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Organization:	Monterey County Office of Education
Project Name:	Central Coast Broadband Consortium Public Computing Alliance
Project Type:	Public Computer Center
State:	California
Federal Award:	\$3,631,495

ABOUT THE PROJECT

The **Monterey County Office of Education**, along with a coalition of local community institutions in California, is proposing to establish a series of new and enhanced public computer centers across the county that will serve economically vulnerable populations, increase public computer access, and provide training in digital media production. According to Census Bureau data, only about 70 percent of adults in the Salinas River Valley region have a high school degree or its equivalent, and over half of the population of Monterey County speak a language other than English at home. These factors create a unique need for specialized economic development efforts, which can be greatly enhanced by improved access to and awareness of the benefits of broadband. To this end, the project proposes expanding the Office of Education's Career Technology Education Center in Salinas, which provides high school students with 360 hours of training to receive a certificate in digital media production skills and the opportunity to obtain vocational placement or continue their training at Hartnell College. The project would also extend training to parents and other adult learners through the Center and via the mobile digital media classroom that would travel throughout the region. Hartnell College also plans to expand its access and training programs to its Alisal and King City satellite campuses.

The Central Coast Broadband Consortium also proposes to:

- Establish three new public computer centers, upgrade approximately 25 more, and deploy approximately 200 new computer workstations while upgrading more than 300.
- Enable access for as many as 5,000 new users each week, serving a projected 16,000 weekly users in total. Many of the upgraded centers will also offer improved broadband speeds and shorter wait periods.
- Train as many as 10,000 residents with approximately 400,000 hours of teacher-led training over the two years of the project.

ORGANIZATION'S HISTORY

Established by California's Constitution over 150 years ago, the Monterey County Office of Education provides vital resources to support the county's 24 school districts, two community colleges, and the state university system. As a county agency that is the formal liaison between California schools and the state and federal governments, the Office of Education is fully familiar with federal funding regulations and requirements.

PROJECT PARTNERS

- Hartnell College, a community college
- Monterey County Free Libraries
- The National Steinbeck Center
- Community Information Center
- California State University Monterey Bay
- Boys and Girls Clubs of Monterey County
- Access Monterey Peninsula

Data provided in the project description is based on information supplied by the applicant. An executive summary of this application can be found on www.ntia.doc.gov/broadbandusa.

For press-related inquiries, contact 202-482-7002 or press@ntia.doc.gov. For the general public, contact BTOP@ntia.doc.gov.

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