



**Broadband Non-Infrastructure Application
Submission to NTIA – Public Computer Centers**

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|-----------------------------------------------------------|--|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| Submitted Date: 3/14/2010 10:18:22 PM | | Easygrants ID: 5344 | |
| Funding Opportunity: Public Computer Centers | | Applicant Organization: EDUCATION & EARLY DEVELOPMENT, ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF | |
| Task: Submit Application - Public Computer Centers | | Applicant Name: Linda Sue Thibodeau | |

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A. General Application Information

| 1. Applicant Information | |
|------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| Name and Federal ID for Applicant | |
| DUNS Number | 809386824 |
| CCR # (CAGE) | 3RMJ0 |
| Legal Business Name | EDUCATION & EARLY DEVELOPMENT, ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF |
| Point of Contact (POC) | TANIA WINK 9074658650 Ext. tania.wink@alaska.gov |
| Alternate POC | LES MORSE 9074658691 Ext. les.morse@alaska.gov |
| Electronic Business POC | TANIA WINK 9074658650 Ext. tania.wink@alaska.gov |
| Alternate Electronic Business POC | AIDA_SANTOS 9074658651 Ext. Aida.Santos@alaska.gov |

| 2. Name and Contact Information of Person to be Contacted on Matters Involving this Application: | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| Prefix | |
| First Name | Linda |
| Middle Name | Sue |
| Last Name | Thibodeau |



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| | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| Suffix | |
| Telephone Number | 907-465-2911 |
| Fax Number | 907-465-2151 |
| Email | linda.thibodeau@alaska.gov |
| Title | Division Director |

3. Additional Contact Information of Person to be Contacted on Matters Involving this Application:

| Project Role | Name | Phone | Email |
|----------------------------|---------------------|--------------|-----------------------|
| Secondary Point of Contact | Ms. Sue , Sherif | 9072696569 | sue.sherif@alaska.gov |

4. Other Required Identification Numbers

| | |
|------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Easygrants ID | 5344 |
| Funding Opportunity Number | 500000 |
| Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number | BTOP CFDA Number: 11.557 BTOP CFDA Title: Broadband Technology Opportunities Program |

5. Organization Classification

| | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Type of Organization | State or State Agency |
| Is the organization a small business? | No |
| Does the organization meet the definition of a socially and economically disadvantaged small business concern? | No |



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6. Authorized Organizational Representative

| | |
|---------------|----------------------|
| AOR | WINK, TANIA |
| Result | Applicant Authorized |

7. Project Title and Project Description

Project Title: Networking Alaska Public Libraries

Project Description: We will link Alaskans and their communities to each other and the rest of the world through a statewide network of 104 public library PCCs. Many users in remote, isolated areas will experience broadband and video conferencing for the first time. The network will be a pathway for our partners to offer job and public safety training, social services, distance education, and heritage preservation.

8. Other Applications

Is this application being submitted in coordination with any other application being submitted during this round of funding?

- No

| Easygrants ID | Project Title |
|---------------|---------------|
| | |

If YES, please explain any synergies and/or dependencies between this project and any other applications.

9. Is the Applicant exempt from the Department of Commerce requirements regarding individual background screening in connection with any award resulting from this Application?

- Yes, Applicant is exempt because it is a unit of a state or local government

If the answer to the above question is "No," please identify each key individual associated with the Applicant who would be required to complete Form CD-346, "Applicant for Funding Assistance," in connection with any award resulting from this Application:



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| Name | Title | Employer |
|------|-------|----------|
| | | |

B. Executive Summary, Project Purpose and Benefits

Essay Question

10. Executive Summary of the proposed project:

Alaskans are geographically isolated from the rest of the world. Alaska covers over 660,000 square miles, nearly 2.5 times the size of Texas, but has only 686,000 residents. 60% of the population lives in the three major population centers of Anchorage, Fairbanks, and Juneau. The remaining population (278,000) lives in approximately 300 small communities spread across the state from the Aleutians to villages on the North Slope to the towns of the SE panhandle. The distribution of the Alaskan population presents unique infrastructure challenges of which the primary challenge is geographic isolation. 70% of Alaskan communities are not on the road system and are reachable only via air or water. These communities lack the local resources and basic services that most Americans are accustomed to since they must rely on expensive and infrequent air and barge services to receive simple consumer goods and services.

In addition to geographic isolation, rural Alaskans are also isolated from the rest of the world in terms of communication and broadband service. Alaska has some of the worst broadband speeds and penetrations in the country. Furthermore, broadband penetration among rural Alaskans is almost non-existent. Few people own computers or have access to the Internet at home due to the extremely high cost of satellite service. A majority of Alaskan communities can only be served by satellite Internet services, which can cost up to 50 times more than terrestrial services elsewhere. The price of a dedicated satellite T1 is up to \$15,000/month in Alaska compared to \$300/month in the Lower 48. The lowest-priced satellite bandwidth services are highly oversubscribed, which significantly affects throughput speeds and makes services almost unusable during normal daytime hours. Due to high service costs, public libraries have become the only place for adults to access the Internet. The librarian from Lake Minchumina highlighted the community’s reliance on the library for Internet, “Our community as a whole really depends on the Library for internet; it is our ONLY public internet provider.”



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Unfortunately, in most cases Internet access in public libraries is inadequate for even basic services. A recent survey of our libraries has shown that 84% have connection speeds of less than 1.5 Mbps to the entire library, the minimum recommended by the American Library Association. Most connections are highly contended with actual throughput speeds <100Kbps to the entire library, making the Internet nearly useless for common Web applications.

Many social issues and problems result from the severe isolation in remote Alaskan villages. Suicide rates in Alaska are double the US average and are even higher in rural areas. Alaska ranks first in domestic violence; more than 75% of Alaska Native women will be physically assaulted in their lifetime. Child sexual assault is nearly 6 times the US average. While there are many state agencies and non-profits set up to provide social services, it is very challenging to get services to people in villages since often the only way to reach them is by costly small plane travel. Almost 30% of Alaskans are not able to access victim services at all because they are not available in the area.

We have before us a tremendous opportunity to provide Alaskans, particularly rural residents with civic information, educational tools, and basic human services through broadband Internet access and videoconferencing. The librarian from Barrow summarized Internet use and bandwidth issues his community experiences daily, “Young teens frequently are interested in pregnancy and parenting information. We also get people looking for drug and alcohol related information online. We also proctor tests for students enrolled in distance university courses. The availability of online learning is ideal for rural Alaskans, but for the bandwidth problems.”

The primary purpose of this project is to use our public library PCCs as a common information exchange point between citizens and civic organizations, to extend opportunities for online education and job training, and to deliver social services. Many Alaskans are far from civic services and educational institutions, and the organizations which provide such services are eager to reach them in the most efficient, cost effective way possible. Libraries are the ideal place to support this type of exchange because they already serve as community centers in many Alaskan villages, they are free and open to the public, and all ages and populations use them.

104 of 105 public libraries in Alaska will serve as PCCs (1 library is joining a different PCC application). These libraries serve over 99% of the population. Those living in remote villages will benefit most from this project, in particular Alaska Natives, a key target group. Over 50% of



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the libraries are designated as tribal libraries or serve significant populations of Native Alaskans, including 65 federally recognized tribal entities. We stress, however, that this project is a statewide initiative with programs that will cover all groups including senior citizens, youth, undereducated, disabled, non-English speakers, and unemployed.

Our technology plan is to dynamically assign enough bandwidth at libraries to support basic Web activities and basic video conferencing. A successful video conferencing session will require 512Kbps two-way throughput per session site. To achieve this, dedicated bandwidth will be required using satellite services for at least 70% of our rural libraries. Stand-alone dedicated satellite bandwidth is far too expensive for libraries to maintain. While some libraries have terrestrial options with lower costs, most locations will only have satellite access for the near future. In order to obtain the necessary bandwidth in an affordable manner, we plan to consolidate the libraries onto a single consortium contract and establish a WAN with dedicated bandwidth resources which all libraries will share. On average, all libraries will receive bandwidth speeds of 1.5 Mbps down and 1.0 Mbps up. A centralized scheduler will allow users to book time for video conferencing, permitting the system to dynamically assign throughput to those facilities when needed. Our design will allow us to manage and optimize bandwidth usage among our members, determine our own service levels, and dynamically provide bandwidth where it is needed most.

In addition, 65 new part-time jobs will be created for local IT support. Local staff in village libraries will be hired and trained to support the computers and Internet access and to keep the smaller libraries open an additional 5 hours per week. We hope to hire bilingual IT staff so that they can teach those who do not speak English how to use computers, the Internet, and video conferencing. Through this program, we plan not only to create jobs in the short term, but also to create skilled and employable workers in the long term.

The Alaska State Library (ASL) is uniquely qualified to implement and manage this project. For over two decades, the ASL has managed numerous grants including an annual state grant of approximately \$800K and an annual federal grant of almost \$1 M. In addition, 4 FTEs will be hired to help administer and manage the project. The ASL has 10 key partners that have committed to working on the project. Our partners constitute a wide range of groups including library organizations, state agencies, colleges, health care networks, small business advocates, and foundations.



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The total cost of the project is \$8.2M with a BTOP request of \$5.4M, which will be spent during the three years of the BTOP project. BTOP funds will be used to secure a new service provider, obtain video conferencing and computing equipment, and help switch libraries onto the network. We have identified 65 libraries that will join the network in order to obtain improved Internet access and video conferencing. All 104 libraries in the project will receive video conferencing equipment, new workstations, software, and peripherals. Project and network management personnel will be hired along with local IT support staff, creating 38 direct jobs. BTOP funds will also be used to help cover the incremental bandwidth costs that E-Rate and the libraries themselves cannot cover during the 3 years of the project.

We are able to contribute a project match of \$2.9M, which is 35% of the total project budget. The match consists of \$2.3M in cash, contributed by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (\$1.8M), the Rasmuson Foundation (\$250K), and ASL (\$250K of its own funds). ASL is also contributing \$613K of in-kind match over 3 years from existing ASL staff time and commitment to the project.

11. Project purpose:

Our project will create computer centers for a statewide Internet services and video conferencing network available for free to Alaskans via public libraries. Increased bandwidth and a video conferencing network will reduce geographic isolation, enabling Alaskans to enjoy more useful and usable access to the Internet and helping many organizations deliver services cost effectively. Our project squarely meets BTOP statutory purposes.

Providing Access to Un/Underserved Populations

Only 2 places in Alaska are considered cities: Anchorage and Fairbanks. 70% of Alaska communities are not on the road system and are reachable only by air or water. Due to vast distances, rugged terrain, and climate challenges, most Alaska towns do not have access to a terrestrial communications infrastructure. About 70% of libraries receive Internet services through satellite only. The reliance on satellite services for bandwidth is very costly. Satellite-based access is extremely expensive, up to 50X the cost of comparable terrestrial options elsewhere. Satellite capacity is very limited, keeping costs high. Unlike fiber, each additional user on a satellite network has a major impact on the throughput quality for all. Typical satellite bandwidth is highly contended, often with hundreds sharing the same connection. Terrestrial



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options, where available, are still more expensive than comparable service in the Lower 48. A limited number of service providers offer both satellite and terrestrial options but service availability varies. This project will aggregate buying for bandwidth that will be shared only amongst libraries, allowing quality of service to be determined by the libraries and bandwidth to be dynamically allocated where needed.

Alaska ranks at the bottom of the US in terms of rural broadband connectivity and penetration. Akamai's 2009 study ranks Alaska 51st in the US for network penetration and speed. The survey reflects the grim picture of consumer broadband access here. Broadband penetration for rural Alaskans is very limited, and few people have Internet access at home due to extremely high cost of satellite service and electricity. Although libraries may be the only place for adults to access the Internet, service is still very poor. 2 of 104 public libraries do not have Internet service. 65 libraries have Internet speeds below 768Kbps to the entire library, and 85 have speeds below 1.5Mbps. Moreover, these speeds indicate advertised, not actual speeds. True bandwidth throughputs are much lower, particularly as these connections are shared among multiple workstations within a library. For example, a librarian from Unalaska in the Aleutians wrote, "NOTHING streams! University On-Line Testing is almost impossible, with up to 20 seconds delay in transmission of EACH keystroke. We pay for a final mile connectivity of 768Kbps yet because of the connections available out here we do not get that level of service."

We aim to enable Alaskans, even in isolated areas, to experience the Internet in a useful way and to offer them the transformative effects that quality bandwidth and communication can have. 104 libraries will participate in the project, serving 685,000 people. 65 libraries will receive increased bandwidth, and all 104 will receive new equipment. Alaska currently ranks 49th in the US in number of workstations per library (4.9 : US average 12.5). All libraries will receive desktops and laptops, a 51% increase in workstations. The project will increase library operating hours in the smallest libraries. Many rural Alaskans will use some web applications for the first time and gain critical health and public safety information, participate in civic and eGovernment, connect with their extended family and friends, and preserve their heritage while joining the global community.

Strengthening All Civic, Educational, and Public Safety Organizations via Libraries



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Rural communities see many social problems such as alcoholism, violence, depression, and school drop-outs. Alaska suicide rates are double the US average and rural rates are even higher. Domestic violence is the highest in the US.

PCCs in libraries will expand the abilities of the state’s social service, cultural, and public safety organizations to serve remote residents. Benefits of the network will include promoting public safety initiatives and providing training to firefighters via video conferencing. See the Partner section and our partner letters for more details on social service, public safety, and educational organizations.

Stimulating Broadband Demand, Economic Growth, and Job Creation

Our project can reach 99% of Alaskans and serve all members of communities, including vulnerable populations. Amongst these are Spanish and Asian language speakers, but the key targeted group here is Alaska Natives, who are disproportionately represented in other vulnerability groups including low income, unemployment, high dropout rates, senior citizens, and youth. 51 libraries participating in this program are receiving federal tribal library stipends or serve populations with over 50% Alaska Natives.

We will also create direct jobs and provide training to local populations to enhance their skills and market prospects in the longer term. Local community members will be hired and trained to provide part-time IT support to the local libraries. Skilled trainers and partners, such as AVTEC, will provide IT and online career training. This project will stimulate economic growth and job creation in rural subsistence economy villages. 89 job years including 38 direct job years will be created through this project. In addition, trained community members will gain key skills that are in demand in villages and elsewhere. The project will link Alaskans and their communities to each other and the rest of the world.

12. Recovery Act and Other Governmental Collaboration:

Our project is a joint effort by many state development programs, including the Departments of Education, Health and Social Services, Public Safety, and Labor and Workforce Development. Any agency that wants to maximize its statewide outreach will want to use the proposed network since it will connect to the only public access Internet center in most communities. Instead of



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creating a new network for each agency that serves Alaska communities, ASL seeks to create efficiencies by offering this network and its interactive capabilities to all government agencies.

As the Director of the Office of Management and Budget from the Office of the Governor writes: “State agency program managers are enthusiastic supporters of this proposal because it will provide them with an additional, sophisticated communication tool for reaching out to rural residents, including many who are currently unreachable without prohibitively expensive travel by plane or boat.”

It is extremely difficult to quantify the value of existing federal and state development programs, but based on the attached letters of support, every participating agency and nonprofit foresees immediate savings which will amount to thousands of dollars in the first year of the program and tens if not hundreds of thousands of dollars in succeeding years. Here are a few letter excerpts:

“Once the proposed broadband network is in place, AVTEC will be able to expand delivery of its existing online Information Technology programs and certifications to dozens of communities which have been unable to participate in the past...” Department of Labor and Workforce Development

“While some fee agents have computers and access to the Internet, the vast majority of them do not. This grant would provide them with a means to communicate more quickly and efficiently with DPA employees either through email or web-conferencing, especially in those situations when someone in the community is experiencing a crisis and rapid contact with one of our offices is crucial.” Division of Public Assistance, Department of Health and Social Services

“While we do our initial training in a face-to-face environment, tele-training offers us the ability to conduct essential follow up training at a fraction of the cost. We would be able to train about three times as many people if rural libraries were set up with the proper tele-training equipment and requisite bandwidth.” Alaska Manufacturing Extension Partnership, Inc.

13. Technology Strategy:

In order to support a satellite-based video conferencing system for the communities served by Alaska libraries, we must increase both the speed and quality of bandwidth available to each library. Since individually-supplied dedicated links to each library are not financially feasible



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(See Reasonableness section), we will use a physical Wide Area Network (WAN) design so that libraries may share bandwidth. We will provide a minimum two-way threshold of 512Kbps dynamically assignable to each location in order to provide quality video conferencing. There are 4 key technology components which comprise the library broadband network: increased bandwidth, upgraded satellite dish equipment, video portal equipment, and video management platform.

1. Increased Bandwidth

Our proposed solution is to create a WAN that will leverage current library bandwidth expenditures and E-Rate subsidies to purchase bandwidth from a single service provider via a consortium RFP. Aggregating bandwidth and sharing it across libraries will reduce costs while improving quality of Internet access. We anticipate that of the 104 libraries in our project, we will connect 65 libraries on the satellite network. The other 39 libraries have other connectivity options and will be handled on a case-by-case basis to resolve the issue of dedicated bandwidth.

The service provider will establish a pool of bandwidth from which the connected libraries may expect to receive at least 1.5 Mbps download speeds and 1.0 Mbps upload speeds with a very low contention ratio of approximately 20:1 (much lower than what is now available). The network will support up to 5 concurrent high quality video conference streams. Video conferencing usage will be scheduled and managed so that the quality of both Internet use and video conferencing will not be degraded.

With a service provider selected by an RFP process, this solution assumes that bandwidth services will be provided by a satellite operator because most locations will be not be served by terrestrial means in the near future, if ever. We recognize that some target locations may have terrestrial access options, and we will give preference to a service provider that can offer a mix of satellite and terrestrial options.

2. Upgraded Satellite Equipment

In order to facilitate the transition to a single provider and upgrade current link packages, all 65 libraries served by satellite will receive new dishes. 90% of them will receive 1.8 meter satellite dishes and hardware. Libraries in the Aleutians or on the North Slope will require 2.4 meter satellite dishes as they are located on the edge of the satellite footprint. Satellite dish packages



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might include, for example, a Ku band antenna, antenna mount, 4 watt Ku band BUC with LNB, iDirect X3 -714 modem, cable hardware, and installation hardware. All hardware and installation and testing services personnel will be transported to the library locations.

3. Video Portal Equipment

Since video conferences may connect participants in major cities and in remote villages, it will be necessary to establish the video network among all Alaska public libraries. We anticipate that all 104 libraries will receive video equipment. To manage costs, larger libraries with the adequate space will receive video room conferencing equipment, while smaller libraries will receive desktop-level video equipment only. The video room equipment includes HD codec, HD camera, HDX mic array, and cables. The desktop package includes a webcam, microphone, headsets, and speakers. All libraries will receive a flatscreen monitor to enhance the participation in group video conferencing and multi-cast distance programs.

Each library will also receive new computing equipment to ensure that it is able to support desktop-level video conferencing. Some libraries that currently have over 10 workstations will receive additional laptops. 327 total new workstations will be provided. Appropriate peripherals will be provided with workstations. Libraries will receive a printer, privacy screens, a wireless router, and monitors. Some libraries will be provided furniture where needed.

4. Video Conferencing Management Platform

We will locate a video conferencing server in Anchorage to be used as a centralized bridge for multipoint conferencing. This will allow participating libraries to minimize bandwidth usage and maximize features. Libraries will be able to participate in video sessions with a simple desktop webcam and to schedule sessions to ensure bandwidth availability. The Anchorage center will also allow for centralized IT support and remote management. Included in the Anchorage server hardware and software is a bridge, live stream support, 5-port recording and streaming, encryption software, firewalls, appliance gatekeeper, conference monitoring, web scheduling, device management, and automatic software updates. In addition, Anchorage will manage features that allow users to record and archive video conferences as well as participate in live streaming of a session. The Anchorage location will minimize bandwidth costs. We will require 6Mbps of managed bandwidth in order to operate the hub efficiently.



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14. Public Availability:

Library, Internet, and conferencing services will be available to all members of the general public for free at all project locations supported by this project. All public computer centers in the project are public libraries whose purpose is to provide access to community members of all ages at no charge. Unlike other institutions where only segments of the population can access the public computer center, public libraries do not restrict access in any way, except for time rationing. No membership fees are charged in the public libraries within the State of Alaska.

State agencies and non-profit organizations will be allowed to use Internet and video conferencing services at these public computer centers to deliver their services in accordance with network and local library policies and procedures. A service fee for the use of video conferencing equipment and reservation service may be charged to these state agencies and non-profit organizations as well when conferences are scheduled outside of normal library hours.

Libraries receiving bandwidth support that are currently open less than 20 hours per week will commit to increasing the number of hours they are open to the public. This increased availability will be possible as the result of the creation of 65 part-time jobs created through this grant. These part-time jobs, while supporting instructional technology, will also make the smallest libraries available to the public for longer hours.

15. Restrictions on Center Use:

Internet and video conferencing services will be made available for general public use as stipulated in local library Internet policies. There will be no restrictions made on our public computer centers, except where libraries are required to comply with Federal regulations.

Each library already has its own Internet Use Policy in place, as determined by the needs of the local community and it is anticipated that this grant will allow libraries to make their policies less restrictive, rather than more, due to an increased availability of equipment and Internet access.

Dedicated video conferencing will be available to all members of the general public according to local library policy. Those who would like to use the system may be required, in order to maintain high quality services, to reserve time online to ensure availability of adequate bandwidth for their needs.

16. Involvement of Community College:



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Four of the public libraries in the project are combined public and college libraries. These serve both college students as well as the general public. One serves Alaska's only tribal college; the others are under the University of Alaska system. UA identifies them as community college campuses. See Sen. Mark Begich's letter in the upload section.

UA is a key partner committed to providing increased online classes to rural communities through public libraries. ASL has a long standing and successful relationship working with UA. While UA is also submitting an application, we have worked closely together to ensure the projects are complementary and that none of the PCC locations overlap. A fifth combined public /college library is not in this project and instead is in the UA proposal.

Increased broadband speeds and access to video conferencing will improve the online learning experience and even allow interactive classes. Currently, many students experience difficulty taking online classes due to the slow bandwidth speeds. Through this project, students at the UA regional campuses and Ilisagvik Tribal College will have increased access to the same resources that students at the main campuses have today. More importantly, rural off-campus students will be able to take classes in their home communities at their local public library.

17. **Is the applicant is seeking a waiver of the Buy American provision pursuant to section x.Q of the NOFA?**

➤ No

18. **Is the applicant delinquent on any federal debt?**

➤ No

➤ If Yes, justification for delinquency:

19. **Are you seeking a waiver of any requirement set forth in the NOFA that is not mandated by statute or applicable law?**

➤ No

C. Partners

20. **Are you partnering with any other key institutions, organizations, or other entities for this project?**



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> Yes

If YES, key partners are listed below:

| |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>Project Role: Other Name: Nishi, Jill Email: jill.nishi@gatesfoundation.org Address 1: PO Box 23350 Address 2: Address 3: City: Seattle State: Washington Zip Code: 98102 Organization: Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Organization Type: Non-profit Foundation Small business: No Socially and economically disadvantaged small business concern: No</p> |
| <p>Project Role: Other Name: Kaplan, Diane Email: rasmusonfdn@rasmuson.org Address 1: 301 W. Northern Lights Blvd. Address 2: Suite 400 Address 3: City: Anchorage State: Alaska Zip Code: 99503 Organization: Rasmuson Foundation Organization Type: Non-profit Foundation Small business: No Socially and economically disadvantaged small business concern: No</p> |
| <p>Project Role: Other Name: Hill, Helen Email: hhill@ci.homer.ak.us Address 1: PO Bos 100585 Address 2: Address 3: City: Anchorage State: Alaska Zip Code: 99510</p> |



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|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>Organization: Alaska Library Network Organization Type: Non-profit Association Small business: No Socially and economically disadvantaged small business concern: No</p> |
| <p>Project Role: Other Name: Joiner, Mary Jo Email: mjoiner@ci.kenai.ak.us Address 1: PO Box 81084 Address 2: Address 3: City: Fairbanks State: Alaska Zip Code: 99708 Organization: Alaska Library Association Organization Type: Non-profit Association Small business: No Socially and economically disadvantaged small business concern: No</p> |
| <p>Project Role: Other Name: Esposito, Fred Email: fred.esposito@alaska.gov Address 1: PO Box 889 Address 2: Address 3: City: Seward State: Alaska Zip Code: 99664 Organization: AVTEC, Department of Labor and Workforce Development Organization Type: State or State Agency Small business: No Socially and economically disadvantaged small business concern: No</p> |
| <p>Project Role: Other Name: Moon, Clarissa Email: clarissa.moon@alaska.gov Address 1: PO Box 240249 Address 2: Address 3: City: Anchorage State: Alaska</p> |



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Zip Code: 99524
Organization: Division of Public Assistance, Department of Health and Human Services
Organization Type: State or State Agency
Small business: No
Socially and economically disadvantaged small business concern: No

Project Role: Other
Name: Hettrick, Jodie
Email: jodie.hettrick@alaska.gov
Address 1: 5700 E Tudor Road
Address 2:
Address 3:
City: Anchorage
State: Alaska
Zip Code: 99524
Organization: Division of Fire and Life Safety, Department of Public Safety
Organization Type: State or State Agency
Small business: No
Socially and economically disadvantaged small business concern: No

Project Role: Other
Name: Buckholdt, Chris
Email: chris@ak-mep.org
Address 1: 701 Sesame Street
Address 2: Suite 200
Address 3:
City: Anchorage
State: Alaska
Zip Code: 99503
Organization: Alaska Manufacturing Extension Partnership, Inc.
Organization Type: Non-profit Corporation
Small business: No
Socially and economically disadvantaged small business concern: No

Project Role: Other
Name: Smith, Steve
Email: steve.smith@alaska.edu
Address 1: 910 Yukon Drive
Address 2:
Address 3:
City: Fairbanks



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State: Alaska
Zip Code: 99775
Organization: University of Alaska
Organization Type: State or State Agency
Small business: No
Socially and economically disadvantaged small business concern: No

Project Role: Other
Name: Madison, Rebecca
Email: rebeccam@akrivertracks.com
Address 1: 2440 East Tudor Road
Address 2:
Address 3:
City: Anchorage
State: Alaska
Zip Code: 99507
Organization: Alaska eHealth Network
Organization Type: Non-profit Corporation
Small business: No
Socially and economically disadvantaged small business concern: No

21. Description of the involvement of the partners listed above in the project.

Two financial partners and 8 key operational partners have committed to collaborating on services delivery and network management for public library computer centers, including joint participation in purchasing equipment to reduce prices through aggregated buying whenever feasible. Additional relationships continue to develop on a weekly basis, particularly among potential outreach and network content provider partners.

The current key operational partners are primarily in-kind contributors, the extent and value of whose contributions have yet to be fully defined due to ongoing discussions and time constraints. A few key partners may become future contractors under the grant. These partners constitute a wide range of players and include not only library organizations, but also and private foundations, state agencies, higher education, health care networks, small business advocates, and Alaska Native organizations.

Financial Partners



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1. The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) is contributing \$1.65M in cash match over 2 years. \$150,000 is specified for E-Rate training and support over 2 years. In addition, BMGF provided expert support through the application process.

2. The Rasmuson Foundation is contributing \$250,000 in cash match to the project. The Alaska based Rasmuson Foundation is focused on non-profits and development in the state. In addition, the Rasmuson Foundation is providing assistance in reaching out to Native Alaskan organizations and other vulnerable communities around the state.

Key Operational Partners

3. The Alaska Library Network (ALN) is the key administrative partner and will assume several administrative responsibilities. Together with the State Library and the Alaska Library Association, ALN will manage the consortium of participating libraries and coordinate aggregated equipment buying with network partners (e.g., UA-OIT and AeHN, see below), as well as with other non-profit broadband networks (e.g., school district WANs), to reduce costs and promote interoperability wherever feasible. These efforts will be coordinated with a statewide E-Rate consortium contract.

4. The Alaska Library Association (AkLA) will promote participation in the public library broadband network to its membership through AkLA conferences, meetings, publications and listservs. This effort will include facilitating professional development opportunities over the network, as well as community outreach to help develop and deliver outstanding services, especially educational opportunities, to local library patrons.

5. AVTEC, Alaska's Institute of Technology, is a unit of the Department of Labor and Workforce Development and will take responsibility for establishing a baseline for local Information Technology support and for providing the necessary training to local library IT support hires. AVTEC will also make both its basic and more advanced IT classes available over the public library broadband network.

6. The Division of Public Assistance, part of the Department of Health and Social Services, will partner by using the public library broadband network for client support and staff communication with its 300 field agents. In addition, DPA will use the network to promote the state's Family



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First initiative which coordinates community-based services, supports and resources for Temporary Assistance families enrolled with multiple social service agencies.

7. The Division of Fire and Life Safety, within the Department of Public Safety, will use the network to train communities on how to prevent the loss of life and property from fire and explosion. The Headquarters of the Training and Education Bureau (TEB) provides program management and oversight of all TEB programs and activities, including community fire department accreditation and registration programs and technical assistance training.

8. The Alaska Manufacturing Extension Partnership will deliver its rural financial literacy, Alaska Native artists, and rural e-commerce training over the public library broadband network to make its programming significantly more affordable and effective.

9. The University of Alaska Office of Information Technology (UA-OIT) commits to partnering with the public library broadband network in maintaining adequate network IT support at the local community level; interconnecting interoperable videoconferencing networks; delivering ICT training for both professional intermediaries and end-users; and collaborating on identity, privacy and security standards setting at national, state and local levels. The UA-OIT may also assist in managing the physical broadband WAN and video conferencing network.

10. The Alaska eHealth Network (AeHN) commits to working closely with other health care and K-12 broadband networks to ensure network IT support at the local community level; professional intermediary and end-user ICT (Information, Communication and Technologies) training; and privacy and security standards development for Alaska broadband networks, including the proposed public library broadband network. AeHN (an FCC Rural Health Care Pilot Project) and its membership have deep experience in RFP management, network design, and broadband networking and will mentor both ASL and ALN in these areas.

In addition, the Alaska Native Policy Center at the First Alaskans Institute has committed to work to find new, more efficient and interactive ways to connect Alaska Native leaders from across the state on a wide variety of policy issues through use of the public libraries broadband network.



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Finally, within the applicant's own Department of Education and Early Development, other divisions are working on a web-accessible Virtual School and will collaborate with ASL to coordinate Virtual School accessibility over the public library broadband network.

D. Congressional Districts

22. Applicant Headquarters

- Alaska

23. Project Service States

Alaska

24. Project Service Areas

Alaska - At-Large

25. Will any portion of your proposed project serve federally recognized tribal entities?

- Yes

26. Indicate each federally recognized tribal entity your proposed project will serve.

Akiachak Native Community (IRA)

Akiak Native Community (IRA)

Anvik Village

Central Council Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska

Chilkat Indian Village

Chilkoot Indian Association (IRA)



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Craig Community Association

Douglas Indian Association (IRA)

Egegik Village

Eklutna Native Village

Elim IRA Council

Holy Cross Village

Hoonah Indian Association (IRA)

Igiugig Village

Inupiat Community of Arctic Slope

Kaktovik Village

Ketchikan Indian Corporation

Ketchikan Indian Corporation (IRA)

King Island Native Community (IRA)

Klawock Cooperative Association

Koyukuk Native Village

Louden Tribal Council

McGrath Native Village Council

Metlakatla Indian Community

Naknek Native Village

Native Village of Barrow

Native Village of Cantwell

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Native Village of Eagle (IRA)

Native Village of False Pass

Native Village of Eyak

Native Village of Kluti-Kaah (Copper Center)

Native Village of Koyuk (IRA)

Native Village of Ouzinkie

Native Village of Point Hope (IRA)

Native Village of Point Lay (IRA)

Native Village of Port Lions

Native Village of South Naknek

Native Village of Tanana (IRA)

Native Village of White Mountain (IRA)

Nenana Native Association

Ninilchik Traditional Council

Nome Eskimo Community

Northway Village

Organized Village of Grayling (IRA)

Organized Village of Kasaan (IRA)

Organized Village of Saxman (IRA)

Petersburg Indian Association (IRA)

Pilot Point Traditional Council



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Qagan Tayagungin Tribe of Sand Point Village

Qawalangin Tribe of Unalaska

Scammon Bay Traditional Council

Selawik IRA Council

Seldovia Village Tribe (IRA)

Shageluk Native Village (IRA)

Sitka Tribe of Alaska (IRA)

Skagway Village

Takotna Village

Traditional Village of Togiak

Tuluksak Native Community (IRA)

Village of Anaktuvuk Pass

Village of Aniak

Village of Wainwright

Wrangell Cooperative Assn. (IRA)

Aleut Community of St. Paul Island

27. Have you consulted with each of the federally recognized tribal entities identified above?

> Yes

E. Demographics



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Demographics

28. Will your proposed project be specifically directed to serve vulnerable population groups?

➤ Yes

If "Yes" which vulnerable population groups will your proposed project serve? Check as many as apply:

Hispanic

Black/African-American

Asian

Native American or Native Alaskan

Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander

English as Second Language (ESL)

Disabled

Low Income

Unemployed

Senior Citizen (55 and over)

Youth

Other

Other: Undereducated

29. Vulnerable Populations



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Alaska libraries serve all people in their communities, including vulnerable groups. Amongst these are Spanish and Asian language speakers, but the key targeted group here is Alaska Natives, who are disproportionately represented in other vulnerability categories including low income, unemployed, undereducated, senior citizens, and youth.

This project will serve remote and urban communities, many of which have high Alaska Native populations. 51 of the libraries are federally designated tribal libraries or serve populations with over 50% Native Alaskans. Alaska's Native population is 105,003 (15.3% of total). The project will allow Alaska Natives better access to crucial social services.

Alaska Natives are increasingly leaving their villages to seek new opportunities in cities. Migration from villages is causing deterioration of communities and further social problems. Our project will assist Alaska Natives in remote villages to stay in their traditional communities while interacting access to the rest of the world. Through improved Internet access, Alaska Natives will be able to receive education, training, and social services without leaving their communities. In addition, archived video conferencing will allow elders to preserve their culture and oral tradition--to tell, record, and save their stories for future generations.

Not merely proposing a few programs to serve a limited number of vulnerable population groups, we will create a network that allows our partners state agencies and non-profits, like First Alaskans, the ability to provide their programs to remote communities. The network will become a conduit for many types of programs offered to vulnerable populations. Public libraries will partner with other organizations to provide enhanced programs to Alaska Natives, non-English speakers, and vulnerable subgroups.

The Governor's Council on Special Education and Disabilities will teach deaf students sign language through video conferencing. The Department of Health and Human Services will provide additional resources to low income, unemployed, and disabled groups. Alaska Manufacturing Extension Partnership will provide tele-training to give the unemployed job training and skills. The UA will provide online interactive classes to the under- and unemployed. The project will train and hire locals to provide IT support. Individuals receive a job in the short term, but they also will be skilled and more employable in the long term. The local IT person will also teach others basic computer and Internet skills. In hiring, we will seek bilingual individuals who can communicate with their community's seniors. ASL has an existing program that provides online homework help to K-12 and adult basic education students. For people who



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don't currently have the bandwidth or home computers, broader bandwidth will allow greater usage of this 7-day per week service.

30. Accessibility

The public library centers will be welcoming to people with disabilities through the use of software and technology. Typically libraries in Alaska are small facilities, and 2/3 of our libraries are in communities of fewer than 1,000 people with an average square footage of 1,412 square feet. The small size of our libraries make it problematic to add additional furniture. We recently (Fall 2009) surveyed our libraries on their needs and they expressed a need for adaptive software to help them meet the needs of patrons with visual and auditory impairments.

Software will be provided to ensure accessibility to the disabled. Each public library will receive one workstation with disability software. A survey of libraries indicated that many of our libraries still didn't offer this type of accessibility tool. This tool will include large print software to help those with poor vision and text to speech software to assist blind people.

Libraries will be given portable laptop computers and wireless routers, so that people with disabilities may have mobile Internet accessibility within the facility. Having portable computers will assist in providing for the least restrictive means of internet access, and laptops to check out will provide accessibility in small libraries that are not completely physically accessible. The replacement of small monitors will take place in every participating library so that large screen availability is an option for those individuals with visual impairments.

Another target vulnerable population is the hearing impaired and deaf. There is a high rate of hearing impairment in Alaska. Video conferencing services will allow the hearing impaired to learn sign language remotely without having to fly a teacher into the village for each lesson. Currently, sign language teachers fly out to remote villages once a week to teach the hearing impaired. Video conferencing will allow the students to learn sign language much more quickly and cheaply by allowing distance education of sign language, more frequent lessons, and possibly long-distance sign conversations with other remote students who may be the only signing person in their villages.

The Alaska Library Association, one of our key partners, regularly schedules annual conference sessions about meeting the needs of the disabled, whether the disability is physical or mental.



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These sessions could be more widely disseminated via our video conferencing network to library staff all over the state.

31. Other Languages

Alaska is home to people who speak a variety of languages other than English as their first language. In the 2000 census, 14.3% of the population over 5 years old reported speaking another language at home. Speakers of indigenous Alaska languages (30,121) were 5.2% of the population, and Alaska Natives represent 15.3% (105,003) of Alaska's population. Spanish, Tagalog, Korean, German, Pacific Island languages, and a variety of Asian languages are the next most often spoken languages in roughly descending order. These language speakers, except for the Alaskan languages speakers, do not live in neighborhood clusters and in fact may be found all over the state. The Anchorage School District reports 93 languages spoken by its students. Project outreach materials can be reproduced in any of the languages spoken by a significant population.

The project can provide keyboard and menu guides or alternatives for the major languages. It may be difficult to offer instruction in a particular language because of the dispersed population patterns. Alaska is home to many bilingual individuals and we will look for language skills when hiring.

Yup'ik represents the largest Alaska Native language group spoken in homes and is among the strongest because, in its Central Yup'ik form, there are 10,000 speakers in a population of 21,000. In 17 of 68 Western Alaska villages Central Yup'ik is the first language, and children as well as adults speak the language. For the other major Alaska languages Unangax, Alutiiq, Inupiaq, Tsimshian, Haida, Tlingit and the Athabascan variations (Holikachuk, Upper Kuskokwim, Koyukon, Tanana, Tanacross, Upper Tanana, Gwich'in, and Han), the languages are the first language primarily for people age 40 and older. Although most of these languages have a written form, they are not primarily written in daily use, so there may not be software or even a large number of websites in these languages. Oral tradition has kept these languages alive. Because of the endangered status of some of the less-spoken languages, we anticipate that centers with videoconferencing may become the place where language can be preserved and shared. The archival function of the videoconferencing network has the potential to serve this role, as sessions can be archived for later broadcast, a tool that previously has been inaccessible to people in the smaller villages where the languages are most actively spoken. This feature can



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be a very attractive draw for the PCCs as language preservation is a concern in all parts of the state. A recent Inupiaq version of Rosetta Stone may be purchased by libraries focusing on language revitalization. Libraries in communities where the indigenous language is spoken primarily by elders will want to hire IT support staff who have language skills to introduce computer use to the senior population.

Outreach

32. Public Computing Centers Outreach

There will be several types of outreach to educate the public and spread awareness of the project. Our outreach budget reflects the ability to leverage a word-of-mouth approach as well as local community resources. Outreach strategies will differ for small and large communities.

A key component will be reaching state agencies, non-profits, and additional partners. Outreach to all 3 groups has already begun, and we've already secured several partners that will use the conferencing network in our libraries. The Alaska State Library has held 4 sessions with organizations to publicize the benefits of increased Internet access and video conferencing capabilities. ASL, when funded, will continue to hold outreach sessions and will also use emails to various organizations and state mailing lists. The Foraker Group, an organization that provides many types of assistance to Alaska non-profits, will offer a session on how to use video conferencing services. As organizations and agencies learn about the project and its value, they will increase outreach to the local communities they serve. An itinerant trainer who visits villages to train Alaska Native craftspeople how to market their products online has already volunteered to use and publicize the network.

Libraries will focus on local outreach. Many libraries are located in small communities with populations of less than 1,000 people. Small communities can rely heavily on posters at the library, school, store, post office, washateria, or anywhere local people congregate. In the smallest villages (under 500), word of mouth is an effective way to spread information quickly. If a poster is placed in a central location in a small village, the entire community will know about the new library equipment and services within a day. Printing bookmarks and mailing postcards to residents advertising the new services are well-tested PR techniques. Schools will publicize homework help and online classes through the public library to their students. Finally, the



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libraries will hold community meetings and training sessions for the local community to learn to use the new resources and equipment. ASL will develop a coordinated outreach campaign that each local library can customize, a model that has worked for our statewide summer reading program. ASL will provide guidance to local libraries on outreach, and each library will be responsible for outreach in its community since local librarians understand best what works well in their communities.

Anchorage, Fairbanks, and Juneau will employ additional strategies including relying on ads and increased outreach through local organizations. State agencies and non-profits will assist in outreach to the populations they serve through the network. The larger cities will use an online and print approach with ads in newspapers, radio, TV, and online.

33. How many total users do you expect to generate through the use of BTOP funds at your public computer center(s)?

> 11984

Training and Education

34. Peripherals and equipment

The following peripherals and equipment were used for planning and pricing purposes and are subject to substitution with comparable items.

Each desktop will include:

Intel® Core™ 2 Duo T8100 (2.1GHz/800Mhz FSB/3MB cache)

Genuine Windows® 7 Home Premium, 64bit, English

320GB1 SATA Hard Drive (5400RPM)

21.5" Dell ST2210 Full HD Monitor with DVI cable

Headphones

Microphones

Speakers

Furniture (desk and chair)

Each laptop will include:



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Intel® Core™ 2 Duo T6600 (2.20GHz/800Mhz FSB/2MB cache)
Genuine Windows® 7 Home Premium, 64bit, English
Speed: 500GB2 SATA Hard Drive (7200RPM) with Free Fall Sensor
4GB Shared Dual Channel DDR2 at 800MHz

Half of all workstations (desktops and laptops) will include:
Privacy Screen

Each library will receive:

Printer (Lexmark C543dn Laser Color Printer)

Monitor upgrades for some existing computers (Dell Professional P2310H 23-inch Widescreen Flat)

Routers

Flat screen monitor for video conferencing

Either HD room video conferencing equipment or high-end webcam

35. Workstation software

- Each new workstation (desktop and laptop) will receive Genuine Windows® 7 Home Premium, 64bit, English software. In addition, one workstation per library will receive disability software which includes NeoSpeech and ZoomText (Magnify).

36. Training and education programs

The primary purpose of this project is to unlock and enable a large number of distance education and training initiatives that have been severely limited to the public due to poor bandwidth. This project will involve several types of training and education. Some will be formal instruction, and others will be self-directed by public library users. The key training categories are: 1) training of hired IT assistants for each library, 2) training that IT assistants will give to patrons and staff in their libraries, 3) training that ASL will deliver to these public libraries and allied community institutions, 4) training and education that will be accessible to public library users in all corners of Alaska over the network, and 5) training from partner organizations to rural staff and residents. See trainer qualifications and partner letters in the uploads section.

We have learned from past experience with equipment deployment that it is not enough to place equipment in locations where it is needed. Effective use of technology comes from training



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personnel how to understand, use, and troubleshoot new equipment. Because IT support and training is in short supply, particularly in remote areas, our proposal includes a significant request for staff and training. We will hire and train (face-to-face in Anchorage or in regional hubs) an individual in every bandwidth-supported site to assist in usage and maintenance of the new technology. The face-to-face training will be ongoing during the project to reflect the staged implementation and staff turnover. Follow-up training as the bandwidth and equipment are deployed will use the network to offer online refreshers or updates. Once trained, the IT assistants will offer local community members basic PC, Internet, and video conferencing instruction as well as one-on-one training with library staff. For example they may train elders to communicate with distant grandchildren via email, or other library staff members to perform routine maintenance on library computers and equipment. A master trainer with experience training in rural Alaska as well as proven success in training people with limited tech vocabularies will offer the face-to-face training. For the follow-up monthly online sessions, we will contract AVTEC, a Department of Labor vocational school that offers certification-level online training. Our sessions will not be at the certification level, but will prepare the project hires for this type of training and, even with basic skills, make them employable in villages where IT support is in short supply.

ASL will use the network to train librarians in remote communities to manage their libraries and technology. At great expense in travel costs, the ASL Library Development currently offers 5 different face-to-face training programs for librarians and paraprofessionals who run many public libraries, but we cannot offer online follow-up or continuing education because of the bandwidth barriers for most libraries. ASL will utilize the higher connectivity, not only to train the project IT staff described above, but also the existing community library staff. ASL Information Services has the mission of training government employees in the use of library and digital resources. Many remote state and local government employees cannot participate.

Finally the library computing centers will allow Alaskans of all ages to pursue individual educational goals. For the first time some rural K-12 students will be able to access online digital resources available statewide through SLED (<http://sled.alaska.edu>) including Live Homework Help. Live Homework Help is a licensed seven-day per week online chat that links elementary, secondary, early college, and adult basic education students with a live trained tutor. It currently isn't accessible through most schools or to those with older computers or limited bandwidth. SLED also contains the primary source video and audio segments of the Alaska Digital Archives. The Department of Education is working to establish a Virtual School. Adequate



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bandwidth and conferencing capabilities will allow more remote instruction. GED students will be able to pursue their high school diplomas online.

The need for improved Internet connectivity in our adult population varies, as will the type of training that they pursue at our library computing centers. Some users will be degree-seeking adults from the University of Alaska and other institutions of higher learning. Our libraries report that adult students are among the most vocal in expressing frustration at the bandwidth limitations. In fact, a new librarian in Haines, who was hired with the stipulation that she complete her master's degree, finds that she does not now have access to adequate bandwidth to participate in her online classes from San Jose State University. Bandwidth limits mean that the Barrow librarian at the tribal college/public library cannot teach classes to students in his North Slope branch libraries. Librarians indicate that their users wish to engage in independent online training and education at the library in everything from GED completion, food preparation certificates, real estate licenses examinations, job applications, to other job-related certifications. This self-directed education and training will be a very important component of our PCCs in addition to the formal instruction at the libraries.

One example of partner training is the Department of Health and Social Services need to offer train its remote fee-agents through the network. Another example is the Department of Public Safety's need to train firefighters in remote villages through video conferencing. See partner letters for more examples.

37. If you are providing educational or training programs, how many people in total will these programs reach on an annual basis?

➤ 7175

38. How many hours of training will be provided to each participant?

➤ 4

39. How many Full Time Employee (FTE) instructors or facilitators will you employ for these courses?

➤ 9



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F. Project Budget

| 40. Project Budget | |
|------------------------------|-------------|
| Federal Grant Request | \$5,351,378 |
| Total Match Amount | \$2,882,261 |
| Total Budget | \$8,233,639 |
| Match Percent | 35.0% |

41. Projects Outside Recommended Funding Range:

>

42. Sustainability:

The following budget costs will need to be sustained after BTOP funding is expended. The sustainability strategy is as follows:

1. Sustainable Broadband: Recurring bandwidth costs in years 1-3 are expected to be \$1,549,554 per year. In year 4, BTOP support for bandwidth will end. ASL will rely on E-Rate funding and non-discounted library E-rate payments, which are expected to increase by at least 5% annually. Broadband funding will be sustained through anticipated greater terrestrial bandwidth availability and through other sources of funding.

By year 4, a number of infrastructure projects in Alaska should drive down costs of bandwidth by an estimated 25%. These projects include:

- Rivada Sea Lion: \$25M in Round 1 ARRA funding to provide WiMAX services in southwest Alaska (9 villages with libraries)
- United Utilities, Inc. (UUI): \$88M in Round 1 BTOP/BIP funding to connect fiber to its microwave loop in southwest Alaska (16 villages with libraries)
- Hughes Network Systems: Plans to launch next generation “Jupiter” satellite in Q4,2011 serving significant areas of Alaska at a significant increase in bandwidth at a lower price
- RUS Satellite Funding: Loans and grants will be awarded to satellite service providers for service to rural areas. As a separate service area, Alaska will receive a portion of the \$100M allocation to be awarded.



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Other Round 2 proposals, if funded, may push competition up and rates down.

- United Utilities, Inc. (UUI): Confirmed Extension of microwave to north Alaska (12 villages with libraries)
- Council Tree/AtContact: Collaboration with Native Alaskan Corporations for low-cost operation of satellite bandwidth services.

The use of video conferencing services by participating libraries will also significantly decrease operating costs for government and nonprofit agencies, and these agencies will help fund broadband costs together with state and local grants.

2. Video conferencing

Maintenance of video conferencing equipment and the Anchorage center (combined \$29,742 per year) can be sustained after year 3 through the ASL operational budget or ALN membership fees.

3. Library IT technicians

Library IT technicians for 65 bandwidth participating libraries after year 3 (\$400/month/library– 5 hrs/week for \$20/hr) will be sustained through local funds and community support.

4. Project Administration

Of the original project management staff of 4, only the network manager will be required after year 3 at an annual cost of \$120,000 in salary and benefits and will be funded through state grants.

| 43. Matching Funds | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Applicant is providing matching funds of at least 20% towards the total eligible project costs? | Yes |
| Describe the matching contributions | The total match for the project is \$2.88M, which is 35% of the total budget. The cash match accounts for \$2.27M (28% of the total project budget) and in-kind match accounts for \$612K (7% of the total project budget). The Alaska State Library has secured cash match |



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| | <p>commitments from 2 key partners and is also contributing its own cash match of \$250,000 to the project. In addition, ASL will contribute in-kind match in the form of personnel.</p> <p>The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) has committed to \$1,769,155 (21%) in cash. \$119,155 (1%) of the BMGF cash was to hire consulting staff for application preparation and support. \$150,000 (2%) of the cash has been restricted to E-Rate training and support. \$75,000 will be given each year for two years in 2011 and 2012. The remaining \$1,500,000 (18%) of the cash from BMGF is unrestricted to the project and will be used to fund project-related costs. \$750,000 will be given in each of the first two years of the project. There are no financing terms and conditions associated with this grant match.</p> <p>The Rasmuson Foundation, an Alaska philanthropic organization, has committed to \$250,000 (3%) in cash, which is unrestricted to the project. The funds will be used for project-related costs. The funds from the Rasmuson Foundation are grant match with no financing terms and conditions.</p> <p>In addition, the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development (EED), of which the Alaska State Library is part, is contributing \$250,000 (3%) spread over two years. The funds will be used for project-related costs. The funds from the EED are grant match with no financing terms and conditions. \$125,000 will be provided each year in 2011 and 2012.</p> <p>In-kind match from the Alaska State Library staff consists of \$57,695 (1%) for application preparation and \$555,411 (7%) for the 3-year duration of the BTOP project. ASL staff will help manage and administer the project and will continue to be paid through EED funds. In-kind match was calculated using the current salaries and benefits for ASL staff and the percent of time spent on the project. Linda Thibodeau, Sue Sherif, Glenn Cook, Rich Greenfield, Valerie Oliver,</p> |
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| | <p>and Patience Frederiksen all spent significant amount of time during the application process and are expecting to continue to do so during the due diligence phase. These staff members and Daniel Cornwall will comprise the senior management team that will spend significant time on the project during the 3-year BTOP program.</p> |
| Unjust enrichment | <p>This project is not applying for any Federal support for non-recurring costs. All non-recurring costs will be funded by BTOP and matching funds.</p> |
| Disclosure of federal and/or state funding sources | <p>The Alaska State Library and its parent organization, the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development, are units of the State of Alaska and receive operational funds from the state that are documented in the budgets outlined elsewhere.</p> <p>The \$250,000 contribution to the project match will come from an annual \$ 891,400 allocation from the Alaska State Legislature for public library assistance and interlibrary cooperation grants.</p> <p>The Alaska State Library receives an annual allocation of Library Services and Technology Act funds from the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services (P.L. 111-117). In FY2011, the ASL will have \$984,174, which is distributed to Alaska libraries of all types as sub-grants. Individual libraries may and do request funds for computer equipment from this fund which might relate to this project, but any grants under this program will not duplicate or match funds in this proposal.</p> <p>The Alaska State Library has one pending federal grant proposal to the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) for the amount of \$185,427 for an Alaska Native Libraries, Archives, and Museums Summit, but it would not directly relate to this project. Another proposal to the IMLS in the Connecting to Collections program is also not germane to this project.</p> <p>The Alaska State Library does not receive Universal Service funding. The participating public libraries received a total commitment of</p> |



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| | \$132,688.41 from the Universal Service Fund E-Rate program in Funding Year 2009. |
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| 44. Budget Narrative | |
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| Budget narrative | <p>Our budget is \$8,233,639 for 104 PCCs. 65 bandwidth participants get satellite dish equipment, broadband and IT technicians. All libraries will receive PC and video conferencing equipment. 39 libraries are not bandwidth participants in the satellite network, but will receive new PCs and video conferencing equipment. 16 have sufficient bandwidth for video conferencing while 23 currently have low internet speeds but have other bandwidth funding options via schools or municipalities. None of the 104 libraries have video conferencing today.</p> <p>1. Personnel: Total=\$1,808,304 The project will be managed for 3 years by a network manager (\$93,000/yr), admin. assistant (\$69,750/yr), fiscal agent (\$27,900/yr) and compliance officer (\$58,125/yr). 65 bandwidth technicians for IT support & training users starting in their year of bandwidth participation for 5 hrs/wk at \$20/hr. In-kind match includes time for 7 ASL personnel for application preparation, due diligence, and project administration in yrs 1-3.</p> <p>2. Fringe Benefits: Total=\$542,602 Benefits for library technicians, project management staff at 29.03% of salaries. For the match by current ASL staff, benefits estimated by current compensation.</p> <p>3. Travel: Total=\$74,999 Annual travel budget of \$3,333 for project management staff for 3 yrs= \$9,999. One time travel costs of \$1,000 for training per IT technician for 65 libraries = \$65,000.</p> <p>4. Equipment: Total=\$2,925,726 For all libraries, equipment: PCs, peripherals & disability software dispersed from Q2Y1 to Q1Y2 – wireless router, printer, flat screen TV, disability software package & video conferencing equipment per library, 123 desktops with headphones, microphones, speakers & furniture, 204 laptops, 180 privacy screens, 204 monitors. 65 participants receive new satellite</p> |



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| | <p>dishes in yrs 1-3. See detailed budget for cost of each item. Cost for the video conferencing center in Anchorage will be \$155,338.</p> <p>5. Supplies: Total=\$60,000 Office furnishings and setup for project management staff = \$30,000 Wiring & furniture for Anchorage hub = \$30,000.</p> <p>6. Contractual: \$0</p> <p>7. Construction: \$0</p> <p>8. Other: Total=\$2,547,839 65 WAN participants will require BTOP funding after out of pocket expenses & E-rate payments to pay for satellite broadband for 3 yrs = \$2,036,184. Bandwidth cost per yr estimated at \$1,549,554 (\$1,957/month/library). Each library will also have one time library IT technician training costs of \$500 = \$32,000. Program outreach costs for 3 yrs at \$20,000/yr = \$60,000. Professional costs in preparing the BTOP application & RFP development support are \$119,155 & \$150,000 respectively. E-rate training costs to hire specialists to teach library staff to apply for E-rate subsidies at \$75,000 per yr for yrs 1&2 = \$150,000.</p> <p>9. Indirect Charges: Total=\$274,169 EED rate of 5.4% of the grant (USDOE determination)</p> |
| <p>Budget reasonableness</p> | <p>Our budget of \$8.2M is reasonable considering the extraordinarily high cost of bandwidth and travel in Alaska. Considerable savings to government and nonprofits will be significant by using conferencing to deliver services in place of costly flights and travel time.</p> <p>To determine the most cost-effective solution overall, ASL conducted extensive research and discussions with 9 Alaska satellite providers; obtained cost estimates from a major video conferencing vendor; and searched industry and vendor websites as sources for equipment,</p> |



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| | <p>product configurations and pricing.</p> <p>For individual budget categories:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Personnel: Salaries of project management staff are in line with those for comparable positions. Library IT technician salaries estimated in consultation with AVTEC. In-kind match for ASL personnel based on actual time utilization & current compensation. 2. Fringe Benefits: Same as personnel 3. Travel: Travel costs for library IT technician training and project management staff travel costs estimated from ASL experience. 4. Equipment: Quantity of PC & accessory equipment estimated by library needs. Quantity and costs for satellite dish equipment & installation based on vendor pricing estimates which are higher than comparable costs in the Lower 48 due to higher transportation costs. Video conferencing costs based on vendor price estimates. Due to the high costs of video room equipment & space required, only 40 largest libraries will receive video room hardware; 64 smaller libraries get desktop webcams. Costs for Anchorage based equipment from vendor pricing. 5. Supplies: Furnishing of Anchorage center of project management staff offices based on ASL estimates. 6. Contractual: No costs 7. Construction: No costs 8. Other: Bandwidth costs estimated based on extensive discussions with Alaska satellite broadband providers. 65 participating libraries will get bandwidth from a single provider. Other considerations used |
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| | <p>to determine the most cost-effective solution were that: a) increasing speeds on existing library links would not guarantee bandwidth delivery for video conferencing due to high oversubscription rates, b) upgrading libraries to dedicated bandwidth at monthly T1 costs of up to \$15,000 is not feasible for libraries with annual operating budgets of less than \$13,000, and c) purchasing a full satellite transponder would cause ASL to become a service provider, which is prohibited as an E-Rate applicant. Program outreach costs are based on costs of previous ASL outreach initiatives. Project E-rate training is crucial to continued leveraging of E-Rate.</p> <p>9. Indirect Costs: Based on a rate negotiated by EED. Will apply to all BTOP funds.</p> |
| <p>Demonstration of need</p> | <p>Without a BTOP grant, the Alaska State Library will be unable to implement this project. The project requires \$8.2M for three years. Without these funds, libraries will not be able to consolidate services, increase bandwidth, and create a library network that includes video conferencing equipment.</p> <p>The State of Alaska has cut the ASL commodities budget. The Governor's budget officer indicates that the state does not have the money necessary to fund this project. (See uploaded letter in supplemental information). ASL's entire budget for 2010 is \$5.8M so an \$8.2M project is beyond its means.</p> <p>In addition, local libraries have very limited budgets. 25 libraries have budgets of less than \$15,000 per year and half have budgets of less than \$25,000 per year. Libraries spend on average \$113 per monthly on broadband costs. This grant is needed to purchase new equipment including satellite dishes, averaging \$22K per dish, and video conferencing equipment, averaging \$6K per library. Local libraries also need assistance in the first 3 years to fund the additional bandwidth increase. E-Rate alone cannot bridge the gap in terms of current and new Internet monthly recurring charges. Local libraries</p> |



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cannot afford these costs without BTOP funding.

ASL applied for funding from the National Leadership Grant Program (NLGP) through the Institute of Museum and Library Services in 2009. The project was denied because it did not fit the criteria for the program. Funding was not denied due to project viability. The reviewers felt that the project had merit as a program needed for Alaska, but suggested that ASL look for funding elsewhere in its rejection letter. Multiple reviewers suggested applying for BTOP stimulus funds for this project. (See uploaded letter in supplemental information).

No grants or funds other than BTOP currently exist that would be able to provide funds to launch an \$8.2M project to improve bandwidth and create a video conferencing network for public libraries in the State of Alaska. It is clear that local libraries and ASL cannot fund this project without assistance. ASL has searched extensively for funding options and BTOP is the only available source that could fund this project. Public libraries need a one-time grant of \$5.4M to fund the new equipment necessary for service provider consolidation, a new video conferencing system available to the public, and training, outreach, and management to use these new services.

45. Funds to States/Territories

| States | Amount of Federal Grant Request |
|--------|---------------------------------|
| Alaska | 5,351,378 |

Funds to States/Territories Total: \$5,351,378

G. Historical Financials



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| 46. Matching Funds | | | |
|---------------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 |
| Revenue | 5,191,700 | 5,430,200 | 5,278,900 |
| Expenditures | 5,191,700 | 5,430,200 | 5,278,900 |
| Net Assets | 70,000,000 | 70,000,000 | 70,000,000 |
| Change in Net Assets from Prior Year | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Bond Rating (if applicable) | | | |

H. Public Computer Center Summary

| 47. Jobs | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| How many direct jobs-years will be created from this project? | 38 |
| How many indirect jobs will be created from this project? | 19 |
| How many jobs will be induced from this project? | 32 |

48. Methodology used to estimate jobs:

In estimating jobs for this project, we have adopted the approach recommended by the Council of Economic Advisor’s guide to job creation estimates.

1. Take total project spend (\$8,233,639) and divide by \$92,000 to estimate “Total Job Years”: 89.50
 2. Multiply total job years (89.50) by 36% to estimate “Induced Job Years”: 32.22
 3. The remainder is the “sum of Direct Job Years & Indirect Job Years”: 57.28
- At this point, we have elected to report the actual job years which will be created in this project, rather than identifying spending on what might be termed “Direct Jobs”, and then dividing by \$92,000. We believe this approach better reflects the manner in which this project will create jobs, and aligns with other reporting on job creation.



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To calculate Direct Job Years, we simply multiply the following factors for each paid staff category, and sum the total:

1. Number of Employees and Contractors
2. Length of tenure
3. % FTE

This gives a final value of 38.33 Direct Job Years.
Subtracting the “Direct Job Years” (38.33) from the “sum of Direct Job Years and Indirect Job Years” (57.28), gives us “Indirect Job Years” = 18.95.

Hence, and in summary, we estimate the following Job Years:

- Total Job Years: 89.50
- Direct Job Years: 38.33
- Indirect Job Years: 18.95
- Induced Job Years: 32.22

| 49. Proposed # of Public Computer Centers | |
|--------------------------------------------------|-----|
| Schools (k-12) | 0 |
| Libraries | 100 |
| Medical and Healthcare Providers | 0 |
| Public Safety Entities | 0 |
| Community Colleges | 4 |
| Public Housing | 0 |
| Other Institutions of Higher Education | 0 |
| Other Community Support Organization | 0 |
| Other Government Facilities | 0 |



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Total Proposed Public Computer Centers 104
Current Total Persons in Service Area 685636

| 50. Minority Serving Institutions | |
|-----------------------------------------------------|---|
| Historically Black Colleges and Universities | 0 |
| Tribal Colleges and Universities | 0 |
| Alaska Native Serving Institutions | 1 |
| Hispanic Serving Institutions | 0 |
| Native Hawaiian Serving Institutions | 0 |
| TOTAL MINORITY SERVING INSTITUTIONS | 1 |

| 51. Weekly Usage Summary | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| Total Current # of Persons Served per 120-hour Business Week | 15707 |
| Total Proposed # of Persons Served per 120-hour Business Week | 25952 |
| Total Current # of Persons Served per 48-hour Weekend | 3574 |
| Total Proposed # of Persons Served per 48-hour Weekend | 5313 |



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| 52. Broadband Workstation Summary | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Number of Current Workstations proposed to be upgraded | 0 |
| Total Current # of Broadband Workstations | 640 |
| Total Proposed # of Broadband Workstations | 967 |
| Average Current Facility Broadband Connection Speed | 0.80 Mbps |
| Average Proposed Facility Broadband Connection Speed | 1.40 Mbps |

I. Project Readiness

53. Licenses and Regulatory Approvals

There are no local, state, or federal licenses required to complete the project.

54. Organizational Readiness

The Alaska State Library has demonstrated over the years the ability to implement, operate, and sustain projects using federal and other grant funds. We have an annual Library Services and Technology Act Grant from the Institute for Museum and Library Services, which has averaged approximately \$900,000 per year over the past five years. Following federal guidelines and our own five-year plans, we have managed this program for assistance to Alaska libraries in a responsible manner. This has included professional development training programs for library staff and re-grants for improvement of library programs in communities and also statewide. We have administered an annual state grant program of approximately \$800,000 for public libraries and interlibrary cooperation projects for over two decades.

We have administered three rounds of Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation grants: an initial 2003-2004 public access computing grant of approximately \$750,000, the Rural Libraries Grant in 2005-2006 for the amount of \$33,650 and the Alaska Staying Connected Grant in 2004-2008



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for \$219,040. In previous decades the State Library also was responsible for administration of the federal allocation for library construction funds for the State of Alaska.

In addition, our Division has successfully implemented over the past several years a grant-in-aid program through the Alaska State Museums program of over \$100,000 annually, and a Connecting-to-Collections Grant program known in Alaska as ARC (Archives Rescue Corp) of \$40,000. A part of our Division, the State Archives, is providing archival training and educational programs through on-going SNAP Grants from NHPRC. The current grant is for \$65,000 over 18 months. In the past we have worked with consortium grant programs for the implementation of the Alaska Digital Archive for digital photographs and the Alaska Newspaper Project to microfilm newspapers from around the state. The Alaska State Library has a professional, dedicated staff, which continues to make these grant programs successful throughout the State of Alaska. The Alaska State Librarian (Director of the Division of Libraries, Archives, and Museums) is responsible for oversight of all these programs.

As demonstrated from the résumés and letters of support, we have a broad network of individual groups that will make this grant plan a reality both through implementation and programming once the network is established. Because of our geography and the high cost of in-state travel, the State of Alaska has unique needs to provide educational programs through use of broadband technology. Therefore, we feel that these experiences and the staff described in the attachments demonstrate our ability to implement, operate and sustain this BTOP Grant request.

55. Project Timeline and Challenges

First we must establish the administrative team and begin the careful process of selecting a service provider. Then we must transition libraries to a consolidated E-Rate application and distribute equipment to participating libraries as soon as possible. We will establish bandwidth and video conferencing services starting in Yr1,Q4.

A key challenge to the project timeline is the service provider selection process. We must execute carefully in order to remain in compliance with E-Rate mandates. A risk is that the vendor selection process is delayed and the start of service would also be delayed. However, this risk is mitigated since we have been working with vendors and service providers for months seeking advice and understanding costs. Our vendor requirements are known, and the technical



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solution exists in the market and can be readily deployed. Further, we plan to delay our E-Rate application until the 2012 cycle to allow sufficient time to execute a successful RFP.

Another key challenge will be in consolidating participant libraries into a single E-Rate application and managing their transition to our network. Combined public/school/municipal libraries must separate their Internet budgets in order to contribute funds to this network under E-Rate. To mitigate this risk, we plan to provide E-Rate assistance to aid libraries in separating their budgets and preparing the application. Further, we assume that libraries will join in 3 distinct groups over 3 years, leaving the more complicated cases with more time

Yr1 Q1 - Develop RFI/RFP according to E-Rate procurement rules. Competitively bid service contract and select provider. Hire administrative staff and create office space. Hire and train 27 local IT support staff. Begin E-Rate training and support

Yr1 Q2 - Begin purchase and ship of workstations, hardware, and software. Complete vendor selection and sign contract. Begin installation of satellite dishes to 1st group of libraries. Begin installation of video conferencing equipment to libraries and hub

Yr1 Q3 - Complete installation of satellite dishes to 1st group of libraries. Complete installation of video conferencing equipment. Begin program outreach and project publicity

Yr1 Q4 - Begin new Internet and video conferencing services to initial 27 libraries

Yr2 Q1 - Complete installation of all library hardware and software. Begin installation of 2nd group of satellite dishes to 30 libraries. Hire and train 30 new local IT support staff

Yr2 Q2 - Complete installation of satellite dishes to 2nd group of libraries. File consortium E-Rate application for the FY2012 E-Rate period

Yr2 Q4 - Complete E-Rate training and additional support. Begin receiving E-Rate subsidies for bandwidth

Yr3 Q1 - Begin installation of 3rd group of satellite dishes to 8 additional libraries. Hire and train 8 new local IT support staff

Yr3 Q2 - Complete installation of all satellite dishes. File consortium E-Rate application for the FY2013 E-Rate period

56. SPIN Number



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J. Environmental Questionnaire

57. Does this PCC application have construction or ground disturbing activities?

No

If no, please answer the questions below. If yes, please do not answer the questions below and instead proceed to the next page to answer the expanded environmental questionnaire.

58. Does the proposed action involve the procurement of materials? If so, will the materials be installed, stored or operated in an existing building or structure? If yes, please click "Add" to include the list of equipment and peripherals to be procured.

Yes

Desktops, laptops, desks, chairs, routers, flat screen monitors, and routers will be in existing library buildings. Satellite dishes will be installed on the roof of existing buildings.

59. Does the proposed action involve procurement of electronic equipment? If yes, will the equipment be disposed of in an environmentally sound manner at the end of its useful life?

Yes

60. Does the proposed action involve construction, remodeling, or renovation? If so, will these activities be limited to only minor interior renovations to a structure, facility, or installation? If yes, click "Add" to include a description of the proposed renovations with your project summary.

No

61. Does the proposed action involve the production and/or distribution of informational materials, brochures, or newsletter?

Yes



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62. Does the proposed action involve training, teaching, or meeting facilitation at an existing facility or structure? If yes, click "Add" to explain.

Yes

Training and meeting will be at existing public library facilities and at the Alaska State Library office in Anchorage.

63. Does the proposed action involve ground or surface disturbance to accommodate new fiber optic cable? If yes, please click "Add" to include a description of the extent of service upgrade, a list of the permits required, and linear footage of underground fiber optic cabling required.

No

64. Does the proposed action involve an upgrade of broadband service to an existing facility or structure? If yes, please include a description of the extent of service upgrade, a list of the permits required, and linear footage of underground fiber optic cabling required?

Yes

We plan to upgrade bandwidth via satellite service. Unlike cable and fiber, there will be no ground disturbing activities required for the upgrade. New satellite dishes will be installed, primarily on rooftops of existing buildings. No licenses are required for the satellite dishes.

K. Environmental Questionnaire – Part 2

65. Project Description

66. Property Changes

67. Buildings



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68. Wetlands

69. Critical Habitats

70. Floodplain

71. Protected Land

72. Coastal Area

73. Brownfield



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Uploads

The following pages contain the following uploads provided by the applicant:

| Upload Name | File Name | Uploaded By | Uploaded Date |
|------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|------------------|---------------|
| Management Team Resumes and Organization Chart | Management Team Resumes and Organization Chart upload.pdf | Thibodeau, Linda | 03/14/2010 |
| Government and Key Partnerships | Government and Key Partnerships upload.pdf | Thibodeau, Linda | 03/14/2010 |
| Historical Financial Statements | Historical Financials upload.pdf | Thibodeau, Linda | 03/14/2010 |
| Public Center Detail | PCC Details Attachment.xls | Thibodeau, Linda | 03/14/2010 |
| Detailed Budget | Detailed Budget Attachment.xls | Thibodeau, Linda | 03/14/2010 |
| BTOP Certifications | BTOP Certification.pdf | Thibodeau, Linda | 03/14/2010 |
| SF424 Budget (A or C) | Form SF424A Attachment.pdf | Thibodeau, Linda | 03/14/2010 |
| SF424 B and D Assurances | Form SF424B.pdf | Thibodeau, Linda | 03/14/2010 |



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| Supplemental Information | Supplemental Information Upload.pdf | Thibodeau, Linda | 03/14/2010 |
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