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Organization:	City of Chicago
Project Name:	SmartChicago Sustainable Broadband Adoption
Project Type:	Sustainable Broadband Adoption
State(s):	Illinois
Federal Award:	\$7,074,369

ABOUT THE PROJECT

The SmartChicago Sustainable Broadband Adoption program intends to spur economic development in five disadvantaged neighborhoods in Chicago with a comprehensive broadband awareness and adoption program that will include providing computers and training opportunities to more than 11,000 residents and 500 small businesses and not-for-profits. The project intends to create public computer centers at six community centers for working families and expand workstation capacity at four Business Resource Centers, as well as provide 1,500 residents and small businesses who complete a multi-session training course with laptops and netbooks. SmartChicago plans to conduct a citywide multilingual broadband awareness campaign that will reach an estimated 200,000 residents, including ads on radio, TV, print, and city buses; outreach by local community organizations in each neighborhood; and the creation of neighborhood-based Web portals.

The SmartChicago project also proposes to:

- Provide business technology training for more than 500 small businesses at local Business Resource Centers in neighborhoods with high unemployment and poverty rates.
- Provide on going support to participating families, including on-site technical assistance as necessary, to help facilitate long-term broadband adoption and use.
- Through its partner organizations, provide training and information on broadband subscription options, health and wellness resources, energy conservation, public safety, public transportation, and online education.

ORGANIZATION'S HISTORY

Since 2008, the Department of Innovation and Technology has served as Chicago's central information technology organization, providing a number of technology and telecommunications services to the mayor, aldermen, other city agencies, residents, businesses, and tourists. The City also has extensive experience managing public computer centers and training programs in its libraries, schools, and community centers.

PROJECT PARTNERS

- Chicago Police
- Chicago Public Libraries
- Chicago Public Schools
- Chicago Transit Authority
- Commonwealth Edison
- Department of Community Development
- Department of Family and Support Services
- Local Initiatives Support Corporation/Chicago
- MacArthur Foundation
- University of Chicago Medical Center

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.

