

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF TECHNOLOGY OFFICER



May 3, 2010

Ian Martinez  
Senior Advisor and Director of Outreach  
Broadband Technology Opportunities Program  
National Telecommunications and Information Administration  
Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Ave., NW  
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Mr. Martinez,

In accordance with the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) state consultation process, the District of Columbia's Office of the Chief Technology Officer (OCTO), on behalf of the District of Columbia Government, provides the following evaluation of applications for Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) Round Two funding. OCTO has reviewed all applications that propose to provide service within the District of Columbia. OCTO's comments herein are designed to highlight those applications that OCTO can determine from available information are most likely to successfully address the particular needs of District residents. Those needs are described in detail in the District's own Round Two BTOP applications, including one in each of the three BTOP categories: comprehensive community infrastructure (CCI), public computing centers (PCC), and sustainable broadband adoption (SBA).

The District Government, in its BTOP applications and other initiatives, is striving to bring meaningful broadband access within reach of its neediest, most vulnerable populations. These residents live primarily in Wards 5, 7 and 8 of the city, together comprising approximately 250,000 residents. This overwhelmingly low-income population requires computer training, content, hardware, software, and affordable Internet access through which residents can obtain job training, education, and health care information. Meeting this need is most efficiently and affordably accomplished in partnership with the District's existing community anchor institutions, such as public libraries and schools, and by taking advantage of the District's existing network capabilities.

OCTO believes that the most technically and economically feasible approach to providing the benefits of broadband to the most residents in an affordable, sustainable way is to leverage existing District assets citywide. Specifically, in its applications, the District proposes use of existing government-owned fiber infrastructure, buildings, staff and contract vehicles to serve the needs of District residents.

It is unclear why many Round Two BTOP applications are listed as proposing service within the District. For many others, the summaries provided for review offered insufficient information upon

which to base an evaluation. For the remaining applications that were supported by sufficient information, OCTO offers the following comments.

OCTO is pleased that some of the applications that propose to provide service within the District appear to focus on enabling affordable Internet access, computer literacy training, and access to public computer resources. These applications address critical needs in the District. Few applications, however, appear to be grounded in a solid sustainability strategy, which is critical to project success.

Of those applications for which OCTO felt it had sufficient information to support an evaluation, five seemed best tailored and likely to succeed in meeting the needs of District residents:

*Sustainable Broadband Adoption*

- DC Broadband Education, Training and Awareness (DC-BETA)
- District of Columbia Primary Care Association
- District of Columbia Housing Authority

*Public Computing Centers*

- DC Community Computing Resources (DC-CCR)

*Comprehensive Community Infrastructure*

- DC Community Access Network (DC-CAN)

Thank you for the opportunity to review and provide comments on the BTOP applications proposing to provide services in the District of Columbia.

Sincerely,



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