



# BROADBANDUSA

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<b>Organization:</b>	City of El Paso
<b>Project Name:</b>	The Virtual Village: Digital El Paso's Pathway to Success
<b>Project Type:</b>	Public Computer Center
<b>State:</b>	Texas
<b>Federal Award:</b>	\$8,395,752

### ABOUT THE PROJECT

The **City of El Paso**, Texas and the surrounding area faces significant challenges because of its poverty level, sparse geographic distribution, and limited access to tools necessary for economic development. Among those tools are computer access, broadband connectivity, and other advances in technology necessary to improve education, job training, and health. A 2009 Digital El Paso survey showed that only 35 percent of El Paso-area households have high-speed Internet access, compared to over 60 percent of households nationwide. The city's Virtual Village project addresses these concerns through an extensive overhaul and expansion of its public computing capacity. The project will engage hundreds of agencies, community institutions, and local organizations to target vulnerable populations, particularly at-risk youth, the elderly, the unemployed, and minorities, with training in and access to computer technology.

The Virtual Village project also proposes to:

- Deploy as many as 750 new computer workstations and upgrade up to 640 more computers in nearly 100 computer centers – over 50 of which will be new centers – increasing public access to broadband technology by more than 700 hours per week and accommodating an estimated 42,000 additional users each week.
- Train an estimated 100,000 residents with more than 140,000 hours of teacher-led training annually over the three-year life of the project. Training will focus on computer skills, employment tools, citizenship, language skills, and GED preparation.
- Conduct aggressive outreach through project partners and including use of a mobile PCC classroom.

### ORGANIZATION'S HISTORY

The El Paso Public Library, which will serve as the fiscal agent for the project, provides information access, cultural enrichment, and lifelong learning opportunities to the residents of El Paso with an eye on meeting the city's diverse community needs.

### PROJECT PARTNERS

- El Paso Public Library
- City of El Paso Parks and Recreation Department
- City of El Paso Department of Public Health
- Boys and Girls Club of El Paso
- Centro de Salud Familiar La Fe, Inc.
- El Paso Community College
- Housing Authority of El Paso
- People Skills, Inc.
- Paso Del Norte Children's Development Center
- Workforce Solutions Upper Rio Grande
- Volar Center for Independent Living
- Yseta del Sur Pueblo

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](http://www.ntia.doc.gov/broadbandusa).

For press-related inquiries, contact 202-482-7002 or [press@ntia.doc.gov](mailto:press@ntia.doc.gov). For the general public, contact [BTOP@ntia.doc.gov](mailto:BTOP@ntia.doc.gov).

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