Organization:	District of Columbia Government
Project Name:	DC Broadband Education, Training and Adoption (DC-BETA)
Project Type:	Sustainable Broadband Adoption
State:	District of Columbia
Federal Award:	$4,196,777

ABOUT THE PROJECT

In a citywide analysis of broadband subscription rates, the **District of Columbia** found that the economically troubled neighborhoods in Wards 5, 7, and 8 have a broadband adoption rate of less than 40 percent. To drive demand for broadband in those areas, the District's Office of the Chief Technology Officer plans to launch the DC-BETA project, which proposes to provide broadband-related outreach, digital literacy and workforce skills training, refurbished computers, and subsidized broadband access through resource centers located in those wards. The project's partners intend to provide digital literacy training at eight libraries and three Community College of DC locations, complete with multimedia and technical certification programs. Upon successful completion of these training programs, participants will receive a refurbished computer and nine months of free wireless broadband service. The project also plans to conduct extensive surveys in the project's service area to track the progress of participants and students over time.

DC-BETA also proposes to:

- Train as many as 6,800 residents over the life of the project through approximately 108,000 hours of teacher-led training for DC's economically vulnerable residents.

- Implement outreach to targeted community members via radio, television, and print ads, as well as through partner community organizations.

- Leverage two other BTOP grants in the District, one for broadband infrastructure and another for public computer centers, in addition to its State Broadband Data and Development Program award for mapping broadband access, to ensure a comprehensive citywide broadband adoption strategy.

ORGANIZATION'S HISTORY

The District of Columbia's Office of the Chief Technology Officer (OCTO) has been operating a fiber network for 76 government agencies at 310 sites since 2003. OCTO develops, implements, and maintains the District's technology infrastructure; develops and implements major enterprise applications; establishes technology policies and standards for the District; and provides technology services and support for District agencies. The DC Public Library, a project partner, has provided public access computers for over a decade.

PROJECT PARTNERS

- Byte Back
- Cricket Communications
- DC Public Library
- First Time Computers
- Community College of the District of Columbia
- Pepco Energy Services

Made possible by the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program

Funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009