



BROADBANDUSA

CONNECTING AMERICA'S COMMUNITIES

FOR MORE INFORMATION

www.recovery.gov
www.ntia.doc.gov/broadbandusa

Organization:	Colorado Board of Education
Project Name:	Bridging Colorado's Great Digital Divide
Project Type:	Public Computer Center
State:	Colorado
Federal Award:	\$ 2,275,526

ABOUT THE PROJECT

Colorado's low-income and rural populations depend heavily on public libraries for Internet access, which is an important tool for creating economic opportunities in a state with significant high school dropout rates and low college attendance. The **Colorado Board of Education** proposes to spearhead a statewide public computer center upgrade and expansion project in 76 urban and rural communities, including 49 public libraries, school libraries, and the two Ute tribal libraries. The project proposes to add or replace more than 1,100 mobile and desktop computers and improve library services for people with disabilities. The project also proposes a statewide public awareness campaign to promote the training and assistance available, and encourage broadband adoption and public computer center use among vulnerable populations in the state. The project aims to serve a region with more than half a million Hispanic or English-as-a-Second-Language-classified residents.

The Bridging Colorado's Great Digital Divide project also proposes to:

- Establish six new public computer centers and upgrade approximately 70 more, deploy approximately 800 new computer workstations, and upgrade approximately 400 workstations.
- Enable access for as many as 21,000 new users each week, serving a projected 67,000 weekly users in total. Many of the upgraded centers will also offer improved access speeds and shorter wait periods.
- Train as many as 90,000 residents with approximately 270,000 hours of teacher-led training over the three years of the project. Training will focus on adult basic education, computer skills, and employment training.

ORGANIZATION'S HISTORY

The Colorado State Library, operating under the authority of the Colorado State Board of Education, will oversee implementation of this project. The Board of Education, founded in 1948, is charged by the Colorado Constitution with the general supervision of the public schools. The various divisions of the State Library offer free library services to people with disabilities and the economically vulnerable; provide leadership and support for public, school, and institutional libraries; and maintain the state publications collections.

PROJECT PARTNERS

- Colorado Library Research Service
- Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
- College in Colorado
- Colorado Community College System
- Rocky Mountain Disability Business & Technical Assistance Centers
- Colorado Department of Labor
- National Network of Libraries of Medicine
- The Workforce Development Council
- Colorado State Adult Education / Family Literacy and GED Programs

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.

Made possible by the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program

Funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009

