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Organization:	Kentucky Arts, Education & Humanities Cabinet
Project Name:	Kentucky Public Library PCC Workforce Opportunity Expansion
Project Type:	Public Computer Center
State:	Kentucky
Federal Award:	\$1,349,826

ABOUT THE PROJECT

Many Kentucky libraries currently lack the requisite equipment, instructional capacity, and funding to meet increasing user needs, while existing One-Stop Career Centers in the state are often overcrowded with long wait times for service. The **Kentucky Department for Libraries & Archives** plans a major upgrade of computer facilities as part of the Workforce Opportunity Expansion project that would target areas of Kentucky with especially high poverty, disability, and unemployment levels. In these communities, public libraries are for many the only source of online access to employment information, Medicare and other government services, unemployment benefits, and training opportunities.

The project plans to partner with the Kentucky Department of Education to offer GED completion courses, English as a Second Language training, family literacy, workforce education, and corrections/prison education in the enhanced computer centers. The project intends to adjust each library's curriculum to meet local needs and match the resources of the town or county it serves.

The Workforce Opportunity Expansion project also proposes to:

- Upgrade as many as 60 public libraries and workforce centers in Kentucky.
- Deploy as many as 520 new workstations and upgrade approximately 300 more, enabling access for over 2,400 additional weekly users.
- Train as many as 14,400 residents with up to 21,600 hours of teacher-led training annually over the two-year life of the project.

ORGANIZATION'S HISTORY

The Kentucky Department for Libraries & Archives, whose mission is to support and promote access to library services across the state and to ensure the documentation of government activities, has provided public access computers as a regular part of library services for a number of years. As a state entity, the department is familiar with federal funding regulations and requirements, having received Institute of Museum and Library Services and Library Services and Technology Act grants and other federal awards.

PROJECT PARTNERS

- The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
- Kentucky Department of Workforce Investment/Office of Employment and Training
- Kentucky Community and Technical College System
- Kentucky Adult Education
- Sixty separate public libraries statewide

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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