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Organization:	The State of Nebraska
Project Name:	Nebraska Library Public Computer Centers
Project Type:	Public Computer Center
State:	Nebraska
Federal Award:	\$2,416,403

ABOUT THE PROJECT

To make broadband service available to low-income, aged, and other underserved or economically at-risk populations in the state, the **Nebraska Library Commission** proposes to enhance technological capabilities and support at 147 public libraries statewide that house public computer centers, nearly all of which serve communities whose median income is below the national average. In addition to driving broadband adoption, the project plans to advance access to distance learning, health information, and e-government services.

The project plans to feature special promotional programs, such as "Public Computing Center Learning Nights," to encourage residents to utilize the enhanced computer and broadband services available at the centers.

The Nebraska Library Public Computer Centers project also proposes to:

- Upgrade broadband access for approximately 45 public computer centers, deploy more than 600 new workstations and upgrade another 475 workstations statewide, and supply almost 60 workstations that are compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).
- Enable access for as many as 13,300 weekly users at libraries, and increase the average speeds available at public centers statewide by almost 1 Mbps.
- Train as many as 42,700 residents with approximately 384,500 hours of teacher-led training over the three years of the project. Training will focus on Internet and computer literacy, employment opportunities, distance learning, health information access for seniors, and language skills.

ORGANIZATION'S HISTORY

The mission of the Nebraska Library Commission is the statewide promotion, development, and coordination of library and information services. As the state library agency, the Commission advocates for the library and information service needs of all Nebraskans. The Commission has improved and supported Nebraska's libraries since it was established in 1901 and has extensive expertise in executing technology and public computer center projects similar in size and scope.

PROJECT PARTNERS

- Over 140 local libraries and arts centers
- Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
- Center for Rural Entrepreneurship's Rural Policy Research Institute
- National Network of Libraries of Medicine: MidContinental Region
- Nebraska Community Foundation
- Three institutions of higher learning, including the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension
- Center for Rural Affairs
- McGoogan Library of Medicine
- Various Nebraska state government agencies

Data provided in the project description is based on information supplied by the applicant. An executive summary of this application can be found on www.ntia.doc.gov/broadbandusa.

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