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Organization:	City of Chicago
Project Name:	SmartChicago Public Computer Centers
Project Type:	Public Computer Center
State:	Illinois
Federal Award:	\$8,974,283

ABOUT THE PROJECT

According to a 2009 study commissioned by the **City of Chicago**, as many as 40 percent of city residents lack home broadband access, making libraries and other public computer centers essential resources for employment, training, and educational opportunities. Over 60 percent of Chicago libraries now report average wait times for a computer of three hours or longer. The SmartChicago Public Computer Centers project proposes a wide-scale upgrade and expansion of workstation capacity at more than 150 locations, including city libraries, community colleges, public housing sites, workforce centers, senior centers, after-school programs, and other community locations throughout Chicago. The project will provide hundreds of thousands of hours of training, including digital literacy instruction and assistance for job seekers. The project plans a specific focus on low-income residents, at-risk youth, senior citizens, people with disabilities, and the unemployed.

SmartChicago also proposes to:

- Deploy as many as 2,500 new workstations and upgrade up to 870 more workstations in 20 new and 131 upgraded computer centers and increase public access to computer centers by up to 590 hours per week, which can accommodate an estimated 200,000 additional weekly users.
- Train as many as 20,000 residents with up to 100,000 hours of teacher-led training annually over the two-year life of the project.
- Operate a public computing center at each of the seven City Colleges of Chicago: Richard J. Daley College; Harold Washington College; Kennedy-King College; Malcolm X College; Olive Harvey College; Harry S Truman College; and Wilbur Wright College.
- Initiate computer centers at all six of the city's Community Service Centers and new libraries in Dunning, Greater Grand Crossing, Little Village, West Humboldt Park, and West Town, and will significantly increase capacity at the Harold Washington Library Center, Sulzer Regional Library, and Woodson Regional library.
- Complement the SmartChicago Sustainable Broadband Adoption project funded in Round One by bolstering computing center capacity for use by individuals and businesses reached by broadband outreach and awareness initiatives.

ORGANIZATION'S HISTORY

The City of Chicago has provided public access computers as a regular part of library and other city services for over 15 years. The City's Department of Innovation and Technology is the central organization for IT strategy, architecture, and systems for virtually all technology projects undertaken by public agencies in Chicago, and has extensive experience managing federal funds.

PROJECT PARTNERS

- City Colleges of Chicago
- Chicago Housing Authority
- TEC Services
- The Chicago Community Trust

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

