BROADBANDUSA
CONNECTING AMERICA'S COMMUNITIES

Organization:	**Michigan State University**
Project Name:	**Evidence Based Computer Centers II**
Project Type:	**Public Computer Center**
State:	**Michigan**
Federal Award:	**$6,056,819**

ABOUT THE PROJECT

Michigan State University plans to continue its work expanding public computer access with its Evidence Based Computer Centers II project, the second BTOP award for the University. The project proposes to partner with Lansing, Mott, and Jackson Community Colleges to upgrade and establish public computer centers, making an additional 2,200 workstations available to the public, nearly double the current number. Students from the university and community colleges who are studying system administration and network management are expected to gain hands-on experience by participating in the installation and upgrading process. The new and upgraded centers will provide online skills training and help users develop job-seeking and job-creating strategies.

The Evidence Based Computer Centers II project also proposes to:

- Upgrade approximately 170 public computer centers while creating approximately 40 new centers in the south-central Michigan region at colleges, local libraries, public housing developments, and within other community support organizations, targeting the areas with the greatest need for broadband services.

- Enable access for as many as an additional 180,000 weekly users at public centers, increasing the average speeds available at the centers by as much as 1.6 Mbps, and increasing the hours of operation by as many as 1,900 per week.

- Train as many as 13,000 residents with approximately 15,500 hours of teacher-led training focusing on IT skills, job skills, small business success, and educational skills/college preparation.

- Serve the Hannahville Community Tribe of Potawomi Indians.

- Extend the benefits of Michigan State's $895,000 BTOP Round One Public Computer Center award.

ORGANIZATION'S HISTORY

Michigan State University was founded in 1855 and has more than 47,000 undergraduate and graduate students. The University has substantial experience administering grants and managed $405 million in externally funded research projects during the 2008-2009 academic year. The University's Department of Telecommunication, Information Studies and Media has an established history of working with broadband, stimulating broadband adoption, and conducting research on telehealth and healthcare providers. The University also has established relationships with various community outreach groups, and encourages students and faculty to participate in engagement programs.

PROJECT PARTNERS

- Community Outreach Services Corporation
- Lansing Community College
- Mott Community College
- Jackson Community College