

## Colorado State Library - State and Local Partners

Participating Library	Entity	City	State
Statewide	College in Colorado	Denver	CO
Statewide	DBTAC Rocky Mountain	Colorado Springs	CO
Statewide	Department of Labor and Employment	Denver	CO
Statewide	National Network of Libraries of Medicine	Denver	CO
Statewide	Colorado Department of Education, Adult Education & Family Literacy	Denver	CO
Statewide	Colorado Department of Education, GED Unit	Denver	CO
Statewide	Library Research Service	Denver	CO
Statewide	Colorado Community College System	Denver	CO
Statewide	Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation	Seattle	WA
Alamosa-Southern Peaks	Southwest Region Migrant Education Program	Alamosa	CO
Burlington	Morgan Community College - Burlington Center	Burlington	CO
Denver	Denver Workforce Development	Denver	CO
Denver	Denver Office of Economic Development	Denver	CO
Denver	College in Colorado - Educator Outreach	Denver	CO
Denver	Birdsong Information Services	Golden	CO
Denver	A Gathering Place	Denver	CO
Fort Morgan	Morgan Community College - Main Campus	Fort Morgan	CO
High Plains	Greeley-Evans School District	Greeley	CO
High Plains	Town of Milliken	Milliken	CO
High Plains	Town of Mead	Mead	CO
High Plains	Town of Kersey	Kersey	CO
High Plains	Lochbuie Afterglows Senior Center	Lochbuie	CO
High Plains	Town of Keenesburg	Keenesburg	CO
High Plains	Town of LaSalle	LaSalle	CO
Lajunta	Otero Junior College	La Junta	CO
Lamar	Lamar High School FBLA	Lamar	CO
Limon	Morgan Community College - Limon Center	Limon	CO
Pueblo	Project Literacy	Pueblo West	CO
Pueblo	Colorado Cross Disability Coalition	Pueblo	CO
Pueblo	Pueblo City Schools	Pueblo	CO
Pueblo	Pueblo Human Relations Commission	Pueblo	CO
Pueblo	Rocky Mountain SER	Pueblo	CO
Pueblo	Senior Resource Development Agency	Pueblo	CO

# BILL & MELINDA GATES foundation

P.O. Box 22260  
Seattle, WA 98162-0000  
**V** 206.709.3100  
**F** 206.709.3100  
[www.gatesfoundation.org](http://www.gatesfoundation.org)

March 10, 2010

Eugene Hainer  
Chief Officer  
Colorado State Library  
201 East Colfax Avenue, room 309  
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Mr. Hainer,

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation is pleased to award the Colorado State Library (CSL) a grant of \$640,000. As the lead applicant, CSL will be submitting a proposal on March 15, 2010 to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) under the Broadband Technologies Opportunity Program's (BTOP) Public Computer Centers funding category. The foundation's grant funds are to be used to help fulfill NTIA's matching requirements for this BTOP project, which is intended to enhance public computing access and provide new workforce development and online education resources through libraries.

The foundation's grant is contingent on CSL receiving a BTOP award from NTIA and on the execution of a grant agreement between CSL and the foundation. The grant will be paid in two equal installments. The first payment will be disbursed shortly after CSL's receipt of an official BTOP award notice, and the second and final grant payment will be disbursed approximately one year after the first payment.

In addition to committing grant funds to support NTIA's matching requirements for BTOP, the foundation is awarding an additional \$150,000 for E-rate application training and support for local libraries participating in the BTOP project. These funds are intended to raise participation rates in the federal E-rate program to create a sustainable source of funding for recurring connectivity costs. These additional grant funds are also contingent upon CSL receiving a BTOP award from NTIA and a fully-executed grant agreement with the foundation.

We are pleased to support CSL in its application to NTIA and its efforts to meet community needs through high-quality technology and broadband Internet access in Colorado.

Sincerely,



Allan C. Golston  
President, U.S. Program

Cc: Jill Nishi, Deputy Director, U.S. Libraries Initiative

Rico Munn  
Executive Director  
Colorado Department  
of Higher Education

Dawn Taylor Owens  
Executive Director  
College In Colorado

Eugene Hainer  
Assistant Commissioner  
Colorado State Library  
Colorado Department of Education  
201 E. Colfax Avenue  
Denver, CO 80205

17 February 2010

Dear Mr. Hainer,

This is a letter of partnership and support for the Colorado State Library's grant proposal for Public Computing Centers in Colorado libraries. These Computer Centers would significantly increase the public's ability to access online resources such as those provided by our program, College in Colorado <http://CollegeInColorado.org>.

Unless we make radical "pipeline" improvements, only one in five Colorado ninth-grade students will earn a college degree, ranking the state in the bottom quartile nationally. The State of Colorado initiated College In Colorado as a statewide effort to improve college access and change expectations about college for all Colorado students. The cornerstone of the campaign, [www.CollegeInColorado.org](http://CollegeInColorado.org), offers a one-stop resource to help adults, students, parents and counselors explore careers and plan, apply and pay for college.

The College In Colorado team reaches out to students, parents, educators and workforce centers through ongoing events and training opportunities, as well as providing practical tools to assist all students in Colorado in furthering their education past high school. We consider public libraries a vital partner in our efforts to reach Colorado residents in all areas of the state.

Currently, we are working with the Denver Public Library to provide training and support on our resources. With the expansion of more computers, both at the Denver Public Library and at other public libraries throughout Colorado, our regional trainers will be able to provide more training including hands-on access to **CollegeInColorado.org** — the free, comprehensive Website dedicated to providing adults and students with everything they need to know about career exploration and planning, selecting high school courses, choosing and applying to colleges, obtaining financial aid and getting ready to take the SAT, ACT or GRE tests. Additionally, through this PPC grant opportunity, our staff will provide regional **train-the-trainer, half- or all-day sessions and single topic Webinars** to teach educators, librarians, parents and others about the tools and resources available from College In Colorado and the Website (continuing education credit may be available).

We are particularly proud of the progress we have made in services to persons with disabilities: the website offers comprehensive guidance for those with learning and physical disabilities, guiding them towards careers of their choice and connecting them with colleges best able to serve their needs.

Additionally, our website allows for tracking of individual users so we can provide reports of use of our resources and the successes of the users to including in reporting for the grant.

We are eager to work with the Colorado State Library and local libraries to increase access to our resources and to support Colorado residents to increase college enrollment and career success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dawn Taylor Owens".

Dawn Taylor Owens  
Executive Director  
College In Colorado



DISABILITY & BUSINESS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CENTER

[www.adainformation.org](http://www.adainformation.org)

February 16, 2010

Mr. Eugene Hainer  
Assistant Commissioner  
Colorado State Library  
Denver, CO

**RE: Letter of Support – Public Library Computer Centers & Accessible Computer Work Stations**

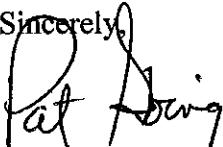
Dear Mr. Hainer,

The Rocky Mountain ADA Center (Americans with Disabilities Act) is most supportive of your grant application for public computer centers in Colorado libraries. In particular your intent to provide accessible work stations for people with disabilities that will also include hardware and software to meet the needs of the blind and vision impaired is most commendable.

Our ADA Center provides information and technical support on the ADA for the six-state Rocky Mountain region. In this role, we see a significant priority for the Colorado libraries to upgrade their programs to insure people with a wide range of disabilities have access to the important services local libraries provide. To this end, full access to computers and the internet is a primary need for all citizens.

Individuals at the Rocky Mountain ADA Center have consulted with the authors of your proposal to identify specific requirements for ADA compliance. As the public computer centers are constructed, our staff will be available on an on-going basis for any issues that might arise relating to the ADA and serving clients with disabilities. A member of our staff serves on an advisory board to the Colorado State Library and will continue to work with the CSL and libraries on accessibility issues.

In addition your plan to offer formal training and computer support as part of this grant will be most valuable to the ever increasing number of seniors and veterans with disabilities in Colorado.

Sincerely,  
  
Patrick Going  
Senior Advisor

BILL RITTER, JR.  
Governor

DONALD J. MARES  
Executive Director



## DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

633 17th Street, Suite 1200  
Denver, Colorado 80202-3660

March 3, 2010

Eugene Hainer, Assistant Commissioner  
Colorado State Library  
201 E. Colfax Avenue  
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Mr. Hainer:

I am the Executive Director at the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment. On behalf of my Department, I am writing in support of the Colorado State Library's Public Computer Center (PCC) application for the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program offered by the Department of Commerce. This grant would allow for increased partnerships between our agency and Colorado libraries.

Our regional workforce centers across Colorado serve job seekers, employers and employees by providing a wide array of employment and training services at no charge. In many communities, our workforce centers partner with public libraries to expand our training reach. For example, the Denver Workforce Center and the Denver Public Library have received a Microsoft grant, Microsoft Elevate America, which is "Elevating America by Increasing Skills." This public-private partnership provides online technology training for eligible Colorado residents in selected E-Learning Courses offered at the Denver Public Library. This model program can be replicated in other parts of the state.

Workforce centers and public libraries partner in rural areas such as La Junta, Trinidad and other agricultural communities on the eastern plains as well as western slope areas such as Montrose and Grand Junction. In Colorado's low income rural and urban areas, public computer access is severely limited and the high demand for programs/services is unmet. According to the American Library Association, 81% of Colorado's citizens report a wait time for public computer access. At the libraries participating in this grant, 97% report wait times and over 50% report waits for PCC access 8 or more times per week. A 2009 survey by Colorado's Library Research Services indicated that 82% of libraries need additional computers to meet demand.

These Public Computer Centers, in over 70 communities throughout Colorado, would have a significant impact on the residents in these low income and remote areas of the state. This grant will allow more of our regional workforce centers to partner with public libraries to provide training and support to job seekers.

If the State Library is awarded this grant, our state level workforce staff will work with the State Library to determine methods of local implementation of training for job skills and workforce development. Additionally, regional workforce will be able to expand the training reach with these new and updated computer centers.

Working with the Colorado State Library proposal, we hope Colorado is awarded these funds because of the significant impact on the workforce of our state.

The Colorado Department of Labor and Employment appreciates the Colorado State Library's submission and the National Telecommunications and Information Administration's consideration of this application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "DJM".

Donald J. Mares  
Executive Director  
Colorado Department of Labor and Employment

# University of Colorado Denver

Health Sciences Library

Mail Stop A003  
12950 E. Montview Boulevard  
Aurora, CO 80045

March 8, 2010

Dear BTOP Proposal Reviewer,

This is a letter of partnership and support for the Colorado State Library's grant proposal for Public Computing Centers in Colorado libraries. The Computer Centers would significantly increase the public's ability to access authoritative online health information resources such as those developed by the National Library of Medicine (NLM).

Coordinated by the NLM is the National Network of Libraries of Medicine (NN/LM) – a network of health science libraries and information centers throughout the United States. The mission of the Network is to provide equal access to biomedical and health care information resources. In operation for over 40 years, the Network strives to empower individuals and enable them to make informed decisions about their health. Currently I serve as the NN/LM, Midcontinental Region's Consumer Health Liaison and Colorado Outreach Liaison, based at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus-Health Sciences Library.

Technology is changing how consumers access health information and communicate with their health care or medical providers. They must navigate a complex system of health care protocol and locate health information that is culturally and linguistically appropriate. From online resources to handheld devices to personal medical records to electronic health records – information is everywhere and arriving at a dizzying speed.

In a 2007 study from the National Cancer Institute, over 50% of respondents said the first place they looked for cancer information was the Internet, with over 70% of health care professionals showing interest in the information patients had found online.<sup>1</sup> Eighty percent of American Internet users have searched for health information online, with only 15% noting they checked the source and date of that information.<sup>2</sup> Libraries play a crucial role in their community by helping consumers evaluate the quality of online health information and guiding them to authoritative resources.

Public libraries are a vital partner in my efforts to reach Colorado residents statewide. A 2009 Women's Day series "The Library Made Me Healthier," (see attached) highlights the impact of a session I taught at a remote community library in Red Feather Lakes, Colorado. Carol Strazer attended my consumer health information session in 2007 shortly after receiving a recommendation for thyroid surgery from her doctor. After learning about MedlinePlus (a free, comprehensive source for reliable health information from the NLM), Carol investigated her options, stating the research "reassured me, making me less fearful about what lay ahead."

Downtown Campus  
Denver, Colorado

Anschutz Medical Campus  
Aurora, Colorado

Currently, I work with public libraries statewide to provide training and support on consumer and public health information resources. This training extends to the state's public health workforce, clinic staff, family physicians, emergency response personnel, and community based organizations. With the expansion of computers in public libraries throughout Colorado, I will be able to provide more training, including hands-on access to quality sites such as MedlinePlus, Genetics Home Reference, NIH Senior Health, ToxTown, Household Products Database, and instruction on evaluating the quality of health information on the Internet.

Through this PPC grant opportunity, I will provide regional train-the-trainer sessions and single topic Webinars to teach librarians and others about the tools and resources available from the NLM, the National Institutes of Health and consumer health resources from the Department of Health and Human Services.

I am eager to work with the Colorado State Library and local libraries to increase access to authoritative resources and to enhance Colorado residents' knowledge of health resources. To that end, I will provide in-kind support of funding for 16 in-person (half-day) trainings and 16 (one-hour) Webinar trainings in 2011 and 2012.

The in-kind support for 2011 and 2012 would include:

64 contact hours (16 in-person, four hour sessions) at \$35 p/hour	\$2240
16 contact hours (16 one-hour Webinars) at \$35 p/hour	\$ 560
16 travel days per diem at an average \$150 p/day	\$2400
16 400-mile (average) driving trips at .50 p/mile	\$3200
Promotional Materials	\$1000
Printing	<u>\$ 500</u>
TOTAL	\$9900

Best wishes,



Dana Abbey, MLS  
Consumer Health Coordinator

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<sup>i</sup> National Cancer Institute. "Health Information National Trends Survey: How Americans Find and Use Cancer Information." <http://hints.cancer.gov/questions/all-questions.jsp#IU>. Accessed March 8, 2010.

<sup>ii</sup> Pew Internet & American Life Project. "Online Health Search 2006."  
<http://www.pewinternet.org/Reports/2006/Online-Health-Search-2006.aspx>. Accessed March 8, 2010.



# COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

201 East Colfax Avenue • Denver, Colorado 80203-1799  
303.866.6600 • [www.cde.state.co.us](http://www.cde.state.co.us)

**Dwight D. Jones**  
Commissioner of Education

**Robert K. Hammond**  
Deputy Commissioner

March 8, 2010

Eugene Hainer, Assistant Commissioner  
Colorado State Library  
201 E. Colfax Avenue  
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Mr. Hainer:

Adult Education and Family Literacy Programs at the Colorado Department of Education support the Colorado State Library's Public Computer Center application for the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program offer by the Department of Commerce. This grant would allow for increased computer access to online resources and training for our constituents through Colorado.

Adult education programs provide a range of instructional services that address the basic educational needs of Colorado adults and their families. Adult education programs throughout Colorado offer opportunities for adults to improve their literacy skills in order to meet their goals and responsibilities as parents, citizens, and workers. Some of these centers are in public libraries and all centers promote the use and value of the public library in continued family literacy and learning. The additional computers in public libraries and the training components will expand both the local literacy program and the library's ability to support these high risk populations.

The population targeted for adult literacy services through the federal Adult Education and Family Literacy Act in Colorado are those who:

- Are age 16 or older AND
- Are not enrolled or required to be enrolled in secondary school AND
- Lack sufficient mastery of basic educational skills to function effectively in society;  
OR do not have a secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent;  
OR are unable to speak, read, or write the English language

See learning goal attainment at:

<http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdeadult/download/pdf/AEFLAprogfacts0708Table4Bfinal.pdf> to understand the specific issues we face. This project, including computer labs and training in 76 Colorado communities, would assist us with supporting adult learners in basic learning areas. We hope through local partnerships to increase adult learning and meet our statewide targets.

If the State Library is awarded this grant, our agency will promote the use of these computer centers and the specific computer course offerings as an extension to our

literacy instructional services. We will utilize the public awareness campaign to extend the reach of our centers into the public libraries. Our regional centers across Colorado will partner with public libraries to expand our training and reach to include online learning when appropriate.

We hope Colorado is awarded these funds because of the significant impact on those with basic educational needs in our state. The Adult and Family Literacy unit appreciates the Colorado State Library's submission and the National Telecommunications and Information Administration's consideration of this application.

Sincerely,



Debra Fawcett  
Interim State Director  
Adult Education and Family Literacy

March 3, 2010

Eugene Hainer, Assistant Commissioner  
Colorado State Library  
201 E. Colfax Avenue  
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Mr. Hainer:

As the General Educational Development (GED) State Administrator at the Colorado Department of Education, I am writing in support of the Colorado State Library's Public Computer Center application for the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program offer by the Department of Commerce. This grant would allow for increased computer access and test preparation support for our constituents through Colorado on reservations and at local libraries.

In Colorado, 26% of students do not graduate from high school. General Educational Development Testing Service™ (GEDTS) offers regional preparation programs with instruction aimed at successful completion of the GED Tests. Many of these programs, in addition to providing GED instruction, offer Adult Basic Education, English as a Second Language, and other adult education and family literacy services. We offer alternative educational opportunities for adults and youth with specific at-risk factors to gain a high school equivalent status through the rigorous national tests.

Local libraries support our efforts by providing print and online test preparation materials. With the addition of more computers, our constituents, including vulnerable teenagers, will have more opportunities to pursue online classes or online test preparation.

Additionally, over the next five year, the GEDTS will transition to all computerized testing across the United States. One of the big hurdles with this transition is that many test takers currently do not have the computer skills to take an online test, especially the written test. Additionally, the computerized system is expected to dramatically increase the number of test-takers and GED credential recipients who are prepared to pursue postsecondary education opportunities. We feel the State Library's grant to obtain more computers and training in Colorado communities will help build the capacity for high risk teens and adult learners to learn computer skills, use online test preparation software, and develop their capacity to be successful in taking the new computerized GED test.

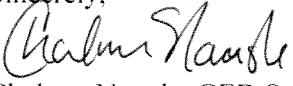
Our regional testing centers across Colorado serve will partner with public libraries to expand our training and preparation reach. These Public Computer Centers in over 70 communities throughout Colorado would have a significant impact on the teens and adults in these low income and remote areas of the state. This grant will allow more of our regional testing centers to partner with public libraries to provide training and support to GED test takers.

If the State Library is awarded this grant, our GED staff at the state level will work with the State Library to determine methods of local implementation of public awareness of computer training in the public computer centers. Additional regional GED testing will be able to expand the preparation reach with these new and updated computer centers.

Working with the Colorado State Library proposal, we hope we are awarded these funds because of the significant impact on those with basic educational needs in our state.

The GED unit appreciates the Colorado State Library's submission and the National Telecommunications and Information Administration's consideration of this application.

Sincerely,



Chalmer Naugle

Chalmer Naugle, GED State Administrator



March 10, 2010

Eugene Hainer, Assistant Commissioner  
Colorado State Library  
201 E. Colfax Avenue  
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Mr. Hainer:

The Library Research Service, a unit of the Colorado State Library, is prepared to lead the outcome evaluation of the *Public Computer Centers in Colorado Libraries* project, as well as advise on the collection of input and output data. The evaluation plan is outlined below.

### Evaluation

To ensure the Colorado State Library's *Public Computer Centers in Colorado Libraries* project is successfully implemented, the project will have multiple evaluation points including ongoing data collection and patron surveys. This approach will allow for better project management, as well as accountability and reporting to stakeholders.

Three categories of data will be collected to measure the progress and ultimately the success of this project: input, output, and outcomes measures.

**Input measures**, defined as quantifying the effort expended on a program, will include, but are not limited to, the following data points. This data will be primarily collected by the project coordinator and staff and reported monthly to the State Library and quarterly to the grantors.

- Number of project staff and staff hours
- In-kind staff contributions by state library and individual public libraries
- Funds expended, in total and by location
- Hardware – number/type purchased and installed
- Software – number/type purchased and installed
- ADA-compliant workstations – number purchased and installed
- Number and type of marketing materials distributed via project staff and library jurisdictions

**Output measures**, the level of services provided, will include, but are not limited to, the following data points. With the exception of the online survey which will be directly administered to library patrons, this data will be collected by project and library staff and reported along with the input measures.

- Train-the-Trainer workshops – number and type of trainings; number attendees; an evaluation completed by all workshop attendees on the quality, value, and content of the workshop
- Grant participant evaluation – at the completion of the grant, a brief survey of library participants on the outcomes of the grant
- One-on-one contacts – number of contacts with library staff and partners
- Library data – number of visits; number of computer uses; number of visits to the library home page (where applicable)
- Resource database – number of resources added; number of views (or downloads)
- Online patron survey – a short pop-up survey will be deployed at the computer login to measure usage. Sample question: "What is the purpose of your library visit today?"

**Outcomes**, the effect a service has on the program's stated objectives, would be measured using a project model adapted from *Counting on Results: New Tools for Outcome-Base Evaluation of Public Libraries* (CoR) which was created as a Research and Demonstration Project funded by a National Leadership Grant from the Library Services and Technology Act through the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

Built on the *Public Library Association Planning for Results*, the CoR model asks library patrons about the outcome of their recent library visit. The CoR surveys were successfully fielded by 45 libraries across the nation using both an online and an oversized-postcard survey. It is a simple, yet effective way to determine what benefit the patrons have derived from their local library.

For this project, the service responses (groups of outcomes) would be customized to measure outcomes specific to the *Public Computer Centers in Colorado Libraries* project. Examples of service responses from the CoR research project include Basic Literacy, Business and Career, Library as Place, General Use, Information Literacy, and Local History/Genealogy.

The outcome survey for *Public Computer Centers in Colorado Libraries* project will be administered in libraries periodically throughout the project's lifecycle. Using a sampling methodology, libraries will distribute the postcard surveys and a link to the outcome survey on their websites. Data will be compiled, analyzed, and narrated by the Library Research Service, a unit of the State Library, in collaboration with RSL Research Group.

In addition to the costs associated with staff and resources at the Colorado State Library, the estimated cost for the outcome survey is \$27,500 for survey administration, data analysis, and reporting results. Costs include hiring a research firm (RSL) to do the bulk of the analysis and reporting, as well as verify all findings produced by State Library staff. State Library and project staff will be responsible for survey administration and data collection. State Library staff will also contribute to analysis and reporting in cooperation with the research firm. For the outcome evaluation, the State Library in-kind services include contributions from the DU-LRS Research Fellows of \$10,000.

From the annual public library survey (a state and national data set) to *Counting on Results* (a national library outcomes study), LRS has years of experience collecting, analyzing, and reporting statewide library statistics, including input, output, and outcome measures. We welcome the opportunity to aid in the evaluation of the *Public Computer Centers in Colorado Libraries* project which promises to help the people in our communities access the information they need.

Sincerely,



Nicolle Steffen  
Director, Library Research Service



COLORADO COMMUNITY  
COLLEGE SYSTEM

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Dr. Nancy J. McCallin, President

March 4, 2010

Eugene Hainer, Assistant Commissioner  
Colorado State Library  
201 E. Colfax Avenue  
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Mr. Hainer,

As the President of the Colorado Community College System, I am writing to support the Colorado State Library's Public Computing Center application for the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program.

The Colorado Community College System (CCCS) comprises the state's largest system of higher education in Colorado. Our career and academic programs in the 13 state community colleges serve more than 128,000 students annually. In addition, CCCS oversees 1200 secondary and 800 postsecondary career and technical programs in more than 150 school districts and seven other post-secondary institutions across the state. Our mission is to provide an accessible, responsive learning environment that facilitates the achievement of educational, professional and personal goals by our students and other members of our communities in an atmosphere that embraces academic excellence, diversity and innovation.

Many of the public libraries participating in the BTOP grant application are located in our service areas throughout the state. We believe the addition and development of public computer centers in these 76 public libraries will have a significant impact on the communities and students we serve.

If awarded the grant, CCCS staff will work with the Colorado State Library to encourage and enhance local community college partnerships to leverage the Public Computer Centers to meet local needs. I also believe our college system may bring the following expertise to the local libraries:

- Support for community access to online resources (as target of Community College mission).
- Low cost, short-term educational opportunities to train community members.
- In conjunction with CCC Online Learning, student access to computers and e-learning courses and resources.
- Local partnerships for training related to research and online learning.

- Community College outreach in computer labs as recruitment tool for students.
- Well qualified technical staff to provide expertise to local libraries.

Working with the Colorado State Library proposal, we hope we are awarded these funds because of the significant impact on high education and technology proficiency in Colorado.

The CCCS appreciates the Colorado State Library's submission and the National Telecommunications and Information Administration's consideration of this application.

Sincerely,



Dr. Nancy McCallin  
President



*A Regional Education Agency*  
2261 Enterprise Dr. ♦ Alamosa, CO ♦ 81101 ♦ (719) 589-5851  
[www.slvboces.org](http://www.slvboces.org)

March 3, 2010

Eugene Hainer, Assistant Commissioner  
Colorado State Library  
201 E. Colfax Avenue  
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Mr. Hainer:

As the director of the Southwest Region Migrant Education Program (MEP) in the San Luis Valley I am writing to express our support to the San Luis Valley application for funding. The Colorado State Library's Public Computing Center application for the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program will be extremely beneficial to the citizens of the San Luis Valley. I am particularly excited about the benefits, such as opportunities for our Spanish speaking migrant parents to gain access to electronic media and opportunities to become more involved members of the community at large, that enhanced computing and Internet access at the Southern Peaks Public Library will bring to our community.

The MEP is a federally funded program that provided states and local communities' funds to provide educational access and success to migrant students and families. At this time, there are over 620 eligible migrant families/students in the San Luis Valley. Parent education is a key component of the MEP. In order to leverage existing program funds, the MEP is always seeking collaborative partnerships with other agencies/programs to help the academic achievement of migrant students. By expanding the current broadband infrastructure, the SLV library can provide additional computer skills to our populace. Currently our migrant parents are attending computer literacy classes and this is helping them communicate with their children's teachers and other school personnel, thus increasing their level of participation in the education of their children. Studies have shown that parental involvement is a key component of a child's academic success and many times, migrant parents do not feel included in their children's education. Access to computers and the internet will also alleviate some of the isolation felt by migratory families.

The funding provided by this grant will help the library continue its outreach efforts to our Spanish speaking population. Due to the computer classes, parents are beginning to

feel more empowered and familiar with the services provided by the library. Our migrant parents inevitably share their experiences with neighbors and this word of mouth dissemination of services further enhances the opportunities for migrant families. The computer classes, in combination with other MEP parent involvement efforts, can assist the migrant parents in filling out FASFE forms needed for accessing financial aid for postsecondary education. Once migrant parents are more familiar with electronic media, they feel more confident about using technology as a tool to improve their job seeking skills, their English language proficiency, and their ability to communicate with the global community, including family/friends in their home countries.

MEP will work w/the library by helping parents with transportation issues get to the classes provided by the library. Our bilingual staff will assist in the Spanish instruction of the class as needed. Our staff will also follow up on attendance issues if they arise. This financial match would include the hourly rate for the MEP staff and mileage for transporting parents. Migrant participants will be surveyed to measure this application of the computer skills learned during the computer classes.

Working with the Southern Peaks Library, a library participating in the Colorado State Library proposal, we hope we are awarded these funds because of the significant impact on both our community and others throughout Colorado.

The Southwest Region Migrant Education Program appreciates the Colorado State Library's submission and the National Telecommunications and Information Administration's consideration of this application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary R. Valerio".

Mary R. Valerio, Director

Southwest Region Migrant Education Program

**Main Campus**

920 Barlow Road  
Fort Morgan, CO 80701  
970-542-3100  
1-800-622-0216  
Fax: 970-542-3114

February 25, 2010

**Bennett Center**

280 Colfax, Unit 3  
P.O. Box 554  
Bennett, CO 80102  
303-644-4034  
Fax 303-644-4680

Eugene Hainer, Assistant commissioner

Colorado State Library  
201 E. Colfax Avenue  
Denver, CO 80807

Dear Mr. Hainer:

**Burlington Center**

340 S. 14th Street  
Burlington, CO 80807  
719-346-9300  
Fax 719-346-5236

I am writing in support of the Colorado State Library's Public Computing Center application for the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program that will enhance the Burlington Public Library. This facility is the first contact for many of our new community members. These funds would help provide the technical service that many of our new residents expect when they move here. The enhanced computing and Internet access will be such a plus for this community as we have been one of the "last frontiers" to get reliable internet service in eastern Colorado.

**Limon Center**

940 2nd Street  
P. O. Box 729  
Limon, CO 80828  
719-775-8873  
Fax 719-775-2580

As director of the Burlington Center for Morgan Community College (MCC), I can see how this will add to our student's options for computer use if they are unable to afford a home computer. The Burlington Public Library is open on Saturdays when our labs are not available – many students have expressed the need for Saturday hours but staffing and budget do not allow us to provide this service. MCC students are now required to have a current e-mail address in order to enroll. Unfortunately, many of the students in the high needs population do not own their own computer. The addition of the computer lab at the Burlington Public Library will give them one more place to access their course requirements and participate in online distance learning opportunities with other universities and colleges.

**Bloedorn Center for  
Community and  
Economic Development**

300 Main Street  
Fort Morgan, CO 80701  
970-542-3256

[www.morgancc.edu](http://www.morgancc.edu)

As the economy continues to change, we have seen a growth of students coming back for training and retraining, in order to enhance their job skills. MCC has partnered with the Colorado Work Force Center and their clients in eastern Colorado to provide classes in critical areas such as; job skills, resume building and the job application process. Again, most of the targeted population does not have access to computer services, outside of our computer labs. Most jobs are posted online now and the need for accessibility for our non-MCC student population of community members is high.

Working with The Burlington Public Library, a library participating in the Colorado State Library proposal, has been a great partnership for Morgan Community College. We hope they will be awarded the funds because of the significant impact on both the community of Burlington, as well as others throughout eastern Colorado. We would be willing to publish the hours for computer use and offer some beginning computer use classes on site, if needed.

Morgan Community College appreciates the Colorado State Library's submission and the National Telecommunications and Information Administration's consideration of this application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Valerie J. Rhoades".

Valerie J. Rhoades

Director

March 5, 2009

Eugene Hainer, Assistant Commissioner  
Colorado State Library  
201 E. Colfax Avenue  
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Mr. Hainer:

I am the President of *Birdsong Information Services* and the Director of the *Information Literacy Initiative*, at the University of Washington. I am writing in support of the Colorado State Library's Public Computing Center application for the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program. I am excited about the benefits, of increased capacity for training and workshops, enhanced computing and Internet access, and additional avenues for partnering with the Denver Public Library (DPL) to achieve some of our common goals.

*Birdsong Information Services* provides training for effective web and online search, selection of sources, and analysis and organization of information. Our training helps people find, locate and evaluate information quality information. Through the University of Washington Information School, *The Information Literacy Initiative* is offered to non-profit organizations in need of this type of training for their clients and users. This training is offered at no or very low costs to the non-profit due to the funding of the *Information Literacy Initiative* by foundations.

In partnership with Denver Public Library's Community Technology Center (CTC), we have been able to reach out to groups of all ages and backgrounds to engage them in learning how to find information effectively on the web. One successful series was presented to members of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) and other hands-on training activities have been targeted young adults in the Denver Public School system.

Our partnership with DPL's CTC continues to grow and we hope to benefit from increase capacity to offer formal workshops for all ages – in fulfilling our shared goal of empowering people to find trustworthy sources in the often overwhelming environment of “information overload.” I am pleased to be working with the library to leverage their hours of operation and convenient locations, with our curricula, experience, insights, and connections to make the tools and skills needed for success accessible to as many people as possible. I look forward to providing additional training for adults over 50 who are in great need of information literacy training.

Working with the Denver Public Library is extremely valuable to the community I work with as they are unable to find a home to learn technology and information literacy skills. I am hopeful the Denver Public Library (as part of the Colorado State Library's Public Computing Center application for the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program,) is awarded the funds because of the significant impact on both our community and others throughout Colorado. Both *Birdsong Information Services* and The *Information Literacy Initiative* appreciate the Colorado State Library's submission and the National Telecommunications and Information Administration's consideration of this application.

Thank you for your consideration. Please contact me if I can provide any additional information.

Sincerely,

Lark Birdsong  
Principal, Birdsong Information Services  
Director, Information Literacy Initiative, University of Washington  
Web Page <http://isc.washington.edu/ili/>  
Weblog: <http://www.birdsonginfo.com/>  
Web Page: [www.larkbirdsong.com](http://www.larkbirdsong.com)  
[larkb@uw.edu]

March 5, 2009

Eugene Hainer, Assistant Commissioner  
Colorado State Library  
201 E. Colfax Avenue  
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Mr. Hainer:

I am the Director of Educator Outreach for College In Colorado. On behalf of my organization, I am writing in support of the Colorado State Library's Public Computing Center application for the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program. I am particularly excited about the benefits, such as increased capacity for training and workshops, enhanced computing and Internet access, and additional avenues for partnering with the Denver Public Library (DPL), and other libraries across the state, to achieve some of our common goals.

Colorado ranks in the top five states nationwide for the greatest number of degree holders per capita, yet only one in five Colorado ninth-grade students will earn a college degree, ranking the state in the bottom quartile nationally. College In Colorado was initiated by the Department of Higher Education (DHE) – which serves the citizens of the state of Colorado by promoting access to, affordability of, and success in higher education for all students – to improve college access and change expectations about college for all Colorado students. A cornerstone of the campaign, [www.CollegeInColorado.org](http://www.CollegeInColorado.org), offers a one-stop resource to help students and parents plan, apply and pay for college.

In our partnership with Denver Public Library's Community Technology Center (CTC), we have established a venue for promoting our specialized service for adults who are considering new career paths or need additional training or education to achieve their lifelong dreams. Through our monthly hands-on workshops in the CTC's 12-seat classroom, we have given adults the tools and resources they need to advance in an existing career or shift gears altogether. Longer term goals include targeted outreach to young adults, particularly those that may not have the resources or support to consider higher education.

College In Colorado is pleased to be working with the library to leverage their hours of operation (particularly evenings and weekends), our curricula, experience, insights, and other resources to make the tools and skills needed for success accessible to as many people as possible. As our relationship with DPL's CTC grows, we imagine there will be high demand for these workshops and services, and hope that the CTC can use the additional resources it could gain from being a part of the Colorado State Library proposal to become a model for our future partnerships with multiple DPL branches and beyond Denver to other libraries in the state.

Working with the Denver Public Library as part of the Colorado State Library's Public Computing Center application for the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program, we hope these funds are awarded because of the significant impact on both our community and others throughout Colorado. College In Colorado appreciates the Colorado State Library's submission and the National Telecommunications and Information Administration's consideration of this application.

Please contact me if I can provide any additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shelby Burnette".

Shelby Burnette, Director of Educator Outreach  
College In Colorado  
1560 Broadway, Suite 1700  
Denver, CO 80202  
(720) 264-8560  
Fax: (303) 296-1637



# The Gathering Place

*a refuge for rebuilding lives*

March 5, 2009

Eugene Hainer, Assistant Commissioner  
Colorado State Library  
201 E. Colfax Avenue  
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Mr. Hainer:

I am the Vice President of Personal Growth and Learning at The Gathering Place. I am writing in support of the Colorado State Library's Public Computing Center application for the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program. I am particularly excited about the benefits, such as increased capacity for training and workshops, enhanced computing and Internet access, and additional avenues for partnering with the Denver Public Library (DPL) to achieve some of our common goals.

The Gathering Place exists to support women and their children who are experiencing homelessness or poverty by providing a safe daytime refuge and resources for self-sufficiency. It is Denver's only daytime drop-in center for women and children. Our emergency support services provide immediate relief to women and children in distress. Women who are able to meet their immediate and urgent needs can then collect their inner resources and make positive life changes for themselves and their children. The Gathering Place provides programming and services to an average of 365 women and children every day.

Through an innovative partnership with Denver Public Library's Community Technology Center (CTC), our clients have learned about the library's services and become regular users and fans of this valuable community resource. Our unique format for the workshops includes a training session on a particular technology at The Gathering Place, a trip on the city bus (RTD) to the CTC at the Central Library, and extended hands-on time with the tools that the women have learned about. The CTC then provides follow up assistance through one-on-one computer lessons and various free technology classes.

Our partnership with DPL's CTC continues to grow and we hope to increase the frequency of our workshops and share this model with similar organizations in the Denver metro area. I am pleased to be working with the library to leverage their hours of operation (particularly evenings and weekends) and convenient multiple locations, with our programs, insights, and connections to make the tools and skills needed for success accessible to as many people as possible. These classes are the future of how we see our business center working to help women move forward; collaboration with community resources, increased access to current technology and friendly training on how to effectively use those resources.

Thank you for considering this proposal. Please contact me if I can provide any additional information.

Sincerely,

Sunne Meyer  
Vice President of Personal Growth and Learning  
(303) 996-9042  
[sunne@the-gatheringplace.org](mailto:sunne@the-gatheringplace.org)  
[www.the-gatheringplace.org](http://www.the-gatheringplace.org)



DENVER  
THE MILE HIGH CITY

**GROWDENVER**  
The Office of Economic Development

Office of the Director  
201 W. Colfax Ave.  
Denver, CO 80202  
P: 720.913.1999  
F: 720-913-1802  
[www.milehigh.com](http://www.milehigh.com)

February 24, 2010

Eugene Hainer, Assistant Commissioner  
Colorado State Library  
201 E. Colfax Avenue  
Denver, CO 80203

Re: Denver Public Library Broadband Technology Opportunities Program

Dear Mr. Hainer:

I am writing in support of the Denver Public Library's application request for American Recovery and Reinvestment Act federal stimulus funds from the Broadband Technology Opportunity Program. The Denver Office of Economic Development (OED) and the Denver Public Library (DPL) have identified shared goals and interests in workforce development, job creation and small business development that benefit job seekers and entrepreneurs in our community. Increased access to broadband technology will enhance these efforts.

The Office of Economic Development works closely with DPL to leverage resources and coordinate service delivery. In the case of workforce development curriculum, OED's niche is in-depth, extensive training during regular hours of business. Expansion of DPL's computer centers will increase the number of customers our office can serve per training session, while meeting our customer's demands for enhanced computing and Internet access.

With the requested grant funding, DPL can further develop the infrastructure needed to provide training for multiple levels of Denver's workforce. The Office of Economic Development is pleased to be working with the library to leverage our hours of operation, curricula, experience, insights and other resources to make the tools and skills needed for success accessible to Denver's workforce.

OED will also work with DPL to identify other service delivery partners in the community interested in leveraging its broadband technology. OED has several partnerships with local employment, training and business assistance service providers that would augment the resources available through DPL.

Thank you for considering DPL's application. Please contact me if I can provide additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "André N. Pettigrew".

André Pettigrew  
Executive Director  
Denver Office of Economic Development



DENVER  
THE MILE HIGH CITY

GROWDENVER

The Office of Economic Development

Workforce Development  
201 W. Colfax Ave.  
Denver, CO 80202  
P: 720.913.1999  
F: 720.913.1802  
[www.milehigh.com](http://www.milehigh.com)

February 25, 2010

Eugene Hainer  
Assistant Commissioner  
Colorado State Library  
201 E. Colfax Avenue  
Denver, CO 80203

Re: Denver Public Library Broadband Technology Opportunity Program

Dear Mr. Hainer:

I am writing in support of the *Broadband Technology Opportunity Program grant* proposal being submitted by the Denver Public Library (DPL). The Denver Office of Economic Development (OED) and the Denver Public Library (DPL) have identified shared goals and interests in workforce development, job creation, and small business development that would benefit job seekers and entrepreneurs in our community. The increased access to broadband technology will enhance these efforts.

We are already sharing resources by offering job readiness training (KeyTrain sessions) in the computer training room at the Central Library. We are also working with the library to implement the Elevate America project in cooperation with Microsoft and the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment. In many of these instances, there are often more people than computers so having additional computers would further our collaborative efforts. The Library's resources make it possible for job seekers to obtain employment related services at times when our workforce centers are not open.

With the requested grant funding, the DPL would be able to acquire the infrastructure needed to provide training for multiple levels of Denver's workforce. The Office of Economic Development is pleased to be working with the library to leverage our hours of operation, curricula, experience, insights, and other resources to make the tools and skills needed for success accessible to Denver's workforce.

OED will also work with the DPL to identify other service delivery partners in the community that might leverage the broadband technology available at the library. OED currently has several partnerships with local employment, training and business assistance service providers that would enhance the resources available through DPL.

Regards,

Paula Gomez Farrell, Ph.D.  
Director





## Division of Academic Achievement

KATHI VANSOEST, DIRECTOR OF FEDERAL PROGRAMS & GRANTS  
1025 NINTH AVENUE  
GREELEY, COLORADO 80631  
970-348-6260  
KVANSOEST@GREELEYSCHOOLS.ORG

Eugene Hainer, Assistant Commissioner  
Colorado State Library  
201 E. Colfax Avenue  
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Mr. Hainer:

I am the Director of Federal Programs and Grants at the Greeley-Evans School District. On behalf of my organization, I am writing in support of the Colorado State Library's Public Computing Center application for the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program. I am particularly excited about the benefits that enhanced computing and Internet access at the Lincoln Park Library will bring to our community. One benefit will be to provide families who are Spanish speaking an opportunity to access information and increase their skills and knowledge while in turn providing a connection for their children to build their skills in computers and technology.

The community needs increased access to technology. This is transparent to the district in a number of ways. New immigrants and refugees to our community are looking for work but struggle with the application process because it is complex and computer based. Many students are required to use the computer for school projects and do not have access. This access could be acquired through the community libraries. The demographics of the Greeley and Evans communities are changing each year. The overall free and reduced applications increased another 5% this year. Four-hundred new Somali and two-hundred Burmese/Karen refugee families have entered our community in just this last year. The number of new students enrolled in our schools since September is 1,686 so far and 333 of them are from a language other than English.

The goal for students who speak another language other than English is to learn to read and respond in English in order to access the content and learning. The district goal is for all students to achieve. We also value the traditions and culture of our newly arriving immigrants and hold numerous parent trainings. Parents need additional training in computers to help support their children. If parents know how to access technology, they can support their children.

The library serves as a community gathering plan and we want to support our immigrant families to connect with the local libraries. Lincoln Park library is especially critical for immigrant families because it is in the neighborhood where they live. If families feel comfortable in the library, they will attend regularly. This is essential for their children and our students to build their skills and gain access to a computer to do the work required in school. The District's goal is to provide a link between the community library and the school for students.

One way that the District can partner with the community libraries will be to hold parent education classes at these facilities. This training can be paid for through District grants and can

provide the comfort for parent so that they can continue the access to the public libraries. This can be meaningful to families who are new to the community. The impact could be determined through parent attendance to the library outside of class time.

Working with Lincoln Park Library, a library participating in the Colorado State Library proposal, we hope we are awarded these funds because of the significant impact on both our community and others throughout Colorado.

The Greeley-Evans School District appreciates the Colorado State Library's submission and the National Telecommunications and Information Administration's consideration of this application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathi Van Soest". The signature is fluid and cursive, with "Kathi" on top and "Van Soest" below it, separated by a small gap.

Kathi Van Soest  
Director of Federal Programs and Grants



# Town of La Salle, Colorado

TOWN HALL

128 N. SECOND ST.  
(970) 284-6931

LASALLE, CO 80645  
FAX (970) 284-6983

March 1, 2010

Eugene Hainer, Assistant Commissioner  
Colorado State Library  
201 E. Colfax Avenue  
Denver, Colorado 80203

Dear Mr. Hainer:

I am the Operations Director for the Town of LaSalle. On behalf of the Town of LaSalle, I am writing in support of the Colorado State Library's Public Computing Center application for the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program. I am particularly excited about the benefits, such as the ability for all citizens of the Town of LaSalle to have at their ready reading materials and resources that will enrich their lives through education and current events that enhanced computing and Internet access at the Town Hall will bring to our community.

As we all know through this economic time, citizens are struggling to solve daily requirements of their lives, including a home to live in and food on the table. The Town of LaSalle as a small "bedroom" community has very little resources to assist citizens in these endeavors.

By becoming a part of the libraries program and having a satellite station in the Town of LaSalle will greatly enhance the ability for citizens to come to a local site and use the computer stations for numerous outreach programs offered along the front range. It will also allow them to improve their lives through educational opportunities and job possibilities.

The Town of LaSalle is committed to this program by offering a site in our Town Hall that will house the computer satellite station. We would also offer copying, if needed and any other available materials that might help ones self improvement.

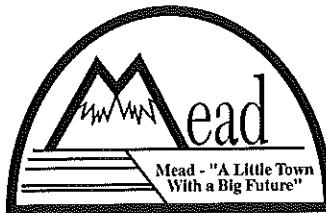
Working with High Plains Library District, a public library system participating in the Colorado State Library proposal, we hope we are awarded these funds because of the significant impact on both our community and others throughout Colorado.

The Town of LaSalle appreciates the Colorado State Library's submission and the National telecommunications and Information Administration's consideration of this application.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Carl Harvey".

Carl Harvey  
Operations Director



## Town of Mead

P.O. Box 626  
441 Third Street  
Mead, Colorado 80542-0626  
(970) 535-4477 Office  
(970) 535-0831 Fax

March 2, 2010

Eugene Hainer, Assistant Commissioner  
Colorado State Library  
201 E. Colfax Avenue  
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Mr. Hainer:

I am the Town Manager of Mead. On behalf of the town, I am writing in support of the Colorado State Library's Public Computing Center application for the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program. In partnership with the High Plains Library District, the Town of Mead is committed to expanding access to broadband and Internet services for people residing in Mead, Colorado which has a population of 3,408. With the assistance of this grant, we expect to be able to:

- Create a Public Computer Center in town that will begin with three (3) workstations including an ADA workstation and will include full access to High Plains Library District resources, databases, office application software and a pc reservation system.
- Improve broadband speed by moving to a dedicated land-based system through Qwest.
- Open the Public Computer Center to anyone with a High Plains Library District library card. The targeted audiences would include families with young children, middle school students, seniors and those with limited transportation and access to technology. The town has grown at a substantial rate over the past few years. It is anticipated that once the economic downturn has ended the town will experienced continued growth.
- Provide free Wi-Fi by creating a Wi-Fi zone around the Public Computing Center.
- Offer access to library materials through a mailbox retrieval system, regular Courier service and a convenient book drop.
- Partner with other entities in Mead including the St. Vrain School District, Weld County Department of Public Health and Environment, Chamber of Commerce, and other civic organizations to provide support, programming and additional information and materials to be available at and through the Public Computing Center.

Long range plans for Mead include building a new municipal center with space for a small library, but as long as the economy is stagnant these plans are on hold. A Public Computer Center would draw people to the downtown area, providing activities for youth, families and seniors, as well as providing local businesses opportunity for visibility and expansion.

Working with High Plains Library District, a public library system participating in the Colorado State Library proposal, if we are awarded these funds it will make a significant impact on both our community and others throughout Colorado. The Library District will offer not only the equipment and set up, but the staffing that will give broadband access to our residents who do not have it, along with opportunities to be trained to most effectively use Internet and library resources. The Town of Mead will contribute space, staff to monitor the equipment and make it available to the public at least 40 hours per week. We will assist with marketing efforts to assure that residents are aware of this new service. Also, we will assist in collecting statistics and anecdotes that demonstrate the impact increased access to broadband and information has in our community.

The Town of Mead appreciates the Colorado State Library's submission and the National Telecommunications and Information Administration's consideration of this application.

Sincerely,



Dan Dean  
Town Manager



Town Hall, 1101 Broad St., Drawer 290 • Milliken, CO 80543 • (970) 587-4531 • (970) 587-2678 Fax

March 3, 2010

Mr. Eugene Hainer  
Assistant Commissioner  
Colorado State Library  
201 E. Colfax Avenue  
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Commissioner Hainer:

As Milliken's Mayor, and Town Administrator & Police Chief, respectively, we write on behalf of the Town to support the Colorado State Library's Public Computing Center application for the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program. We are particularly excited about the benefits that enhanced computing and Internet access at the former Police Station will bring to our community.

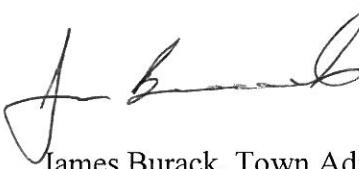
In partnership with the High Plains Library District, the Town of Milliken is committed to expanding access to broadband and Internet services for people residing in our town (pop. 6300). With the assistance of this grant, we expect to be able to:

- Create a Public Computer Center, beginning with seven (7) workstations, including an ADA workstation, in the former Police Station. This will repurpose one of the original buildings (constructed 1925) within the Town of Milliken to complement a town square in the middle of revitalization that now includes a new police station, meeting house, senior center and Youth Park.
- Provide a public information resource that is currently missing in Milliken because we have no public library facility.
- Improve broadband speed by moving to a dedicated land-based system through Qwest.
- Open the Public Computer Center to anyone with a High Plains Library District library card, but especially target the neighborhood residents, most of whom are low-income Hispanics, with a number of high-risk youth and seniors with limited transportation and access to technology. Recent census figures show a disproportionate number of young families and children due to the affordable housing available in the community,. Indeed nearly 60% of the population is age 30 and under. Milliken is 45% Hispanic.
- Provide free Wi-Fi by creating a Wi-Fi zone around the Public Computing Center.
- Offer access to library materials through a mailbox retrieval system, regular Courier service and a convenient book drop.

- Partner with other entities in Milliken (Senior Center, Police Department, Thompson Rivers Parks and Recreation District, Weld County Department of Public Health and Environment, Business Association, Historical Society, Chamber of Commerce, School District) to provide support and additional information and materials to be available at and through the Public Computing Center.
- A Public Computer Center would draw people to the downtown area, providing activities for youth, families and seniors, as well as providing local businesses opportunity for visibility and expansion

In addition to providing space, the Town of Milliken will facilitate and contribute matching funds toward remodeling and refurbishing the 800 square foot facility in order to accommodate a Public Computing Center, handle the logistics of providing supplies for the equipment, and will assist with staffing to keep the center open and maintained.

Installing a Public Computing Center in Milliken, providing free Internet access, basic computer classes, book delivery services and much more to community members who may be unable to access a physical library location, will help create a vibrant downtown area that will work to spur on Milliken's future growth and economic viability. The Town of Milliken appreciates the Colorado State Library's submission and the National Telecommunications and Information Administration's consideration of this application.



James Burack, Town Administrator

Sincerely,



L. Jane Lichtfuss, Mayor



LAMAR HIGH SCHOOL FBLA  
1900 SOUTH 11<sup>TH</sup> STREET  
LAMAR, CO 81052

---

March 1, 2010

Eugene Hainer, Assistant Commissioner  
Colorado State Library  
201 E. Colfax Avenue  
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Mr. Hainer:

I am the adviser of the Lamar High School FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America) chapter here in Lamar, Colorado. On behalf of my organization, I am writing in support of the Colorado State Library's Public Computing Center application for the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program. I am particularly excited about the benefits, such as student tutoring/learning opportunities, that enhanced computing and Internet access at the Lamar Public Library will bring to our community.

Our community lost its main source of unskilled labor employment within the last five years. Other employment opportunities have been very scarce. Accordingly, our community has had to apply a larger percentage of its disposable income toward needs rather than wants. In such a situation, a purchase of a computer is generally not high on the list. This, in turn, creates a ripple effect.

Many of these families have members who are willing to work other jobs but are technologically unskilled and/or they have school-age children who do not have adequate access to computers in order to complete academic assignments. In many of these cases, Lamar Public Library is the only access these students have to computers outside of school hours.

Our FBLA organization has targeted a year-round partnership with Lamar Public Library as our top priority community service project. We are currently assisting the library with general projects; but we have met with the current director numerous times to pinpoint more specific projects; in particular, technology tutoring sessions. Currently, the library has a limited number of computers with which to conduct these sessions.

Ultimately, our goal is twofold. First, our student organization would like to give anyone in our community interested in learning technology an opportunity to do so through our tutoring sessions. More importantly, our members will have ample opportunity to recognize the achievement of one of the organization's main goals: Encourage members in the development of individual projects which contribute to the improvement of home, business, and community.

Working with Lamar Public Library, a library participating in the Colorado State Library proposal, we hope we are awarded these funds because of the significant impact on both our community and others throughout Colorado.

The Lamar High School Future Business Leaders of America organization appreciates the Colorado State Library's submission and the National Telecommunications and Information Administration's consideration of this application.

Sincerely,

*Debora Smith*

Debora Smith  
FBLA Adviser

Main Campus  
920 Barlow Road  
Ft. Morgan, CO 80701  
970-542-3100  
1-800-622-0216  
Fax 970-807-0064

Bennett Center  
240 Colfax, Unit 3  
PO Box 554  
Bennett, CO 80102  
303-644-4C34  
Fax 303-644-4663

Burlington Center  
340 S. 14th Street  
Burlington, CO 80007  
719-346-9303  
Fax 719-346-5336

Limon Center  
940 2nd Street  
PO Box 729  
Limon, CO 80825  
719-775-8073  
Fax 719-775-2580

Wray Center  
32415 Hwy 34  
PO Box 38  
Wray, CO 80758  
970-802-5755  
Fax 970-332-5754

Yuma Center  
520 N. Albany St. 1800  
Yuma, CO 80754  
970-846-2421  
Fax 970-846-2461

Bledorn Center for  
Community and  
Economic Development  
300 Main Street  
Fort Morgan, CO 80701  
970-542-3256

[www.morganccc.edu](http://www.morganccc.edu)

March 2, 2010

Eugene Hainer, Assistant Commissioner  
Colorado State Library  
201 F. Colfax Avenue  
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Mr. Hainer

I am the Director of the Limon Center at Morgan Community College. On behalf of my organization, I am writing in support of the Colorado State Library's Public Computing Center application for the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program. I am particularly excited about the benefits, such as ADA compliant workstations, working computers, and better infrastructure of the computer lab, that enhanced computing and Internet access at the Limon Memorial Library will bring to our community.

Our community is in a very rural area; however we are an active community. We have a need for access to more advanced technology for our economically disadvantage citizens as well as those who cannot otherwise receive Internet access at their rural homes. In order to grow in a changing economic and global society, it is imperative that we are able to have the technological edge in our area to support our local businesses as well as draw in new businesses. In an area our size, funding is always an issue when it comes to providing for these needs in the community. Those who use the library often have no other resource for computer or Internet use and the community at large has even fewer resources to provide those services due to lack of funding, facilities, and staffing.

The MCC Limon Center, in particular, has special requirement of the Limon Memorial Library's computer lab with regard to student needs. Our goals of providing for the educational needs of our adult community of any age and serving the community through continuing education are completely unattainable without access to a computer lab and the Internet. At a very basic level, we use those computers for registration. We also use the computer for classes and tutorials for various students. In addition, our students individually use these computers to do online classes, even after they have left our facility and move on to a four year institution. Students who have the availability of

Main Campus  
920 Barlow Road  
Fort Morgan, CO 80701  
970-542-3100  
1-800-622-0216  
Fax 970-867-3084

Bennett Center  
260 Colfax, Unit 3  
PO Box 554  
Bennett, CO 80722  
303-644-1034  
Fax 303-644-4690

Burlington Center  
340 S. 14th Street  
Burlington, CO 80507  
719-348-8300  
Fax 719-348-5236

Limon Center  
940 2nd Street  
PO Box 729  
Limon, CO 80828  
719-775-8673  
Fax 719-775-2550

Wray Center  
32415 Hwy 34  
PO Box 96  
Wray, CO 80758  
970-332-5755  
Fax 970-332-5754

Yuma Center  
529 N. Albury St. 122C  
Yuma, CO 80759  
970-848-2121  
Fax 970-848-2451

Bloodorn Center for  
Community and  
Economic Development  
300 Main Street  
Fort Morgan, CO 80701  
970-542-3956

[www.morgancc.edu](http://www.morgancc.edu)

this lab now have the option of completing their two or four-year degree in the online classroom, never having to leave our rural area. This alone helps to keep us a viable and sustainable community for the future. Our facility is not large enough to hold a computer lab, and so we collaborate with the Limon Memorial Library to offer much needed computer training/programs. This collaboration of computer lab usage is a crucial need for many of our students who are otherwise not able to pay for their own computers or a monthly Internet bill.

LML's computer lab is often an integral part of the educational achievement for higher education students. For those not ready for higher education, this lab helps us provide classes in areas such as employment seeking skills and computer technology skills. Without this availability, there is no question that it would be a huge struggle to meet our students' needs. Enhancing and updating the library's computer lab would have far-reaching impact on opportunities both for us at Morgan Community College as well as the entire community. It will allow us to continue to provide service to our students as well as reach even more community members, especially those with ADA needs, in meeting the educational goals. We will have more opportunities to provide continuing education at a higher technology level as well on a more consistent basis.

Working with the Limon Memorial Library, a library participating in the Colorado State Library proposal, we hope we are awarded these funds because of the significant impact on both our community and others throughout Colorado.

The MCC Limon Center appreciates Colorado State Library's submission and the National Telecommunications and Information Administration's consideration of this application,

Regards,



Mary Andersen  
Limon Center Director  
Morgan Community College

*Imagine...Believe...Achieve...*



March 9, 2010

Eugene Hainer, Assistant Commissioner  
Colorado State Library  
201 E. Colfax Avenue  
Denver, Colorado 80203

Dear Mr. Hainer,

I am by this letter strongly supporting the Colorado State Library's Public Computing Center application for the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program.

Otero Junior College is located on an attractive 40-acre campus on the southern edge of La Junta, Colorado. Within two years, students at OJC can earn degrees in Associate of Arts, Associate of Science, Associate of Applied Science or Associate of General Studies. Various Career and Technical Education opportunities are available to our students. We work closely with our constituent partners in the surrounding counties of Crowley, Bent and Otero.

The public libraries participating in the BTOP grant application in our immediate service area are Woodruff, Las Animas-Bent County, Rocky Ford, Ordway Combined, Fowler, and Swink School/Public. We will work closely with these libraries to help provide meaningful resources and services to the people of southeastern Colorado. Our staff at the Otero Junior College Library will be active participants within the mission of the grant. Director Sue Keefer has a working relationship with the librarians. I have read your proposed areas of focus: increasing minority and rural access to education, increasing education levels, increasing income levels, and providing computing center access to disabled persons. These areas are very compatible with similar goals at OJC. We look forward to being a part of this very necessary and important work.

I am confident that the value and quality of your proposal will lead to a successful award. If I can be of additional service, please contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James E. Herrell".

James E. Herrell  
Associate Vice President for Instruction  
Otero Junior College



## Pueblo Access For All

Proudly Affiliated with the Colorado Cross Disability Coalition

March 3, 2010

**Colorado Cross  
Disability Coalition**  
655 Broadway  
Ste. 775  
Denver, CO 80203  
Voice 303-839-1775  
Voice 800-817-1435  
TTY 303-839-0015  
TTY 877-267-1621  
Fax 303-839-1782  
[www.ccdconline.org](http://www.ccdconline.org)

Eugene Hainer, Assistant Commissioner  
Colorado State Library  
201 E. Colfax Avenue  
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Mr. Hainer:

I am the Rural Coordinator for southeastern Colorado for the Colorado Cross Disability Coalition. We are a grassroots organization promoting social justice and creating systems change for people with all types of disabilities. I am writing to support the Colorado State Library's Public Computing Center application for the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program..

A few years ago we participated in another grant from Assistive Technology Partners, which purchased two assistive technology stations for our main library. We have used these stations to conduct research for grant applications and to demonstrate how our clients might benefit from similar software programs.

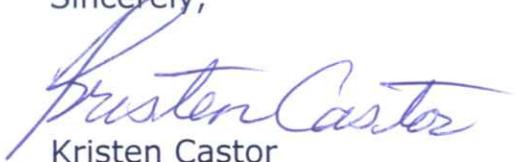
Pueblo has a higher percentage of people in every disability category compared to the national average. A significant number of those people are transportation dependent and have no access to funding for all kinds of assistive devices. Having mobile computer stations with software that accommodates people with visual impairments will open up new opportunities for our community. Many of the clients I work with do not have a computer and are not able to advocate with the state and local government on their own behalf because they don't have access to information and strategies they need to build a case and speak out for themselves.

I cannot tell you how excited I am about this grant. I can foresee instructing individual clients in how to use the Internet and access government websites to manage their

benefits and track legislation that impacts the services they depend on. It is always difficult to explain to people in Denver that they cannot communicate effectively with email because most folks (gasp!) do not have access to a computer, let alone email. At the very least, I will personally be able to take minutes for several meetings without having to transport a heavy laptop over my shoulder!

While the Colorado Cross Disability Coalition cannot contribute matching funding, it is a 501 C 3 organization with 14 chapters across the state, many of which meet in libraries, as does Pueblo Access for All. Pueblo Access for All appreciates the Colorado State Library's submission and the National Telecommunications and Information Administration's consideration of this application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kristen Castor".

Kristen Castor  
Rural Coordinator



## Human Relations Commission

200 W. "B" Street, Suite 234  
Pueblo, Colorado 81003  
719.542.0112

February 26, 2010

Mr. Eugene Hainer  
Assistant Commissioner  
Colorado State Library  
201 E. Colfax Avenue  
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Mr. Hainer:

I am, Sandra Daff, the Executive Director of The Pueblo Human Relations Commission. On behalf of my organization, I am writing in support of the Colorado State Library's Public Computing Center application for the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program. I am particularly excited about the benefits the mobile computer labs and presentation equipment will bring to our community, greatly enhancing computing and Internet access at the Rawlings and Barkman branches of the Pueblo City-County Library District, as well as that of partnering organizations throughout Pueblo.

Pueblo is definitely feeling the blow of the recession. People have lost jobs in our community and many discouraged job seekers simply can't find a job at all. 7,557 households out of 41,785 in the city of Pueblo get food stamps. In 20% of those households there was no worker in the past 12 months (Census, 2008). Their computer skills are poor, or nonexistent, some cannot read well enough to find work (the graduation rate in District 60 is only 68%, so 32% are not graduating here.) Most have no access to up-to-date computers at home, so they must come to the library or to us, to search for work, create applications, apply for unemployment benefits, all those things people who can afford home computers and the Internet take for granted. Others may not speak English well (16% of families speak a language other than English at home, Census, 2008), have disabilities or learning problems, need to complete a GED or become a US citizen before they are employable.

The Libraries have been working with us to address the needs of the unemployed or underemployed for quite some time. In fact the Pueblo Chieftain wrote an article about our partnership subtitled "The local library and Pueblo Workforce agency have made it easier to look for a job" (4/24/08). A Workforce regional director, visiting Pueblo, called the partnership a "model" for other libraries and Workforce centers around the state. Basically, we treat the library as a "branch" for our clients that is open when we are not, chiefly evenings and weekends. We supply weekly job listings and information on our programs and the library supplies public access computers, links to our office and job sites on their Webpage, and librarians who provide "Find Work @ Your Library" tours.

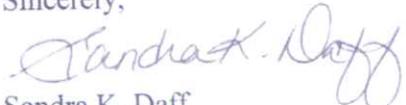
With the new labs, we could perhaps expand our already well-established partnership. Classes that are taught here at our building could be repeated at the libraries, for instance. With these mobile computing labs, the partnering prospects between us are greatly improved. I should note that the libraries have partnered with our sister agencies for years. TANF recipients met in the library for over a year when their

building was damaged. Rocky Mountain SER teens have helped out in their Teen Central area repeatedly and thus been given a job and job training. Clearly supporting our libraries is supporting the people of Pueblo, and we are ready to help, by working with the libraries. Last year almost 1,000,000 people visited the library. Many of them are our clients.

Working with the Rawlings and Barkman Libraries, libraries participating in the Colorado State Library proposal, we hope we are awarded these funds because of the significant impact on both our community and others throughout Colorado.

The Pueblo Human Relations Commission fully supports the Colorado State Library's submission and the National Telecommunications and Information Administration's consideration of this application.

Sincerely,



Sandra K. Daff  
Executive Director



## Project Literacy, Inc

434 S. Conquistador Ave. Pueblo West, CO 81007 719-647-6322 Fax: 719-547-0320

February 24, 2010

Eugene Hainer, Assistant Commissioner  
Colorado State Library  
201 E. Colfax Avenue  
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Mr. Hainer:

I am the Director at the Project Literacy. On behalf of my organization, I am writing in support of the Colorado State Library's Public Computing Center application for the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program. I am particularly excited about the benefits, such as offering on-line literacy programs and more resources for families dealing with Dyslexia, that enhanced computing and Internet access at the Pueblo City-County Library will bring to our community.

Pueblo has a grave poverty issue. One way to best overcome poverty is through literacy training. In 2007, Pueblo experienced a poverty rate of 22.6% which is nearly double the rate experienced by Colorado as a whole. A recent article in the Pueblo Chieftain stated that the dropout rate in Pueblo City Schools is one in three. The two issues work in concert. Another contributing factor to the low literacy rate and high dropout rate might be that there are an estimated 40,000-150,000 Dyslexic students in Colorado.

Project Literacy's goals are two-fold. We want to provide the tools for Pueblo students to learn to read, and we want to provide valuable resources for families dealing with Dyslexia. Our literacy program is offered on-line, so the additional computers would allow access for more individuals. Knowledge is power, and having computers and Internet access is just one more way that families dealing with Dyslexia can gain information. Holding our Dyslexic support group meetings at the library, we could direct families to pertinent web sites that they could access right there and gain information immediately. The library is providing facilities, staff to do tours or offer research help, and their partnering organization, The InfoZone Museum, is providing children's movies in conjunction with the meetings, for the group's children. These meetings start in April.

Also, if the libraries at Rawlings and Barkman can provide mobile "computer classrooms," in which we could reach 40 people a class, instead of being restricted by the two libraries' lack of such a teaching area, we could do more. Our hope is that after we begin with on-site classroom training, we can then work with the Pueblo City-County Library to offer access to our course on-line. This will allow library patrons to work on their literacy skills at their convenience, and at their discretion. We work with organizations like Mi Casa and the Department of Vocational Rehabilitation who could refer their constituents to the library.

Project Literacy's intent is to also provide training programs for facilitators, meaning that someone could be trained to oversee a group working on-line and be equipped to answer their questions. Three librarians from the District are taking this training, investing seven hours each for six-weeks, to be able to sustain the classes. Other qualified individuals can be trained, too. For instance, librarian Rebecca Atkinson, has already been asked by the program director at the Pueblo County Sheriff's Department to be able to take the training, so she can help people who have ended up on the wrong side of the law, and, not coincidentally, can't read well enough to make a better life for themselves.

When a student completes the literacy program, they are given a certificate. Our program allows us to monitor the number of certificates earned, so the effects of the on-line service can easily be tracked. Again, in reference to the Dyslexia support group, we can make offering valuable web site references part of each meeting, and we will physically see how many individuals are using the computers right on the library premises to access that information.

Working with the Pueblo City-County Library, a library participating in the Colorado State Library proposal, we hope we are awarded these funds because of the significant impact on both our community and others throughout Colorado.

Project Literacy appreciates the Colorado State Library's submission and the National Telecommunications and Information Administration's consideration of this application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J.M.Cress".

Joy M. Cress

*Director, Project Literacy*



March 1, 2010

Eugene Hainer, Assistant Commissioner

Colorado State Library

201 E. Colfax Avenue

Denver, CO 80203

Dear Mr. Hainer:

I am Kathy West, superintendent for Pueblo City Schools, the public school district serving the youth of Pueblo, Colorado. Pueblo City Schools addresses the learning needs of over 18,000 students. On behalf of Pueblo City Schools, I am writing in support of the Colorado State Library's Public Computing Center application for the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program. I am particularly excited about the benefits the mobile computer labs and presentation equipment will bring to our community, greatly enhancing computing and Internet access at the Rawlings and Barkman branches of the Pueblo City-County Library District, as well as that of partnering organizations throughout Pueblo.

At Pueblo City Schools we are acutely aware of the foundational role literacy plays for all education. In turn, the primary economic driver for a community is the education level of its citizenry. Many children can not read well enough to keep up with their peers, or be gainfully employed upon graduation. The graduation rate for Pueblo City schools is 68%, meaning at least 32% of our youth are not graduating. Teen pregnancy is on the rise—only the poorest areas of Denver have a higher rate, though we are gaining on them. Every day, one teenager gives birth in Pueblo (Pueblo Chieftain, 12/28/09). Between 2006 and 2008, Census research finds 27.8% of our families with children living in poverty, 29.9% with children under five. More than 70% of school children qualify for free and reduced lunches. 2,557 grandparents are supporting their grandchildren in these neighborhoods, people who may not be native English speakers (4,983), or who may not be able to read well in any language, or have access to a computer. 76% of families headed by a grandparent live in poverty. One in six households in Pueblo receives food stamps (Pueblo Chieftain, 12/27/09). We believe all of Pueblo's people should be able to read, and the libraries are a significant partner in this effort..

Pueblo City Schools endeavors to provide a quality education for each child in Pueblo. But we acknowledge that a child's primary educator is his or her parent. But sometimes our parents don't have the skills to assist as well as they should. Sometimes children and adults seek additional support. The local libraries are often a valuable resource where people go for help, perhaps because they are free and confidential, as well as centrally located in two of our poorest neighborhoods. With this grant, the Libraries would be able to support adult literacy programs such as the one proposed for them starting in April. However, because neither of the Libraries have a real computer classroom, they can only help a very few people at a time. The libraries must rely on textbooks to teach literacy, when they have access to a better on-line program where every student could work at his or her own computer. Clearly supporting our libraries is supporting the people of Pueblo.

We want to support the Library's efforts to offer adult literacy classes at least three times a year.. The library is providing a room, what computer access and equipment they have, and three librarians who have volunteered to teach the first class, to learn how to teach literacy skills themselves. They are committing at least 7 hours a week for six-weeks, just on this leg of the effort. They could offer this program to 32 people at the Rawlings Branch and 8 at the Barkman branch, with the new computing labs. This may seem like a drop in the bucket, but what a difference being able to read could make for 40 people at a time!

The Libraries are also working with several other organizations to request three AmeriCorps volunteers, to serve as literacy, homework, and ESL tutors. This is how they hope to keep our programs growing for years to come—as well as with volunteers, SRDA workers, and others. This federal money would be a tremendous help in providing these services. We expect that if the libraries receive this grant, they will greatly increase their effectiveness.

By working with the Rawlings and Barkman Libraries and libraries participating in the Colorado State Library proposal, we encourage the awarding of these funds because of the significant impact on both our community and others throughout Colorado.

Pueblo City Schools supports the Colorado State Library's submission and the National Telecommunications and Information Administration's consideration of this application.

Sincerely,



Kathy West  
Superintendent

ROCKY MOUNTAIN



JOBS FOR PROGRESS, INC

March 2010

Eugene Hainer, Assistant Commissioner  
Colorado State Library  
201 E. Colfax Avenue  
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Mr. Hainer:

I am Jo Ann Weldon with Rocky Mountain SER(RMSER), who is a sub-Grantee to the Department of Labor Title V, **Senior Community Service Employment Program** (SCSEP). On behalf of my organization, I am writing in support of the Colorado State Library's Public Computing Center application for the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program. I am particularly excited about the benefits the mobile computer labs and presentation equipment will bring to our community and senior population. This would greatly enhance computer and Internet access at the Rawlings and Barkman branches of the Pueblo City-County Library District as well as that of partnering organizations throughout Pueblo.

The mission of the SCSEP is to provide job skills and work experience to individuals over the age of 55, providing them with ability to make independent choices for themselves. Some seniors do not have basic reading skills, and lack computer skills and/or access to computers. Our computers are outdated and inadequate in our facilities here at RMSER. We are currently using the Rawlings Library's ten-person computer lab to train our participants so that they can update their computer skills and continue to seek employment in our community.

Many seniors cannot afford to retire, 76% of these seniors fall below the poverty levels. In addition, some grandparents are also responsible for providing for their grandchildren (2,557 of them, Census 2008) due to their parents serving in the arm forces, incarceration or deceased. Some of these elders may not be native English speakers (4,983) or may not be able to read well in any language. They have limited opportunities to gain computer skills.

The Pueblo City-County Libraries are engaging with **SCSEP** as a Host Agency training site for four seniors at the Rawlings Library. One senior is training as a computer tutor

who helps people in their public computing area with setting up email accounts, applying for jobs, printing and basic computer functions. He also assists with accessing health information or public assistance. He helps an average of 15 people a day, many of them seniors.

**SCSEP** would like to staff the new mobile computer labs with senior trainees through part-time community service assignments. The grant would provide extensive training and educational skills for all ages of Pueblo County. These mobile labs will be used to train 40 people at a time. Through participation in the Colorado State Library proposal, **SCSEP** in conjunction with the Rawlings and Barkman Libraries look forward to the training and educational opportunities that will be available through this funding.

**SCSEP** appreciates the Colorado State Library's submission and the National Telecommunications and Information Administration's consideration of this application.

Sincerely,



Jo Ann Torrez Weldon  
Rocky Mountain SER  
230 N. Union Avenue  
Pueblo, CO 81003  
719-404-0935



SENIOR RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT  
AGENCY, PUEBLO, INC.

230 N. Union Avenue • Pueblo, CO 81003 • (719) 545-8900

March 1, 2010

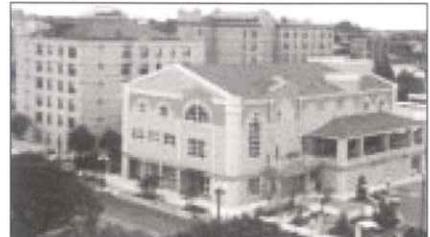
Mr. Eugene Hainer, Assistant Commissioner  
Colorado State Library  
201 E. Colfax Avenue  
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Mr. Hainer:

I am Stephen G. Nawrocki, the Executive Director of the Senior Resource Development Agency, Pueblo, Inc. (SRDA). I am writing in support of the Colorado State Library's Public Computing Center application for the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program. I am particularly excited about the benefits the mobile computer labs and presentation equipment will bring to our community, greatly enhancing computing and Internet access at the Rawlings and Barkman branches of the Pueblo City-County Library District, as well as that of partnering organizations throughout Pueblo.

The needs in Pueblo are great right now. Drop-out rates are high (only 68% of our students graduate). Teen pregnancy rates are exceeded only by those of the poorest neighborhoods in Denver. A teenage girl has a baby every day in Pueblo (*Pueblo Chieftain*, 12/28/2009). Many of our residents have no computer skills or access to up-to-date computers. Many of our seniors are also responsible for providing for their families, including grandchildren, and 76% live in poverty. Almost 30% of households with small children live at or below poverty level. In 27% of the households, no one has worked in over 12 months. One in six households in Pueblo receive food stamps (*Pueblo Chieftain*, 12/27/09). Sixteen percent of our people speak English "less than well," with Spanish being the main language spoken at home. Almost 40% of our city is Hispanic. Over 3,000 people cannot get a job because they are not US citizens yet. Some have disabilities which require ADA compliant computers, something the Barkman Library does not have but which would make a real difference.

Joseph H. Edwards Senior Center



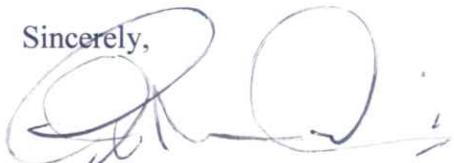
Pueblo County  
United Way

Mr. Eugene Hainer, Assistant Commissioner  
Colorado State Library  
Letter, 03/01/10  
Page -2-

Our libraries have been working to help address the needs of these families for some time. They have hosted citizenship classes, ESL classes, GED classes, Spanish computer classes and several in English each month. They provide many public access computers. Unfortunately, they have no computer "classrooms," so we are happy to hear about the possibility of their receiving mobile computer labs. What a boon for our entire community. This equipment would make a big difference in how many people we can help.

SRDA appreciates the Colorado State Library's submission and the National Telecommunications and Information Administration's consideration of this application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "SGN".

Stephen G. Nawrocki  
Executive Director

cc: Gene Montoya, Assistant Director

SGN/vp  
03/01/10

## **Letters of Participation – Sub-Recipients**

The following section contains letters of participation from all represented libraries. Please note that in some cases, a single library district represents multiple PCCs that have been included in the application.

<b>Participating Library</b>	<b>Letter of Participation?</b>
Alamosa/Southern Peaks	x
Burlington Public Library	x
Canon City Public Library	x
Conejos County Library	x
Cortez Public Library	x
Costilla County Public Library	x
Delta County Libraries	x
Denver Public Library	x
Dolores County School/Public Library/Dove Creek	x
Dolores Public Library District	x
East Morgan County Library District	x
Elbert County Library District	x
Fleming Community Library	x
Fort Morgan Public Library	x
Fowler Public Library	x
Gunnison County Public Library District	x
Haxtun Public Library	x
High Plains Library District	x
Holyoke/Heginbotham Library	x
Jackson County Library District	x
John C. Fremont Library	x
Kiowa County Public Library District	x
La Junta/Woodruff Memorial Library	x
Lamar Public Library	x
Las Animas-Bent County Library District	x
Limon Memorial Library	x
Mancos Public Library District	x
Mesa County Public Library District	x
Montrose Regional Library District	x
Nucla Public Library	x
Ordway Combined Community Library	x
Pikes Peak Library District	x
Poudre River Public Library District	x
Pueblo City-County Library District	x
Rangeview Library District	x
Red Feather Mountain Library District	x
Rio Grande Library District (Del Norte and Monte Vista Carnegie)	x
Rocky Ford Public Library	x
Silverton Public Library	x
Southern Teller County School/Public Library District	x
Southern Ute Cultural Center	x
Spanish Peaks Library District	x
Sterling Public Library	x
Stratton Public Library	x
Swink Public/School Library	x
Trinidad/Carnegie Public Library	x
Upper San Juan Library District	x
Ute Mountain Ute Tribe Library	x
Wray Public Library	x



# *Southern Peaks Public Library*

423 4<sup>th</sup> St • Alamosa, CO 81101  
(719) 589-6592 • [www.alamosalibrary.org](http://www.alamosalibrary.org)

March 5, 2010

Eugene Hainer  
Assistant Commissioner  
Colorado State Library  
201 E. Colfax Avenue  
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Mr. Hainer,

I am the Director at the Southern Peaks Public Library. This letter indicates our participation as a sub-recipient of the Colorado State Library's Public Computing Center application for the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program.

### **Community Needs/Library's Role**

The libraries in the SLV are challenged by their attempts to meet the needs of their local communities. The SLV is one of the largest Valleys in the United States, yet it is isolated from the more heavily populated areas of the State, both geographically and philosophically. The valley is a rural environment covering 8,193 square miles located between the San Juan Mountains on the west and the Sangre de Cristo Mountains on the east stretching 122 miles long and 74 miles wide. The population of the City of Alamosa (July 2008) is approximately 8,750 people, with a regional population of just over 46,000 residents with the highest percentage of Hispanic people of any region in Colorado. Alamosa County is 43.6% Hispanic (U.S. Census, 2007), an average income of \$15,037, and 20% of the residents living below the poverty line. Most of the other towns in the Valley suffer even bleaker rates of poverty.

We have a need in the San Luis Valley to provide access and training to our communities in the use of computers. Many employers now require applicants to file online, for example, Wal-Mart and Safeway. If the applicant does not have a computer they are told to go to their local library. We still have many people in our area who do not know how to turn on a computer or use a mouse. How are they going to go online and apply for a job?

The underserved would use the technology and training to boost their choices in life, job situations, recreation, family awareness, medical education and many other factors that would improve and compliment the community in which they reside. For minority families, there is a great need for the Spanish speaking population to learn technology to help their children in school/job skills/job search/connection to their families, etc.

One peculiar aspect of the valley is that many residents never leave the SLV and, if they do so, it is only once or twice per year. Improved access to technology and formalized training will allow these residents to better connect to those resources and people located beyond the physical boundaries of the valley. For those unemployed and wanting to stay in the valley, the need to apply online for employment has become more and more the norm. Many of those seeking employment have found that computer skills are necessary to apply for or acquire a lucrative position. There is a very strong relationship between the local libraries and the communities they serve. With an increase in unemployment, the number of visitations to SLV libraries has increased. In the past year, the rate of usage in the Alamosa library alone has increased significantly averaging over 250 patrons per day compared to 219 in 2005. Unemployment rates as of December 2009 are: Alamosa – 6.1%, Conejos – 8.4%, Costilla – 9.8%, Rio Grande – 7.1%, and Saguache – 8.9% with the state at 7.5%.

Research has shown that “rural Americans are lagging behind in connectivity as compared to urban and suburban Americans, and they are lagging behind their rural competitors in Canada, Europe, and the industrial nations of Asia” (Lloyd, 2007). This problem in turn makes it increasingly difficult for rural areas like the SLV to compete in the regional economy, let alone the global economy.

### **Partnerships – Recent and Current**

The librarians at Adams State College had been teaching our computer classes using funds from a LSTA grant they received in 2008. These classes were proven to be very important to the community. Colorado Workforce and Headstart sent their employees and clients to take these classes. We also offered a Spanish basic computer class series to a group of community members from BOCES. This grant was completed in August 2009.

However, our communities continue to show a need for these services. To fill the gap left due to the conclusion of ACS’s grant, the Carnegie Libraries in Monte Vista and South Fork; libraries in Del Norte, Blanca, Fort Garland, San Luis, Conejos, and Saguache; and our Alamosa library partnered on a LSTA project for the year of October 1, 2009 to September 30, 2010 and received the funding requested. The goal for the grant: “Colorado residents will be able to access resources and services electronically through libraries to meet their information and learning needs.” This current project is offering technology training, information literacy and resources, and improving access to technology in the poverty stricken San Luis Valley.

### **Partnerships To Establish**

For this BTOP grant, Southern Peaks Public Library will engage the following entities as partners: SLV Deaf community, Blue Peaks Developmental Services, South Central Colorado Seniors, BOCES, Alamosa Workforce Center, and Trinidad State Junior College.

As part of our participating in this grant application, the Southern Peaks Public Library agrees to sustain all computing center services and programs including maintaining or

enhancing the broadband service and maintaining the computer hardware and software. We will participate in training and partnerships to make the computer centers a long-term public resource for our community. We also certify that the library public computing center will be free and open to all. We will work with the Colorado State Library to comply with all BTOP reporting requirements and we will comply with applicable federal, state and local laws related to this grant project. Finally, if awarded the funds from the NTIA, Southern Peaks Public Library will be able to provide a cash commitment of 10% of the total estimated cost of our equipment. These funds will come from our operating budget and special project budget.

The Southern Peaks Public Library is excited to partner with the Colorado State Library on this important grant. We believe the impact on our community will be significant. We thank the National Telecommunications and Information Administration for this opportunity and for considering our important application.

Sincerely,



Heinz Bergann, Director



[www.burlingtoncolo.com](http://www.burlingtoncolo.com)

415 15th Street \* PO Box 366 \* Burlington, CO 80807 \* Phone 719.346.8652 \* Fax 719.346.8397  
3/3/2010

Eugene Hainer  
Assistant Commissioner  
Colorado State Library  
201 E. Colfax Avenue  
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Mr. Hainer,

I am the Director at the Burlington Public Library. This letter is in support of the Colorado State Library's Public Computing Center application for the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program.

A major part of our population is made up of older citizens, ones who are not overly familiar with computers. At this point in time, the community does not offer much training for the citizens because there is no convenient place to hold such training. The City of Burlington has stayed ahead of the economic times for quite awhile, but in recent months has had to start cutting back. Computers for the public were not a priority. This need has been unfortunately set aside for yet another year.

Currently, our patrons visit our library because it is one of the only areas that has computers open to the public. Students come in to work on their school work, patrons come in to keep up with the news and stock market, and others come in just to check their e-mail. If the library did not offer these services, the patrons would have to go elsewhere to satisfy their needs. The library now has a few computers to help keep them here, but the wait time is an issue and a few more computers would help move those along.

If even one of the computers malfunctions and requires maintenance, then the wait time is greater. The library hopes by increasing the number of computers, the wait time will be less and more patrons will utilize this service. The Library hopes to encourage the older community members to learn how to use computers by hosting trainings. The Library will encourage its patrons to seek higher education by providing the laptops for online classes. The laptops will also be used in big conferences and trainings at Burlington's Community Center that currently have been turned away because the community did not have the resources required.

The Library will be working with Colorado Workforce and the Morgan Community College to help with the process of looking for employment and obtaining higher education. The library also hopes that these computers will encourage more truckers and travelers to come to downtown Burlington and check emails, the weather and road

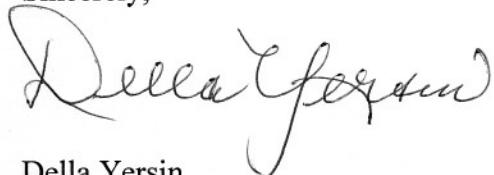
conditions, and then maybe stay awhile and enjoy what our City has to offer. In these tough economic times, people are using the internet for job searching possibilities.

As part of its participating in this grant application, the Burlington Public Library agrees to sustain all computing center services and programs including maintaining or enhancing the broadband service and maintaining the computer hardware and software. The library will participate in training and partnerships to make the computer centers a long-term public resource for our community. We also certify that the library public computing center will be free and open to all.

We will work with the Colorado State Library to comply with all BTOP reporting requirements and we will comply with applicable federal, state and local laws applicable to the grant and related projects. Finally, if awarded the funds from the NTIA, our library will provide a 10% match for the equipment provided in the grant.

The Burlington Public Library is excited to partner with the Colorado State Library on this important grant. We believe the impact on our community will be significant. We thank the National Telecommunications and Information Administration for this opportunity and for considering our important application.

Sincerely,



Della Yersin  
*Burlington Public Library*  
Director



*Office of the  
City Administrator*

# *City of Cañon City*

*P.O. Box 1460 • 128 Main Street • Cañon City, CO 81215-1460  
(719) 269-9011 • Fax: (719) 269-9017*

March 8, 2010

To Whom It May Concern:

The Cañon City Public Library is pleased to be a sub-recipient partner of the Colorado State Library for the BTOP PCC grant. With this letter, we confirm our participation.

We are currently in the process of planning a new addition to our library, and we will have both the capacity and demand to support these new computers in our expanded facility. We will be able to provide \$4,126.00 cash match out of our operating budget to support the grant.

Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "SGRabe".

Steven G. Rabe  
City Administrator  
City of Cañon City



February 24, 2010

Eugene Hainer

Assistant Commissioner

Colorado State Library

201 E. Colfax Avenue

Denver, CO 80203

Dear Mr. Hainer,

I am the Director of the Conejos County Library. This letter indicates or participation as a sub-recipient of the Colorado State Library's Public Computing Center application for the Broadband Opportunities Program.

Conejos County is one of the poorest countries in the nation. We have 18% unemployment most of the jobs are seasonal. The citizens of the county have trouble finding jobs because of lack of jobs and or job skills. We have a large percentage of people with major health programs such as sugar diabetes.

A large percentage of the people who come to the library come to file their unemployment, to look for jobs, to get information on some health concern they have. Neither school children nor adult would have on line access if the public library did not have computers for public use. The library is offering free computer classes. We have six computers and at the last class, we had 15 people show up. We also offer free tax preparation. The people are coming to take the practice census on the library computers.

The first Saturday that we did the free tax preparation we had over fifty people show, but had the six computers to work on. Our six computers are always busy. People have to wait at least 30 to 45 minutes for the computer. If we get more computers this will allow us to service more people and less waiting time. People will have easier access to jobs, improved education, improved computers skills and improved health awareness.

We will partner with the schools, the County Nurse, Senior Centers, and the colleges in this area to make better use of the computers and to meet the needs of the community.

As part of our participating in this grant application, The Conejos County Library agrees to sustain all computers center services and programs including maintain or enhancing the broadband and maintain computer hardware and software. We will participate in training and partnerships to make the centers a long-term public resource for our community. We also certify that the library computer center will be free and open to all.

We will work with the Colorado State Library to comply with all BTOP reporting requirements and will comply with applicable federal and state and local laws related to this grant project.

The Conejos County Library is excited to partner with the Colorado State Library on this important grant. We believe the impact on our community will be significant. We thank the National Telecommunications and Information Administration for this opportunity and for considering our important application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Maria DeHerrera".

Maria DeHerrera, Director



CORTEZ PUBLIC LIBRARY  
202 N. PARK  
CORTEZ, CO 81321

March 5, 2010

Eugene Hainer  
Assistant Commissioner  
Colorado State Library  
201 E. Colfax Avenue  
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Mr. Hainer,

I am the Director at the Cortez Public Library. This letter indicates our participation as a sub-recipient in the Colorado State Library's Public Computing Center application for the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program.

Cortez is in the southwestern corner of Colorado. Our community borders on the Ute Mountain Ute Indian Reservation and the Navajo Reservation. Our library serves many native people. Generally, at any one time, approximately 50% of the patrons using our public access computers are Native American. This 50% does not reflect the actual percentage of the population of Cortez which is about 10%, but it may reflect Native American income levels.

Cortez is traditionally economically depressed compared to the rest of the state. Patrons use our computers to search for jobs, apply for jobs and to write their resumes. We have noticed a definite increase in this use since the recession. Yesterday, I worked at our Circulation Desk for two hours. During that time, library staff helped three people with job searching activities. Two needed help with online applications and another needed help with his resume. Some employers ONLY take applications online now. In our area, these include Safeway, McDonalds and an auto parts store. I've helped many panicked patrons find the application, fill it out and submit it. This shows a real need for basic computer skills. Our Workforce Center staff recognizes this same need. We are interested in working together to provide this type of training. With a computer lab, our library could provide a series of classes on job hunting, applying for a job and writing a resume.

Our Chamber of Commerce regularly holds classes for the business community and is interested in using the mobile lab. We have letters of support from our local D.A.R. who would use the mobile computer lab for genealogy workshops that they provide at the library. Our school district is among the poorest in the state (both financially and with regard to test scores). Students and parents need increased computer access for homework and further education. Our school district provides an online program for students to complete their high school education called "Plato." We partner with the school district to provide access to the Plato software for both Native and Anglo kids.

Some of our patrons have Internet access at home, but as one of our teens told me recently, "It's so slow!" so she comes to the library.

As part of our participation in this grant application, the Cortez Public Library agrees to sustain all computing center services and programs including maintaining or enhancing the broadband service and maintaining the computer hardware and software. We will participate in training and partnerships to make the computer centers a long-term public resource for our community. We also certify that the library public computing center will be free and open to all. We will work with the Colorado State Library to comply with all BTOP reporting requirements and we will comply with applicable federal, state and local laws related to this grant project. Finally, if awarded the funds from the NTIA, the Cortez Public Library will be able to provide a cash commitment of \$2028, 10% of the total estimated cost of our equipment. These funds will come from the Friends of the Cortez Public Library.

The Cortez Public Library is excited to be a sub-recipient with the Colorado State Library on this important grant. We believe the impact on our community will be significant. We thank the National Telecommunications and Information Administration for this opportunity and for considering our important application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joanie Howland". The signature is fluid and cursive, with "Joanie" on top and "Howland" below it, slightly overlapping.

Joanie Howland  
Library Director



## Costilla County libraries

418 Gasper Street (PO Box 351), San Luis, Colorado, 81152, 719-672-3309

&

17591 Hwy. 160, (PO Box 310), Blanca, Colorado, 81123, 719-379-3945

(Blanca-Fort Garland library)

**March 9, 2010**

Eugene Hainer  
**Assistant Commissioner**  
Colorado State Library  
201 E. Colfax Avenue  
Denver, Co 80203

Dear Mr. Hainer,

As the Acting Director of the Costilla County Libraries, I am submitting this letter to indicate our participation as a sub-recipient of the Colorado State Library's Public Computing Center application for Broadband Technology Opportunities Program.

We are an extremely poor community and are in deep need of bringing our population up to speed with the world at large. We suffer from poor communication services in this area (i.e. cell phone service, land line service, broadband service and cable). These services are expensive and not always available for everyone who live in the area. Our population is spread out across the valley and some travel a great distance just to shop and use the services the libraries offer. As a library, we sometimes are the only means of communication of some of the people in the out-lying areas. They depend on our computers to be running at maximum capacity, and up-dated with the latest software to accommodate their needs. We are trying to supply these people with computer classes through grants so they can use this technology to the best of their ability.

Because we are in demand (the libraries), our patrons often experience long wait times for our computers. We try to put a limit on the time, but in some cases, a patron is working on very important material or on a search engine to locate, maybe a part for a pump, or well descriptions, or how to apply for a job. It is hard for us to demand that the computers be shared for the patrons that are waiting. We also have patrons that are taking college classes from the computers and, of course, those computers need to be used for a longer period of time. We also have the kids that use the computers after school. With so many people needing the service that a computer can bring them, we want to be able to provide each with the opportunity to be able to use the computer for their own needs.

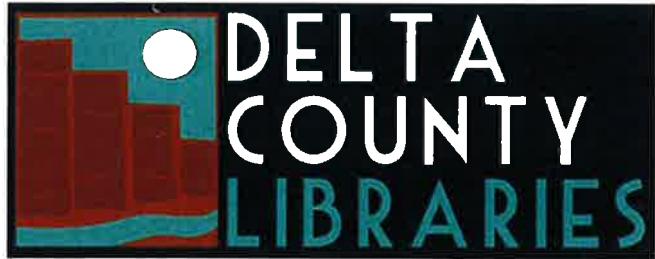
There is a growing group of seniors that is becoming interested in how to use the computer, now that they have learned that they can communicate with loved ones in other countries or just across town. Many seniors are also looking for part time jobs in this rough economy.

As part of our participating in this grant application, Costilla County Libraries agrees to sustain all computing center services and programs including maintaining or enhancing the broadband service and maintaining the computer hardware and software. We will participate in training and partnerships to make the computer centers a long-term public resource for our community. We also certify that the library public computing center will be free and open to all.

We will work with the Colorado State Library to comply with all BTOP reporting requirements and we will comply with applicable federal, state and local laws related to this grant project.

The Costilla County Libraries is excited to partner with the Colorado State Library on this important grant. We believe the impact on our community will be significant. We thank the National Telecommunications and Information Administration for this opportunity and for considering our important application

Sincerely,  
Paula Harrison  
Acting Director of Costilla County Libraries



## CEDAREDGE CRAWFORD DELTA HOTCHKISS PAONIA

March 1, 2010  
Eugene Hainer  
Assistant Commissioner  
Colorado State Library  
201 E. Colfax Avenue  
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Mr. Hainer,

I am the District Director of the Delta County Libraries. This letter indicates our participation as a partner in the Colorado State Library's Public Computing Center application for the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program.

Delta County is primarily rural with five incorporated communities with library facilities. We provide free wireless Internet access and machines for public computing. Demand for computers has grown dramatically as the economy worsens in our area and people choose to give up internet service at home. Also people who are located in remote areas of our County have only had dial-up access at home, and it is far too slow to handle modern applications and downloading and they turn to the library to access faster Internet connections. Currently, we experience waiting lines for computers at all of our facilities during most library open hours. Patrons can be seen at all hours sitting outside our buildings and parked near the buildings to access the internet on our wireless connection.

Our County has a high percentage of low income individuals and families, approximately 50% of students qualify for free or reduced lunch programs, and our unemployment level is growing. Circulation of our libraries' materials was up 23% in 2009 and all our facilities had increases in library visits and computer use.

The libraries in our District, and our Literacy department, have become the trusted source for training on computer use, including training on basic use of computers, training on Internet access, information access and job searching. We provide training on basic computing and job searching at all of our locations and in conjunction with our adult education and ESL classes. We have partnered with our County's Department of Health and Human Services to provide computer training throughout our District and they provide funding for instructor time at all of our facilities.

Our Literacy Department partners with the Family Resource Center, Delta County Schools, and the County Department of Health and Human Services to provide instruction for adults in GED, ESL and job searching and also for Family Literacy programs and classes that involve all age groups. Library computers and one set of mobile laptops are used in all the locations where programs are provided. Many of these machines are outdated and need to be replaced. Presently,

the set of laptops can only be used at one location at a time and must be picked up and returned to the administrative office which involves a lot of driving for our instructors.

With laptops and computers acquired with this grant we will upgrade and replace outdated or non-working machines. We will be able to increase computer classes in all locations by having laptop labs available in the different communities. This allows us to offer more classes, with greater frequency and classes at more than one location at the same time. We will also be able to have more students in each class. Our ESL and GED instructors can also use the laptop labs during their class sessions and broaden their class curriculum.

We envision a number of community groups and non-profit organizations using the laptops in our meeting rooms to offer additional classes and instruction for the public. We will be working with service clubs and non-profit organizations as well as our alternative school tutors to explore options for classes. We also envision outreach classes for the Chambers of Commerce and local businesses.

As a partner in this grant application, Delta County Libraries agrees to sustain all computer center services and programs including maintaining or enhancing the broadband service and maintaining the computer hardware and software. We will participate in training and partnerships to make the computer centers a long-term public resource for our community. We also certify that the library public computing center will be free and open to all.

We will work with the Colorado State Library to comply with all BTOP reporting requirements and we will comply with applicable federal, state and local laws applicable to the grant and related projects. Finally, if awarded the funds from the NTIA, Delta County Libraries will be able to provide a commitment of \$14,500, 10% of the total estimated cost of our equipment. These funds will come from a combination of operating budget, Friends and Foundation funds, and designated donations.

Delta County Libraries is excited to partner with the Colorado State Library on this important grant. We believe the impact on our community will be significant. We thank the National Telecommunications and Information Administration for this opportunity and for considering our important application.

Attached are resumes for my Technical Services Manager and myself. Also attached is a list of grants administered by the Delta County Libraries in the past three years.

Sincerely,



E. Annette Choszczyk

District Director

PO BOX 858 DELTA, CO 81416

970.872.4204 970.872.3834 (FAX) WWW.DELTALIBRARIES.ORG



DENVER  
PUBLIC  
LIBRARY

10 W 14<sup>TH</sup> AVENUE PARKWAY  
DENVER, COLORADO  
80204-2731

T 720 865 1111

DENVER  
LIBRARY  
.ORG

March 5, 2010

Eugene Hainer  
Assistant Commissioner  
Colorado State Library  
201 East Colfax  
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Mr. Hainer:

As City Librarian for the Denver Public Library, I am writing to confirm the Denver Public Library's participation as a partner in the Colorado State Library's "Bridging Colorado's Great Digital Divide" application for the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program. We are grateful for this partnership opportunity.

In order to meet the growing computer and Internet needs of our diverse customer base, the Denver Public Library has identified an urgent need for additional computers and related equipment at the Central Denver Library and at six of our branch libraries located in underserved neighborhoods with diverse populations and high rates of poverty and unemployment. In 2009 these seven facilities received nearly 1.8 million customer visits.

During the past 18 months, the Denver Public Library has experienced a strong increase in requests for public computers and broadband Internet access, along with the programs and services that must be provided to help customers who have limited or no computer experience. For many of these individuals, the Denver Public Library provides their only source of free computers and free broadband service.

The demand for computers and services has been intensified by economic circumstances and by demographic changes in Denver's population including ever increasing numbers of immigrants and non-English speakers. These new residents typically understand the importance of computer access and Internet connectivity, but they often lack computer proficiency and the financial resources to purchase a computer and broadband service. They are turning to the Denver Public Library for free use of computers and peripherals, high-speed Internet connectivity, classes and individual assistance.

The most recently available U.S. Census statistics for the seven Denver neighborhoods included in the Colorado State Library's application underscore the compelling needs of area residents:

- More than **20%** of families living in the seven included Denver neighborhoods fall below poverty level
- An average of **28.5 %** of residents of these communities were born in a foreign country
- A language other than English is spoken in **46.8%** of these homes
- The Hispanic/Latino population in the seven neighborhoods averages **62%**

- In two of the neighborhoods, the African American population is nearly **37%**
- Fewer than **45%** of adults in these communities graduated from high school
- In some neighborhoods the college graduation rate is less than **4%**

As recently as January 22, 2010, the *Denver Business Journal* noted that while unemployment rates were generally declining, Denver's unemployment rate was actually increasing.

In 2007 Denver voters approved a bond measure that has enabled Denver Public Library to refurbish and upgrade our facilities. These upgrades include redesign of the fourth level of the Central Library into a public computing center, the Community Technology Center (CTC) that will consist of a small classroom with 13 workstations, a 37-station classroom, consultation rooms and a large flexible open area. The CTC will be accessible to disabled customers, and two workstations will be outfitted with the hardware and software needed by visually impaired users. Branch libraries are also being upgraded to include smaller accessible community computer labs. While the bond funds are being used for the upgrades, these funds cannot be used for the purchase of the computers essential to completion of the CTC and the branch library public computing centers.

The same economic challenges facing individuals are facing the Denver Public Library, which relies on funding from the City of Denver's general fund. The general fund is dependent on City sales tax revenues for the majority of its income. While this revenue stream has steadily declined over the past two years, the need for Library services has escalated. This has resulted in state of the art public computing centers with a critical shortage of computers. The Colorado State Library's "Bridging Colorado's Great Digital Divide" project will provide Denver Public Library with 257 new computers to outfit the CTC and the branch computing centers for optimal public service.

The Denver Public Library relies on strong community partnerships to provide free, comprehensive computer services for the public. DPL will work in partnership with the Denver Office of Economic Development, College in Colorado, Birdsong Information Services, The Gathering Place and Escuela Tlatelolco to ensure variety and quality to meet the needs of Denver computer learners and users, job seekers, job advancers and small businesses. The menu of classes will include software applications including Microsoft Office, resume preparation, job search skills, online job application and small business assistance. English language learning and family information literacy programs will also be offered.

The cooperative relationships enable all of DPL's community partners to maximize the services that can be provided. Most of the Library's partners operate on a five-day, 40-hour week. Because the Library has evening and weekend hours, we can help our partners extend their classes and services to many participants who would not otherwise be able to attend. The staffs at our partner agencies can assist in providing outreach to varied communities and provide expertise in development and presentation of curriculum and programming.

As a partner in the Colorado State Library's "Bridging Colorado's Great Digital Divide" grant application, the Denver Public Library agrees to sustain all computer center services and programs including maintaining or enhancing broadband service and maintaining computer hardware and software. The Library will participate in training and partnerships to make the public computing centers long-term public resources for our community.

We certify that Denver Public Library computing centers will be free and open to all.

The Denver Public Library will work with the Colorado State Library to comply with all BTOP reporting requirements, and we will comply with applicable federal, state and local laws applicable to the grant and related projects.

If awarded funding from the NTIA, Denver Public Library will be able to provide a commitment of \$49,000. These funds will come from the Library's general operating budget or through fundraising efforts.

The Denver Public Library is very pleased and excited to partner with the Colorado State Library on the "Bridging Colorado's Great Digital Divide" project. We strongly believe that the impact of this project on our community will be significant.

Thank you again for the opportunity to participate with the Colorado State Library as a partner in this vital project. Please express our gratitude to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration for their consideration of this important application.

Sincerely,



Shirley Amore  
City Librarian

March 3, 2010

Eugene Halner  
Assistant Commissioner  
Colorado State Library  
201. E. Colfax Ave.  
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Mr. Hainer,

I am the Librarian/Director at the Dolores County Public Library in Dove Creek, Colorado. Our library is housed inside the school and has been for over 30 years, we are a public/school library combined. This letter indicates our participation as a sub-recipient of the Colorado State Library's Public Computing Center application for the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program.

Dolores County is located in Southwestern Colorado, it ranks high in unemployment as well as one of the poorest in the state. We are a rural community with little industry and live 35 miles from the closest town that has any substantial services. There is rural housing that can't receive internet or if they do it is slow and inefficient.

The library is the only place for the community to access computers or to find information that they need for various reasons whether it be informational or pleasure. Many of our computer in the library are outdated or hand-me-downs and do not have the capabilities needed to be used efficiently. Through a cooperative effort between the College of Eastern Utah, Community Health Clinic, Dolores County School District and the Dolores County Public Library we were allocated a grant under the Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grant Program by USDA Rural Development. To successfully utilize the distant learning, additional equipment is needed.

As part of our participating in this grant application, the Dolores County Public agrees to sustain all computing center services and programs including maintaining or enhancing the broadband service and maintaining the computer hardware and software. We will participate in training and partnerships to make the computer centers a long-term public resource for our community. We also certify that the library computing center will be free and open to all.

We will work with the Colorado State Library to comply with all BTOP reporting requirements and we will comply with applicable federal state and local laws related to this grant project. Finally, If awarded the funds from the NTIA Dolores County Public Library will be able to provide a cash commitment of \$2400 of the total cost of our equipment. These funds will come from local community business and organizations for the funding time frame of October-April 2010. Our in kind match will be provided through the school district with their technology contractor.

The Dolores County Public Library is excited to partner with the Colorado State Library on this important grant. We believe the impact on our community will be significant. We thank the National Telecommunications and information Administration for this opportunity and for considering our important application.

Sincerely,

  
Laurie Ernst



1002 Railroad Avenue, Dolores, Colorado, 81123, 970.882.4127, fax 970.882.2224, [www.doloreslibrary.org](http://www.doloreslibrary.org)

February 22, 2010

Eugene Hainer  
Assistant Commissioner  
Colorado State Library  
201 E. Colfax Avenue  
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Mr. Hainer,

As director at the Dolores Public Library District, this letter indicates our participation as a sub-recipient of the Colorado State Library's Public Computing Center application for the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program.

Dolores is located in rural southwestern Colorado with high unemployment and job loss, the need for support for education is vital to our community. Not only is Dolores in a rural area, but basically remote from urban communities that offer opportunities and amenities. Traveling to cities for training is prohibited for most people due to the distance and expense.

Any type of internet connection is a challenge in our area, as is support in the technology arena. We will continue to meet the needs of our community by offering free internet, (*the only computer access in town*) by providing computer classes and hands-on instruction to our patrons and seniors. Through our website we offer databases to assist the students of the community with their studies.

The demand from our community for more training on basic computer skills has been limited due to the lack of laptops to teach classes. We presently have four laptops that are six years old, which are inadequate for teaching the basic skills. Available trainers are at times impossible to find. The availability for more computers would provide for the need by giving more opportunities for learning, to gain experience and confidence before applying for a new job requiring computer knowledge.

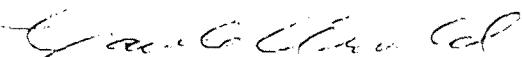
The grant has a focus on establishing and enhancing partnerships to make the biggest community impact. Our meeting room has wireless access and is available for school districts in our area, associations and companies to use for planning and training. We work with our local school district on many occasions and are interested in training with them on learning how to use a "smart board". We have been asked on many occasions when organizations have booked our meeting room if we have a smart board. If we can acquire the board and training, the training could be combined with teachers, boards, chamber of commerce and library staff. We will also be supporting the Colorado Workforce program that offers vouchers to the public so they can take online classes to learn MicroSoft programs. Most of these people do not have computers, much less internet connection. The library's laptops and space will offer the public a opportunity to work on these learning projects.

As part of our participating in this grant application, the Dolores Public Library District agrees to sustain all computing center services and programs including maintaining or enhancing the broadband service and maintaining the computer hardware and software. We will participate in training and partnerships to make the computer centers a long-term public resource for our community. We also certify that the library public computing center will be free and open to all.

We will work with the Colorado State Library to comply with all BTOP reporting requirements and we will comply with applicable federal, state and local laws related to this grant project. Finally, if awarded the funds from the NTIA, Dolores Public Library District will be able to provide a cash commitment of (\$2,032.10) 10 % of the total estimated cost of our equipment. These funds will come from operating budget and Friends of Library Organization, for the funding timeframe of October 2010 – April 2011.

The Dolores Public Library is eager to partner with the Colorado State Library on this important grant. The impact on our community will be significant. We wish to express our appreciation to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration for this opportunity and for considering our important application.

Sincerely,



Carol Arnold  
Director



500 Clayton Street Brush, Colorado 80728 Telephone 970-842-4596

March 3, 2010

Eugene Hainer  
Assistant Commissioner  
Colorado State Library  
201 E. Colfax Avenue  
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Mr. Hainer,

I am the Director at the East Morgan County Library District in Brush, Colorado. This letter indicates our participation as a partner in the Colorado State Library's Public Computing Center application for the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program.

Our community faces many challenges when it comes to providing tools and resources necessary to survive in such technology driven society. A large majority of our population in Brush consists of lower income families. The US Census Report from 2000 shows the average household income in Brush is \$31,333. According to the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC), between 50% and 74% of all students in our district qualify for the Free or Reduced Lunch program at their school. When people are struggling to pay for basic living costs, purchasing a computer or paying a monthly Internet bill is more a dream than a reality. It has been difficult to address these challenges as a community. Brush has very few high paying employers that would help the local economy by providing higher wages or an increase in employment opportunities. In addition, we have a large Hispanic population and many do not speak English. The language barrier at times can be hard to overcome, especially when it comes to training and employment.

Patrons visit the East Morgan County Library for a variety of reasons, but perhaps a large draw is the free use of our public computers. Students use the computer for research and homework. Adult patrons use the computers for communication outlets (such as social networking sites or email) as well as job hunting and resume building. We have many people who use databases at the library for genealogy research and still others who have discovered we are the perfect place for them if they need to take distance learning tests. Each patron who uses our computers has their own specific need or goal. It is up to us as public service entities to help them meet these needs. In rural areas such as ours, there are a large number of patrons who are not able to gain access to High Speed Internet at their homes, while others are not able to receive any Internet connectivity at their house at all. Without the public library, many of these people would not be able to gain access to email, job hunting or other electronic resources. To help meet the needs of our patrons, we are currently doing our best to provide technology outlets for our patrons. We have individual computer tutoring that is available for the beginning computer user by appointment. We also subscribe to several databases to provide our patrons with research opportunities in a variety of areas, including academic research and genealogy.

In spite of our best efforts to provide our patrons with access to computers and Internet, we often find that our current computer availability is insufficient. There are often long lines of students

waiting to work on homework in the afternoons and evenings. We also extend computer time limits for people who are taking tests or working on job applications, sometimes at the inconvenience of other patrons. Federal funds from this grant will help us address some of these challenges. Laptop labs would allow us to have more computers available for public use. The portability of these labs would also allow people taking tests to move to a quieter area of the library for better concentration. There would be shorter wait times and the library would be able to increase the number of patrons who use the public computers. The local community will benefit as well since having more computers will provide easier access to jobs, improved education and improved health awareness.

The East Morgan County Library currently partners with the East Morgan County Genealogy Society to provide computer and database use to individuals who might not otherwise be able to complete their research online. Through this grant opportunity we hope to continue this partnership as well as form new partnerships with English as a Second Language (ESL) classes, the Older Adult Resource Center, the Brush School District and Morgan Community College. Our goal through this partnership is to provide internet and database use to a variety of people and to provide these people with training in computer, internet and database use.

As part of our participating in this grant application, the East Morgan County Library District agrees to sustain all computing center services and programs including maintaining or enhancing the broadband service and maintaining the computer hardware and software. We will participate in training and partnerships to make the computer centers a long-term public resource for our community. We also certify that the library public computing center will be free and open to all.

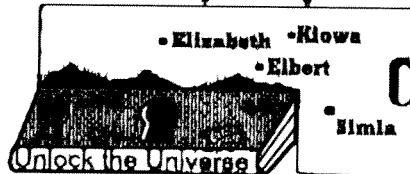
We will work with the Colorado State Library to comply with all BTOP reporting requirements and will comply with applicable federal, state and local laws applicable to the grant and related projects.

Finally, if awarded the funds from the NTIA, East Morgan County Library will be able to provide a commitment of \$1,935.00, 10% of the total estimated cost of our equipment. These funds will come from the Friends of the Library Organization.

The East Morgan County Library District is excited to partner with the Colorado State Library on this important grant. We believe the impact on our community will be significant. We thank the National Telecommunications and Information Administration for this opportunity and for considering our important application.

Sincerely,

Deb Johnson  
Library Director

**Elbert County Library District**

**239 Main Street, P.O. Box 219, Elizabeth, CO 80107  
(303) 646-3792, (303) 646-0315 - fax**

March 2, 2010

Eugene Hainer  
Assistant Commissioner  
Colorado State Library  
201 E. Colfax Avenue  
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Mr. Hainer:

I am the Branch Manager at the Simla Branch Library. This letter indicates our participation as a partner in the Colorado State Library's Public Computing Center application for the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program.

As in many communities, unemployment is a current crisis in Simla. Simla is too familiar with this challenge as the loss of a major employer, a Sofa Mart factory, occurred in November 2008. Sofa Mart employed approximately 60 residents in a community of only 600 in a rural county with 22,000 residents. Replacing these jobs, creating new jobs, retaining current community members, and attracting new residents are all present challenges for Simla. Declining enrollment at the local school is another problem. Being located 48 miles from a major metropolis and the absence of online service at home hinders residents from getting current information needed to maintain and enhance their quality of life.

With 1,305 registered library borrowers, the Simla Branch Library plays a vital role in the community. In our economically compromised environment, patrons utilize our library services out of necessity for economic reasons and for leisure/entertainment. In addition to finding the latest movie or best seller, job searching, writing resumes, filing for unemployment, and GED tutoring all top the list of reasons for library visits. We have a volunteer who has been vital to our GED tutoring, but many patrons have needed various kinds of general and specific help in their pursuit of economic stability. Just this week I proctored an online test for a patron who is presently unemployed. Too many of our patrons have no access to internet service and would suffer more disconnect if our library was unable to provide this service. Internet service is either financially unattainable for the patron or, frequently, a dial-up

**Elbert School Branch**  
24489 Main Street  
P O Box 38  
Elbert, CO 80106  
(303)648-3533  
(303)648-3853 – fax

**Elizabeth Branch**  
207 Main Street  
P O Box 70  
Elizabeth, CO 80107  
(303) 646-3416  
(303) 646-9217 – fax

**Kiowa Branch**  
331 Comanche  
P.O. Box 538  
Kiowa, CO 80117  
(303) 621-2111  
(303) 621-2754 - fax

**Simla Branch**  
504 Washington  
P O Box 245  
Simla, CO 80835  
(719) 541-2573  
(719) 541-2152 – fax

connection is the only option for many households in our service area. Simla Branch Library is the only provider of free access to internet in a 23-mile radius.

For the second year in a row, the Simla Library provided space for the Colorado Eastern Community Action Agency to offer free income tax preparation to low income households. Many residents in our community took advantage of this service. We are a community center, offering a gathering place for many other organizations to use our facility for meetings and collaborative projects. This year we are working with our local Division of Wildlife officer in a public meeting format to provide one-on-one assistance for the online licensing process and information on the Division's new season structure. Last year, we hosted a Hunter's Safety Education course that quickly reached the maximum enrollment of 25 students. We have continual patron interest for this kind of program. Another collaborative program we have offered is Weather Spotter Training from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA) along with the Elbert County Office of Emergency Management (OEM). This training is of high interest to many in our community, an area that is prone to severe weather.

With the local school being on a 4-day schedule, our library becomes a popular place for many youth on their day off from school. We offer a program called Marvelous Mondays for elementary age children, Story Time for pre-school age children and the following adult focused programs: Garden Club, Mystery Book Club, Diverse & Rowdy Reader's Book Club, Quilt, Knit & Sew, and Sticks Click, a knitting program which draws all ages. For our seniors, there is Senior Connection two Thursdays of the month. Our GED tutoring draws many people who might not visit the library, and when they come in for tutoring, they discover new resources both for pleasure and for personal advancement.

A year ago we offered two sessions of beginner computer skills classes. The response was more than we could accommodate with the 5 computers that we have. Our instructor was hindered by the fact that our projector failed to work for the second session - a projector that is shared between our district office and our four branch library locations. There was our instructor trying to teach from a laptop to patrons that had to share a computer with one or two other persons. After these initial two classes, we offered "Computer Tutor" time every Thursday afternoon from 2-4 pm, which drew many of those initial class attendees. We have continued to offer "Computer Tutor" on an appointment only, one-on-one basis in order to balance staff and computer availability with patron demand.

With funding for a mobile computing center, we will be unhindered by small class size limitations and one location. We will be able to keep our desktops in the library available at all times and branch out with our computer class offerings. More specific programs will be developed to offer computer skills training to those needing job skill assistance or job searching. For our patrons, all of this leads to confidence and empowerment, whether for just learning how to email family afar or for improved education, enhancement of job skills, and discovery of new job sources.

We envision strengthening the current partnerships and collaborations we have with the following agencies: Division of Wildlife to offer online Hunter Safety classes and online licensing applications; Colorado Eastern Community Action Agency's free income tax preparation for low income families and possibly Medicare counseling; Elbert County Office of Emergency Management and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association for Weather Spotter Training. In addition the following agencies are those with which we are seeking collaboration:

**Elbert School Branch**  
24489 Main Street  
P.O. Box 38  
Elbert, CO 80106  
(303)648-3533  
(303)648-3853 – fax

**Elizabeth Branch**  
207 Main Street  
P O Box 70  
Elizabeth, CO 80107  
(303) 646-3416  
(303) 646-9217 – fax

**Kiowa Branch**  
331 Comanche  
P.O. Box 538  
Kiowa, CO 80117  
(303) 621-2111  
(303) 621-2754 – fax

**Simla Branch**  
504 Washington  
P O Box 245  
Simla, CO 80835  
(719) 541-2573  
(719) 541-2152 – fax

- Big Sandy School District 100-J for assistance in personnel and training resources for computer classes.
- Elizabeth Workforce Center and Limon Workforce Center for assistance in training on job searches, job online application processes, and other related job skills enhancements.
- Elizabeth Area Chamber of Commerce for business development resources and potential programming.
- Agate School District #300 as an off-site location in an underserved part of our county for computer classes and for their Middle School/High School Book Club enhancement. A ranching community in the northeastern most part of Elbert County, Agate is home of Agate School District 300, one of the smallest school districts in Colorado.

With many patrons seeking to complete their secondary education through GED testing, a laptop lab will provide more capability to meet the GED tutoring demands. The lab will also open the door to GED online resources and enable our GED tutor to accommodate more students. With the mobile computing center, our Library will be able to offer library resource programs such as Genealogy Workshops, giving each student access to resources such as the HeritageQuest website during the workshop. Database and online resource trainings both general and specific to topics such as health or business start-up could be offered. All of the in-house proposals would be able to be carried out without interrupting the desktop computer service that we presently offer in our Library since we have wireless service that would support the mobile lab. Wireless is also available at many of the off-site agency partner locations.

As a partner in this grant application, the Simla Branch Library agrees to sustain all computing center services and programs including maintaining or enhancing the broadband service and maintaining the computer hardware and software. We will participate in training and partnerships to make the computer centers a long-term public resource for our community. We also certify that the library public computing center will be free and open to all.

We will work with the Colorado State Library to comply with all BTOP reporting requirements and we will comply with applicable federal, state and local laws applicable to the grant and related projects. Finally, if awarded the funds from the NTIA, our library will provide the 10% match of \$2,272 for the equipment provided in the grant.

The Simla Branch Library is excited to partner with the Colorado State Library on this important grant. We believe the impact on our community will be significant. We thank the National Telecommunications and Information Administration for this opportunity and for considering our important application.

Sincerely,



Shanna Engler  
Branch Manager

**Elbert School Branch**  
24489 Main Street  
P.O. Box 38  
Elbert, CO 80106  
(303)648-3533  
(303)648-3853 – fax

**Elizabeth Branch**  
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**Simla Branch**  
504 Washington  
P.O. Box 245  
Simla, CO 80835  
(719) 541-2573  
(719) 541-2152 – fax

March 2, 2010

Eugene Hainer  
Assistant Commissioner  
Colorado State Library  
201 E. Colfax Avenue  
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Mr. Hainer,

I am with the Fleming Community Public Library. This letter indicates our participation as a partner in the Colorado State Library's Public Computing Center application for the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program.

Our rural community is having difficulties due to the loss of businesses to larger towns or cities. With sources that are limited we struggle with supplying the means to access technology.

Our library is both a public and a school library. This fits with our community perfectly. Our community and school have to work together to create a five star library by offering programs and sources for all generations. When we make changes to the library it affects all members of the community. We are a small community trying to keep up with the demands of technology. Our Senior Citizens have expressed interest in learning how to use a computer, they need to do research on medical issues, keep up with legislative changes, research and purchase products and, keep connected with their extended families through email. Our younger generation uses the library for research on school project, school assessments require the use of a computer, and without the use of the computers at the library these students would not have access to a computer. With so many activities converting to technology, if we were unable to offer free use of the computers and internet the community members would have to do without or drive several miles to search out an another site.

Since the library is for both the town and the school, members of the community have to call ahead to see if there is an open computer. We also have to limit time on each computer. This in itself is problem do to the slow speed of the internet. Currently we are wheel chair accessible including computer station although these stations are not ADA compliant.

The FBLA members have offered to teach our senior citizens in the use of the both the computers and the internet. Any time you can bring two or more generations together to learn all parties benefit and grow from this experience.

As a partner in this grant application, the Fleming Community Public Library agrees to sustain all computer center services and programs including maintaining or enhancing the broadband

service and maintaining the computer hardware and software. We will participate in training and partnerships to make the computer centers a long-term public resource for our community. We also certify that the library public computing center will be free and open to all. We will work with the Colorado State Library to comply with all BTOP reporting requirements and we will comply with applicable federal, state and local laws applicable to the grant and related projects. Finally, if awarded the funds from the NTIA, Fleming Community Public Library will be able to provide a commitment of \$3726, 10% of the total estimated cost of our equipment. These funds will come from operating budget that is supported by the school.

The Fleming Community Public Library is excited to partner with the Colorado State Library on this important grant. We believe the impact on our community will be significant. We thank the National Telecommunications and Information Administration for this opportunity and for considering our important application.

Sincerely,

*Linda M Hawthorne*



## FORT MORGAN PUBLIC LIBRARY

414 Main Street, Fort Morgan, CO 80701 970-542-4000 www.fmlibrary.org

March 10, 2010

Eugene Hainer  
Assistant Commissioner  
Colorado State Library  
201 E. Colfax Avenue  
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Mr. Hainer,

I am the Director at the Ft. Morgan Public Library. This letter is in support of the Colorado State Library's Public Computing Center application for the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program. I am writing with the intention of participating if approval is given by the City Council by the end of March.

Ft. Morgan has become home to 800 east African refugees. A Community Conversations Women to Women group met here last spring. The immigrant and refugee women were asked how we could help them. They answered, "We want you to teach us English". Learning English would enable them to learn other things, such as driving, getting an education, and getting a job. The African population in Ft. Morgan has grown to 800. However, more women have begun to use the library, as well as to start educational classes at the local community college. This is a start. The library does not have adequate public computers, and so it is difficult to offer workshops or training. We now have ten Internet terminals for the community's population of approximately 11,074, which is often not adequate to the demand.

The year 2000 Census data shows that 48% of Fort Morgan's population has a family income of less than \$35,000. 82% of our school children receive free and reduced price lunches. Many people are out of work. The number of people who use the library computers for job searching or schoolwork is growing. Free public access to computers is only available here or at the Work Force Center. The Center has only 2-3 computers available, and so the library gets their overflow. If the library didn't offer this service, there would be many adults who would experience difficulty getting online. We offer one-on-one training on setting up an e-mail account, search techniques on the Internet, as well as basic search skills on our databases. It would really help to have a mobile computer lab so that we could reach more people at one time, perhaps with several instructors.

We have ample evidence that our computer capacity is inadequate at this time. We have eight PCs 7 for over-18 population, and 3 for under-18). Patrons often have to wait, sometimes for an hour, to use a PC. The growth in computer use between December 2008 and December 2009 was 32%. The funds from the grant will be used to help meet the need for extended sessions to focus on learning or job searching skills. The PC area is not set up for training. A mobile laptop lab could be used in another part of the library or in another building for instructional purposes. The resulting effects on the computer lab would be an increased number of *trained* people using the computers in more efficient ways. The resulting benefits for the community would be that, for the first time, Ft. Morgan would have a computer lab for group training purposes.

We have received letters of support from *OneMorgan County*, which works to assimilate the immigrant/refugee population into the community, Cargill Work Place Education, which hopes to use the laptop lab for a program called USA Learns and a pre-GED program for their students, and from Morgan Community College Administration, which cites the need for computer space as their class sizes increase. Colorado Work Force has indicated the need for additional training places to conduct job search training and skills. The City Senior Center is also part of our effort to provide lifelong learning for our local seniors.

As part of our participating in this grant application, the Fort Morgan Public Library agrees to sustain all computing center services and programs including maintaining or enhancing the broadband service and maintaining the computer hardware and software. We will participate in training and partnerships to make the computer centers a long-term public resource for our community. We also certify that the library public computing center will be free and open to all.

We will work with the Colorado State Library to comply with all BTOP reporting requirements and we will comply with applicable federal, state and local laws applicable to the grant and related projects. Finally, if awarded the funds from the NTIA, Fort Morgan Public Library will provide a commitment of 10% of the total estimated cost of our equipment. We are seeking a way to fund this project.

The Fort Morgan Public Library is excited to partner with the Colorado State Library on this important grant. We believe the impact on our community will be significant. We thank the National Telecommunications and Information Administration for this opportunity and for considering our important application.

Sincerely,

Cathy Bosley

*Director*

March 02, 2010

Eugene Hainer,  
Assistant Commissioner  
Colorado State Library  
201 E. Colfax Avenue  
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Mr. Hainer,

I am the Library Director at the Fowler Public Library. This letter indicates our participation as a sub-recipient of the Colorado State Library's Public Computing Center application for the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program.

Description of Community Needs: We are located in a small rural community and thirty-five miles to the next larger city. A high percent of our rural and town population commute to another town or larger city to work. We have a diverse population including low income, migrant workers, special needs adults, and low skill level unemployed. We have a high percentage of seniors that have lived here all their life. Educating our youth population is a priority.

Our support role in the community: We have individuals that come daily to use the internet. Some are seeking employment outside our area and others have projects they work on. We also have two college students that are taking all their college courses on-line and use the Library internet connection. We have numerous K-12 students that home-school and need internet connection for research projects. We work with the school (K-12) as well as the colleges that students commute to and from here. Elementary students use the internet at the library to do research projects and to "type" their projects. It's still a luxury to have a home computer and many that have a computer do not have internet access. We have a high percentage of seniors in this community also and technology is sometimes scary to them, but with a little help they too can "surf the web". We are the only public access to the internet in Town.

Our need for improved computing center and Internet access: Currently our computers are OLD and to get someone to repair is almost impossible. We have six stations for computers, but only three computers that work most days. We have up to five people waiting up to an hour. This is very frustrating for both the patron and the librarian. Most say they will have to come back, so we've had to incorporate a "waiting list". We have a one-hour limit. Currently the high school is trying to provide evening hours for computer users, including adults and students, but would rather the library offer that. We will gladly once we get adequate numbers of new computers. Numerous levels of computer classes are also being requested and once we get more computers we can search out teachers to begin the process. Students especially benefit and we have a very high percentage of home-school that access the internet weekly. We also have adults that not only search for jobs, but need help with resume' writing and job applications. Numerous individuals need credit reports and we are their only access to that.

As part of our participating in this grant application, the Fowler Public Library agrees to sustain all computing center services and programs including maintaining or enhancing the broadband service and maintaining the computer hardware and software. We will participate in training and partnerships to make the computer centers a long-term public resource for our community. We also certify that the library public computing center will be free and open to all.

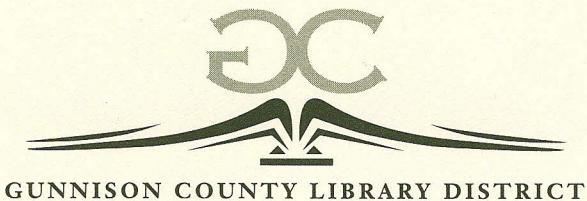
We will work with the Colorado State Library to comply with all BTOP reporting requirements and we will comply with applicable federal, state and local laws related to this grant project. Finally, if awarded the funds from the NTIA, Fowler Public Library will be able to provide a cash commitment of \$2,090, 7% of the total estimated cost of our equipment. These funds will come from our Friends of the Library organization, with the support of First National Bank.

The Fowler Public Library is very excited to partner with the Colorado State Library on this important grant. We believe the impact on our community will be significant. We thank the National Telecommunications and Information Administration for this opportunity and for considering our important application.

Sincerely,



Patricia Lowe, Library Director  
Fowler Public Library



March 1, 2010

Eugene Hainer  
Assistant Commissioner  
Colorado State Library  
201 E. Colfax Avenue  
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Mr. Hainer,

I am the Executive Director for the Gunnison County Library District. This letter indicates the participation of the Gunnison Public Library as a partner in the Colorado State Library's Public Computing Center application for the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program.

The Gunnison Public Library represents a community in the central Colorado Rockies that is considered a "blue collar" neighbor to the more upscale Mt. Crested Butte ski area to our north. We are home to Western State College but our population is also made up of many immigrants (people who work at the ski area or in related jobs in the tourist trade), a growing number of seniors and many young people who want to stay here for the outdoor recreation possibilities. Unfortunately, there are not enough jobs to meet the needs of all these diverse groups of individuals.

Gunnison is also in a rather remote part of the state with our largest neighboring cities being Montrose, 66 miles to the west, and Salida, 60 miles to the east.

Many of our residents need job re-training, basic computer skills or upgrading of the computer skills they possess, and access to the Internet. Because of a serious downtown in the economy (Gunnison's economy is largely based on tourism) many people do not have Internet access in their homes.

The Gunnison Public Library provides public computer access free of charge to anyone. Western State College also has a few public computers available in its library but access is often difficult because of lack of parking and because many students also use those computers. The Gunnison Public Library is the main public computer access point in town. We have recently hosted some basic computer training programs and interest was high. However, we had to turn down some who would have participated because of lack of computers.

We are establishing partnerships with several entities who want to provide computer training to their clients and this potential grant would be a godsend in terms of making this kind of training available in the locations where it would be most beneficial – the

ANN ZUGELDER LIBRARY · 307 N. Wisconsin · Gunnison, CO 81230 · 970.641.3485

OLD ROCK COMMUNITY LIBRARY · 507 Maroon Avenue · P.O. Box 489 · Crested Butte, CO 81224 · 970.349.6535

[www.gunnisoncountylibraries.org](http://www.gunnisoncountylibraries.org)

senior center, work force center, multi-cultural resource center, literacy program offices and elsewhere.

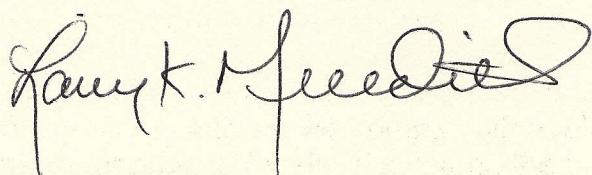
We recently added a few more public computers but continue to have people waiting to use them. We also offer free wifi for those who bring their own laptops to the library. With the addition of more laptops for public use, however, we could provide more Internet access to more people at all times during the day.

As part of our participation in this grant application, the Gunnison Public Library agrees to sustain all computing center services and programs including maintaining or enhancing the broadband service and maintaining the computer hardware and software. We will participate in training and partnerships to make the computer centers a long-term public resource for our community. We also certify that the library public computing center will be free and open to all.

We will work with the Colorado State Library to comply with all BTOP reporting requirements and we will comply with applicable federal, state and local laws related to this grant project. Finally, if awarded the funds from the NTIA, the Gunnison Public Library will be able to provide a cash commitment of 10% of the total estimated cost of our equipment (approximately \$2,500). These funds will come from a variety of sources such as the Friends of the Library, re-directed operating funds and unrestricted gifts from individuals and groups for the funding timeframe of October 2010 – April 2011.

The Gunnison Public Library is excited to partner with the Colorado State Library on this important grant. We believe the impact on our community will be significant. We thank the National Telecommunications and Information Administration for this opportunity and for considering our important application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Larry K. Meredith".

Larry K. Meredith  
Executive Director

# HAXTUN PUBLIC LIBRARY

141 S. Colorado Ave  
Haxtun CO, 80731

P.O. Box 446

townlibr@pctelcom.coop

March 5, 2010

Eugene Hainer  
Assistant Commissioner  
Colorado State Library  
201 E. Colfax Ave  
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Mr. Hainer,

I am the Librarian/Director at the Haxtun Public Library. This letter indicates our participation as a sub-recipient of the Colorado State Library's Public Computing Center for the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program.

We are a small agricultural community in Northeast Colorado, with a large part of our population being retired. Our community has been hit hard by the economic times. The Haxtun Public Library is the only place for the community to have access to public computers and the internet. We currently have 2 computers available for the community to use for homework, college online classes, check their e-mail or just browse the web. Unfortunately these computers are close to 10 years old and do not run very well. We have had them cleaned up several times but they are just worn out. The library has seen a large increase in the demand for the computers this last year. Also we have had many of the older age group wanting to learn the basics of the computer and the internet along with more students doing the online classes. Our town library is supported by the Town of Haxtun and the budget just does not see any chance of new and more computers, software or hardware any time soon to keep up with the demands of the community. The library is sure that with newer and more computers that this will help with the long wait times, and allow us to hold classes to help those that would like to learn more about computers and the internet. The laptops will allow more people to attend the classes, be available for the students and their online classes, as well as be available to others like police and anyone needing to do trainings in the area.

Our role in the community is to provide access for information needed whether in books, or through the computer and internet. With today's technology more and more people are turning to the internet to find the information that they are seeking. Without computers in our library we would see more people in the community leave our town to travel elsewhere to get this information which would also result in a loss of business for other businesses in town.

The library will continue to work with the Colorado Workforce Center to help people in the area to locate jobs. We hope to work with the local high school to engage the students to come and help teach classes to the people who want to learn the computer and the internet. This will also help the students as they will receive community credit that they will need to graduate.

As part of our participation in this grant application, the Haxtun Public Library agrees to sustain all computing center services and programs including maintaining or enhancing the broadband service and maintaining the computer hardware and software. We will participate in training and partnerships to make the computer centers a long-term public resource for our community. We also certify that the library public computing center will be open to all.

We will work with the Colorado State Library to comply with all BTOP reporting requirements and we will comply with federal, state and local laws applicable to the grant and related projects. Finally, if awarded the funds from NITA, the Haxtun Public library will be able to provide a commitment of a 10% match for the equipment provided in the grant.

The Haxtun Public Library is excited to partner with the Colorado State Library on this important grant. We believe the impact this will have on our community will be significant. We thank the National Telecommunications and Information Administration for this opportunity and for considering our important application.

Sincerely

Vickie Freemyer,  
Librarian/Director



Administration  
2650 W. 29<sup>th</sup> Street  
Greeley CO 80631  
Phone: (970) 506-8550  
Fax: (970) 506-8551

March 4, 2010

Eugene Hainer  
Assistant Commissioner  
Colorado State Library  
201 E. Colfax Avenue  
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Mr. Hainer:

I am the Executive Director of the High Plains Library District (HPLD) which covers most of Weld County, Colorado. This letter indicates our participation as a partner of the Colorado State Library's Public Computing Center application for the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program.

The HPLD service area covers almost 4,000 square miles. Traditionally, Weld County has been a rural, agriculture-based economy. This is changing rapidly, with energy-based industries establishing a presence. Displaced workers, including a large migrant population (12,000 primarily from Mexico) and refugees from East Africa and Burma (about 700 in August 2009), need re-tooling. The target audience to be served by this grant is approximately **34,000 people**, most of who live in unincorporated portions of Weld County more than five miles or 30 minutes from a library facility, as well as low-income residents and vulnerable populations (youth, seniors, and non-English speakers). Less than half currently use library resources due to geographic and transportation barriers, as well as lack of knowledge about the resources available. In addition rural and/or low-income residents have limited internet connectivity services.

The HPLD intends to establish Public Computing Centers (PCC) throughout Weld County to improve access to broadband services in rural and underserved communities. Each PCC will provide multi-use workstations that access a plethora of functions to assist in life and daily needs including researching and applying for jobs, filing taxes, researching available government and social services, and studying for school and life-long learning. The PCCs will also enable free access to Wi-Fi available to users in the area. The sites for each of the PCC's take advantage of partnerships we have established with Town officials who have offered space and staffing to assure the equipment receives maximum use. In addition to Town Halls and Senior Centers, we have partnered with Recreation Centers, Weld County Housing Authority, School Districts (there are 12 in Weld County) and the Weld County Health Department to provide space, resources and marketing to our target audiences.



Administration  
2650 W. 29<sup>th</sup> Street  
Greeley CO 80631  
Phone: (970) 506-8550  
Fax: (970) 506-8551

Internet service of 1.5 MG or greater is not available in many rural areas in Weld County. According to a survey commissioned by the HPLD (Erickson, 2006), the cost of high-speed connectivity for low-income residents can be prohibitive or it is considered a non-essential service within the household. HPLD branches have seen a 38% increase in the past year of use of broadband services, often by people who have canceled home Internet access due to budget constraints. In addition, many residents lack technology skills or interest in the essential use of technology yet need access to do homework, view student grade reports, and find jobs. We think our staff can have a dramatic impact in providing opportunities for individuals to improve their information literacy skills.

As part of our participating in this grant application, the High Plains Library District agrees to sustain all computing center services and programs including maintaining or enhancing the broadband service and maintaining the computer hardware and software. We will participate in training and partnerships to make the computer centers a long-term public resource for our community. We also certify that the library public computing center will be free and open to all. We will work with the Colorado State Library to comply with all BTOP reporting requirements and we will comply with applicable federal, state and local laws related to this grant project.

Finally, if awarded the funds from the NTIA, High Plains Library District will be able to provide cash commitment of \$18,000 – about 10% of the total estimated cost of the new equipment. These funds will come from 2010 and 2011 operating funds. HPLD will also provide in-kind matches in the form of staff wages and benefits to implement the Public Computing programs, as well as space for Colorado State Library staff to use while coordinating the deployment of equipment and training of staff in Northern Colorado.

The High Plains Library District is excited to partner with the Colorado State Library on this important grant. We believe the impact on our community will be significant. We thank the National Telecommunications and Information Administration for this opportunity and for considering this important application.

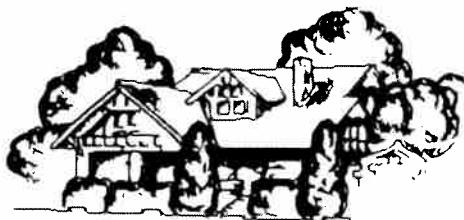
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Janine A. Reid".

Janine Reid  
Executive Director

# HEGINBOTHAM LIBRARY

539 S. BAXTER  
MOLYKE, CO 80734  
970-854-2597



The Heginbotham Library in Holyoke, CO is pleased to be a sub-recipient partner of the Colorado State Library. With this letter, we confirm our participation.

We will be able to provide \$2,166 cash match out of our operating budget to support the grant.

Laura Roth  
Director  
Heginbotham Library  
539 South Baxter Avenue  
Holyoke, CO 80734-1497  
(970) 854-2597

February 19, 2010

Jackson County Public Library  
PO Box 398  
Walden, CO 80480  
970.723.4602

Eugene Hainer  
Assistant Commissioner  
Colorado State Library  
201 E. Colfax Avenue  
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Mr. Hainer,

I am the Director at the Jackson County Public Library in Walden, Colorado. This letter is in support of the Colorado State Library's Public Computing Center application for the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program.

Jackson County is the third least densely populated of the 64 counties in Colorado. Our county population was 1,577 at the 2000 census. The county seat and the only municipality in the county is the Town of Walden. We have seen a steady decline in our population, due in most part because of lack of employment opportunities. We have seen a steady increase in library use, mostly computer usage. As many people lose their jobs or family finances become tight, many people can no longer afford internet services at home. We have also seen an increase in adult usage of computers to complete online job applications. Many of these people do not have much computer experience. Currently we only have four computers available for public use, often creating a wait line for computer access. The next closes public library is over an hour away, so our patrons do not have an easy alternative to the wait lines at our library. The commute to these other libraries is not a feasible alternative for many of our patrons.

Walden is located 65 miles from both the Colorado Mountain College in Steamboat Springs, CO, and the University of Wyoming in Laramie, WY. In some cases, students can no longer afford to commute to these campuses. Therefore, we have seen an increase in county residents taking online education classes. The long waiting lines and computer usage time limits can be very frustrating for these people. We believe more computers, and especially laptops, will make a huge improvement for people taking online courses in our community.

The Jackson County Public Library's entire budget for 2010 is under \$65,000. This is mostly salaries and utilities. The county does not have extra money for new computers, computer furniture or even computer training for the public. This computer grant will

make a huge improvement in our library's ability to serve the needs of the people of Jackson County.

As part of our participating in this grant application, the Jackson County Public Library agrees to sustain all computing center services and programs including maintaining or enhancing the broadband service and maintaining the computer hardware and software. We will participate in training and partnerships to make the computer centers a long-term public resource for our community. We also certify that the library public computing center will be free and open to all.

We will work with the Colorado State Library to comply with all BTOP reporting requirements and we will comply with applicable federal, state and local laws applicable to the grant and related projects.

The Jackson County Public Library is excited to partner with the Colorado State Library on this important grant. We believe the impact on our community will be significant. We thank the National Telecommunications and Information Administration for this opportunity and for considering our important application.

Sincerely,

Kathy Humrich  
*Director*

February 25, 2010



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John C. Fremont  
Library

---

130 Church Avenue, Florence CO 81226  
(719)784-4649 (719)784-4649 fax  
[florencecollibrary.org](http://florencecollibrary.org)

Eugene Hainer  
Assistant Commissioner  
Colorado State Library  
201 E. Colfax Avenue  
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Mr. Hainer,

I am the Director at the John C. Fremont Library. This letter indicates our participation as a partner of the Colorado State Library's Public Computing Center application for the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program.

Our community relies heavily on our library for several reasons. High unemployment, low income, and the remote location of our outlying service area make it challenging for many of our patrons to access the internet or read current news. Job searching, resumes writing, research, homework, test prep for a variety of careers and educational opportunities; even keeping in touch with friends and family through e-mail is something patrons regularly rely on us to provide in the form of quick and free internet access.

Our Library plays a crucial role in our community by providing a wide variety of services, events, and activities that are otherwise inaccessible to our patrons due to lack of money and/or transportation. We offer a full schedule of **free** computer classes, movie screenings, musical programs, creative writing and book clubs, a local artists gallery and a variety of cultural and special interest programs . These events have become valuable and deeply appreciated by our community since quality entertainment and educational opportunities in our town are hard to come by.

Our library would benefit greatly from an increase in computing stations, quicker internet access, and an upgrade of our existing computers. Patron wait times are sometimes over an hour for a half hour session and would be greatly reduced with more computers that worked quicker and more efficiently. Employment seekers and online students often need to do research, download assignments/applications, and submit work/resumes online and become frustrated with the half hour time limits placed on computer usage. We currently have one student/business use computer with an extended time limit that is constantly being reserved, thus demonstrating our need for several more dedicated to this use. Our free basic computer use, internet, e-mail, and Microsoft Word classes are limited to 5 students per class monthly due to our small number of computers. This creates wait lists several months long demonstrating the high need for our residents to learn even the most basic computer skills.

Through partnerships with the local school district we host and support numerous activities and events that promote literacy among students; i.e. summer reading program, teen writing group, book clubs, homework help, etc. We also partner with the many, locally owned, small businesses in our area to provide low cost and or free services. These business owners use the library regularly to keep their business viable through use of our color copier, fax machine, laminating service, creating and printing business documents, research, marketing and easy wireless internet access. With more and possibly mobile computers (laptops, notebooks, etc.) we could partner more often with the Senior Center, local child care providers, Community College, Chamber of Commerce, school district, and local government to offer online presentations, classes, seminars, outreach, and literacy promoting activities.

As part of our participating in this grant application, the John C. Fremont Library agrees to sustain all computing center services and programs including maintaining or enhancing the broadband service and maintaining the computer hardware and software. We will participate in training and partnerships to make the computer centers a long-term public resource for our community. We also certify that the library public computing center will be free and open to all.

We will work with the Colorado State Library to comply with all BTOP reporting requirements and we will comply with applicable federal, state and local laws related to this grant project. Finally, if awarded the funds from the NTIA, John C. Fremont Library will be able to provide a cash commitment of \$2,500 of the total estimated cost of our equipment. These funds will come from our regular budget line items for computer maintenance, upgrade, and acquisitions as well as from any donations received designated for this purpose. The John C. Fremont Library is excited to partner with the Colorado State Library on this important grant. We believe the impact on our community will be significant. We thank the National Telecommunications and Information Administration for this opportunity and for considering our important application.

Sincerely,



Gypsy Kelso, Director  
John C. Fremont Library  
Florence, CO 8126  
[gypsy.kelso@gmail.com](mailto:gypsy.kelso@gmail.com)

## Kiowa County Public Library District

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1305 Goff :: P. O. Box 790  
Eads, CO 81036-0790  
Phone: (719) 438-5581  
FAX: (719) 438-5325  
e-Mail: kcpld@eads.lib.co.us

Dear Mr. Hainer,

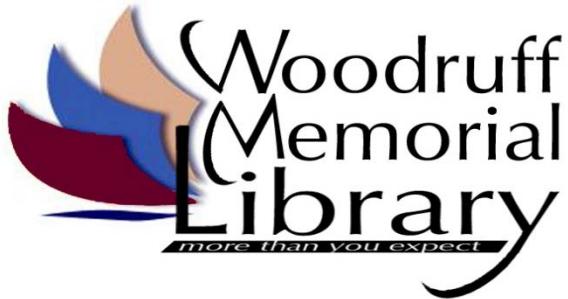
I am the Director at the Kiowa County Public Library. This letter indicates our participation as a partner in the Colorado State Library's Public Computing Center application for the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program.

As a partner in this grant application, the Kiowa County Public Library is excited to add ADA compliance to our facility. We will attend the State Library training for maintaining the computer hardware and software. We will participate in training and partnerships to make the computer centers a long-term public resource for our community. We also certify that the library public computing center will be free and open to all.

We thank the National Telecommunications and Information Administration for this opportunity and for considering our important application.

Sincerely,





522 Colorado Avenue  
La Junta, CO 81050  
719.384.4612 FAX 719.383.2514  
[woodruff@lajunta.lib.co.us](mailto:woodruff@lajunta.lib.co.us)  
<http://lajunta.colibraries.org>

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3/4/2010

Eugene Hainer  
Assistant Commissioner  
Colorado State Library  
201 E. Colfax Avenue  
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Mr. Hainer,

I am the Director of Library Services at the Woodruff Memorial Library (WML), the City Library of La Junta. This letter indicates our participation as a partner in the Colorado State Library's Public Computing Center application for the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program.

Our community is located in southeastern Colorado where we have been plagued in recent years by severe drought and economic downturn. We are funded through sales tax, and have been hard hit. Our City budgets have remained fairly level since serious cuts in 2000.

Our patron count remains fairly steady at around 4800 accounts. Many of those are family accounts with 3 or more active patrons. A full two-thirds of our customers reside outside our legal service area. Over 75% of our students qualify for free and reduced lunches, which is an indicator of the poverty of the area as a whole.

WML is an active, progressive library that is central to the community and the entire region. We have well over 100,000 patron visits annually. We offer programs for babies through adults, and have a current collection offering multiple formats, including electronic databases through AIRS and site purchases, and e-content through the Across Colorado Digital Consortium. It is often difficult for our small staff to keep up!

At present, we have 15 stationary patron access computers and 5 laptops. The laptops were purchased in 2008 with funds from the Gates Foundation Opportunity Online grant. The other 15 computers were purchased in 2005 or earlier with funding from various sources outside the library budget. In the years since 2005, the 10 newest machines have had 115,349 uses (72,241 hours.) In this economy, there are no funds to cover replacement and our usage has been increasing steadily over time.

New computers and the peripherals we have requested through this grant will allow our patrons to continue to have equal access. It will also, through the addition of the laptops, allow us the much needed equipment to do computer instruction. Currently, training opportunities are one-on-one only. The laptops will allow full patron access to the stationary machines while giving us equipment to do classes in our meeting room. We will also be able to actively seek partnerships we have not even been able to imagine with the current set-up.

We will also be able to increase the computers designated for employment related use. Through a partnership with the Colorado Workforce Center, we have one computer that is dedicated to employment issues. We have no time limits on the computer's use like we do with the public access computers. We would like to expand this partnership and service.

As a partner in this grant application, WML agrees to sustain all computer center services and programs including maintaining or enhancing the broadband service and maintaining the computer hardware and software. We will participate in training and partnerships to make the computer centers a long-term public resource for our community. We also certify that the library public computing center will be free and open to all.

We will work with the Colorado State Library to comply with all BTOP reporting requirements and we will comply with applicable federal, state and local laws applicable to the grant and related projects. Finally, if awarded the funds from the NTIA, Woodruff Memorial Library will be able to provide in-kind commitment of administrative and staff time, necessary furnishings, internet service, travel and training cost, and IT staff from our regular operating budget.

The Woodruff Memorial Library is excited to partner with the Colorado State Library on this important grant. We believe the impact on our community will be significant. We thank the National Telecommunications and Information Administration for this opportunity and for considering our important application.

Sincerely,

Sandy Messick



102 E. Parmenter  
Lamar, CO 81052

February 27, 2010

Eugene Hainer  
Assistant Commissioner  
Colorado State Library  
201 E. Colfax Avenue  
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Mr. Hainer,

I am the Director at the Lamar Public Library. This letter indicates our participation as a partner of the Colorado State Library's Public Computing Center application for the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program.

Currently the Lamar Public Library provides computers for public access to the citizens of Lamar and Prowers County. The library has twenty-one computers ranging from one to five years old, with twelve of them set aside for adult usage. Because the computers are located in the middle of the library floor and in constant use by patrons, it is hard to hold classes for more than one or two individuals. This limits the number of computer classes offered at the library. The library also does not provide access to a wireless environment in the library or in other library facilities, further limiting the public's access to the Internet and computer training.

The opportunity to participate as a partner in the Broadband Technologies Opportunities Program offers to the Lamar Public Library the possibility to create a wireless environment in an existing library facility. For the first time the library will be able to offer twelve laptop computers for use to Colorado Workforce Center clients, the Lamar Chamber of Commerce, businesses and other local area partners for training during hours of normal operation, not previously available at the library. An existing city/county bookmobile is the perfect vehicle to eventually move the mobile computer lab to wherever it is needed throughout our service area. Providing relevant training for staff and library partners such as the local high school's FBLA Club and others as we enter new partnerships will ensure that computer classes can be offered wherever they are needed to the citizens of Prowers County.

As a partner in this grant application, the Lamar Public Library agrees to sustain all computer center services and programs including maintaining or enhancing the broadband service and maintaining the computer hardware and software. We will participate in training and partnerships to make the computer centers a long-term public resource for our community. We also certify that the library public computing center will be free and open to all.

We will work with the Colorado State Library to comply with all BTOP reporting requirements and we will comply with applicable federal, state and local laws applicable to the grant and related projects. Finally, if awarded the funds from the NTIA, the Lamar Public Library will be able to provide a commitment of \$2800.00 10% of the total estimated cost of our equipment. These funds will come from our local Library Board and Friends of the Library Organization.

The Lamar Public Library is excited to partner with the Colorado State Library on this important grant. We believe the impact on our community will be significant. We thank the National Telecommunications and Information Administration for this opportunity and for considering our important application.

Sincerely,

*Debra A. Reynolds*  
Debra A. Reynolds



**Las Animas/Bent County Library District  
306 Fifth Street  
Las Animas CO 81054  
(719) 456-0111**

**Kaye DeMaio-Hays—Chairperson  
Pat Gonzales—Vice-Chairperson  
Peggy Fritz—Secretary  
Betty Pennington—Treasurer  
Charmaine Tripp—Fiscal Officer**

February 24, 2010

Eugene Hainer  
Assistant Commissioner  
Colorado State Library  
201 E. Colfax Ave.  
Denver CO 80203

Dear Mr. Hainer,

I am the director of the Las Animas-Bent County Library. This letter indicates our participation as a partner of the Colorado State Library's Public Computing Center application for the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program.

Bent County is one of the poorest counties in Colorado. Our library serves a population of approximately 6300 people. Of that number 28% are below the poverty level. This puts the purchase of a home computer beyond the means of these people. Travel to a computer bank is almost impossible for some people. The nearest town to the west is 20 miles away and 35 miles to the east. It is a necessity to have a computer bank in the library.

The Las Animas-Bent County Library has computers that are set up for students to do their homework after school when school computers are unavailable. The library averages 10 school age patrons every evening. We have to limit computer use to one hour to accommodate the number of patrons.

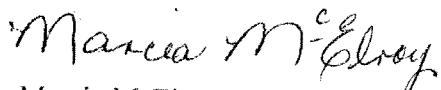
Our library works with the senior center to provide extra computers for senior usage and with the community center for weekend usage for students.

As part of our participating in this grant application, the Las Animas-Bent County Library agrees to sustain all computing center services and programs including

maintaining or enhancing the broadband services and maintaining the computer hardware and software. We will participate in training and partnerships to make the computer bank a long-term public resource for the community. We also certify that the library computing center will be free and open to all. We will work with the Colorado State Library to comply with BTOP reporting requirements and we will comply with applicable federal, state and local laws related to this grant project. Although our town library's funding situation does not allow for us to contribute matching cash funds, we appreciate the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation matching funds that will assist us in our success.

The Las Animas-Bent County Library is excited to partner with the Colorado State Library on this important grant. We believe the impact on our community will be significant. We thank the National Telecommunications and Information Administration for this opportunity and for considering our important application.

Sincerely,



Marcia McElroy  
Director

Limon Memorial Library  
P.O. Box 236  
Limon, Colorado 80828

March 3, 2010

Eugene Hainer  
Assistant Commissioner  
Colorado State Library  
201 E. Colfax Avenue  
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Mr. Hainer:

I am the Director at the Limon Memorial Public Library. This letter is to indicate our participation as a partner of the Colorado State Library's Public Computer Center application for the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program.

**Limon is a community of approximately 75 miles from everywhere and internet access for many of my patrons is highly cost prohibitive and often intermittent at best. The community has always been high supportive of the library and our current computer lab, installed in 2001, is in high demand. We have a very diverse population with an ever-growing immigrant group, many of who hold only minimum wage jobs with both parents working to hold the family intact. These people often can only apply for jobs on-line and have no other access than the public library. Our community also is supporting a community college outreach campus and many of the students either attend classes in our lab or use it to complete assignments on all levels of education.**

**Supporting the students at our public high school in their homework projects as well as college students on all levels has become increasingly important in our community. Students of all ages are finding it more cost effective to stay at home, at least for a while. We have become a center where seniors in the community can obtain medical research information, maps to area appointments and information on social security. The cost of internet access plus that of the actual computer is cost prohibitive for our elder population plus they often need personal assistance that can be provided by our staff.**

**Although the Limon Memorial Library has a computer lab, our budget only allows for replacement of two computers per year and therefore the additional equipment**

**Limon Memorial Library**

P.O. Box 236

Limon, Colorado 80828

this grant would provide would give us a better turnaround for keeping computers up to date plus additional access to keep waiting at a minimum. Often our patrons travel a great distance to use our facility and it can become a hardship if they need to wait or cannot use the computer for the amount of time they require. The Limon community is approximately 2200 people and on average our lab get 650-700 uses per month by individuals, college students through our partnership with Morgan Community College and preschool students through a partnership with Limon Child Development Center/Head Start. You can always tell when it is four o'clock in the afternoon because the school students make a beeline for our doors. Being in a rural setting we also have many patrons who are applying online for jobs in the community or within driving distance. It is well-known that major corporations are doing online applications and the use of our lab gives those out-of-work a place to apply, search for opportunities and refine resumes.

The lab has become a great training center. In recent months we have had training for our city workers in emergency preparedness, U.S. Census training, FASFA training for parents and students and adult re-entry into the workforce study sessions for interviews, resumes and letter writing.

Our city government is highly committed to keeping our lab as a working center. Each year since its inception the city budget has increased the amount allowed for technology but has not downgraded other areas of our line items. Therefore, our matching funds will be coming to this project from the already budgeted technology line item. We will continue to upgrade and maintain our present facility while making the necessary changes to enhance and improve if grant funds are forthcoming.

The Limon Memorial Library agrees to sustain all computing center services and programs including maintaining or enhancing the broadband service and maintaining the computer hardware and software. We will participate in training and continue to build partnerships to make the computer centers a long-term public resource for our community. We also certify that the library public computing center will be free and open to all.

Limon Memorial Library

P.O. Box 236

Limon, Colorado 80828

We will work with the Colorado State Library to comply with all BTOP reporting requirements and we will comply with applicable federal, state and local laws related to this grant project. The Limon Memorial Library will work with the Colorado State Library to comply with all BTOP reporting requirements and we will comply with applicable federal, state and local laws related to this grant project.

If awarded the funds from NTIA, the Limon Memorial Library will be able to provide a cash commitment of \$2,000 or approximately 10% of the total estimated cost of our equipment. These funds will come from our 2010 operating budget. If further funding is required the Limon Memorial Board of Directors will be able to contribute to the costs.

Our library and our community are excited to partner with the Colorado State Library on this important grant. We believe the impact on our community will be significant. We thank the National Telecommunications and Information Administration for this opportunity and for considering our library's application.

Respectfully submitted,



Lucille Reimer, Director

4 March 2010

Eugene Hainer  
Assistant Commissioner  
Colorado State Library  
201 E. Colfax Avenue  
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Mr. Hainer,

I am the Technology Manager at the Mancos Public Library (MPL). This letter is in support of the Colorado State Library's Public Computing Center application for the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program.

The Mancos Valley is a small, rural, depressed area. There are not too many jobs in town, and many residents need to drive to other communities for work. We have one health care clinic, which provides visitation only (for tests and other involved procedures we need to visit doctors, hospitals, and surgical centers in other communities). Colorado in general has a low ranking for education, and our school and the parents association are doing the best they can to educate our children for a successful life, whether they stay in Mancos, or venture out into the world.

In the last 5 or 6 years, 17% of the downtown businesses have closed, been torn down, or burned to the ground with nothing to replace them. Several artists have moved into downtown, and have banded together with other business owners, and are trying to make a go of rejuvenating downtown commerce and tourism.

In 2009, the town ended the year in the black – by a margin of less than \$100. The Town employees have begun to write several grants to keep our public facilities up and running, but of course budgets have been slashed across the board. The community center that we do have in town is used primarily for meetings and events, and no computers or related technology infrastructure are located in the building.

The school computer lab is the largest in town with 50 computers; however, these computers are available to students only. The only other location in the entire Mancos Valley with Public Access Computers (PACs) is MPL. We have 14 public computers, plus one laptop that is currently being catalogued, and will be used specifically by parents or caregivers in the Children's Room. This does not include the Microfilm computer, which is rarely used, as well as our two 'Search & Reserve Stations', which are used by patrons to access our Online Catalogue and our PAC Reservation system.

We receive many local visitors to MPL, as well as a large amount of tourists (Mancos is the 'Gateway to Mesa Verde National Park®') and snowbirds.

Our patrons take advantage of our ~17,000 item collection; they also attend library programming and use our Public Access Computers. Most of the teens are using our

computers for school research, email, and, of course, social media sites such as MySpace, Facebook and YouTube. Teens are also using our computers for design work – using the programs on our PACs such as the Graphical Image Manipulation Program (GIMP), and HTML editors. Younger Children mainly use the computers to create images with GIMP, to do their school research, and to play games. Adult usage is more varied with social media use, accessing online tax sites on which to complete their taxes, creating resumes, searching for jobs, email, dating services, online classes, and health research, just to name a few.

Free internet usage is *extremely* necessary for our community. Only a small central area (basically downtown) has access to Qwest DSL. The northern part of the valley has access to VelocityNet DSL, the speed of which is somewhere in between dial-up and the Qwest DSL. All other residents have access to Dial-up ONLY. So many of our patrons come here because of the poor service we have available. For example, people will run basic functions at home on their dial-up service, email, for example, but come to the library to download pictures within that email – since downloading it at home can take several hours. I have even had people call and request to bring their entire desktop to the library to connect to our high-speed so that they can receive Windows Updates (luckily we can just check-out a USB drive to them for the download!), which can take several days to download – if the connection does not terminate first. If we did not provide PACs with Internet access, all of our users would have to rely on their dial-up connection – or drive to another town (30 minutes minimum) to reach the Internet.

At this point, with one technology person on staff, technology related programming definitely suffers. We offer a minimum of 8 monthly Technology Office Hours, which are one-to-one sessions, where the participant comes prepared with specific computer and Internet questions, and the Technology Manager answers, teaches, or researches. Additional programming will resume this month – we have a local business owner that is starting to do a series of small business workshops on Internet related topics, such as Online Marketing, SEO, CMS, etc. We are also looking for other volunteer ‘teachers’; so far a videographer and a graphic artist have expressed interest in conducting a workshop series.

At this point, we have no computer lab. When we hold computer workshops or programming, it needs to be held after the library is closed. Our computers are spread around the library, and it makes teaching difficult if students are located too far from the teacher. Our adult station has the most contiguous computers, 6, so we must limit class registration to 6 people. Having 9 laptops would increase the total number of participants to 15.

We would also be able to set up the 9 laptops in our meeting room for classes at any time of the day – not just when we are closed. The expansion in time available to hold classes would increase would allow many more people to attend our programs.

By offering more educational opportunities, our patrons would benefit; a class taught at the nursing home on ‘How to Search for Reliable Health Information’ could help patients research their health to make important decisions about their medical care, for instance, and participants who attended a ‘Resume Writing’ or a ‘Job Search’ workshop would gain knowledge and direction on how to improve their work situation.

Eventually, we are hoping to do outreach and take a mobile computer lab out into the community. Possible places include the Mancos Community Center, the Valley Inn Nursing Home, the Senior Center, and the Chamber of Commerce. Another option would be to offer our computers and meeting room at the library for these entities to teach their own classes to their members.

As part of our participating in this grant application, the Mancos Public Library agrees to sustain all computing center services and programs including maintaining or enhancing the broadband service and maintaining the computer hardware and software. We will participate in training and partnerships to make the computer centers a long-term public resource for our community. We also certify that the library public computing center will be free and open to all.

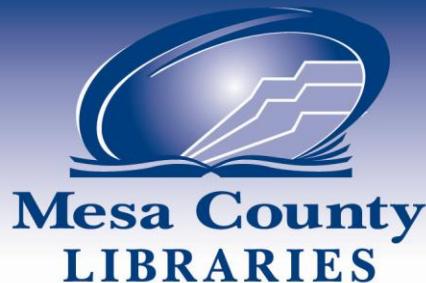
We will work with the Colorado State Library to comply with all BTOP reporting requirements and we will comply with applicable federal, state and local laws applicable to the grant and related projects.

The Mancos Public Library is excited to partner with the Colorado State Library on this important grant. We believe the impact on our community will be significant. We thank the National Telecommunications and Information Administration for this opportunity and for considering our important application.

Sincerely,

Victoria A. Petersen

Technology Manager



Dream it. Discover it. Do it.

Eugene Hainer, Assistant Commissioner  
Colorado State Library  
201 East Colfax Avenue  
Denver, Colorado 80203

March 3, 2010

Dear Mr. Hainer:

On behalf of Mesa County Libraries, I am pleased to participate as a partner in the Colorado State Library's Public Computing Center application for the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP).

This grant will help address several demonstrated needs of Mesa County's 140,000 residents, including support for adult literacy programs, job search assistance, and computer skills essentials. Residents in our county seat, Grand Junction, account for about 70% of our district's library use, and have been identified as having a high percentage of families living at or below the poverty level, and access to a public computer center is vital for our citizens to participate in the online world.

The Library's renowned Literacy Center currently serves 525 English language students and in the past year has become the only agency in the community to provide language learning training. This award-winning library department will benefit from a specialized high-tech language learning lab located in our central library. Despite our dedicated squad of more than 150 volunteer tutors and teachers, on average, 40 people are wait-listed for literacy instruction at any given time. Students are introduced to our subscription-based Rosetta Stone computerized language immersion software prior to entering a class. While this coursework can be self-paced, we now offer three group classes weekly. When the language learning computer lab opens for business, we can immediately fill two additional classes. A mobile laptop lab will enable library staff to provide off-site language learning and computer training to immigrant and migrant populations where they work and in neighborhoods.

Upon receipt of this grant, Mesa County Libraries will be poised to significantly address job seeking needs in our community. Currently, Mesa County surpasses all of Colorado in unemployment at a rate of 8.9%. Due to the loss of many energy industry and construction jobs, more and more residents are utilizing our computer resources to complete resumes, submit online applications, and take computer literacy courses to improve their marketability. Computer skills classes typically have wait lists of eight to ten people. Examples of our classes include: market data research, beginning Excel, Intro to the Internet, Microsoft Powerpoint, and Google mastery. Several classes are taught in Spanish.

The ability to teach multiple computer classes at the same time will assist us to meet the growing needs of the community.

The library plays a fundamental role in meeting the basic computing needs of our community. Computer use across all our branches increased 23% in the single year of 2009. Due to high demand, we limit use of the computers to one hour per person per day and there are waiting times several times a day. Our projections suggest that growing our computer lab capacity will significantly reduce wait times.

As a partner in this grant application, Mesa County Libraries agree to participate and meet the requirements to support and sustain our computing programs. This includes ongoing maintenance, enhancement of broadband service, and the willingness to budget for upkeep of hardware and software as part of the grant award. Library staff participate in training and partnerships to ensure the long-term availability of public computer access in our community. We also certify that the proposed library public computing center will be free and open to all.

Mesa County Libraries will work with the Colorado State Library to comply with all BTOP reporting requirements and comply with applicable federal, state and local laws related to this grant project. If awarded, the funds from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) will be matched by Mesa County Libraries. We will provide a cash commitment of at least \$3,700, combined with in-kind contributions to total \$17,745--50% of the total estimated cost of the proposed grant funded equipment. These matching funds will come from the library's current operating budget.

Mesa County Libraries are a reliable partner to the Colorado State Library on this important grant. The additional computers and mobile lab will enable us to serve an additional 500 people per week. Without these funds the library will be less able to readily help the jobless, those seeking self-improvement, and individuals eager to learn the English language. We believe the community will benefit significantly. We thank the National Telecommunications and Information Administration for this opportunity and for considering our application.

Sincerely,



Eve Tallman, Library Director  
Mesa County Libraries  
Grand Junction, Colorado  
970-683-2424 / [etallman@mcpld.org](mailto:etallman@mcpld.org)



Montrose Regional Library District

320 South Second Street, Montrose, CO 81401

February 26, 2010

Eugene Hainer  
Assistant Commissioner  
Colorado State Library  
201 E. Colfax Avenue  
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Mr. Hainer:

I am the Director of the Montrose Regional Library District. This letter indicates our participation as a partner in the Colorado State Library's Public Computing Center application for the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program.

Public access computers at our District's library branches receive more than 110,000 uses annually. Most users are local residents who do not have home computers or Internet access, and library staff members observe that many of them lack basic computer skills. Montrose County's demographics likely contribute to this, as the population is older and has lower income and educational attainment levels than state and national averages, factors that have been shown to reduce computer literacy.

With the tightening labor market, library staff members also have seen more patrons using the library computers to search job databases, fill out online applications, and prepare résumés. Currently, the library's reference department is responsible for assisting these patrons, but staff has limited time to provide the individualized instruction needed. Montrose County has few computer instruction options for residents, and those that exist are either for senior citizens or for a fee. There are no free, ongoing, comprehensive classes for all residents.

With funding from the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program, the Montrose Regional Library District will purchase computers and equipment to provide weekly basic, intermediate, and advanced computer classes for all ages. Topics will range from mouse and keyboard fundamentals and basic email, to website design and digital photography. Through these classes, the District hopes to improve computer literacy skills for area residents so that they can: increase their access to employment and improve job performance; enhance their ability to communicate with friends and family; increase library usage by bringing people to the library who might not visit otherwise; and enrich their lives through improved access to the digital world.

## Montrose Regional Library District

As a partner in this grant application, the Montrose Regional Library District agrees to sustain all computer center services and programs including maintaining or enhancing the broadband service and maintaining the computer hardware and software. We will participate in training and partnerships that will make computer centers a long-term public resource for our community. We also certify that the library public computing center will be free and open to all. We will work and consult with numerous agencies, including: Colorado Workforce Center, Montrose County School District, West End Public Schools, Montrose County, City of Montrose, Town of Olathe, and Town of Naturita.

We will work with the Colorado State Library to comply with all BTOP reporting requirements and we will comply with applicable federal, state and local laws applicable to the grant and related projects. Finally, if awarded the funds from NTIA, the Montrose Regional Library District will be able to provide a commitment of \$6,300.00, or 20% of the total estimated cost of our equipment. These funds will come from the 2011 general operating fund and the Friends of the Montrose Library.

The Montrose Regional Library District is excited to partner with the Colorado State Library on this important grant. We believe the impact on our community will be significant. We thank the National Telecommunications and Information Administration for this opportunity and for considering our important application.

Sincerely,



Paul H. Paladino  
Director

March 3, 2010

Eugene Hainer

Assistant Commissioner  
Colorado State Library  
201 E. Colfax Avenue  
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Mr. Hainer,

I am the Library Director at the Nucla Public Library. This letter indicates our participation as a partner in the Colorado State Library's Public Computing Center application for the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program.

Nucla is a small community that is located about 100 miles from any city with a population of 5,000 or more. We are very dependent on each other and the resources we have here. With the declining economy it has become difficult for some members of the community to find employment. The library is a good place for these people and others to come and have internet access to try to find possible jobs or learn of skills to help them find jobs. Without a lot of extra income, people can not afford computers of their own; therefore the library is a good resource for this service.

At the present time the library has five desk top computers for the public use. A couple of these are older models and will eventually need to be replaced. On many days our computers are all in use and there are others wishing to use them. I have patrons that use the computers to help find possible jobs available, learn computer skills and write resumes. I also proctor tests for students taking correspondence courses for high school and college. I know with extra computers the library would greatly benefit our community by providing more ability to access the internet for job skills, employment opportunities and .

At the present time we are establishing partnerships with some of the local businesses. The ones we have right now are the Citizens State Bank, The Town of Nucla, The West End Public Schools and The West End Family Link. All of these partners strongly agree with the need in our area for the library to provide this service to the community. We will be helping them and their employees and future employees and they in turn will help us keep these services.

As a partner in this grant application, the Nucla Public Library agrees to sustain all computer center services and programs including maintaining or enhancing the broadband service and maintaining the computer hardware and software. We will participate in training and partnerships to make the computer centers a long-term public resource for our community. We also certify that the library public computing center will be free and open to all.

We will work with the Colorado State Library to comply with all BTOP reporting requirements and we will comply with applicable federal, state and local laws applicable to the grant and related projects. Finally, if awarded the funds from the NTIA, Nucla Public Library will be able to provide a commitment of \$1750 (20%) of the total estimated cost of our equipment. These funds will come from local business donations, fund raisers and the rest from the line item of the library budget, new equipment.

The Nucla Public Library is excited to partner with the Colorado State Library on this important grant. We believe the impact on our community will be significant. We thank the National Telecommunications and Information Administration for this opportunity and for considering our important application.

Sincerely,



Kathryn Redd

Library Director



**COMBINED COMMUNITY LIBRARY**  
1007 MAIN STREET                   ORDWAY, CO 81063  
(719) 267-3823



March 2, 2010

Eugene Hainer

Assistant Commissioner

Colorado State Library

201 E. Colfax Avenue

Denver, CO 80203

Dear Mr. Hainer,

I am the Library Director at the Combined Community Library. This letter indicates our participation as a sub-recipient of the Colorado State Library's Public Computing Center application for the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program.

Ours is the only library serving Crowley County which is 62<sup>nd</sup> of 64 counties in Colorado in per capita income. It is a rather isolated, rural county with a declining population growth rate. The unemployment rate varied between 8.2% and 10.0% in 2009. Our entire service area is a high need population. We are also a population with a high percentage of elderly. These people often require computers for both business (forms, taxes, etc.) and personal (e-mail and research) purposes. Because of low funding (tax revenues are less than \$14000 per year) and decreased budgets for our schools, we are able to provide less at a time when usage is going up. Most families that have internet connectivity report having DSL. Others live in areas where DSL is not available and feel that satellite subscriptions are cost-prohibitive. The library remains the only free high speed internet access in the county.

The library provides educational opportunities from pre-literacy programs through summer reading and teen programs. Computer classes are offered as grants or donations allow. The school allows us to "borrow" their computer lab for the classes. These classes are always filled to capacity. The library lacks the capability to offer job search assistance or training and has no ADA computer stations. We also lack the capability of providing tax and business help. With a one-person staff, one-on-one tutorials at point-of-need are not feasible. More computers and training on how to use them efficiently would reduce wait times. A laptop computer lab would allow for on-site training with the advantage of being able to check out the computer and work elsewhere.

- 2 -

March 2, 2010

Currently we have bus service to the library provided by our nursing home and our pre-school. Our K-12 students are combined with the public in the library--one branch at the high school/elementary school site and one at the middle school campus. The public is welcome at both sites.

With increased availability and funding, we could also provide online services. Currently, our web site is in process via PlinkIt. Once the web site is functional, our oral history collection could be added to our web site and accessed off site. A job post section and links to job and career resources available in the valley could also be added to the site. We would like to add a job search database subscriptions and tutorials for using the web for job searching to our computers and our web site. Student work being completed in conjunction with library programs could be posted on the site. This would be a great PR step and motivate "Grandma" and "Grandpa" (and others) to access online services to see and hear their child's project. While there, they see other programs and services we have available. Crowley County Nursing Center, Crowley County Chamber of Commerce, Crowley County School District and the Department of Human Services and Development are willing partners with which the Library has worked to present programming in the past.

As part of our participating in this grant application, the Combined Community Library agrees to sustain all computing center services and programs including maintaining or enhancing the broadband service and maintaining the computer hardware and software. We will participate in training and partnerships to make the computer centers a long-term public resource for our community. We also certify that the library public computing center will be free and open to all.

We will work with the Colorado State Library to comply with all BTOP reporting requirements and we will comply with applicable federal, state and local laws related to this grant project. Finally, if awarded the funds from the NTIA, Combined Community Library will be able to provide a commitment of technical services for installation and maintenance of hardware and software

The Combined Community Library is excited to partner with the Colorado State Library on this important grant. We believe the impact on our community will be significant. We thank the National Telecommunications and Information Administration for this opportunity and for considering our important application.

Sincerely,



Dana M. Gibson

Library Director



March 3, 2010

Eugene Hainer  
Assistant Commissioner  
Colorado State Library  
201 E. Colfax Avenue  
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Mr. Hainer,

As the Executive Director at the Pikes Peak Library District, it is my pleasure to submit this letter indicating our participation as a sub-recipient of the Colorado State Library's Public Computing Center application for the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program.

Pikes Peak Library District serves over half a million residents in Colorado Springs and the Pikes Peak region. The area ranges from the urban area of the Springs to smaller, rural communities in the eastern plains area of the county. Unfortunately, the organizations and businesses serving this area have been hard hit by the economic downturn. Both the City and El Paso County have had to reduce services over the last two years, translating into numerous layoffs. In addition, the area has been reliant on the development and construction industries, as Colorado Springs has been an area of growth and development in the state, but those industries, in particular, have suffered. Ours is also an area that is high in new immigrants and in military families, including military spouses looking for employment.

By early 2009, our Library District became aware of an acute need for additional job resources – books and other materials, classes to enhance computer skills, training in interviewing and other job skills, etc. In response, PPLD began to partner with numerous organizations to pool resources and provide services to the unemployed, underemployed, and students going back to school to enhance their employability. Here are just some of the organizations with which we have worked – Pikes Peak Workforce Center, Pikes Peak Community College, the Greater Colorado Springs Chamber of Commerce, and the Colorado Springs Senior Center.

Numerous organizations rely on the free classes we provide and/or refer individuals and businesses to us for assistance and service. Currently, we can only provide training before we open in the morning, as we need to make our public PCs available for individual usage during every open hour. However, PPLD (District-wide) has only 314 public access PCs, spread across 12 facilities that serve over 540,000 people who live within the 2000 square miles our District serves. Our PCs (District-wide) are in use 92% of their available time: In some locations, there is a wait of over an hour for available PCs. We do not know how many individuals do *not* wait for an available PC and just leave without service... but we know it happens. Our current technology resources simply cannot keep up with the demand.

This grant would allow us to improve our responsiveness to our residents and to the community as a whole. As part of our participation in this grant, Pikes Peak Library District agrees to sustain all computing center services and programs including maintaining or enhancing the broadband service and

maintaining the computer hardware and software. We will participate in training and partnerships to ensure the computer centers' success as a long-term public resource for our community. We also certify that the library public computing center will be free and open to all.

We will work with the Colorado State Library to comply with all BTOP reporting requirements and with applicable federal, state and local laws related to this grant project. If awarded the funds from the NTIA, Pikes Peak Library District will provide a cash commitment of \$12,636 (10% of the total estimated cost). These funds will be set aside from our operating funds for this project during the project timeframe of October 2010 – April 2011.

Pikes Peak Library District is honored and excited to partner with the Colorado State Library on this important grant project: The impact on our community will be significant. In behalf of our Board and administrative staff, I'd like to thank the National Telecommunications and Information Administration for this opportunity and consideration.

Sincerely,



Paula J. Miller, Executive Director  
Pikes Peak Library District



March 4, 2010

Eugene Hainer  
Assistant Commissioner  
Colorado State Library  
201 E. Colfax Avenue  
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Mr. Hainer,

I am the Executive Director of the Poudre River Public Library district. This letter indicates our library's participation as a sub-recipient of the Colorado State Library's Public Computing Center application for the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program.

The need for more public computing centers in our service district continues to grow as the jobless rates grows. The 83 public computer stations at our three libraries are in constant use. In 2009, 186,083 user sessions were logged with sessions ranging from 20 minutes to 4 hours. To take advantage of other resources in the county the Poudre River Public Library District works closely with the Larimer County Economic Workforce Center by referring patrons to its computer lab for more in-depth job assistance than the library can provide.

Space constrictions will not allow the library to add a significant number of new computer stations. Therefore, the Poudre River Public Library District is requesting with this grant application two mobile labs to establish public computing centers where the need is greatest.

Of special concern are the neighborhoods in the north Fort Collins area where there are high rates of poverty, low educational attainment levels and cultural and language barriers. Less than half of the Latino immigrant population in these neighborhoods has a high school education. Approximately 60% live at or below federal poverty levels. Two agencies serving these neighborhoods, the CORE Center and Family Center are eager to partner with the library in providing space in their facilities for a mobile lab for basic computer training, job assistance and monitored free-use time. Both adults and children served by these two organizations will benefit from convenient computer access.

The Poudre River Public Library District serves more than 177,000 people across a vast 1,800 square-mile region in northern Larimer County, Colorado. Anchored by three libraries in Fort Collins, the Library District is dedicated to finding ways to better serve residents in underserved areas of the service district outside the city of Fort Collins. The three communities of Bellevue, Livermore and Timnath have all expressed interest in partnering with the Library District for this grant by providing space for a mobile computer lab. The Library District envisions scheduling lab hours and training on a regular basis several times a week at these locations.

As part of participating in this grant application, the Poudre River Public Library District agrees to sustain all computing center services and programs including maintaining or enhancing the broadband service and maintaining the computer hardware and software. We will participate in training and partnerships to make the computer centers a long-term public resource for our community. We also certify that the library public computing center will be free and open to all.

We will work with the Colorado State Library to comply with all BTOP reporting requirements and we will comply with applicable federal, state and local laws related to this grant project. Finally, if awarded funding from the NTIA, Poudre River Public Library will be able to provide a cash commitment of \$4,235.00, representing 10% of the total estimated cost of our equipment. These funds will be taken from the Library District's Operating Budget for the funding timeframe of October 2010 - April 2011.

The Poudre River Public Library District is pleased to partner with the Colorado State Library on this important grant. We believe the impact on our community will be significant. We thank the National Telecommunications and Information Administration for this opportunity and for considering this important application.

Sincerely,



Holly Carroll  
Executive Director



100 E. Abriendo Avenue  
Pueblo, CO 81004-4232

(719) 562-5600  
(719) 562-5610 Fax

[www.pueblolibrary.org](http://www.pueblolibrary.org)

Robert Hoag Rawlings  
Library

Barkman Library

Lamb Library

Pueblo West Library

**Community Satellite  
Libraries:**

Avondale Elementary

Beulah School

Craver Middle School

Cesar Chavez Academy

North Mesa Elementary

Risley Middle School

Rye Elementary

South Mesa Elementary

Vineland Elementary

February 26, 2010

Mr. Eugene Hainer  
Assistant Commissioner  
Colorado State Library  
201 E. Colfax Avenue  
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Mr. Hainer,

I am the Executive Director of the Pueblo City-County Library District. This letter indicates our participation as a partner in the Colorado State Library's Public Computing Center application for the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program.

The community we serve is among the poorer in Colorado. We intend to use the grant to enhance citizen access to high-tech public access computing facilities and software.

As a partner in this grant application, the Pueblo City-County Library District agrees to sustain all computer center services and programs including maintaining or enhancing the broadband service and maintaining the computer hardware and software. We will participate in training and partnerships to make the computer centers a long-term public resource for our community. We also certify that the library public computing center will be free and open to all.

We will work with the Colorado State Library to comply with all BTOP reporting requirements and we will comply with applicable federal, state and local laws applicable to the grant and related projects. Finally, if awarded the funds from the NTIA, the Pueblo City-County Library District will be able to provide a commitment of 10% of the total estimated cost of our equipment. These funds will come from our operating budget and the Friends of the Library.

The Pueblo City-County Library District is excited to partner with the Colorado State Library on this important grant. We believe the impact on our community will be significant. We thank the National Telecommunications and Information Administration for this opportunity and for considering our important application.

Sincerely,

Executive Director

March 8, 2010

Eugene Hainer  
Assistant Commissioner  
Colorado State Library  
201 E. Colfax Avenue  
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Mr. Hainer,

I am the Director of the Rangeview Library District. This letter indicates our participation as a partner in the Colorado State Library's Public Computing Center application for the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program.

The Commerce City and Brighton Branches in our system have diverse community needs. Both communities have significant Spanish language populations, 51% and 38% respectively. They are amongst the poorest communities in Adams County; many of our families do not have access to computers outside of the public library.

The Rangeview Library District supports the public computing needs for citizens who do not have other access to public computers. At this time, the existing public computers in these branches are utilized to full capacity, often with waits of an hour or more to use a computer.

By expanding the Commerce City Library computers from 14 to 26 computers and the Brighton public computers from 42 to 66, we will be able to extend our computer time allocation from 30 minutes per user to one hour or more when customers need additional time to finish resumes, research, or homework. In addition to the extension of time, we will be able to expand the number of computer users by at least thirty-three percent.

The Brighton Library is current working with the school district to provide computers for parents to access their children's school information and communicate regularly with teachers and administrators. The Senior Center is bringing seniors to the library and the Technology Librarian is providing basic computer skills classes for the community. At this time, these classes are at capacity. Expanded computers will allow for more frequent classes for our community. The Commerce City Library is currently partnering with Commerce City Administrators to provide offsite computers in the Derby Resource Center for the community to use for job searching, resume writing, and e-mail communication. The expansion of

computers available will provide critical support for citizens who have no other resources available to them.

As a partner in this grant application, the Rangeview Library District agrees to sustain all computer center services and programs including maintaining or enhancing the broadband service and maintaining the computer hardware and software. We will participate in training and partnerships to make the computer centers a long-term public resource for our community. We also certify that the library public computing center will be free and open to all.

We will work with the Colorado State Library to comply with all BTOP reporting requirements and we will comply with applicable federal, state and local laws applicable to the grant and related projects. Finally, if awarded the funds from the NTIA, Rangeview Library District will be able to provide a commitment of \$7,600 which is 10 percent of the total estimated cost of our equipment. These funds will come from the 2010 and 2011 operating budget.

The Rangeview Library District is excited to partner with the Colorado State Library on this important grant. We believe the impact on our community will be significant. We thank the National Telecommunications and Information Administration for this opportunity and for considering our important application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Pam Sandlian Smith".

Pam Sandlian Smith  
Library Director

**Red Feather Lakes Community Library of the  
Red Feather Mountain Library District**

PO Box 123, 71 Firehouse Lane

Red Feather Lakes, CO 80545

Phone: 970-881-2664 Fax: 970-881-2836

Web: <http://redfeather.colibraries.org> Email: [rflib@frii.com](mailto:rflib@frii.com)

Eugene Hainer  
Assistant Commissioner  
Colorado State Library  
201 E. Colfax Avenue  
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Mr. Hainer,

I am the President of the Board of Trustees of Red Feather Mountain Library District that includes the Red Feather Lakes Community Library. This letter indicates our participation as a sub-recipient of the Colorado State Library's Computing Center application for the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program.

Red Feather Lakes is a geographically isolated, unincorporated village located adjacent to Roosevelt National Forest. Since Red Feather Lakes is in a remote setting, our residents have some challenges accessing the Internet. Red Feather Lakes Community Library serves as the information, technology and social center for many of our residents. The majority of our public access computers are older and refurbished and this grant opportunity would allow our library to update our public computers, as well as provide an ADA compliant computer station along with vision magnification for a number of our laptops. This grant application will also enhance the Red Feather Lakes Community Library's ability to offer computer classes, webinars, and online courses to our patrons at the library or at local organizations, such as the fire department or school, with the purchase of eight laptops that can easily serve as a portable computer lab.

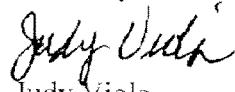
Red Feather Lakes Community Library plans to work in partnership with the Red Feather Volunteer Fire Department, Red Feather Medical Clinic and Red Feather Lakes Elementary School to meet their computer, technology and learning needs. Please refer to the five letters of support from the Larimer County Commissioners, Red Feather Lakes Planning Advisory Committee (PAC), Red Feather Medical Clinic, Red Feather Volunteer Fire Department and Red Feather Lakes Elementary School that accompany this participation letter.

As part of our participating in this grant application, the Red Feather Lakes Community Public Library agrees to sustain all computing center services and programs including maintaining or enhancing the broadband service and maintaining the computer hardware and software. We will participate in training and partnerships to make the computer centers a long-term public resource for our community. We also certify that the library

public computer center will be free and open to all. We will work with the Colorado State Library to comply with all BTOP reporting requirements and we will comply with applicable federal, state and local laws related to this grant project. Finally, if awarded the funds from the NTIA, Red Feather Lakes Community Library will be able to provide a cash commitment of \$1,000, approximately 3% of the total estimated cost of our equipment. These funds will come from the Friends of the Red Feather Lakes Community Library for the funding timeframe of October 2010 to April 2011.

The Red Feather Lakes Community Public Library is excited to partner with the Colorado State Library on this important grant. We believe the impact on our community will be significant. We thank the National Telecommunications and Information Administration for this opportunity and for considering our important application. Red Feather Lakes Community Library truly appreciates this technology assistance is helping our library with its vision: *Welcome ... Enter here to imagine, read, think, learn, connect with each other and explore the world.*

Sincerely,



Judy Viola

**DEL NORTE PUBLIC LIBRARY  
790 Grande Avenue  
Del Norte, Colorado 81132**

**February 24, 2010**

**Eugene Hainer  
Assistant Commissioner  
Colorado State Library  
201 E. Colfax Avenue  
Denver, Co 80203**

**Dear Mr. Hainer,**

**I am the Director at the Del Norte Public Library. This letter indicates our participation as a sub-receipient of the Colorado State Library's Public Computing Center application for the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program.**

**The Del Norte Community is economically depressed. Unemployment is high, as it is in most areas right now. The computer classes we have been conducting are well received and the patrons seem very grateful for the training opportunities.**

**People use the public access computers, which are wireless, for various reasons, including job searching, some classroom work, banking and several other reasons. Having free access is very important to many patrons. If it were not for the free access they would likely not have an opportunity for computer use, since a lot of the patrons can't afford to pay for a computer of their own, much less the hookup costs and monthly charges. The computer classes offered to the public are for those that are**

unfamiliar with computers to those who are advanced on computers.

Right now we have patrons waiting to use the computers alot of the time and it is especially congested during the months tourists are plentiful. With more lap tops available, this will fill the void we now face and also replace several of our older computers that are used by patrons. This will enable people to search for materials needed and complete their projects.

At the present time we partnership with the schools, such as searching of materials for science projects, summer reading requirements. I would sincerely like to partnership with the local Chamber of Commerce and have recently been in discussion with them.

AS part of our participating in this grant application, the Del Norte PUblic Library agrees to sustain all computing center services and programs including hardware and software. We will participate in training and partnerships to make the computer centers a long-term public resource for our community. We also certify that the library public computing center will be free and open to all.

We will work with the Colorado State Library to comply with all BTOP reporting requirements and we will comply with applicable federal, state and local laws related to this grant project. Finally, if awarded the funds from the ntia, Del Norte Public Library will be able to provide a cash commitment of 10% of the total estimated cost of our equipment. These funds will come from our operating budget and a portion from the King's Daughter Associaton (acting as Friends of Library). Funding timeframe is October 2010-April 2011.

The Del Norte Public Library is excited to partner with the Colorado State Libary on this important grant. We believe the impact on our community will be significant. We thank the National Telecommunications and Information Administration for this opportunity and for considering our important application.

Sincerely,

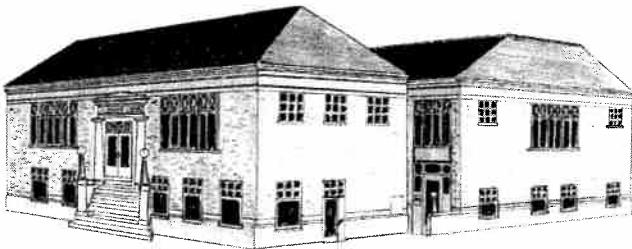


Kathy Gilliam

Director, Del Norte Public Library

# Carnegie Public Library

120 Jefferson Street  
Monte Vista, CO 81144  
Telephone: (719) 852-3931  
Fax: (719) 852-0821  
eMail: cldugan@amigo.net



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February 24, 2010

Eugene Hainer  
Assistant Commissioner  
Colorado State Library  
201 E. Colfax Avenue  
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Mr. Hainer,

I am the Director of the Carnegie Public Library in Monte Vista and the Carnegie Library in South Fork, Colorado. This letter indicates our participation as a sub-recipient of the Colorado State Library's Public Computing Center application for the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program.

Both of these communities are experiencing high unemployment and job loss due to the economy. Many of our patrons are seeking computer training to upgrade their resumes.

Improving our computer labs at both libraries would enable our community members to use the most up to date technology available for their resources.

Many other organizations use both libraries. We are partners with the US Census Bureau on computer training for Census, as well as, sites for assisting community members on filling out their census forms.

We hold bi-weekly computer classes at both libraries teaching topics that the patrons request. We have had excellent responses with these classes. Adding more computers to each facility will address the overflow of attendance at the classes.

The local Work Force Employment Center uses our computer lab in the Monte Vista location to train individuals who are seeking employment. Often the older equipment is not user friendly, as far as coping resumes. We desperately need to upgrade our printing system. The Work Force Employment Center would like to increase usage of the public computer lab when we improve the technology.

Many of the residents are taking college classes via the computer, this can cause a backlog of individuals using the computers, which this grant application would address.

As part of our participating in this grant application, the Carnegie Public Libraries of Monte Vista and South Fork, Colorado agrees to sustain all computing center services and programs including maintaining or enhancing the broadband service and maintaining the computer hardware and software. We will participate in training and partnerships to make the computer centers a long-term public resource for our community. We also certify that the library public computing center will be free and open to all.

We will work with the Colorado State Library to comply with all BTOP reporting requirements and we will comply with applicable federal, state and local laws related to this grant project. Finally, if awarded the funds from the NTIA, the Carnegie Public Libraries will be able to provide a in-kind commitment of \$4541, depending on the November elections for 2010.

These funds will come from the yearly library district budgets for 2010 and 2011.

The Carnegie Public Library of Monte Vista and South Fork , Colorado is excited to partner with the Colorado State Library on this important grant. We believe the impact on our community will be significant. We thank the National Telecommunications and Information Administration for this opportunity and for considering our important application.

Sincerely,



Carol Lee Dugan  
Director of Carnegie Public Library  
And Carnegie Library South Fork Branch

**Rocky Ford Public Library**

400 South 10<sup>th</sup> Street

Rocky Ford, Colorado 81067-1718

(719) 254-6641 • Fax (719) 254-6647

rflib@rockyford.lib.co.us

<http://rockyford.colibraries.org>

**02 March 2010**

**Eugene Hainer  
Assistant Commissioner  
Colorado State Library  
201 E. Colfax Avenue  
Denver, CO 80203**

**Dear Mr. Hainer,**

**I am the Board Chairman of the Rocky Ford Public Library. This letter is in support of the Colorado State Library's Public Computing Center application for the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program.**

**Rocky Ford, Colorado is a rural, agriculture-based community in southeastern Colorado. There is some light industry coming into the community to replace industry based on agriculture. The population is aging. Seventeen percent of our population is over the age of 65. Our employment rate reflected in the 2000 census was at 57%. Many of our young people graduating from local schools move to larger communities in search of employment.**

**Demographically we are a community of less than 4,000 that is approximately 48% Hispanic, 1% Asian, and 51% white. Economically 74% of our school population is eligible free or reduced lunch. Educationally 24.5% of our over 25 population does not have a high school diploma.**

**Rocky Ford Public Library has seen a steady increase in computer use since 2000 when fewer than 5,000 used our resources annually. In 2009, 14,541 individuals made use of our computers and wireless connection for entertainment, resume writing, job searches, filing taxes, e-mail accounts, research, personal finance, social networking and online course work.**

**Computer classes offered at the Rocky Ford Public Library are very popular. However, we do not have the capacity to offer the gaming design classes our local computer retailer would like to offer; or assist fully the workforce center or health department with training or classes. This grant opportunity would allow us to promote these programs and activities.**

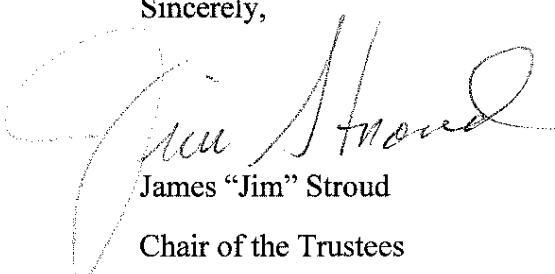
**Library partnerships extend throughout this small community in many arenas. We work together to tackle literary issues, poor health habits, poverty, lack of skills and despair. Letters from some of our partners are attached. Broadband Technology Opportunity Program would be of tremendous benefit.**

As part of our participating in this grant application, the Rocky Ford Public Library agrees to sustain all computing center services and programs including maintaining or enhancing the broadband service and maintaining the computer hardware and software. We will participate in training and partnerships to make the computer centers a long-term public resource for our community. We also certify that the library public computing center will be free and open to all.

We will work with the Colorado State Library to comply with all BTOP reporting requirements and we will comply with applicable federal, state and local laws applicable to the grant and related projects. Finally, if awarded the funds from NTIA, Rocky Ford Public Library will be able to provide cash commitment of \$2,251 from Friends of the Rocky Ford Library.

The Rocky Ford Public Library is excited to collaborate with the Colorado State Library on this important grant. We believe the impact on our community will be significant. We thank the National Telecommunications and Information Administration for this opportunity and for considering our important application.

Sincerely,



James "Jim" Stroud  
Chair of the Trustees  
Rocky Ford Public Library

February 25, 2010

Eugene Hainer, Assistant Commissioner  
Colorado State Library  
201 E. Colfax Avenue  
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Mr. Hainer:

I am the Library Director at the Silverton Public Library. This letter indicates our participation as a partner in the Colorado State Library's Public Computing Center Application for the Broadband Technology opportunities Program.

San Juan County is a small county high in the mountains of southwestern Colorado at 9318 ft. Silverton is the only town in the county and can be reached from the south over Coal Bank and Molas Passes and from the north over Red Mountain Pass each of which is over 10,000 feet in elevation. Almost all of the counties 450 or so year round inhabitant's live in Silverton and to my knowledge only about 50% of our population have computers in their homes and their internet connection is mainly dial up. The library is fortunate enough to ride piggyback on the school's T-1 line. We are also very fortunate that our wireless is donated otherwise we would have a town of desperate souls. Our community relies heavily on the library for its internet needs.

Our library is a vintage Carnegie library that opened on June 12, 1906 and has been operating as the public library ever since. The only other library in our county is the Silverton Public School Library which functions on a part time basis for the students therefore the Public Library takes on a much larger role.

Our library has been fortunate that we have been able to keep up with technology:

-We currently have three computers connected to a T-1 line and available for public use and seven wireless computers available for public use. The three T-1 computers are approximately seven years old so it would be to our advantage to upgrade. Also there are a number of patrons who would rather do business especially financial business over a secure connection.

-During the winter months we are able to offer unlimited time to our patrons. During the summer and fall our population doubles and therefore so does the computer usage.

-Because of the size of our community, we all try to work together as much as possible; normally we are able to do this without much problem. By upgrading and purchasing additional computers, we feel that we can adequately offer various computer workshops. We would like to ask students from the high school to help us with some of these workshops. They are more than capable to teach anything from general computer usage to creating web pages. This would be an excellent way to involve our young people with the community in a positive fashion.

This grant would aid us in forming a partnership with the Economic Development group.

The library computers could be used by our community for those seeking employment, searching for grants and general small business operations.

We will continue to have a line item in our budget dedicated to the maintenance of all our equipment.

Our goal is to provide the best possible library service for the residents of San Juan County. The more services we can make available for our patrons, the better job we can do.

As partner in this grant application. The Silverton Public Library agrees to sustain all computing center services and programs including maintaining or enhancing the broadband services and maintaining the computer hardware and software. We will participate in training and partnerships to make the computer centers a long-term public resource for our community. We also certify that the Library Public computers will be free and open to all.

We will work with the Colorado State Library to comply with all BTOP reporting requirements and we will comply with applicable federal state and local laws applicable to the grant related projects.

Finally, if awarded the funds from the NTIA, Silverton Public Library will be able to provide a commitment of 10% of the total estimated cost of our equipment. These funds will be provided by the Friends of the Silverton Public Library.

The Silverton Public Library is excited to partner with the Colorado State Library on this important grant. We believe the impact on our community will be significant. We thank the National Telecommunications and Information Administration for this opportunity and for considering our important application.

Sincerely,

Jackie L. Kerwin  
Library Director  
Silverton Public Library



# **SOUTHERN TELLER COUNTY**

## **Public Library District**

P.O. Box 374

Cripple Creek, Colorado 80813

March 1, 2010

Eugene Hainer  
Assistant Commissioner  
Colorado State Library  
201 E. Colfax Avenue  
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Mr. Hainer,

I am the library director for Southern Teller County Library District (Franklin Ferguson Memorial Library and Victor Public Library). This letter indicates our participation as a sub-recipient of the Colorado State Library's Public Computing Center application for the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program.

### **Description of Community Needs**

Teller County is rural, with 61% of its population residing in unincorporated areas, and 89% of county-maintained roads remaining unpaved. The Census Bureau estimates showed that the population of Teller County increased 6.6% from 2000 to 2005 and, according to 2006 estimates, is currently 22,836. Of that population, 5,181 are age 0-18, Ten percent of which live at or below the federal poverty level (FPL). Of the total population, 7.6% live at or below FPL and 19.2 % live at or below 200% of FPL. Teller County's unemployment rate has increased from 3.6% in December 2006 to 9.1% in December 2009, well above the state rate of 7.5 %. The average wage for the county is \$14.10 per hour or \$29,328 annually, which is less than 150% of the federal poverty level for a family of four (\$30,975). This is significantly lower than the state average wage of \$44,616.

The 1992 introduction of limited stakes gaming to Cripple Creek brought a new set of challenges to the area. One major impact is the increase in school size from 312 in 1990 to 513 in 2007. At Cripple Creek-Victor Schools, 54% of all students qualify for the Free and Reduced Lunch program.

A major concern of local school and public safety officials is that children living in this community have exposure to risky behaviors such as above average domestic violence, family drug and alcohol use, and lack of parental guidance along with early initiation of substance abuse as reported by the Colorado Youth Risk Behavior Survey. Community perceptions of student health needs are related to a population of poverty that has no expectations of primary medical, dental, or behavioral health care. Children have been innocent victims of short-term medical providers, working parents, low socio-economic status, (exacerbated by the gaming industry as a primary employer), and demographics of the community.

## **Library's Role in the Community**

Franklin Ferguson Memorial Library and Victor Public Library serve both students and adults within their perspective communities. Franklin Ferguson serves a dual role of being both a school (K-12) and public library. This unique position places a burden on the library's public access computers. During the school year 2004-2005, Franklin Ferguson averaged two Cripple Creek-Victor school class visits per day for research projects requiring computer and Internet use. For school year ending in 2008, school class visits doubled. Over the same time, public daily computer use increased. Both libraries have seen an increase in the number of public computer users in the areas of online college courses (400% increase during 2009), government services (150% increase for 2009), and research health information (100% increase in 2009) over 2008. Adult basic computer classes have grown from 18 attendees in 2002 to over 220 in 2007. Within Southern Teller County, Franklin Ferguson and Victor Public Libraries are the only the only source for free public access to the Internet. The library public access computers make available information on tax preparation, assistance on financial aid applications and access to expensive financial journals and periodicals from databases. Library staff provides assistance one-on-one or as a class, for local community library patrons. Franklin Ferguson Memorial Library has evening classes for adults in basic computer operation, e-mail, Internet, Web site evaluation, and Microsoft Office Suite. Over four hundred adults and seven hundred third through twelfth students have taken and completed courses since 2002. Since November, 2009, our libraries have been providing patrons with training on resume preparation, assistance with scholarship applications to local colleges, and filing of unemployment claims.

## **Describing Library's Needs**

Due to high demand, scheduling computer use is critical. During last school year, two classes scheduled themselves into the library for online database research at the same time, almost resulting in a fight. Many of our public patrons check the class computer sign-up log at Franklin Ferguson circulation desk to ensure uninterrupted computer use due to class needs. Victor Public Library has a one hour per day time limit for computer use. Franklin Ferguson schedules adult computer classes in the evening after the library closes so as to not interfere with school or public patron computer use during regular operating hours.

The Broadband Technology Opportunities Program can alleviate high demand peak periods within our library system by providing funding for a mobile laptop computer lab from which classes can access online library databases or the Internet by a wireless network from study areas within the library, thereby freeing up fixed desktop systems for public and individual student use. The introduction of a wireless network into our libraries expands Internet connectivity for patrons owning their own laptop computer and frees up usage of library desktop systems. Ease of access to technology will help community members locate employment, file unemployment claims, find local medical assistance, and complete online college courses.

## **Establishing and Enhancing Partnerships**

Southern Teller County Library District has had a working relationship with the Cripple Creek-Victor School District for over twelve years. Both Victor and Franklin Ferguson Memorial Libraries maintain as part of their print collections, materials that sustain the school district curriculum. Electronic support comes in the way of databases for both students and community use. Hours at both libraries are extended two hours beyond school dismissal to allow students access to library materials. The library district has partnered with the Cripple Creek District Museum to digitize photographs and documents and make that collect part of the Colorado Heritage Project. Franklin Ferguson Memorial Library assists the Colorado Workforce area office by helping job seekers look for employment and complete unemployment claims. The largest community help organization in our area is the Aspen Mine Community Center. The center provides one-stop assistance for the community and houses an outreach branch the Colorado Workforce Center, medical and dental outreach services, a food pantry, and other social services. Southern Teller County Library District has partnered in the past with the Aspen Mine in providing basic technology skills to job seekers and we could do more.

## **Commitment**

As part of our participating in this grant application, the Southern Teller County Library District agrees to sustain all computing center services and programs including maintaining or enhancing the broadband service and maintaining the computer hardware and software. We will participate in training and partnerships to make the computer centers a long-term public resource for our community. We also certify that the library public computing center will be free and open to all.

We will work with the Colorado State Library to comply with all BTOP reporting requirements and we will comply with applicable federal, state and local laws applicable to the grant and related projects. Finally, if awarded the funds from the NTIA, Southern Teller County Library District will be able to provide cash commitment of 10% of the total estimated cost of our equipment. These funds will come from our operating budget, for the funding timeframe of October 2010 – April 2011.

Franklin Ferguson and Victor Public Libraries are excited to partner with the Colorado State Library on this important grant. We believe the impact on our community will be significant. We thank the National Telecommunications and Information Administration for this opportunity and for considering our important application.

Sincerely,



Michael McDonald  
*Director*



# SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN CULTURAL CENTER

P.O. BOX 737 • 14826 HWY 172 • IGNACIO, COLORADO 81137

March 5, 2010

Eugene Hainer  
Assistant Commissioner  
Colorado State Library  
201 E. Colfax Avenue  
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Mr. Hainer,

On behalf of the Southern Ute Cultural Center & Museum (SUCCM), I would like to indicate our participation as a sub-recipient of the Colorado State Library's Public Computing Center application for the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program.

SUCCM, is located on the Southern Ute Reservations in the town of Ignacio, Colorado which is a town of about 950 people located in southwest Colorado. The town history does not include any periods of general affluence; it is primarily an agricultural setting with a significant number of local residents employed by the Southern Ute Tribe in its administrative, human service, or gaming enterprises. The population is rural and the town sits well off of any major routes. Increased access to technology and the Internet will assist the SUCCM in two major ways. First, community members will reap the benefits of the Internet by having access to information, on-line educational courses, and e-mail and other communication systems. Secondly, as access to technology becomes more common place in Ignacio a greater number of Tribal and community members will be able to upload historical and cultural information for availability on the Internet. The information will be used locally to enhance museum workshops and programs and nationally to promote the story of the Ute's.

Upon completion of the new SUCCM facility, we are anticipating about 400 people per month to use the computers. These include visitors to the museum, tourists, and students from the Southern Ute Academy, families from Southern Ute Head Start, youth in extra-curricular activities, adjudicated youth, local elderly residents, and the general public.



We also propose to provide Internet training to a number of key persons in the target population. The training will assist teachers to locate websites that are relevant to classroom curricula and to facilitate exploration of these sites by students in the lab. Staff working with elderly residents will be able to guide them in setting up e-mail accounts, and looking for hard-to-find consumer items. It is also our intent to provide training to museum staff so the museum website and links to educational sites can be updated and more comprehensive. The museum collection includes several artifacts and photographs that would provide accurate depictions of Tribal history.

As part of our participating in this grant application, the Southern Ute Cultural Center & Museum Library agrees to sustain all computing center services and programs including maintaining or enhancing the broadband service and maintaining the computer hardware and software. We will participate in training and partnerships to make the computer centers a long-term public resource for our community. We also certify that the library public computing center will be free and open to all.

We will work with the Colorado State Library to comply with all BTOP reporting requirements and we will comply with applicable federal, state and local laws related to this grant project.

The Public Library is excited to partner with the Colorado State Library on this important grant. We believe the impact on our community will be significant in terms of providing an increase in community access to technology. We thank the National Telecommunications and Information Administration for this opportunity and for considering our important application.

Sincerely,



Lynn Brittner  
Executive Director



March 1, 2010

Eugene Hainer  
Assistant Commissioner  
Colorado State Library  
201 E. Colfax Avenue  
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Mr. Hainer,

I am writing as the President of the Board of Trustees of Spanish Peaks Library District. This letter is to indicate our intent to participate as a partner with the Colorado State Library's Public Computing Center application for the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program.

Spanish Peaks Library District is situated in the third poorest county in Colorado. We provide a full range of library services to a population of 6500 people. In the latest census figures released in 2000, 14% of all families in the entire county (population 8000) reported living in poverty. The unemployment rate exceeds 12% and just last month we were notified that the Corrections Corporation of America, the second largest employer in the County, will be closing their correctional facility, leaving at least 90 county residents out of work.

Recent information from the Huerfano Re-1 School District (whose boundaries are the same as the Library District) states that "Less than 10% of families in the district have computers in their homes and an even smaller percentage has Internet access." The Library has been providing public computers and Internet access to the community for more than 14 years; in the summer of 2009 a new facility was opened providing 12 public PCs as well as wireless access for anyone with their own laptop. This new facility also received a donation of 14 used PCs that have been set up as a "computer lab" for use on request by community groups; we had hoped to begin offering computer classes for the public, but currently do not have adequate staffing to do so.

This grant would provide us with training and support to begin teaching a number of classes for the public. With laptops instead of PCs our community room becomes a more versatile space; this is the only meeting room in the community that can provide wireless Internet access. The mobile carts would allow us to provide greater use of at least a couple of meeting spaces elsewhere in the community where the cart could be used to connect to the Internet and broadcast wirelessly for public meetings, trainings, etc.



There is a great deal of support for our Library in this community; an election in 1999 created a Library District and a bond issue was passed in 2006 to provide half of the \$3.5 million dollars needed to rehabilitate the historic county school building for use as a library and learning center for the district residents. This year the Library has partnered with the County Health Department to provide a "health information station" through a National Library of Medicine grant and just recently received word that the Colorado Department of Education awarded the local school district a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Center grant that includes funding for the Library to provide programs for 'out of school time' enrichment programs for high school students and their families. The La Animas Huerfano County Family Resource Center, under the auspices of the Huerfano County Department of Social Services has applied for funding from The Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy to expand programs for children at the Library to include more at-risk families with an intergenerational approach to literacy.

As part of our participation in this grant application, the Spanish Peaks Library agrees to sustain all computing center services and programs including maintaining or enhancing the broadband service and maintaining the computer hardware and software. We will participate in training and partnerships to make the computer centers a long-term public resource for our community. We also certify that the library public computing center will be free and open to all.

We will work with the Colorado State Library to comply with all BTOP reporting requirements and we will comply with applicable federal, state and local laws applicable to the grant and related projects. Finally, if awarded the funds from the NTIA, Spanish Peaks Library District will be able to provide a commitment of \$5000, approximately 10% of the total of the estimated cost of our equipment. These funds will come from our operating budget and may be supplemented with donations over the course of the next 18 months.

The Spanish Peaks Library is excited to partner with the Colorado State Library on this important grant. We believe the impact on our community will be significant. We thank the National Telecommunications and Information Administration for this opportunity and for considering our important application.

Sincerely,

Gerald Skrzyneak, President



Feb. 26, 2010

Eugene Hainer  
Assistant Commissioner  
Colorado State Library  
201 E. Colfax Avenue  
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Mr. Hainer,

I am the City Manager for the City of Sterling. This letter indicates Sterling Public Library's participation as a partner in the Colorado State Library's Public Computing Center application for the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program.

Sterling Public Library is thrilled to have the opportunity to participate in this grant. Sterling Public Library has seen an increase in the use of our computers during the past year. During 2009 22,695 uses were logged an increase of 18% compared to 2008.

Our patrons are using the computers to locate and apply for jobs, complete personal financial transactions such as payment of bills and communicate with friends and relatives. School students use the library computers to research topics and write reports. We have also begun to see patrons who are taking online classes use our computers to complete course work.

If Sterling Public Library did not offer our internet service, many of the patrons who use it would lose access to the web. Many of the patrons using the service are low income and could not afford a computer or connection to the Internet. Another group we are beginning to see try and use computers more are seniors. Eighteen percent of Logan County's population is over age 60. These people need more individual help in using the Internet and online services. Library staff will benefit greatly from the training involved with the request as we offer more basic computer skill classes to this population group.

Sterling Public Library uses a reservation system for the computers. Typically after school and on Sunday afternoon there will be reservations made because there are no computers open for use. Sterling Public Library plans to use funds from the federal grant to add computers for access by more people. This addition of computers should greatly reduce the wait times. Funds will also be used to update four of our computers, a server and two switches. The updating of the server and switches will improve our technology infrastructure. With the training provided in the request library staff will offer more computer training to the public, particularly seniors.

Sandy Van Dusen, Library Superintendent, would like to work in cooperation with the Work Force Center to provide opportunities for community members to gain information about applying for a job online and completing their resume. Sandy will also be visiting more with

CITY OF STERLING, CENTENNIAL SQUARE, 421 N. 4TH STREET, P. O. BOX 4000, STERLING, CO 80751-0400

CITY HALL  
(970) 522-9700  
FAX (970) 521-0632

SERVICE CENTER  
(970) 522-2619  
FAX (970) 521-7141

FIRE  
(970) 522-3823

POLICE  
(970) 522-3512  
FAX(970) 522-3511

REC CENTER  
(970) 522-7882

LIBRARY  
(970) 522-2023  
FAX (970) 522-2657

Social Services to provide classes to some of their clients. These people would benefit from learning computer skills needed to access jobs.

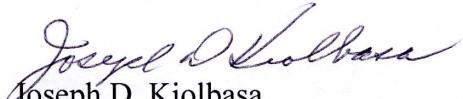
Mrs. Van Dusen also plans to use the computer lab to offer training and space to some of the halfway houses in the area. Groups from these institutions have been visiting the library and Sandy would like to provide further services to them through use of the lab and providing some of the basic computer skill classes.

As part of our participating in this grant application, the Sterling Public Library agrees to sustain all computing center services and programs including maintaining or enhancing the broadband service and maintaining the computer hardware and software. We will participate in training and partnerships to make the computer centers a long-term public resource for our community. We also certify that the library public computing center will be free and open to all.

We will work with the Colorado State Library to comply with all BTOP reporting requirements and we will comply with applicable federal, state and local laws applicable to the grant and related projects. Finally, if awarded the funds from the NTIA, our library will provide a commitment of \$2000.00, 10% of the total estimated cost of our equipment. These funds will come from the City of Sterling Capital Replacement Fund.

The Sterling Public Library is excited to partner with the Colorado State Library on this important grant. We believe the impact on our community will be significant. We thank the National Telecommunications and Information Administration for this opportunity and for considering our important application.

Sincerely,



Joseph D. Kiobasa

City Manager

Stratton Public Library  
P.O.Box 267  
331 New York Avenue  
Stratton, CO. 8036  
Phone: 719-348-5922  
Fax: 719-348-5922  
Email: strattonlibrary2@hotmail.com

**Stratton Public Library**

March 3, 2010

Eugene Hainer

Assistant Commissioner  
Colorado State Library  
201 E. Colfax Avenue  
Denver, CO. 80203

Dear Mr. Hainer,

As the Director at the Stratton Public Library, this letter indicates our participation as a partner in the Colorado State Library's Public Computing Center application for the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program.

The community of Stratton is currently feeling the effects of a financial crunch; the town is very small and is trying to write for grants to keep the library open. We are a town of 650 people; we serve at least three or more smaller communities in our county. The most recent needs have been for IRS information and how to E-file taxes and this could be most helpful information to us.

About ¼ of the population is in the 50+ age group so health issues and "what to do now with our lives" issues. Because our library is a fairly new building and is handicapped accessible, we need to now have the ability to have our computer centers fulfill those needs also.

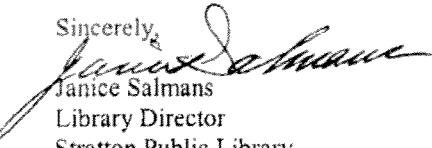
We have a very active RSVP (Retired Senior Volunteer Persons) group and have been asked to help teach these retired seniors, the basic computer skills. We are only able to be open part time hours, and have only two employees, so we need more training to be able to teach these people to use the computers themselves for their own training.

As a partner in this grant application, the Stratton Public Library agrees to sustain all computer center services and programs including maintaining or enhancing the broadband service and maintaining the computer hardware and software. We will participate in training and partnerships to make the computer centers a long-term public resource for our community. We also certify that the library public computing center will be free and open to all.

We will work with the Colorado State Library to comply with all BTOP reporting requirements and we will comply with applicable federal, state and local laws applicable to the grant and related projects. "Although our town library's funding situation does not allow for us to contribute matching funds, we appreciate the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation matching funds that will assist us in our success."

The Stratton Public Library is excited to partner with the Colorado State Library on this important grant. We believe the impact on our community will be significant. We thank the National Telecommunications and Information Administration for this opportunity and for considering our important application.

Sincerely,

  
Janice Salmans

Library Director  
Stratton Public Library

jls

March 3, 2010

Eugene Hainer, Assistant Commissioner  
Colorado State Library  
201 E. Colfax Avenue  
Denver, Co 80203

Dear Mr. Hainer,

I am Linda Scott the Librarian at the Swink Public and School Library. I am writing in support of the Colorado State Library's Public Computing Center application for the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program.

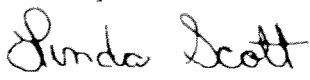
This library serves a small rural community in southeastern Colorado. It is a combined Public and School Library serving both the public and the Swink School. This is an agricultural based community, with very few businesses and job opportunities. Like all other communities the recent economic problems have hit our community hard. Subsequently, I have seen a substantial increase in computer use by the public. Many of our families have had to get rid of their Internet access due to financial problems. The bulk of public use of computers is for job searches and continuing education classes on line.

Our equipment is over five years old and slow; it would be very beneficial for our patrons to have better more efficient equipment to assist them with their job searches, on line classes, research or what ever the need may be for computer use and associability to the internet. I proctor testing for those patrons taking online college classes and there are times when this process has been difficult due to the speed of our computers.

It is the goal of our library to provide both the community and students with easy accessibility to all of our resources in the library, especially access to computers and the Internet to help them academically as well as in their personal lives. With this grant we would be able to accomplish this goal.

The Swink Public and School Library would like to thank the Colorado State Library and the National Telecommunications and Information Administration's for their work on this grant on behalf of the Swink Public and School Library.

Sincerely,

  
Linda Scott  
Swink Public and School Librarian

# Carnegie Public Library

202 North Animas Street  
Trinidad, Colorado 81082  
719 846 6841  
[www.carnegiepubliclibrary.org](http://www.carnegiepubliclibrary.org)

March 5, 2010

Eugene Hainer  
Assistant Commissioner  
Colorado State Library  
201 E. Colfax Avenue  
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Mr. Hainer,

I am the Director at the Carnegie Public Library in Trinidad, Colorado. This letter is in support of the Colorado State Library's Public Computing Center application for the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program.

Our library is located in Las Animas County, which is geographically large but under populated. Economic hardship is a long-standing characteristic of the area. Current residents are suffering from the unemployment crisis suffered by the laying off of subcontractors of the gas and oil industry, just as their forebears suffered when the coal mines shut down. Health care opportunities are sparse, education is undervalued, parental participation is minimal, and job opportunities scarce.

The recent economic downturn has resulted in a serious lack of tax revenue income for our city. Budget cuts have affected all city departments, along with the Library, and the outlook for 2011 is grim. While hurt economically by the above situation, the Carnegie Public Library has benefited from an increase in visitors and library users. Many community members can no longer afford to pay for Internet access at home, so our public access computers are busy all day. Casual users checking their email accounts sit side by side with those who need the computers to access online courses. Our collaboration with the local Colorado Work Force Center brings in job seekers and area residents who need to file for unemployment benefits to use the computer we have dedicated to those needs.

Our public library is one of only two places in the area where members of the general public can access computers and the Internet at no cost. We are open 55 hours per week so we can accommodate computer users at times they find convenient. We also offer wireless service so those who own their own laptops can come in and not have to wait for one of our desktops to be available.

Recognizing the need for reliable Internet service, our library spends a great deal of money on trying to keep our computers in good repair. Because we have no in-house computer technicians and are extremely short-staffed, we have had a problem with computers being out of service for long periods of time, and sometimes have had as few as four computers available. We have been fortunate in finding computer technicians who offer their assistance at a discount but even at these discounted rates, our expenses have become extremely high. We spent over \$3,000.00 last year and have already spent over \$1,000 since January 1st of this year.

If we receive the much-hoped for federal grant monies, we would like to add computers, which would cut down the waiting time for those anxious to use them when machines are down. We would especially like to provide workstations for persons with handicaps as well as machines designed for children. Ours is not an affluent

community; many young people have access to computers only in school, and that time is limited. We would like to provide opportunities for homeschoolers, young children who are not enrolled in preschools and cannot access computers at home, and also provide computers for young adults who have need for computers for school work but have neither a computer nor Internet access.

Many of our senior citizens would like to learn computer skills but have no one to instruct them in even the simplest tasks, such as setting up an email account. We are too short-staffed to provide such learning opportunities but this grant would allow us to change that.

In our rural, remote area, the Library endeavors to assist our out of town patrons. Again, ours is a large county and the Carnegie Public Library is the only full-service library within it. The majority of our funding comes from the City of Trinidad; the County sends a tiny percentage of our operating budget despite the fact that more than half of our library patrons are county residents. We try to serve the needs of our rural patrons and having additional important information that they can access via the Internet when they visit the Library would be an important asset to improve their lives.

If we are able to obtain a mobile computer lab, we hope to make it available in our rural Senior Centers and Community Centers. We would like to teach residents how to place library materials on reserve and then work with our local Council of Governments Transportation Department to bring the reserved materials to these centers.

The Carnegie Public Library of Trinidad already has strong collaborative ties with the Trinidad State Junior College, Trinidad School District #1, HeadStart, and the Colorado Work Force Center, and also with many other non-profits throughout the area. We have discussed this grant and have brainstormed ideas to make its fruits valuable for the entire community.

As part of our participating in this grant application, the Trinidad Carnegie Public Library agrees to sustain all computing center services and programs including maintaining or enhancing the broadband service and maintaining the computer hardware and software. We will participate in training and partnerships to make the computer centers a long-term public resource for our community. We also certify that the library public computing center will be free and open to all.

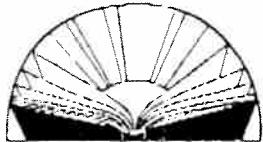
We will work with the Colorado State Library to comply with all BTOP reporting requirements and we will comply with applicable federal, state and local laws applicable to the grant and related projects. Finally, if awarded the funds from the NTIA, our library will strive to provide a 10% match for the equipment provided in the grant, although the above-mentioned economic turndown has certainly had a negative effect on our fund-raising efforts and we can't guarantee success in raising the necessary amount.

The Carnegie Public Library of Trinidad, Colorado is ecstatic about the chance to partner with the Colorado State Library on this important grant. We believe the impact on our community will be significant. We thank the National Telecommunications and Information Administration for this opportunity and for considering our important application.

Sincerely,

*Jane Anne Besel*

Jane Anne Besel  
Library Director



Ruby M. Sisson  
**MEMORIAL**  
**LIBRARY**

March 3, 2010

Eugene Hainer  
Assistant Commissioner  
Colorado State Library  
201 E. Colfax Avenue  
Denver, CO 80203

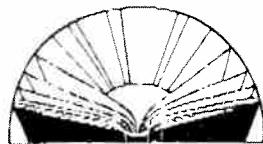
Dear Mr. Hainer,

I am the Director at the Ruby M. Sisson Memorial Library. This letter indicates our participation as a partner in the Colorado State Library's Public Computing Center application for the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program.

The Ruby Sisson Library, located in Pagosa Springs, Colorado, is the only library in Archuleta County. Our legal service area covers almost the entire County and serves a population of approximately 13,000. Based on projections produced by the State Demography Office, the population in our service area is expected to increase to 15,500 in 2015 and 18,400 in 2020. We also provide services to a significant (16.8% taken from the 2000 census) Hispanic population --many of whom are new immigrants who do not speak English. As our population increases, unfortunately, the unemployment increases as well. Preliminary figures provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics for December 2009, reported 8.0% unemployment in Archuleta County, 6.7% unemployment in Pagosa Springs, and 7.7% unemployment for the State.

The Ruby Sisson Library is both an essential and integral community resource in Archuleta County. With funding to improve and expand our technology offerings, the library can better serve patrons in our rural area. For example, job seekers could utilize our instructional computer lab for workshops on job searching and computer skill development. Through the purchase of laptops, our staff could provide outreach to residents unable to visit the library via a mobile computer lab. Newer computers would also provide our community members with higher quality technology experiences such as web conferencing and other online instructional opportunities, including distance education. As the County's only public entity providing free computer use and internet access during the day and evening, it is crucial for the Ruby Sisson Library to maximize technology offerings for patrons. This grant would provide the necessary funding and support for meeting citizen's needs in Southwest Colorado.

As a central hub in the county network, the library is a consistent collaborator with other organizations and services in the community. Already on board with us are several partners with whom we will team on technology endeavors. The administrators of Archuleta County and the Pagosa Springs Chamber of Commerce are committed to promoting the computer use and training we provide. From business owners to new



Ruby M. Sisson  
**MEMORIAL  
LIBRARY**

residents and from job seekers to disadvantaged citizens, community members in our County will be primed to take advantage of our services.

Our library has developed a very good relationship with other organizations in our community. Our goal is to augment the services and programs offered by these organizations, not to duplicate them. Students from the Archuleta County Education Center use our laptops and ESL software to work on their English skills. They also have access to all of our materials and online databases to help them prepare for Citizenship.

As a partner in this grant application, the Ruby Sisson Library agrees to sustain all computer center services and programs including maintaining or enhancing the broadband service and maintaining the computer hardware and software. We will participate in training and partnerships to make the computer centers a long-term public resource for our community. We also certify that the library public computing center will be free and open to all.

We will work with the Colorado State Library to comply with all BTOP reporting requirements and we will comply with applicable federal, state and local laws applicable to the grant and related projects. Finally, if awarded the funds from the NTIA, the Ruby Sisson Library will be able to provide a commitment of \$1,370.00 of the total estimated cost of our equipment. These funds will come from the Friends of the Libraries Upper San Juan.

The Ruby Sisson Library is excited to partner with the Colorado State Library on this important grant. We believe the impact on our community will be significant. We thank the National Telecommunications and Information Administration for this opportunity and for considering our important application.

Sincerely,



Jacqueline Welch  
Director