Organization:	OSHEAN Inc.
Project Name:	Beacon 2.0 Library Computer Center
Project Type:	Public Computer Center
State(s):	Rhode Island
Federal Award:	$1,245,500

ABOUT THE PROJECT

The Beacon 2.0 Library Computer Center project proposes to expand computer capacity at all 71 Rhode Island public libraries across the state and create 10 mobile computer centers. These mobile computer centers will allow OSHEAN Inc. to bring computer training and access into underserved and geographically dispersed communities with high rates of unemployment. OSHEAN Inc. intends to replace 327 existing computers and add more than 400 new workstations in libraries, with a goal of serving more than 6,900 additional users per week.

The Beacon 2.0 Library Computer Center project proposes to:

- Expand statewide computer training programs with streaming video to other libraries and offer technology classes taught in multiple languages, including Spanish.

- Provide targeted training and computer access opportunities for children, underprivileged high-school students, adults, and limited English-speaking populations.

- Expand access to educational programs offered by the University of Rhode Island, the Pell Marine Science Library, and community colleges.

ORGANIZATION'S HISTORY

OSHEAN Inc. is composed of 28 not-for-profit member organizations, representing some of Rhode Island's most prestigious institutions, including 18 colleges and universities, six hospitals and health maintenance organizations, and three state government agencies. OSHEAN has a successful track record of implementing technology projects, especially operating computer centers. Additionally, OSHEAN plans to contract with DeValerio Consulting LLC, a small, woman-owned, socially and economically disadvantaged business, to provide project management services. One of OSHEAN's partners, Ocean State Libraries— a consortium of public libraries in Rhode Island— will organize, purchase, and handle the delivery and installation of hardware and software at all the libraries involved in the project.

PROJECT PARTNERS
- The Champlin Foundations
- Ocean State Libraries