BROADBANDUSA
CONNECTING AMERICA'S COMMUNITIES

Organization:	**Oklahoma Department of Libraries**
Project Name:	**Get Connected @ Oklahoma Libraries**
Project Type:	**Public Computer Center**
State:	**Oklahoma**
Federal Award:	**$ 2,333,250**

ABOUT THE PROJECT

Given the sparse, remote nature of many of Oklahoma's rural counties, high-bandwidth applications like videoconferencing are an essential component to developing the state's economy, enhancing public safety efforts, and improving educational opportunities in tribal and economically distressed areas. The **Oklahoma Department of Libraries** proposes to upgrade public computer centers at 45 libraries in 44 counties across the state, establish 36 library-based videoconferencing systems, deploy 339 new workstations, and upgrade broadband connections for 42 sites. Participating libraries were selected based on local poverty levels, broadband penetration in their service areas, and cost-effectiveness, among other factors.

The Get Connected @ Oklahoma Libraries project also proposes to:

- Serve as many as 8,500 additional users per week and provide training to as many as 296,000 residents, utilizing more than 1.1 million teacher hours over the life of the project.

- Utilize the new equipment and connectivity to meet local community needs, including training for library staff and employees of local businesses, fostering job search activities and communication with deployed military personnel, online hosting of authors to speak to children and teens, improving access to health information, assisting tax preparation, and holding citizenship classes.

- Promote broadband Internet usage in concert with the Chickasaw Nation, Choctaw Nation, Delaware Tribe of Indians, Shawnee Tribe, Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma, and the Wichita and Affiliated Tribes.

ORGANIZATION'S HISTORY

Created in 1967, the Oklahoma Department of Libraries is the official state library of Oklahoma. It serves the information and records management needs of state government, assists with public library development and coordinates library and information technology projects for the state.

PROJECT PARTNERS

- The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
- The Workforce Investment Boards of Southwest Oklahoma South Central Oklahoma
- The National Network of Libraries of Medicine
- Forty five public libraries in 44 counties across the state

Made possible by the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program

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