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Organization:	Mission Economic Development Agency
Project Name:	Latino Microenterprise Tech Net
Project Type:	Public Computer Center
State(s):	Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Maryland, Minnesota, Missouri, New Mexico, Pennsylvania, Texas
Federal Award:	\$3,724,128

ABOUT THE PROJECT

The Mission Economic Development Agency, in collaboration with the National Association for Latino Community Asset Builders and a national network of Latino-serving economic development organizations, plans to create 12 new public computer centers and expand five existing ones in 13 communities throughout the United States. Each center expects to operate on the project's centrally managed network and provide computer training and adult education to a low broadband adoption, high unemployment target population through a standardized English-Spanish training curriculum. The project expects to add a total of 263 new workstations and replace 37 existing workstations, enabling the centers to serve an additional 2,500 users per week and train an estimated 3,000 users per year. Broadband capabilities at each center will be increased to speeds of 1.5 Mbps. Public computer centers funded through this grant will be located in Phoenix, AZ; Canoga Park, Los Angeles, and San Francisco, CA; Del Norte, CO; Blackfoot, ID; Wheaton, MD; Minneapolis, MN; Kansas City, MO; Anthony, NM; Philadelphia, PA; and San Antonio and Laredo, TX.

The Latino Microenterprise Tech Net project also proposes to:

- Spur local economic development by providing customized technology training to help Latino entrepreneurs establish and grow their businesses.
- Focus on adult education in both Spanish and English, including bilingual information on health and wellness, and literacy development software for individuals with limited English skills.
- Connect Latinos to organizations with microenterprise and business development expertise.
- Leverage a 40% match to maximize the use of federal funds.

ORGANIZATION'S HISTORY

The Mission Economic Development Agency, established 36 years ago in San Francisco, is a not-for-profit economic development agency focused on low-income Latino communities. The agency manages grants and contracts from the City of San Francisco and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The Latino Microenterprise Tech Net project is a collaborative venture between the agency and several partners.

PROJECT PARTNERS

- Avenida Guadalupe Association
- Azteca Economic Development and Preservation Corporation
- Caminos Pathways Learning Center
- Chicanos Por La Causa
- Colorado Rural Housing Development Corporation
- Hispanic Economic Development Corporation
- Latino Economic and Development Center, Blackfoot, Idaho
- Latino Economic Development Center Minneapolis, Minnesota
- Latino Economic Development Corporation, Washington, D.C.
- National Association for Latino Community Asset Builders
- New Economics for Women
- Norris Square Civic Association

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.broadbandusa.gov.

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

