA
GATES *foundation*

PO Box 23350
Seattle, WA 98102, USA
V 206/709.3100
F 206/709.3180
www.gatesfoundation.org

March 11, 2010

Peggy Rudd
Director & State Librarian
Texas State Library and Archives Commission
1201 Brazos Street
PO Box 12927
Austin, TX 78711

**Re: U.S. Programs Grant Number OPPLi006
Opportunity Online broadband grant pilot program**

Dear Ms. Rudd:

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (the "Foundation") is pleased to award Texas State Library and Archives Commission ("TSLAC") a grant of up to $191,958 for the period beginning on the date you sign this agreement (the "Start Date") to May 31, 2012 (the "Grant Period"). This agreement (the "Grant Agreement") contains the terms and conditions of this grant.

Charitable Purpose of the Grant. The charitable purpose of this grant is to improve Internet connections in public libraries lacking high-speed broadband and establish sustainability strategies that will support the provision and improvement of connectivity over time, as described in your proposal (the "Proposal") and budget (the "Budget") dated March 5, 2010 (together, the "Project").

Tax-Exempt Status. TSLAC confirms it is a governmental unit within the meaning of sections 170(b)(1)(A)(v) and 170(c)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 because it is a state, or a political subdivision, agency or instrumentality of a state, or the United States federal government, or the District of Columbia. You agree to advise us immediately if there is any change in your organization's exempt status during the Grant Period.

Use of Grant Funds. Grant funds may only be used for the Project. Any grant funds unexpended or uncommitted at the end of the Grant Period must be promptly returned to the Foundation. Any Budget cost category change of more than 10% must be approved in writing by the Foundation in advance. You may not use the grant funds to reimburse any expenses you chose to incur prior to the Start Date.

Political Campaign/Lobbying Activity. Grant funds may not be used to influence the outcome of any election for public office or to carry on any voter registration drive. This grant is not in any way earmarked to support lobbying activity or to otherwise support attempts to influence local, state, federal, or foreign legislation.

Investment of Grant Funds. Grant funds must be invested in highly liquid investments (such as interest-bearing bank accounts) with the primary objective of preservation of principal so that they are available for the Project. The Foundation requires you to report the amount of any interest or other income generated by the grant funds, including currency conversion gains (collectively "Interest"). Any Interest must be used for the Project. At the end of the Grant Period, any remaining Interest must be applied to another of your Foundation-funded projects (current or under consideration).

Subgrants and Subcontracts. You have the exclusive right to select subgrantees and subcontractors for the Project. The Foundation has not earmarked the use of the grant funds for any specific subgrantee or subcontractor. You, and not the Foundation, are responsible for ensuring that all subgrantees and subcontractors use grant funds consistent with this Grant Agreement and the Proposal. Neither you nor your subgrantees or subcontractors may make any statement or otherwise imply to donors, investors, media or the general public that the Foundation directly funds the activities of any subgrantee or subcontractor. Any agreements with subgrantees and subcontractors you engage to assist with the Project must include the following language: "Your organization has been selected to participate in this Project at our discretion. You may not make any statement or otherwise imply to donors, investors, media or the general public that you are a direct grantee of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation ("Foundation"). You may state that Texas State Library and Archives Commission is the Foundation's grantee and that you are a subgrantee or subcontractor of Texas State Library and Archives Commission for the Project."

Payments and Reports. This table shows the deliverables (including reports) and milestones for this grant. Where indicated, the Foundation's payment is contingent on submission and the Foundation's review and approval of the listed deliverable and/or milestone. The Foundation may authorize changes to the payment and reporting schedules from time to time where appropriate. The Foundation will confirm any such changes in writing.

The total grant payout will be based on the updated budget to be submitted with the Progress Report. We understand the actual connectivity monthly subscription prices and other budget items may vary from the original proposal figures once connectivity upgrades are completed. The Foundation may authorize changes to the grant budget. The Foundation will confirm any such changes in writing.

Payment Date	Payment Amount	Milestone or Deliverable	Due by
April 2010	$138,307	Signed Grant Agreement	March 22, 2010
April 2011	Up to $53,651	Progress Report	February 11, 2011
N/A	N/A	Final Report	June 29, 2012
AWARD TOTAL	Up to $191,958		

Milestones. For a report to be satisfactory, you must demonstrate meaningful progress against the milestones listed below and in the Proposal.

Action	Deadline
Funds are disbursed and participating libraries upgrade to at least 1.5 Mbps connections	Must be completed before the first report is due to the foundation
Participating libraries maintain Internet connection upgrades for 24 months after the date of the upgrade	Based on the upgrade date for each participating library
Libraries participate in the ALA Public Library Funding and Technology Access Study (also known as the ALA-FSU survey)	September to mid-November, 2010 September to mid-November, 2011

Report Templates. You are required to submit one or more reports regarding the expenditure of grant funds and your progress on the Project. Please submit reports electronically to your Program Coordinator, Ralene Simmons at Ralene.Simmons@gatesfoundation.org. You also agree to submit other reports that the Foundation may reasonably request.

Record Maintenance and Inspection. The Foundation requires that you maintain adequate records for the Project to enable the Foundation to easily determine how the grant funds were expended. Your books and records must be made available for inspection by the Foundation or its designee at reasonable times to permit us to monitor and conduct an evaluation of operations under this grant.

Compliance. The Foundation has the right at its discretion to terminate or suspend the grant or withhold payment if (a) the Foundation is not reasonably satisfied with your progress on the Project; or (b) significant leadership or other changes occur that the Foundation believes may threaten the Project; or (c) you fail to comply with any term or condition of this Grant Agreement. On termination, if requested by the Foundation, you agree to promptly return to the Foundation any unspent and uncommitted grant funds (as of the date of termination) previously distributed to you by the Foundation for the Project.

Research and Evaluation. The Foundation values research and evaluation of the projects it funds. You agree to inform the Foundation of any research or evaluation you conduct or commission regarding the Project and to provide to the Foundation a copy of any report or findings from the research or evaluation. The Foundation or its evaluation partner will notify you in writing of your inclusion in any research project undertaken by the Foundation. If you are selected to participate in Foundation-sponsored research or evaluation for the Project, you agree to (a) allow and facilitate the Foundation's evaluation partner to implement an evaluation plan; (b) identify an on-site evaluation coordinator who will serve as a contact; (c) facilitate the collection of data; and (d) permit the Foundation to disseminate the results of the research or evaluation. The Foundation's evaluation partner will provide appropriate privacy and other protections to participants.

Public Access. You will make the results of the Project or any reports or other publications regarding the Project funded by this grant (collectively, the "Materials") available to the public: (i) on hard copy media free of charge (other than reasonable processing and shipping costs) and/or (ii) for free unlimited access and use via an Internet site, which you will use reasonable efforts to have listed with major Internet search engines.

Grant Announcements, Public Reports and Use of Foundation Name and Logo. The Foundation will include information on this grant in our periodic public reports and may make grant information public at any time on its web page and as part of press releases, public reports, speeches, newsletters, and other public documents. If you wish to issue a press release or announcement regarding the award of this grant, you must obtain advance approval from the Foundation of the press release and the date of release. You also agree to obtain advance approval from the Foundation for any other use of the Foundation's name or logo. The Foundation requests an opportunity to review and comment on subsequent press releases or reports that are directly related to the grant. Please contact Allison Davis, Vice President at GMMB, at 206.352.8598 or allison.davis@gmmb.com at least two weeks before any press release, announcement or other publication date.

Counterparts; Original. This Grant Agreement, including any amendments, may be executed in counterparts which, when taken together, will constitute one Grant Agreement. Copies of this Grant Agreement will be equally binding as originals and faxed or scanned and emailed counterpart signatures will be sufficient to evidence execution, though the Foundation may require you, the grantee, to deliver original signed documents.
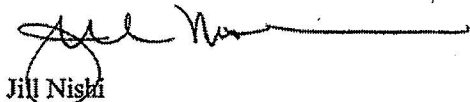
Assignment. This Grant Agreement or any of the rights or obligations under this Grant Agreement may not be assigned without the Foundation's prior written consent. An assignment includes (a) any transfer of the Project; (b) an assignment by operation of law, including a merger or consolidation, or (c) the sale or transfer of all or substantially all of your organization's assets.

Entire Agreement, Severability and Amendment. This Grant Agreement is our entire agreement and supersedes any prior oral or written agreements or communications between us regarding its subject matter. The provisions of this Grant Agreement are severable so that if any provision is found to be invalid, illegal, or unenforceable, such finding shall not affect the validity, construction, or enforceability of any remaining provision. This Grant Agreement may be amended only by a mutual written agreement of the parties.

Please sign and return this Grant Agreement to Kumi Kato, Grants Assistant. Please keep a copy for your records. If you have questions, please contact Jana Fry, Grants Administrator, at (206) 709-3439 or Jana.Fry@gatesfoundation.org.

On behalf of the Foundation, may I extend every good wish for the success of your work.
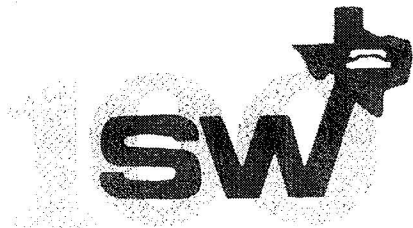
Sincerely,

Jill Nishi
Deputy Director, U.S. Libraries

Texas State Library and Archives Commission, by its authorized representative, agrees to the terms and conditions of this Grant Agreement.

Peggy D. Rudd   11 March 2010
Peggy Rudd   Date
Director & State Librarian

**SOUTHWEST TEXAS
TELEPHONE COMPANY**

P.O. BOX 128

ROCKSPRINGS, TEXAS 78880

Telephone (830) 683-2111   FAX (830) 683-4190
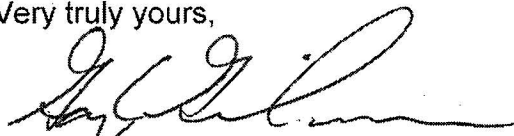
March 3, 2010

Peggy Rudd, Director and State Librarian
Texas State Library & Archives Commission
1201 Brazos Street
Austin, TX 78711

Dear Ms. Rudd,

   I am writing in support of a grant application from the Claud H. Gilmer Memorial Library (the "Library") in Rocksprings, for funding of Public Computer Centers through NTIA's Broadband Technologies Opportunity Program ("BTOP"). Southwest Texas Telephone Company (the "Company") has been involved in providing broadband services to the Library since its original construction, and is currently deploying a 100 Megabit per Second connection to the Library. The Library's computer and distance learning programs have been a huge benefit to the citizens and employers in the rural and remote town of Rocksprings.

   The Company fully supports the plans and goals as described by Librarian Lisa Scroggins. These plans fit perfectly with the BTOP goal of increasing computer acceptance and broadband adoption in rural America. The Company will continue to work as a partner with the Library to help in any way we can to make the latest technologies available to the residents of the Rocksprings area.

Very truly yours,

GARY C. GILMER
President

THE GILMER FOUNDATION, INC.
P. O. BOX 966
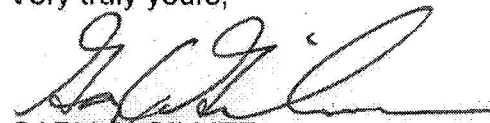## ROCKSPRINGS, TX 78880

March 3, 2010

Peggy Rudd, Director and State Librarian
Texas State Library & Archives Commission
1201 Brazos Street
Austin, TX 78711

Dear Ms. Rudd,

I am writing in support of a grant application from the Claud H. Gilmer Memorial Library (the "Library") in Rocksprings, for funding of Public Computer Centers through NTIA's Broadband Technologies Opportunity Program ("BTOP"). The Gilmer Foundation, Inc. (the "Foundation") funded the original construction of the Library and has a continuing role and interest in the operation and improvement of the Library for the benefit of the community.

The Foundation fully supports the plans and goals as described by Librarian Lisa Scroggins. These plans fit perfectly with the BTOP goal of increasing computer acceptance and broadband adoption in rural America. The Foundation will continue to work as a partner with the Library to help in any way we can to make the latest technologies available to the residents of the Rocksprings area.

Very truly yours,

GARY C. GILMER
President

SALADO
PUBLIC
LIBRARY

March 3, 2010

Peggy Rudd, Director and State Librarian
Texas State Library & Archives Commission
1201 Brazos Street
Austin, Texas 78711

Dear Ms. Rudd,

The purpose for this proposal for the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program is allow the Salado Public Library to reach a population of students and adult learners who might otherwise not have access to a computer and the internet so they can pursue educational programs, job skills and basic technology skills on several educational and skill levels.

The Salado Public Library District serves a population of almost 9000 spread over more than one hundred square miles. Salado is a very small town of three square miles surrounded by both suburban and rural housing. The population of the District includes a 12% Hispanic population. The school free lunch program serves 28% of the student body. There is a need in the community for more access to both computers and broadband service. Many rural and suburban patrons lack internet access due to isolation or income restrictions.

There are no major employers in the Salado Public Library District. Most of the revenue generated in the area is dependant on tourism. The funding of the library district is almost completely supported by sales tax revenues of .05%. Since the beginning of the current economic downturn revenues for the library, which directly reflect the heath of the local economy, have decreased by over 10% in the last two fiscal years and are on track to further decline 8% in fiscal year 2010 (September - August). The library continues to reduce its operating budget and expenditures to accommodate the loss of income.

The library currently provides access to 12 desktop and 6 laptop computers during library hours. After 3:30 in the afternoon all computers are in use with a waiting list most week days and after noon on Saturdays. The library must enforce half hour user time limits to try and provide access to all who need it. The library is housed in a building of only 4000 square feet and is not large enough to accommodate any more computer stations for public use within the library. The 6 laptop computers available for use within the library can be used at the various tables and reading chairs but patrons generally do not want to use those laptops because they are older and are very slow.

The library has provided internet access to the public since 1992. In late 2005 the library acquired eight desktop and six laptop computers to replace much older technology. After these acquisitions the library experienced a leap in computer usage of 30% (FY 2006 computer users 5,499, FY 2007 users 7,201). Since that time computer usage has increased by an average of eight percent per year. The library also provides a wireless internet access hotspot for the community. Those users are not reflected in the above statistics. Often when library staff opens the building in the morning there are patrons sitting in their cars or on the library front porch using their own computers to access the internet. During the day there is generally at least one person sitting in the library using their own computer to study or search for employment.

The proposed BTOP program would be directed to include the lower economic level population that might include minorities and the unemployed, as well as academically advanced learners who can benefit from self-directed learning. This proposal is for educational support to do the following: provide computers to loan and free, wireless internet access for them; provide online educational tools to school and college age children; and, online remedial and advanced education and computer training for all library patrons. These services would permit the Salado Public Library to sponsor superior continuing education programs that would benefit all levels of learners who otherwise might not have access to this education and training through online learning programs.

The proposal includes the purchase of eight durable computers that would be made available to students and adults for home access to the online educational materials. Wireless access would be provided with each computer. The proposal would also provide for replacement of four older public access laptop computers currently available for use within the library. These computers are not often being utilized by the public because of their age and slow response times. This would allow the library to upgrade service and access. Library assistance and scheduled classes would be made available to assist new users on how to use a computer and access the desired learning materials. Patrons who have the loan of a computer would be able to pursue their learning objective at their own pace and at times convenient to them.

Commercial, off-the-shelf materials would be subscribed to in order to provide the learning materials that could be accessed on the loaned and library computers. Examples of materials to be included in this proposal would include programs as follows: Basic Skills Academic Courses, General Education Development (GED) preparation, English as a Second Language, ACT and SAT preparation, College Level Examination Program (CLEP) General and Subject Exam preparation, Advanced Program (AP) preparation, SAT Subject Exam preparation, and online computer training courses. These programs are available through several online publishing companies such as Peterson's, Recorded Books language programs, and Lifetime Library. Their programs are available online with internet access, are self-directed, and can be completed on an individual basis. Progress of students can be checked to determine lesson/program completion and success rate.

The Salado Public Library will designate a .5 FTE staff member to publicize the program, liaison with the school district, administer the program by assisting patrons with the computers and how to use them; selecting the right program for their learning level; monitoring progress once enrolled in the program; and, serve as a point of contact for any problems encountered and provide training classes to patrons to improve their skill levels in using the tools provided. This staff member currently works only part time but is responsible for ongoing monthly computer and basic technology skills classes as well as community advertised ad hoc computer help in the library.

Currently all laptop computers within the library are used for the monthly computer classes. Those classes reduce the number of computer available to the public while classes are in session. Monthly computer skills classes are limited to the number of laptops in the library (6) unless the patron brings their own laptop. Total classroom space is limited to 8 people. Most monthly classes are full. This series of computer classes has been running for nine months.

Salado Public Library will also partner with the Central Texas Library System to provide job search software and other tools for using electronic resources (e.g. workintexas.com portal), completing online applications, resume or cover letter writing, specific work-related software programs on the laptops for checkout. Staff members are attending workshops sponsored by CTLS this month on helping library patrons find work. The requested program laptop computers will all be loaded with relevant resume and job hunting links and subscribed software.

One success story from our ongoing computer classes and informal computer training at the library involved a Hispanic patron who visited the library last year. The gentleman wanted to apply for a job with the railroad but was not able to do so since the application could only be submitted online. He knew very little about computers or the internet. Over the next several months library staff worked with this man to create a resume, save it to disc, and learn how to copy his resume into online applications. We helped him create a free email account and taught him how to it. The gentleman would come in to the library several times a week to check the status on his applications, check email and apply for new positions. After four months of steady attendance at the library he disappeared and didn't come back until about six months later. He returned, he said, to check his mail and to thank us. He had gotten a job with the railroad and had been out of town for some time on his job. We were all very gratified to have helped this person in a small way to attain his employment goals.

Because of reductions in revenues and despite the increased need for computing resources within the community the Board of Trustees of the Salado Public Library District were only able to allocate enough funds to replace two aging public access computers this fiscal year. Funding for staffing for computer and other classes was not increased this year. Without grant funding this project will not go forward at this time. The board of trustees has agreed that this project is needed in our community. At their

February board meeting they agreed that if the project was funded the board would commit to funding twenty percent of the total cost of the project from the District reserves. The Friends of the Library Board has also agreed to fund several of the online database subscriptions for the duration of the grant contract. These measures will allow the library to meet its portion of the funding for the project should our application be approved. Thank you for the opportunity to apply for this funding. It will allow the library to continue to support the community of Salado and to respond to the needs of our patrons.

Regards,

Marsha McGuire

Marsha McGuire
Director
Salado Public Library

ARLINGTON

March 4, 2010

Peggy Rudd, Director and State Librarian
Texas State Library & Archives Commission
1201 Brazos Street
Austin, TX 78711

Dear Ms. Rudd:

The Arlington Public Library appreciates the opportunity to participate in the Texas Library and Archives Commission's application to the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program. Project Connect, the initiative proposed as a part of this grant application, will serve Arlington, Texas, a city of 356,764 spread over 98.7 square miles located within the Dallas-Fort Worth metro area. It is the largest city in the country without public transportation. Lack of public transportation, coupled with social and/or cultural barriers that also serve to isolate residents, results in substantial areas of the city where broadband services are underutilized. Low service usage may be attributed to economic factors, as well as to insufficient technical or literacy skills, or to lack of understanding of the services offered and their value. As a result, a substantial percentage of residents do not have access to information and resources required to obtain and maintain meaningful employment, participate fully in activities designed to further their educational goals, obtain information to improve or maintain their health, or participate fully as a citizen of their municipality, state and country.

Arlington is home to several particularly vulnerable population groups, including a growing Hispanic population and substantial African American and Asian minority groups. According to a recent United Way of Tarrant County report, 30% of Arlington residents do not speak English at home (compared to 10% nationally) and 15.1% say that they speak English less than very well. In the area of the city primarily served by this project approximately 55% have only a high school education or less. This data suggests that navigating the barriers of language and literacy is imperative in order to educate residents about use of broadband services. As a result, educational and training initiatives must be seamlessly integrated into any technology expansion to achieve success.

At present, public computing options are insufficient to meet demand in Arlington. The seven public library locations throughout the city are currently the only source of free public computer access in the city. On a weekly basis, 6,717 public computer sessions are logged in library computer centers. The library measures computer occupancy rates and data collected demonstrates that when a user walks into any of our library locations, at least 78% of the time, they will have to wait in order to access a computer. Sometimes the wait can be well over an hour and as a result, it is likely that many users go un-served. Overall, public computing capacity will be increased by 47% by this project and an additional 3,616 persons will be served each week.

Project Connect will employ six specific methods to increase public computing capacity:
1. A new computer lab at the Hugh Smith Recreation Center, an area of high need.
2. A new computer lab to serve teenagers at the East Arlington Branch Library (currently a multipurpose lab and a lab for children already exist here);
3. Additional desktop computers at the Central Library, East Arlington Branch Family Learning Lab and the Lake Arlington Branch;
4. New laptops for library locations where additional space is not available for additional desktop installations;
5. Improved network infrastructure to increase connection speed in all 7 library locations and to allow for adequate public wireless service in all locations.
6. Mobile services, including a mobile computer lab vehicle and a mobile laptop lab.

In addition to expanding access points and infrastructure, Project Connect also seeks to address the reasons why many citizens are unable to access broadband services. While the public computing centers in the 7 public library locations in the city offer options for residents without an in-home broadband connection, utilizing these systems assumes first, an ability to get to the center during hours of operation; second, a certain level of technical ability, and third, knowledge of the benefits that broadband offers. As suggested above, a substantial number in our population, especially of Hispanic users, low-income users and seniors may not possess those skills and abilities.

Project Connect proposes a multi-faceted approach to addressing these reasons for non-use. First, Project Connect will provide a mobile computer lab vehicle that will offer training/education as well as serving as a demonstration site for broadband access in the community. Using the lab, Project Connect will also offer services, through a partnership with the Greater Arlington Hispanic Chamber of Commerce to over 281 businesses owned by women and minorities in Arlington directly to worksite locations. The curriculum offered to these sites will include information on building and sustaining small businesses, as well as workforce development coursework. These efforts will assist in building awareness of and comfort with broadband services. Second, Project Connect will implement the CyberCoach volunteer program to teach skills related to technology and training to youth (ages 14-21) and seniors (age 55+) to not only assist in implementing and sustaining Project Connect, but to provide trainees with valuable workforce skills. Third, Project Connect will closely integrate ESL programming into this initiative to combat barriers associated with limited languages skills. The Library's Arlington Reads literacy initiative has grown to serve over 250 learners and to utilize 2,853 hours of volunteer support between October 1, 2008 and July 31, 2009. As part of Project Connect, Arlington Reads will have the ability to expand workforce ESL programs to multiple job sites in the City of Arlington using the mobile computer lab, reaching an estimated 200+ program participants with the Texas Industry Specific English Literacy (TISEL) curriculum over the two year period. This curriculum contains a technology module that will be especially valuable to participants from all industries.

In addition to providing increased computing capacity, the mobile computer lab gives us the ability to push broadband access out into the community by visiting apartment complexes, assisted living centers, schools and special events throughout the city. These efforts will assist in building awareness and comfort with broadband services. As the demand for services continues to increase, the stationary public computing centers will be used more and more heavily and the increase in capacity will assist in accommodating that demand. The initiative will utilize the CyberCoach volunteer program to ensure sustainability of public computing center programs. Within the first two years of the grant period, this program will teach skills related to technology and training to approximately 144 youth (ages 14-21) and seniors (age 55+) that will assist them in securing future employment.

The Arlington Public Library has a strong history of implementing both technology projects, as well as projects that involve and engage the community. The library is the largest in the area to have completely implemented RFID technology for inventory and self-service purposes. The Library acknowledges strong partnerships with the Americorps/VISTA service program, area school districts, a university and a community college, health care providers and non-profit organizations. These partnerships will be utilized fully in implementing and sustaining Project Connect. Existing staff, including Americorps/VISTA members, will manage and implement the project; where needed, contractual services are sought in order to facilitate the timely development of training curriculum for the CyberCoach program and for the small business development training. Library Information Technology staff, collectively with over 75 years of experience, will deploy the technology systems, in concert with City of Arlington Information Technology department staff. Both organizations work together to maintain the reliability, security and usability of the network for library users.

The project contains innovative elements that set it apart from traditional broadband access initiatives. The standard approach to increasing public computer access might be to create small computer labs in various locations throughout the city and expect residents to visit these centers to obtain access if they are unable or unwilling to connect from their homes. This conventional approach cannot produce the desired result in Arlington because of the cost for equipping and staffing a stationary computer lab within walking distance of every resident in a city of 350,000+. In addition, many residents who remain unconnected do so because they lack the technical skills or knowledge of the benefits to make effective use of these centers. The mobile approach offers innovative solutions to both issues, as do the educational and sustainability aspects of the program.
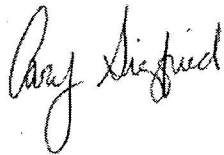
The overall cost of this capacity-building project is $567,312 over a two-year implementation period. This total includes a $170,499 (30%) cash match. The matching funds are from the following sources:

City of Arlington grant funds	$ 24,460
City of Arlington bond or operating funds	$ 13,440
Arlington Public Library Foundation donations	$132,599
Total:	**$170,499**

Project Connect could not be completed successfully with the resources currently available to the Arlington Public Library. The Library Department's operating budget for FY 2009 (Oct 1, 2008 – Sept 30, 2009) was $6,948,226. The FY 2010 (Oct. 1, 2009 – Sept 30, 2010) is $6,866,756 representing a reduction in resources available of $81,470. The FY 2011 budget seems likely to be less than the FY 2010 budget. The line item for computer hardware within the Library's budget for FY 2010 is $32,286, allocated for replacing public printers and replacing mission critical server hardware that is out of warranty. Expansion of public computing services and the other programming projects funded by this grant request is not possible under the current budget allocation. The matching funds represented above are the result of extensive fund-raising initiatives on the part of the Arlington Public Library Foundation and still fall short of the needed goal to complete this project successfully. The total raised to date would allow for some expansion capacity, however difficult choices would have to be made between increasing infrastructure to improve bandwidth vs. increasing the number of computers; increasing wired computer access vs. expanding wireless access; increasing computing capacity vs. delivering training and education on technology use. None of these choices would result in a solution that would have the desired impact on our community. Further, solving the mobility problem described above is far beyond the capacity of any funding source currently available to the Library.

Again, we appreciate the opportunity to be part of this initiative to increase public computing capacity throughout the State of Texas.

Sincerely yours,

Cary Ann Siegfried
Director of Libraries
Arlington Public Library

Cc: File

BERTHA VOYER MEMORIAL LIBRARY

March 3, 2010

Peggy Rudd, Director and State Librarian
Texas State Library & Archives Commission
1201 Brazos Street
Austin, Tx 78711

Dear Ms Rudd,

Please accept the following as our letter of support for the BTOP grant application. Our library serves a small, rural community in North East Texas of 1,839 people and the larger parts of two counties. Most of the people who live in this area are farmers, retired, unemployed or must travel for at least 30 miles (one-way) to work. 55.39% of the children in the Honey Grove ISD qualify for free or reduced lunches and our unemployment rate is 7.60%.

Being a small town, the Library is the center of the area's social and educational activities. The library holds many events, is the place to check out books, the local video store and the only place in town to access the internet – all at no charge. We are the spot in town to look for a job, attend an online class or work with many government agencies. Our library is indeed a busy place!

Last spring, we lost our internet connection, due to the school district relocating to a new building outside of town. The school had provided us with T1 service free of charge for several years. With the loss of the T1 line combined with the age of our computers – the response time was horrible. Even with this, our computer lab was full – many days there were waiting lines. To combat this problem we upgraded to two DSL lines and purchased 2 new Userful computers that seat 12 users at one time. Due to better response times, more people than ever are using our lab. We are again with a need to increase the numbers and response time of the systems. There are, however, no funds in our budget to upgrade or add any more equipment or bandwith.

We are also the only place in town and the surrounding area that offers a wireless connection point. Many nights and weekends when you approach the library – it appears that there is an unearthly glow from the parking lots around the building. It is, however, only the glow of people's laptops as they sit outside and access the internet from their cars, even when it's freezing outside!

Our funding comes entirely from the investment proceeds of an operating foundation. We receive only minimal support from the city and are always looking for grant opportunities to help provide the type of service we feel our area not only wants, but needs to continue to compete in today's educational and job markets. Grant opportunities such as this one, are our only hope to continue to offer the service our community needs!

Thank you for your help with this grant. There is definitely a need in northeast Texas!
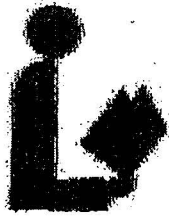
Pattie Mayfield
Exec Director

Sam Fore, Jr.
Wilson County Public Library
One Library Lane
Floresville, TX 78114
830.393.7361

Library Motto
"So That All May Read"

Peggy Rudd, Director and State Librarian
Texas State Library & Archives Commission
1201 Brazos Street
Austin, TX 78711

March 4, 2010

COUNTY SNAPSHOT

Here is a statistical snapshot of our county life here in South Texas. According to the United States Census Bureau, the 2008 estimates for our population were projected to be on the rise with 40,398 people living on just 807 square miles of land. County officials are expecting a 24.7% growth to occur in the upcoming 2010 Census. The 2008 estimates figure approximately 40.2 people per square mile. The average wage per job in Wilson County is $24,839 with approximately 11 % of the population living in poverty. Unemployment is on a steady incline; in 2009 we reached a 4.9% unemployment rate. Another interesting component to this snapshot is the fact that we are a commuting rural community with a mean travel time to work for Wilson County residents of 35.8 minutes. The Sam Fore, Jr. Wilson County Public Library is currently the only public library to service the entire county. Our task of providing needed workshops and interesting programming is heavy and never ending.

THE LIBRARY AS A PUBLIC COMPUTER CENTER

The library first started offering Internet accessible computers as a service in the late 1990's. Since taking over this library in late September of 2009, we used the last of our local money for 3 new Ultra Slim Personal Computers bringing the grand total of Internet Access computers for the general public to nine. This has alleviated some of the strain of the massive wait time, but more computers are needed.

For fiscal year 2008-2009 we had 11,342 in-library computer users; plus, we had approximately 2,652 requests for computer assistance. The staff has noticed that the majority use of our Internet connection has been for job searching, job applications, test proctoring, income tax filing and Wi-Fi connection with personal laptops. Staffing is another issue for our library. We have tried for the past two fiscal years to add staff in order to teach computer workshops for seniors and adults, with no

luck. The county just does not have the money for additional staff members, so we are holding our own with just the simple questions of how to print and such. We would like to be able to teach seniors and adult basic computer technology but lack the staff time to plan and conduct such programming.

We do have one success story to share in the use of our Internet computers. We have a wheelchair bound patron that has been using our Internet computers to view YouTube videos in order to refresh his knowledge of wood working. Something he once loved to do. Just this past week he started taking orders for custom made ballpoint pens that he has learned to make from the YouTube videos. These ballpoint pens are handsomely handcrafted. He plans to use this revived talent to supplement his disability income.

REQUEST FOR FUNDS

We are requesting to participant in this round of funding in the hopes of establishing a computer learning center. Our current facility was constructed in 1968 and we are straining at the seams for space. With the use of laptops the library would be able to conduct computer technology classes to assist our patronage to find jobs in this troubled economy, and to instruct seniors in the establishment of email accounts so they may keep in touch with their loved ones. We would make these purchased laptops available to English as a Second Language classes as well and for GED practice testing. Wilson County officials have assured me that they do not have the money to fund this kind of program 100 percent. Instead, what we would like to do is to match the grant money by agreeing to purchase the equipment needed for the creation of the computer learning center and use the grant money for the salary of one 30 hour employee, who will spend 100% of their time planning computer classes, conducting computer classes and answering any reference questions that arise.

Thank you for allowing us to join this wonderful endeavor that will greatly assist the patrons in our service area.

Nicki Stohr

Nicki Stohr, MLS
Library Director

PORT ISABEL PUBLIC LIBRARY

March 4, 2010

Peggy Rudd, Director and State Librarian
Texas State Library & Archives Commission
1201 Brazos Street
Austin, TX 78711

Dear Ms. Rudd:

The Port Isabel Public Library is participating in the effort to obtain a Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) Public Computer Center (PCC) grant in order to better serve the needs of its community.

Our community includes a large low-income population with a median income of $26,659. According to the City's 2005 Comprehensive Plan 36 % of families have an income of $15,000 or less. Forty-eight percent of adults 18-24 do not have a high school diploma. Sixty-six percent of the population speaks a language other than English at home, the majority of these people being Spanish speaking. All of these factors are critical in assessing the needs of the community in which the library can take on a leading role. It can assist people with their education needs, workforce training and development needs, and computer basic training needs if it has the right technology and staff development afforded by this grant opportunity.

The library has provided Internet access to the community for about a dozen years; it was able to obtain access by partnering with Brownsville Public Library (BPL) because there was no other way to bring broadband into the area. At the time AT&T, formerly Southwestern Bell did not offer DSL service and Time Warner Cable was not in existence. Internet access was only available on a limited basis from a local company that provided residents with an antenna (microwave technology). In addition to partnering with BPL, the USAC E-Rate program had been made available to libraries. It was this funding that made it possible for the City of Port Isabel to buy technology and pay for telecommunications at a 90% discount rate. Without this program the library would not have been able to offer any internet services to the community.

Over the years the library has sought grants and funds from other entities to install additional computers because of the increased demand for internet services by the public. In 2004 six computers were added, in 2005 ten replacement computers and four new computers were installed, and in 2009 six more computers were purchased. All of the computers were purchased through grants and other entities because the City of Port Isabel could not afford them. Today, through funding opportunities such as Rotary International, the Tocker Foundation, and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the library has 30 computers almost double the amount it had in 2004. In 2004 the wait time

for a computer would, at peak times, reach two hours. Now, with additional computers people generally do not have to wait more than 30 minutes.

One success story that comes to mind right away is very personal. As a transplant from New York, and a new director of a small library, I realized only three months into the job that I would need more than my bachelor's in management to do my new-found career justice. The closest university in Brownsville is almost 30 miles away, but it does not offer a master's degree in Library Science. I discovered that I would have to travel 75 miles to UT Pan Am in Edinburg if I wanted this advanced degree. With the help of technology, wireless access at the library, I was able to enter a distance learning program at the University of North Texas in Denton. I spent a lot of time in the library after hours going to library school, and in just eighteen months I received my degree in Library and Information Science two and half years ago. I know from this personal experience that anyone in this community could have the same opportunity if we have enough computers and wireless access.

The City of Port Isabel does not ordinarily have enough money in its budget to adequately support the library because of its small sales tax revenue. It is economically disadvantaged, and it is working hard to improve the economic development in the City. To add to this problem, two years ago Hurricane Dolly did major damage forcing the City to borrow money and dig into a small reserve fund to do repairs. The City is still working with FEMA to reconcile records in order to receive compensation. Last year the economic recession finally hit this area, which is supported mainly by tourist dollars. As a result the City has had to cut budgets across the board. Departments may only purchase essential items as the budget is off 21% from last year, only five months into the fiscal year.

The Port Isabel Public Library is requesting laptops, a cart to secure and recharge them, a new printer, scanner and updated wireless access appliances. It is also requesting trainers to teach basic computer classes to staff and residents. Without a grant none of this will be possible.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Bogardus

Atlanta Public Library

Jackie Icenhower, Library Director

March 1, 2010

Peggy Rudd, Director and State Librarian
Texas State Library & Archives Commission
1201 Brazos Street
Austin, TX 78711

Ms. Rudd:

The Atlanta Public Library wholeheartedly supports the state library's efforts in applying for BTOP funding. The opportunity to participate in such a process is both a privilege and a necessity. I feel privileged to work with you and your staff again because of the integrity and professionalism with which all state projects are conducted. The opportunity is a necessity because of the current situation here in Atlanta.

As you know, Atlanta is strategically situated in the northeast corner of the state. Atlanta Public Library is the only library in Cass County, Texas. In 2000 the census counted 30,438 people living in Cass County. Of these about 78 percent were Anglo, 20 percent were black, and 2 percent were Hispanic. Twenty-five percent of the county's residents over twenty-five had not completed high school.

Communities in the county include Linden (2000 population, 2,256), the seat of government; Atlanta (5,745); Hughes Springs (1,856); Queen City (1,613); Avinger (464); Bloomburg (375); Bivins (195); Marietta (112); Domino (52); and Kildare (49).

2007 census estimates that 22.3% of the county's population is below 17 years of age, and that 27.8% under 18 live in poverty, which is why the library is so important to the community. The library is solely funded by the city of Atlanta, but hosts over 5,000 visitors each month. The library is acutely aware of the importance of computer literacy and its implications in today's job market.

Library staff offer one-on-one computer classes on demand through the library's 7 public access computers, but those classes in February indicated a 400% increase over last year. The public is forced to apply for jobs and unemployment benefits online, but many have no home access or computer skills. Additionally, each time training occurs, general patron access to that computer is lost.

One patron in particular recently lost his job and wanted to apply through the Texas Works site. We spent one class helping set up email and an account. He came back another day so that we could help him search for jobs. The next time he came in, we helped him write a resume and cover letter. He was back at least once a week needing help in writing letters, accessing new application portals, or engaging in other job searching tasks. Each day he was appreciative and

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Atlanta, TX 75551

Phone: (903) 796-2112
Fax: (903) 799-4065

www.atlantalib.com

apologetic. The day he came in with a big grin, we knew he had gotten a job. He came in to personally thank us for all we had done to help him in his search.

Staff members are acutely aware of the growing need for services and lack of choices in supplying those services. The library has no room or money for more desktop computers. Currently three of the staff members are supplying the computer assistance because two staff members lack the skills or confidence necessary to provide classes-on-demand. Training for all five is needed to strengthen skills in order to begin teaching classes on a different level. Current budgets cannot provide that training. A mobile laptop lab will enable classes to be held in the general conference room. Current budgets cannot provide those laptops or mobile charging/security station. Classes to more than one person need digital projection. Current budgets cannot provide that projector nor have it mounted. Current budgets will provide well over the 30% required match in kind.

Without this funding possibility, the citizens of Cass County will be denied vitally needed access and training. Thank you for opportunity to better serve those citizens.

Sincerely,

Jackie Icenhower, MLS

THE CITY OF
WHITE SETTLEMENT
W
"Preserving The Past! Preparing For The Future!"

Public Library
8215 White Settlement Road
White Settlement, TX 76108-1604
(817) 367-0166

March 4, 2010

Peggy Rudd, Director and State Librarian
Texas State Library & Archives Commission
1201 Brazos Street
Austin, TX 78711

RE: Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) Public Computer Center (PCC) Grant

Dear Ms. Rudd,

The White Settlement Public Library would like to express its heartfelt support and enthusiasm for the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program Public Computer Center Grant. This initiative of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration could not come at a more critical time. As with other public libraries across the United States, the White Settlement Public Library strives to provide relevant, meaningful information services that improve the quality of life in our community. One of our most instrumental services, our computer center, has reached a significant juncture – demand has dramatically increased while the funds needed for its expansion have decreased.

The intense demand for the Library's computer center stems from the socioeconomic climate of our community, White Settlement, Texas. Current estimates from the North Central Texas Council of Governments place the population at 16,150. The most recent Census Bureau statistics show that 11.2% of our families live below the poverty level and that most of our adult citizens chose to end their educational attainment at high school. Since this reduces their earning potential, many of our citizens cannot afford a home computer let alone access to the Internet. Instead, they turn to their public library because we provide access for free. Another defining characteristic of our community is the growing number of adults who speak English as a second language. Primarily, they speak Spanish but turn to the Library because we provide materials that help them improve their English proficiency. If we could afford the addition of computer software that teaches English, then we could help an even greater number of patrons. Therefore, the vulnerable populations in our community, those who earn a low income or speak English as a second language, would benefit the most from the expansion of our computer center.
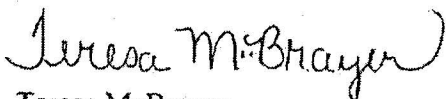
The White Settlement Public Library increased its role in the community to include a public computer center in 1996. In that first year, the computer center had 1,111 users. At the end of 2008-2009 fiscal year, our computer center accommodated 13,788 users. We are well on track to exceed that number during the current fiscal year, with 7,756 users just since October. The majority of our patrons use the computer center to gain employment, (searching and applying for jobs, creating and updating resumes) or to complete coursework for online college classes. Many of our newest users are the recently unemployed who must navigate the state's complex Workforce Commission website to remain eligible for benefits.

In recent years, we have learned that it is not enough to just provide our community with access to a public computer center. Offering instruction in technology literacy has become a critical component as well since many of our patrons have limited or no experience with computers. We developed new programs that teach beginning use of the Internet, email communication, and word processing on a monthly basis. We have also met with patrons on an individual basis to teach them how to conduct Internet-based job searches. Classes only intensify the demand for access to the computer center, though. Since the Library does not have the means or the space to conduct the computer classes in a separate lab, we end up displacing other users. Unfortunately, this limits their access. Despite this, the Library's computer center has contributed to several success stories. Patrons have used the computer center to establish and operate their own businesses. Many have also found employment or significantly increased the number of job leads to pursue.

Without federal funding, though, the White Settlement Public Library is in danger of never being able to keep up with the growing demand for free, fast Internet access in our community. The obstacle of limited funding will severely impede our progress unless we participate in the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program Public Computer Center Grant. Currently, the Library does not have any funds budgeted for additional computers, and recent drops of ten to twelve percent in the community's tax revenue increase the likelihood of future budget shortfalls.

This grant, though, will enable the Library to create a Mobile Computer Information Center. It will be comprised of wireless laptop computers to be used anywhere in the Library. In addition to increasing access to the Internet, it will also be our primary mechanism for teaching computer literacy classes and for providing educational attainment software for GED preparation and English instruction. GED preparation will be an essential component since the conventional class we offer in partnership with the Fort Worth Independent School District is always full, and potential students must be sent elsewhere. The grant will also enable the Library to purchase the equipment required to securely store and charge the computers when not in use. Because of the grant, the White Settlement Public Library will be able to address significant needs – expand capacity with the Library's existing structure and improve the computer literacy classes and enhance educational attainment instruction.

Sincerely,

Teresa McBrayer
Teresa McBrayer
Library Manager

Ferris Public Library
514 S. Mabel Street   Ferris, TX 75125
972-544-3696   email: kathy.harrington@ci.ferristx.us

March 4, 2010

Peggy Rudd, Director and State Librarian
Texas State Library & Archives Commission
1201 Brazos Street
Austin, TX 78711

Dear Ms. Rudd:

The Ferris Public Library, Ferris, Texas, is located in a rural area 20 miles Southeast of
Dallas in Ellis County. We have a population of 2,500 people and the library has an active
patron list of 1,820. The Ferris ISD has over 2,400 students registered. More that 12% of
our residents' incomes are below poverty level. In this economy our community is
experiencing a growing unemployment rate. In addition, we serve an increasing number of
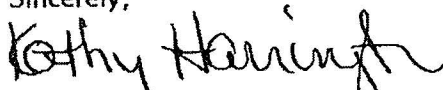Hispanic citizens that use the Internet to contact family members that are out of country.

The Ferris Public Library has been offering Internet access for ten years with the demand
ever increasing. In 2008 we had 19,846 visitors & 5,992 computer users. Compare that to
2009 with 22,587 visitors & 7,491 computer users. We have to limit patron's computer time
for each visit and if the waiting line gets too long we are forced to shorten session times.

Our community needs the Internet for job searches, submitting online applications and to
register with the Texas Workforce Commission. Also, our student based population requires
the Internet access for school project assignments, to apply for higher education funding
through the FAFSA program and social networking. The City of Ferris is planning to build a
new library and we hope to have a total of 15 computers, 10 desktops and 5 laptops. We
currently have a connection speed of 9 MBps.

The Ferris Public Library, in collaboration with Navarro College, hosts GED classes which the
students would greatly benefit from the addition of more computers and additional
computer time. The library also has a working relationship with the City's Senior Center
where we would like to be able to offer basic computer classes.

This grant would address the growing need we are experiencing for additional and updated
computers for public use.

Sincerely,

Kathy Harrington, Library Director

Angie S. Lugo, MLIS
402 W. Ocean Blvd.
Los Fresnos, TX 78566

March 4, 2010

Peggy Rudd, Director and State Librarian
Texas State Library & Archives Commission
1201 Brazos Street
Austin, TX 78711

Dear Ms. Rudd:

The community of Los Fresnos in which Ethel L. Whipple Memorial Library operates is
growing at a rapid rate. The library is currently doing everything it can to keep up with
the high demand for internet access. The American Library Association Survey of Outlets
and Poverty credits us with 42.3% economically disadvantaged. Although our library is
in a city not a mile wide, we service one of the biggest land area school districts in Texas.
Our community population is 4,512 but our service population encompasses far more
patrons due to our school population. Our patron access computers have waiting lines,
since school libraries close at 4:00 p.m. Many homes in our area cannot afford to have a
home computer and even if they do they do not have internet access. This is in part due to
the unavailability of internet access or the high cost of having internet access in the home.

In the past our library has used grant funding for computer replacement and
enhancements. The BTOP program would give our library the opportunity to promote
and enhance computer access for our patrons. Due to budget constraints and limited
funding in our area the possibility of providing enhanced computer programs and services
would be all but impossible. The funding from this program will put the tools in the
hands of the 9,800 estimated people the library serves. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Angie S. Lugo

Angie S. Lugo, MLIS

March 4, 2010

Peggy Rudd, Director and State Librarian
Texas State Library and Archives Commission
1201 Brazos
Austin, Texas 78711-2927

Dear Ms. Rudd:

The Rita and Truett Smith Public Library staff is pleased and excited to have the opportunity to be partner with the Texas State Library on the BOTP Public Computer and sustainable Broadband Adoption Federal Stimulus Grant.

The Library is requesting sixteen computers and trainers for a computer lab program, "Smith Public Library Learning Lab". This project will take place in the new Rita and Truett Smith Public Library scheduled to open between January and March 2011. The library is expanding from 7,000 square feet to 43,900 square feet in a new and more visible location. The computer lab will be in an enclosed training space. The additional funds provided by the BTOP grant will allow the library to expand services to our youth through adult population in reaching their education goals. Without the support of BTOP, the additional computers may not come to fruition when the library opens.

The Smith Library has offered internet service for fourteen years. The library started with two computers and now has nine. In Fiscal Year 2009, computer use increased 12 percent with 28,535 sessions which totaled 10,968 hours and were used an average of 23 minutes per session. The library is open 46 hours per week, Monday through Saturday. The library is open until 8 p.m. three days a week. There is often an hour wait to use the computers. Sometimes patrons are not able to use the computers before closing time.

While we do not conduct classes in a formal setting because of our small space, the librarians do conduct training for the Wyle Preparatory Academy students on learning how to use databases for their school research projects. The librarians conduct class using one laptop in the meeting room. The students then huddle around a few reserved computers. A full complement of computers in a lab setting will be far more beneficial to students.

The Smith Library serves the City of Wylie and the surrounding areas of Lucas, Parker, Murphy, Nevada and Lavon. Wylie is a growing city with a population of 41,000. While located near the Dallas Fort Worth metroplex, it is not on a major thoroughfare. It does not have public transportation. Eight out of ten residents travel outside the city for work. Sixty-two percent of the adults in the community have graduated from high school and have some college. In these competitive and difficult economic times, Wylie citizens need to improve their educational attainment. The closest community college offering a full complement of continuing education classes is a forty minute drive. This can be challenging for busy families with limited resources. A demographic study conducted for the library by CivicTechnologies describes the young families as having limited funds, yet needing continuing education and entrepreneurial training.

With the change in the local economy, the library has purchased ResumeMaker. The library has worked with the Wylie Chamber of Commerce in applying for grants to assist the unemployed, underemployed and small business owners with more computers and classes to improve their personal educational attainment and improving business skills. The library has also received a commitment from the Economic Development Corporation for $20,000 for electronic resources for small business development. These funds will be available in May 2010. This partnership will help us better serve the potential and existing small business owners.

The library has cut $27,000 from the budget in the last two years. Cuts have been in supplies, programming, and education for its staff. The library also cut tutor.com because of lack of funds. Because of a projected decrease in ad valorem taxes, the city is facing a more challenging budget in FY 11. There is a strong likelihood that the computer lab will not open when the new library opens its doors.
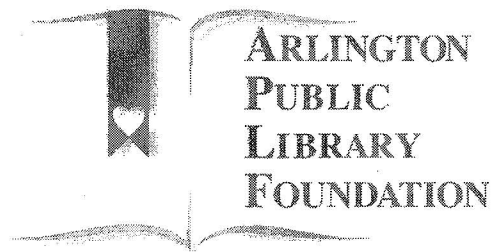
Thank you for the opportunity to work with you in expanding services to our citizens.

Sincerely,

Rachel Orozco

Rachel Orozco
Library Director
Smith Public Library

March 5, 2010

Peggy Rudd, Director and State Librarian
Texas State Library & Archives Commission
1201 Brazos Street
Austin, TX 78711

Dear Ms. Rudd,

The Arlington Public Library Foundation (APLF) supports the Arlington Public Library's participation in the Texas Library and Archives Commission's application to the Public Computer Center program of the Broadband Technologies Opportunity Program. APLF strives to ensure an outstanding public library for the people of Arlington and this project is certainly designed to achieve that goal.

The Arlington Public Library's portion of the application is called Project Connect and will increase broadband accessibility in six ways, by:

1. Adding a new computer lab at the City's Hugh Smith Recreation Center;
2. Adding a new computer lab to serve teenagers at the East Arlington Branch Library;
3. Adding desktop computers to the Central Library, East Branch Family Learning Lab, and Lake Arlington Branch;
4. Adding laptops to locations where additional desktop space is unavailable; and
5. Expanding network infrastructure to increase connection speed in all 7 library locations and to allow for increased public wireless service in all locations.
6. Providing mobile services, including a mobile computer lab vehicle and a mobile laptop lab.

The overall cost of this capacity building project is $567,312 over a two-year implementation period. APLF is pleased to be able to contribute to the 30% match of $170,499 with a donation to the Library of $132,599. These funds represent donations from various individual, corporate, and foundation sources. APLF efforts to raise the total funding necessary to complete this project have been complicated by the current economic conditions and a project of this magnitude would not be possible without the addition of the BTOP funding.

Thank you for the opportunity to be included in this initiative to increase public computing capacity throughout the State of Texas.

Sincerely,

Greg Morse
Chair, Arlington Public Library Foundation

Valley Mills Public Library
P. O. Box 25
Valley Mills, TX 76689
Tel/Fax 254-932-6370

Peggy Rudd, Director and State Librarian
Texas State Library and Archives Commission
1201 Brazos Street
Austin, TX 78711

March 5, 2010

Dear Ms. Rudd:

The Valley Mills Public Library, located in rural Bosque County, serves a population estimated currently at 1123 in this census year. The town is situated on a county line, with five outlying housing additions near the city limits and school district children living in trailer homes a little further out. The post office has about 1600 families with boxes in the local area. These people use our library. The poverty level is approximately 11% , with 46% of the 600 school children on free or reduced lunches. The unemployment rate is over 4%, with one in library at this time looking on the Internet for a job and housing, as many have lately. Approximately only 73% are high school graduates and 11% are college graduates. Many in the outlying areas have a problem acquiring good Internet service, so they, too, come to the library. The vulnerable populations that need to be served with higher speed include the families of these school children, our senior citizens and the 11% Hispanic population. Our town is growing with more businesses these past few years; however, there are more people looking for jobs than there are jobs available. The town is a "bedroom community."

Our library is a computer center with 4 public access computers, with 2 more planned during the fiscal year. Oftentimes we allow a patron to use the circulation desk or even the librarian's computer to alleviate a long wait time. The library has had public access computers, beginning with only dial-up, since 1998—for 12 years. There has been a steady increase in the demand and an increase in the use time-wise of the Internet computers.

The library has 548 Internet users listed (that would amount to ½ of the population!). One or more computers are used 75-95% of the time. Also, there has been a steady increase in the wait time for the computers. More than once a week there is a wait time for adults during the daytime before 3:30, and oftentimes after school and at night. (that's a 100% use part-time). Internet sessions are limited to ½ hour at a time if someone is waiting, otherwise user may stay on the computer. Oftentimes after school, and especially in the summer, the time has to be figured on an equal basis as to who has to get off first! Our users usually stay until they have to get off! For the past three years we have been open 2 and/or 3 nights a week except in the winter as well as on Saturdays, mostly to accommodate the Internet users. In the summer the computers are used continuously all day, with people having to wait.

The major uses of the computers are to improve computer skills, search for jobs, communicate, use for educational and recreational use as well as for genealogical research. Most people and children are trying to improve their technology skills.

The library's response to changes in the local economic situation, which includes a huge increase in food pantry users (25 families 3 years ago—88 families now) and unemployment is to expand our library's Internet capacity. Computer training is on an individual basis, which works best for this library.

All the organizations in town give moral support to the library. Two – Masonic Lodge and Lions Club- have written letters of support for a past project. The Lions Club will be advertising the library's services and the Internet on their new local radio station, and the new teen group of the Lions plan to volunteer at the library this summer. The library collaborates through volunteers with Heritage Society to give tours of the museum and library.

Our success stories are many with the use of the Internet. In this small town, the children and teens hop up to help older patrons all the time. "J- could you help me copy and paste – again! I don't remember how!" We had much help from both a child and an adult to do a library brochure. One local entity sends new applicants to the library to apply online. Several applicants have had to have help. Higher speed will speed up that process!

The current library budget is very limited in meeting the needs of the library. There has been a lack of local funding through the years; therefore we are now making a concerted effort through a brochure and letter to explain why we need to expand Internet services. Through this grant we are requesting higher speed –

3MBps and its connectivity, two new computers, and a replacement of at least one computer through this grant. That would expand the Internet capacity and address the need for higher speed (we now have only 1.4 speed and that for the 4 computers) and replace one of the computers giving trouble. Our four present Internet access computers were purchased in 2006. The library can give a 30% match, **but for** Federal funding the project would not be able to be completed during the grant period.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Hale, Librarian
Valley Mills Public Library

Harris County
Public Library
your pathway to knowledge

HCPL Administrative Offices
8080 El Rio Street
Houston, TX 77054-4195

P 713.749.9000
F 713.749.9090
W www.hcpl.net

Catherine S. Park
Library Director

March 4, 2010

Peggy Rudd,
Director and State Librarian
Texas State Library & Archives Commission
1201 Brazos Street
Austin, Texas 78711

Dear Ms Rudd:

The Harris County Public Library is pleased to support the Texas State Library and Archives Commission's grant application under the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act for funds available through the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program. This grant will permit HCPL to upgrade the remaining branch libraries still connected through T1 circuits to broadband fiber connections.

Branches
Aldine
Atascocita
Baldwin Boettcher
Barbara Bush
Crosby
Cy-Fair College
Evelyn Meador
Fairbanks
Freeman
Galena Park
High Meadows
Jacinto City
Katherine Tyra
Katy
Kingwood
La Porte
Maud Marks
North Channel
Northwest
Octavia Fields
Parker Williams
South Houston
Spring Branch
Stratford
Tomball
West University

Harris County Public Library (HCPL) has 26 branches and has always had an aggressive program of providing public computer access and computer technology training as an integral part of the services offered. There is heavy demand for communications capacity for the public computers. To support our public computing service the Library has upgraded branch library connections from T1 circuits to fiber broadband, as funding became available. At this time there are still nine (9) remaining library branches using T1 lines because the initial one-time installation costs for fiber have been too high for the Library to fund via the regular budget process. In addition to the our "traditional" public library branches, HCPL operates two Computer Technology Training Centers in partnership with the City of Houston Parks Department and Harris County Precinct 1 Parks Department. These Centers are located within the community buildings at Lincoln Park and Finnigan Park. Both are located in areas where the majority of the population falls into one or more of the "vulnerable" categories. Again, due to high installation costs the Library has been unable to upgrade the T1 connections at these locations, despite the need to do so. As computer use has grown, these T1 connections have become insufficient to provide the data communications capacity required.

The project will upgrade the communications circuits at the branch libraries that are still only supported by T1 connections and upgrade both community computer training centers from T1 to broadband connections. Because of the high installation costs at these locations, but for this BTOP grant funding broadband fiber communications cannot be provided.

1

In conjunction with the improved connectivity, the LAN infrastructure at the locations will be upgraded to support the more robust WAN environment and replace the slowest (older) PCs with new ones. The increased capacity from the broadband connection will allow additional public PCs to be installed at the locations, and make them much more effective as public computing centers.

The Public Computer Centers will provide Internet access and training in the service areas for HCPL locations that span the breadth of Harris County: from Katy on the western border of the county all the way east to Seabrook on the coast of Galveston Bay. Specifically, these locations are the Crosby, Evelyn Meador (Seabrook), Fairbanks, Galena Park, Jacinto City, Katy, Kingwood, Stratford, and West University libraries, and the community centers at Finnigan Park and Lincoln Park in the Houston inner city area. Demographics of the populations served vary, but all support one or more vulnerable groups. At Lincoln Park, for example, the population served is 80% minority. At Jacinto City the minority population figure is 72%. The Galena Park Branch and the Jacinto City Branch have recently received funds for expansion that will allow each location to have space for regular computer classes.

HCPL currently offers training programs at 14 library locations. These training classes are led either by a Technology Training Assistant (TTA) or Reference Librarian. Classes are offered on a range of computer-oriented topics including the Internet, Microsoft Office products, computer basics, and safety. Each location gears their classes to the local community, so some locations have a lot of classes geared towards seniors while others focus on job seekers or Spanish speakers. This additional communications bandwidth available in this broadband grant will enable HCPL to expand our training program to these additional locations.

Examples of classes offered include a range of options from Computer Basics to the Microsoft Office Suite. In addition to basic classes, classes are offered for Spanish speakers and specialized topics. Specialized topics may vary from month to month based on instructor and local interest. Since the students in our training classes are generally new to computers and the Web, special emphasis is placed on providing Internet Safety education. A variety of specialty classes are also offered as part of the HCPL technology training program:

     Computer Kids – Kids learn basic computer skills including Internet, Internet Safety, Microsoft Word, and Microsoft PowerPoint.

     Databases – Learn about the library's subscription databases. Each class focuses on a different database, which includes topics such as homework help, health and medicine, literature, and language learning.

     Digital Photography – This class is geared towards adults, with an emphasis on seniors, and covers taking and editing photos.

Online Job Hunting and Resumes – Geared towards job seekers, these classes cover where to look for jobs on the Internet and how to create a winning resume.

Social Networking – Geared towards adults and teens, this class teaches the basics of setting up an account and using Facebook and MySpace and how to stay safe.

Web 2.Yo! – Teens learn about cool websites and that there's more to the Internet than MySpace.

HCPL has shown more than a 300% increase in the number of training hours given between FY2003 and FY2009. Demand increases each year for more classes for seniors, job seekers, and Spanish speakers.

Sincerely,

Rhoda L. Goldberg
Director

February 26, 2010

Peggy Rudd, Director and State Librarian
Texas State Library and Archives Commission
1201 Brazos P.O. Box 12927
Austin, Texas 78711-2927

Dear Ms. Rudd,

The W. Walworth Harrison Public Library is eager to be partnering with you on the
BTOP Public Computer Federal Stimulus Grant.

Computer skills are essential for success and participation in the global economy of the
21st century. We propose to use these grant funds to develop a mobile computer lab
that will enhance our entire package of computer training offerings to the public,
particularly underserved and vulnerable populations.

The great benefit of having a mobile lab is the flexibility to offer classes at satellite
locations within historically disadvantaged communities. In other words, take the training
opportunities right into the communities where they are needed most.

We believe our community will benefit by participating in the BTOP Public Computer
Federal Stimulus Grant and we support your efforts to sustain this important initiative.

Sincerely,

Paul Phelan
Library Director
W. Walworth Harrison Public Library
Greenville, TX
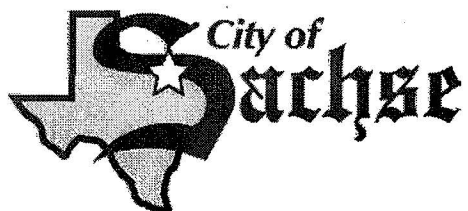
City of Sachse

February 26, 2010

Peggy Rudd, Director and State Librarian
Texas State Library and Archives Commission
1201 Brazos
Austin, Texas 78711-2927

Dear Ms. Rudd,

The Sachse Public Library is excited to be partnering with you on the BTOP Public
Computer and sustainable Broadband Adoption Federal Stimulus Grant.

The library is requesting the mobile lab and would be able to provide 30% of the cost in
cash. The additional funds provided by the BTOP grant would open doors and expand
technology and education to a much neglected population of Sachse citizens.

According to the city's department of economic development, the Sachse, Texas has a
projected population of 18,750. Sachse is part of the Dallas/Fort Worth metroplex,
however it has geographic constraints in the area of technology training. The nearest
computer and software classes offered are at Richland College which is a 45 minute drive.
For individuals over the age of 65, it is a long distance to drive.

The mobile computer lab will be a technology beacon in our community and allow the
library to serve a population previously in need of assistance. The Sachse Library has for
10 years offered Internet access for our customers. With the new technology lab, we could
offer Internet and Word Processing classes for our senior citizens. Due to additional
funding, the library will be able to enhance technology skills using the latest equipment
and software. The demand for our use of Internet computers rises monthly approximately
20%. The funds for the mobile computer lab would ease the demand and allow the library
necessary equipment to teach classes.

The library, in response to the current economic downturn, recently began offering
ResumeMaker to our customers. It is a web site that offers resume and cover letter
assistance to users. Also, helpful for job seekers are the job listings and social networking
sites provided by the program. The library has strongly promoted the service to the
community and has received positive responses.

The Sachse Library has partnered with the senior center in the past to provide programs. Library staff conducted genealogy and basic computer classes. However, due to budget restraints we have not been able to do them on a regular basis. The library works annually with the local Barnes and Noble store for a book fair. Last fall, we worked with the Wylie Public Library, a neighboring city library, to provide an author series. Recently, we collaborated again on a Texas State Library grant which if approved, would be a neighborhood reads program. This illustrates a strong community involvement by the Sachse Library and demonstrates a history of working together with local organizations.

The City of Sachse's Library has fiscal constraints. Its budget does not allow the opportunity to offer technology education to local senior citizens. If not for the proposed federal funds, seniors' access to technology is extremely limited.

Thank you for the opportunity to work with you on this project which will help us help our customers.

Sincerely,

Dolores Greenwald

Dolores Greenwald
Director of Sachse Public Library

March 4, 2010

Broadband Technology Opportunities Program:

On behalf of the Maffett Memorial Library Board, and Groesbeck City Council we would like to convey our sincere need for the BTOP for Public Libraries.

Library reports show Maffett Memorial patron base is 7,900, with new cards added every week. We have seen a 46% increase in county residents utilizing the library since 2008. Statistics show library multicultural patron increase of 35% from Groesbeck and Limestone County, which includes Farrar, Kosse, Thornton, Mexia, Lake Limestone, and even out of county, West of Groesbeck are obtaining library cards to check out books and materials, attending ESL, Spanish, and computer classes, along with utilizing the children and adult computer/media area.

This year the library has seen momentous growth due to economic changes. With the increase in fuel prices families are using the library as a social gathering place, the heart of the community. People of all ages are staying longer, and utilizing the resources available in their community/county library.

The Maffett Memorial Library played a crucial role assisting inward bound population in both recent hurricanes, Katrina and Ike. The library is located on Hwy 164, west of I-45 and east of I-35 with straight passage to Waco, Hillsboro, and other larger cities. Hurricane refugees stuck in traffic on both major highways used GPS to escape the traffic jam and find a local library that was open with easy access; and Maffett Memorial, in Groesbeck, Texas was one of the rural public library's providing some form of internet access.

The library addressed the needs of hurricane refugees by providing daily services to refugees, a safe place at the library to rest, read books, watch TV. Limited internet use and computers were available to contact family members still in the hurricane area or families in other states or countries concerned about them. Refugees, their families and friends would not have been able to do this if not for easy highway access of Maffett Memorial Library and the availability of the computers.

Maffett Memorial Library is the library providing the community with a place to go for free; to check out books and materials, browse through magazines, use the computers, play games, and all of this is FREE. Patrons do not have to pay for internet access, magazine subscriptions, or spend money on books for leisure, study or research. By providing better technology capacity, the library will better assists mobile jobseekers, professionals seeking a place to logon to work, or check emails. Many Groesbeck school children cannot afford internet access at home; so they come to the public library. "With this said; the key issue is the library technology; it is not adequate, nor is the software for training and building skills sufficient for what the public library patrons and community needs and deserves.

The City of Groesbeck, City Council Members, Maffett Memorial Library Board, Library Director, and County Officials are requesting the support and financial assistance through the BTOP for the Maffett Memorial Library Technology, and software needed for 2010 budget year. This Grant will relieve the financial burden and allow the library to offer the highest quality technology, services and programs the people of Groesbeck and Limestone County request and deserve.

Sincerely,

Rhonda J. Bass, Maffett Memorial Library Director
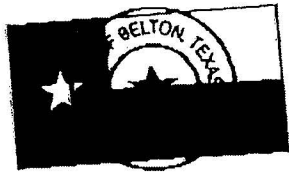
City of Belton

Lena Armstrong Public Library

March 4, 2010

Peggy Rudd, Director and State Librarian
Texas State Library & Archives Commission
1201 Brazos Street
Austin, TX 78711

Dear Ms. Rudd,

The Lena Armstrong Public Library's participation in the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) Public Computer Center (PCC) grant program is an exciting opportunity to provide improved internet connectivity, updated hardware and software for the public access computers and computer training for the library staff and the public.

Belton is a dynamic community in Central Texas. Belton is the County seat of Bell County and is located at the intersection of Highway I-35 and US 190, approximately 60 miles north of Austin and 50 miles south of Waco. Belton is urban in many respects but has many farms, ranches, and park land that lend a rural feel to the community and has an estimated population of 19,439.

Fort Hood, the largest military base in the free world, is located about 25 miles west of Belton, and many Library patrons are active duty and retired military personnel and their families. The Belton area has 72 churches of different denominations and a mix of ethnic groups, with the two predominates being Caucasian and Hispanic. Belton is also the home of the University of Mary-Hardin Baylor, which serves over 2,700 students.

Additional Belton demographic information:

- According to the USDA, the poverty level standard for a family of five is a gross monthly income of $2,794. Belton has 2,018 households at this level or below, a total of 10.4% of the total population.

- Education Attainment 2009 Estimate, Age 25+ Population

Grade K – 8	1,022
Grade 9 – 12	1,073
High School Graduate	2,885
Some College, No Degree	1,822
Associates Degree	848
Bachelor's Degree	1,282
Graduate Degree	669
No Schooling Completed	222 (from 2000 census)

- Belton Independent School District Student Demographics

Belton ISD is projecting over 8,700 students for the 2009-2010 school year. The following demographics are from the most recent PEIMS snapshot data for 2008-2009:

Ethnic Distribution:

Ethnicity	# Students	Percent
White	5,210	61%
Hispanic	2,443	28%
African American	645	8%
Asian/Pacific Islander	152	2%
Native American	109	1%

Student Programs & Enrollment:

Program/Indicator	# Students	Percent
Economically Disadvantaged	3,847	45.1%
At Risk	3,627	42.5%
Limited English Proficiency	606	7.1%
Bilingual/ESL	574	6.7%
Gifted & Talented	629	7.4%
Special Education	968	11.3%
Career& Technology Education	1,546	18.1%

- Unemployment Rates:

Area	Year	Unemployment	Rate
Belton's MSA (Killeen-Temple-Ft. Hood MSA)	2009(April)	8,965	5.6%
	2008	7,954	5.0%
Texas	2009(April)	754,877	6.4%
	2008	575,149	4.9%
United States	2009(April)	13,248,000	8.6%
	2008	8,924,000	5.8%

Source: Texas Workforce Commission. June 2009

The Lena Armstrong Public Library has served the community of Belton since 1895 and continues to have an active role in the community. Computers and internet access was first provided to the community in 1999 with one computer. Since then the Library has added computers and now has seven public access computers.

- **Computer Use:**

Fiscal Year	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009
Number of Computers	1	5	5	5	6	6	7	7	7	7
Number of Users	915	3,091	4,094	5,181	6,205	8,580	8,666	7,254	7,709	8,091
Number of Hours	N/A	2,521	3,293	4,284	5,125	5,265	5,200	4,888	5,289	5,366

The Library staff tries to keep the minimum wait time per patron to less than 15 minutes. To accomplish this, the amount of time each patron is allowed on the computers per day has decreased from two hours in 2000 to one hour in 2010. Currently two computers are out of service and the time available per patron has been cut to 30 minutes per day. The focus of patron computer use has changed over the years from checking email, surfing the internet, games etc. to more job searches, proctored exams, email, and bill management.

The Library does not offer formal computer classes but does assist the patrons on an individual basis as needed. There has been an increase in the number of first time computer users. Some of this is due to job loss and the need to find employment. The Library staff also proctors exams for distance learners, and there has been an increase in the number of patrons requesting this service. One patron took proctored exams at the Library in order to complete a Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice.

The Library has many community partners, most notably the Belton Independent School District, the University of Mary Hardin Baylor, and the Central Texas Workforce Commission.

Belton Independent School District: The Library identifies the books in the collection that are on the School District's Accelerated Reader lists to help patrons indentify the books that needed by students. The Children's Librarian brings story time to the elementary schools when invited, and during the preparation time for the Library's summer reading program, the staff visits the elementary and middle schools to encourage the students to participate in the summer program.

University of Mary Hardin Baylor: The Library assists the University in collecting the Belton Journal in preparation for microfilming. During the University's volunteer day, UMHB students have volunteered at the Library.

Central Texas Workforce Commission: The Library is a training worksite, and currently a part-time high school student is paid by CTWC to work as a Library clerk.

Central Texas Youth Services Bureau: The Library is one of many SAFE PLACE sites in Belton, providing an identified location for youth in crisis to seek help and shelter.

Friends of the Lena Armstrong Public Library: The Library works with the Friends to raise funds for special projects, materials and non-budgeted items to help promote the Library in the community, and to provide free books to children.

Bell County Museum: The Library loans materials to the Museum and donates items from the Library collection which are more suitable for a museum. The Library also works with the Museum on joint programs and provides research information for museum exhibits.

Park Place Manor: The Library operates a book deposit program at a local nursing home. A collection of 50 large print books are left at the nursing home until the books have circulated through the residents, and then they are exchanged with different books.

Without this grant the Library would not be able to update the computers or add additional workstations for the public. The City's FY 2010 budget was based on limited and declining revenues due to the sluggish economy. The City of Belton relies on two primary sources of revenue for general fund activities, property tax and sales tax. Although property values rose slightly for FY 2010, the growth trend line has flattened. Further, the City Council maintained the tax rate in order to not further burden taxpayers. Meanwhile, sales tax revenues flattened in FY 2009 and have remained flat during the first quarter of the current year. Capital outlay was curtailed for FY 2010, and the Library budget only includes funding for collection materials, with no other capital investment budgeted.

Through this grant, the Library is requesting enough computers to replace the current computers and add additional workstations plus the appropriate furniture to meet the increasing need. Software will be added in the following categories:

- Management of public access computers
- Improved security and virus protection
- Update office suite software
- Educational software
- Job search related software

The City of Belton will provide a 30% cash match for the project.

The Lena Armstrong Public Library would use the money from this grant to create a computer area that would meet many of the information needs of the community. The Library would be able to increase access to the internet to populations that would not have access without the Library, most notably among members of the Hispanic community and the Belton Independent School District students.

Thank you for your consideration of the Library's application.

Sincerely,

Kim Adele Kroll

Kim Adele Kroll
Librarian
Lena Armstrong Public Library

Elgin Public Library
404 North Main Street
Elgin, Texas 78621
512.281.5678 phone
512.285.3015 fax

Peggy Rudd, Director and State Librarian
Texas State Library & Archives Commisssion
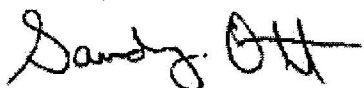1201 Brazos Street
Austin, Texas 78711

To Ms. Rudd;

The Elgin Public Library needs computers for their patrons to use but it is not in our budget to add them. Our assigned TSLAC population for 2008 was 31,755. Our TSLAC population has a population of 36% without a high school diploma or GED, 10% of families in poverty and 61% of students economically disadvantaged. Bastrop County is 2nd as far as unemployment in our area. Our community needs and wants workforce literacy skills including computer skills, resume writing, online job hunting, and interviewing tips. There is no Workforce Center in Elgin and many lack transportation to a Workforce Center as they are 25 to 32 miles away.

The Library has provided Internet access for eleven years. Computer use has more than doubled (221 %) since fiscal year 2004 when we moved into our new building. We have a waiting list for the eight computers every day for two-thirds of the day. Our quantity of computers is considered substandard for the amount of patrons we serve. All public computers have been funded by AT&T and Gates Foundation grants five and six years ago. Patrons sign up at the desk to use the computers for one hour. If they are working on a resume or job search we will give them more time on the computer if they ask. Computers are being used by adults for job searches, e-mail, resumes, and social media. Youth are using computers for homework, school projects, games, and social media.

Our success stories include teaching a class of elderly patrons how to set up and use a free e-mail account and cheering for patrons when they have a successful job search.

The city of Elgin does not have funds for the library to add or replace computers in its public computer center. Our computer budget pays for Time Warner cable (ISP), anti-virus/anti-spyware (AVG), technical support of our circulation system, and a per hour technical person for computer or network emergencies. The staff is working on the Technology Plan which includes grant-writing to increase the amount of computers available for patrons. We are asking to purchase 8 lap-top computers with the library's match of $1,000 coming from the Rotary Club of Elgin's spaghetti luncheon fund-raiser in 2009. The grant match will enable expansion of Internet use in the library in an easily used form anywhere in the building. Our future plans include having classes for basic computer uses, applications, and job search. We intend to have Internet based test preparation available in the future with successful grantwriting.

Sincerely,

Sandy Ott, Library Director

Jennie Trent Dew Library
1101 Hutchings
P.O. Box 101
Goldthwaite, TX 76844

Broadband Technology Opportunities Program

March 4, 2010

    Jennie Trent Dew Library is located in Mills County, population 5,184. Our median household income of $35,725 is below the state average, and 17.2% of the population is below the poverty level. According to 2008 census estimates 15.4 % of the population is of Hispanic origin and 21.9% of the population is over the age of 65. Forty seven percent of Goldthwaite ISD students are considered economically disadvantaged. Jennie Trent Dew Library is the only public library in the county and offers the only public Internet access in the county. There are no institutions of higher learning within the county. Mills County residents must travel over twenty miles outside the county to visit another public library and thirty to ninety miles to attend a college or junior college. In addition residents must travel out of the county to visit Social Security Administration and Health and Human Services offices.

    Jennie Trent Dew Library offers free Internet access to the public, which includes many residents who otherwise have no access to the Internet. Public access computers are heavily used currently. Use of the public access computers has risen 41% within the past year and 54% within the past two years. The library budget only allows replacement of two public workstations per year and the library is out of space for additional workstations. With computers in high demand users are frequently limited in the amount of time they can spend on the computer, some users are turned away because a computer is unavailable, and patrons frequently have to wait for a computer.

    Distance education students, persons looking for work, and persons learning job search, workplace, or information literacy skills are limited by lack of time on computers.

    Additional laptop computers would allow these computer users to complete tasks without interruption and would allow library staff to work with small groups of users

learning to write resumes, learn job and computer skills, search for jobs, and access GED learning materials.

During the current economic downturn the library has been increasingly called upon to help patrons with job searches, resume writing, filling out online job applications, applying for benefits online, setting up online email accounts, and simply learning to use the computer and navigate the Internet in order be able to accomplish these tasks.

Without a computer lab and with very limited computers the library has been unable to hold training classes and has had to rely on one-on-one assistance to patrons as time allows. This training has been successful in teaching patrons to set up online email accounts, applying for jobs and benefits online, and writing resumes, but this one-on-one training is very inefficient and requires a great deal of patience from the patron who often has to wait while the librarian helps others between steps.

With rises in fuel costs and less money for residents to spend many residents have enrolled in distance education rather than traveling to traditional onsite education. Limited computers mean that these students have long waits for a computer. The library currently offers distance education as much time as they need on the computer when taking tests, but to do this other patrons are not able to use computers.

Adding additional laptop computers and an additional high speed DSL line would allow the library to offer some training during regular library hours and would allow those who are searching for jobs, utilizing online learning, or using online services such as the Texas Workforce Commission to have additional uninterrupted computer time to complete their tasks.

Mills County has no major industry, many residents employed in agriculture, and many residents below the poverty line. This results in a small tax base for local government which includes the public library. Without Federal funding the library will not have funds to add additional computers to meet public needs.

Jennie Trent Dew Library is requesting funds for replacing four existing workstations adding five laptop computers, an additional DSL line to support additional computers, and an additional wireless router for laptop users. The library is offering a twenty percent cash match as well as time for personnel to train patrons.

This project would allow the Jennie Trent Dew Library to expand Internet computer availability and training to Mills County residents and allow those seeking additional education to utilize online databases already provided by the library.

Sincerely,

Theresa Strickler
Library Director