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Organization:	Boat People SOS, Inc.
Project Name:	Neighborhood Empowerment and Support through Teamwork Community Technology Center – Bayou La Batre
Project Type:	Public Computer Center
State:	Alabama
Federal Award:	\$461,539

ABOUT THE PROJECT

Boat People SOS's Neighborhood Empowerment and Support through Teamwork project proposes to provide broadband access, training, education, and support for the underserved Vietnamese immigrant and refugee community that comprises a third of the population of Bayou La Batre and the surrounding areas of Mobile County, Alabama. The project plans to offer broadband access and education through its Community Technology Center and enhance existing access and education at two community anchor institutions: the Bayou Clinic, which is a local health organization, and Alba Middle School.

This project intends to provide skills development opportunities for low-income residents and those with limited English proficiency in communities devastated by Hurricane Katrina and the Gulf of Mexico oil spill, offering a range of training in computer skills, online accounting, and web marketing. Instructors will also offer basic training on computer use and Internet access for those with limited computer literacy with training in English, Vietnamese, Cambodian, Khmer, and Lao.

The Neighborhood Empowerment and Support project also proposes to:

- Create three new public computer centers and provide 57 new computer workstations.
- Enable access for as many as 235 new users each week, increasing the average speeds available at each of the project's public centers by as much as 10 Mbps.
- Train as many as 250 residents with approximately 12,000 hours of teacher-led training over the two years of the project.

ORGANIZATION'S HISTORY

Since 1980, Boat People SOS has provided assistance to one in ten Vietnamese Americans, whether on the seas, in a refugee camp, or after arriving in the United States. Through its 18 office locations in the U.S. and four office locations in Southeast Asia and Taiwan, Boat People SOS provides a comprehensive series of services to support individuals, families, and communities. Boat People SOS has been providing public access computers to its clients for ten years.

PROJECT PARTNERS

- Bayou Clinic
- Alba Middle School

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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