



**Broadband Non-Infrastructure Application  
Submission to NTIA – Public Computer Centers**

<b>Submitted Date:</b> 3/14/2010 12:39:14 PM	<b>Easygrants ID:</b> 6092
<b>Funding Opportunity:</b> Public Computer Centers	<b>Applicant Organization:</b> LIBRARY, MONTANA STATE
<b>Task:</b> Submit Application - Public Computer Centers	<b>Applicant Name:</b> Bob Cooper

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## A. General Application Information

1. Applicant Information	
Name and Federal ID for Applicant	
<b>DUNS Number</b>	878328541
<b>CCR # (CAGE)</b>	320C5
<b>Legal Business Name</b>	LIBRARY, MONTANA STATE
<b>Point of Contact (POC)</b>	KRIS M. SCHMITZ 4064443117 Ext. kschmitz@mt.gov
<b>Alternate POC</b>	CAROL CHURCHILL 4064445348 Ext. cchurchill@mt.gov
<b>Electronic Business POC</b>	KRIS M. SCHMITZ 4064443115 Ext. kschmitz@mt.gov
<b>Alternate Electronic Business POC</b>	KRIS M. SCHMITZ 4064443115 Ext. kschmitz@mt.gov

2. Name and Contact Information of Person to be Contacted on Matters Involving this Application:	
<b>Prefix</b>	
<b>First Name</b>	Bob
<b>Middle Name</b>	
<b>Last Name</b>	Cooper



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<b>Suffix</b>	
<b>Telephone Number</b>	406-444-5431
<b>Fax Number</b>	
<b>Email</b>	bocooper@mt.gov
<b>Title</b>	Director of Statewide Library Resources

**3. Additional Contact Information of Person to be Contacted on Matters Involving this Application:**

Project Role	Name	Phone	Email
Secondary Point of Contact	Kris M., Schmitz	4064443117	kschmitz@mt.gov v

**4. Other Required Identification Numbers**

<b>Easygrants ID</b>	6092
<b>Funding Opportunity Number</b>	500000
<b>Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number</b>	<b>BTOP CFDA Number:</b> 11.557 <b>BTOP CFDA Title:</b> Broadband Technology Opportunities Program

**5. Organization Classification**

<b>Type of Organization</b>	State or State Agency
<b>Is the organization a small business?</b>	No
<b>Does the organization meet the definition of a socially and economically disadvantaged small business concern?</b>	No

**6. Authorized Organizational Representative**



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<b>AOR</b>	M., KRIS
<b>Result</b>	Applicant Authorized

**7. Project Title and Project Description**

**Project Title:** Enhancing Computing Centers at Montana Public Libraries

**Project Description:** By investing in public libraries, our project will make sustainable broadband enhancements available to 86% of the Montana population. It will increase average facility broadband speeds at participating libraries to 21 mbps, while cutting wait times in half by increasing the total number of computers. It will extend health, education, and job services to vulnerable populations in most need.

**8. Other Applications**

Is this application being submitted in coordination with any other application being submitted during this round of funding?

- No

Easygrants ID	Project Title

If YES, please explain any synergies and/or dependencies between this project and any other applications.

9. Is the Applicant exempt from the Department of Commerce requirements regarding individual background screening in connection with any award resulting from this Application?

- Yes, Applicant is exempt because it is a unit of a state or local government

If the answer to the above question is "No," please identify each key individual associated with the Applicant who would be required to complete Form CD-346, "Applicant for Funding Assistance," in connection with any award resulting from this Application:

Name	Title	Employer



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## B. Executive Summary, Project Purpose and Benefits

### Essay Question

#### 10. Executive Summary of the proposed project:

Montana is the 4th largest state in the union based on geographic area, yet it has less than one million people living within its borders. Low population density creates a situation that makes broadband service uneconomical or prohibitively expensive to many consumers. In a Q3 2009 report titled, “The State of the Internet”, Akamai ranks Montana 50th (out of 51) in broadband penetration, with only 34% of connections having broadband speeds. It is clear that in terms of broadband penetration, Montana ranks among the lowest in the United States.

Montana’s overall population density averages 7 people per square mile. Population densities in the areas served by Montana’s most rural libraries can reach as low as .027 people per square mile. This is remarkably rural relative to the overall United States which has a population density greater than 80 people per square mile. In these rural Montana towns, libraries are often the only feasible source of broadband Internet access for miles surrounding the community. Unfortunately, many Montana libraries face workstation congestion and slow Internet connection speeds and therefore cannot serve their patrons effectively.

Our project seeks to address Montana’s needs by providing more public access computers and faster broadband connections to Montana’s public libraries. After extensive communication with all public libraries in Montana, we selected 42 to participate in our project based on 1) the demonstrated need of the library and surrounding geography, 2) their ability and willingness to sustain investments in their computing center, 3) their ability and willingness to sustain increases in broadband service, and 4) their ability to adhere to BTOP reporting requirements. While some libraries were not included, MSL hopes to address these libraries’ needs through future grant opportunities and, potentially, through increased budget expenditures from the state over time.

Our project will make sustainable broadband enhancements available to 86% of the Montana population. We will achieve this by increasing average facility broadband speeds at participating



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libraries to 21 mbps. We will also cut computing center wait times in half by increasing the total number of workstations from 439 to 634 and by increasing library operation hours by 5% overall. Our project will provide improved access to the disabled through a combination of ADA recommended software, hardware, and furniture, and through minor construction projects aimed at increasing accessibility of computing center facilities. We plan to increase computer literacy by offering a combination of face-to-face and online courses for librarians and patrons. To extend the reach of our project to include citizens living far away from existing computing center locations, MSL plans to build a mobile computer lab in partnership with Missoula Public Library. The mobile computing lab will serve as a model for other large libraries interested in increasing their reach into the most rural communities. To raise awareness of our project, we have developed a robust outreach program designed to emphasize the investments that will be made through our project. Through our project we expect to increase the number of patrons that use computing centers on a weekly basis from 17,487 to 25,693. This translates into 426,728 additional user visits per year. The total cost of our project is less than \$2.7M and includes a combined 32% grant match from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Missoula Public Library, administration staff at the MSL, and several smaller participant libraries. We estimate our project will create a total of 43 job years.

The 42 libraries participating in our project serve 29 counties, covering approximately 827,916 people or roughly 86% of the Montana population. Within this area, there are several vulnerable populations for whom we have taken specific steps to ensure we serve effectively. These vulnerable populations include low income, disabled, Native Americans, elderly and youth. Median household income in the 29 counties we plan to serve averages \$43,265. This compares to a US average of \$50,740. 17 of the 29 counties have median household incomes at 80% or less of the US average. By enhancing computer service, providing robust training, and expanding government partnerships, we hope to increase the populations' access to technology and government services. In addition, 15.8% of Montanans in the 29 counties we will serve are living with disabilities. To engage this population we will offer a variety of disability-friendly workstation configurations at our libraries, and will fund minor construction projects to increase the accessibility of the computing centers. Further, Native Americans comprise 4.8% of the total population. This compares to a US average of only 1.0%. We are serving Native Americans by investing in libraries situated on and near tribal reservations, and which have a large number of Native American patrons. 14% of the population in the counties we are serving are over the age of 65. We have ensured outreach to this population through our partnership with AARP Montana. Our partnership includes providing volunteer opportunities for seniors at computing



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centers. 23% of people in the counties we are serving are under 18 years of age. To address this group, we will expand distance learning opportunities through our partnership with the Montana Digital Academy, and provide children’s workstations aimed at improving youth literacy and familiarity with computer technology.

Taken as a whole, our project creates a resource that will empower state and local organizations, allowing them to extend the reach of their services to those in the most need. To ensure this happens effectively, MSL has formed partnerships with organizations across the public sector, private sector, and local community to ensure investments in public library computing centers translate into improved well being for Montanans. We have established partnerships with the Montana Digital Academy (MTDA), the Montana Supreme Court, AARP Montana, Montana Department of Labor and Industry (DLI) Workforce Services Division, the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS), and the Census and Economic Information Center (CEIC).

The management team of Montana State Library has the breadth of experience and local perspective necessary to execute the proposed project effectively. Beginning in 1956 with the passage of the federal Library Services Act, MSL assumed its administrative role as a financial and library development conduit for support of public libraries. Since then, MSL has a long history of managing similar projects aimed at supporting Montana’s libraries funded through the Library Service and Construction Act (LSCA), the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA), and its relationship with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. During 30 years of administering LSCA funding, MSL leveraged over \$10 million in federal funding to impact the library needs of Montana communities. For six consecutive years under LSTA, MSL expended approximately \$150,000 per year providing broadband development and access support for libraries. Under the the current, core management team, MSL has assumed responsibility for management and oversight of numerous Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation projects including the Gates State Partnership Grant (\$801,233), Gates Staying Connected Grant (\$198,720), Gates Public Access Computing Hardware Upgrade Grant (\$295,500) and Gates Rural Library Sustainability Grant (\$31,650). MSL has the proven grant management and reporting experience, project management experience, fiscal and accounting systems, and experienced staff to successfully, implement, manage, and sustain its proposed BTOP PCC project.

**11. Project purpose:**



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The purpose of our project is to deliver increased broadband speeds and more computing capacity to the citizens of Montana. We intend to do this by investing in community libraries as they offer the most efficient way to provide these services. We also intend to increase computer literacy throughout Montana by providing technology training for both librarians and patrons. By increasing computer literacy, our project will stimulate demand for broadband as more people see the value of high-speed internet access. By investing in local libraries, we will create a resource that can be leveraged by state and local organizations to extend the reach of their services.

Our project promotes three of the NITA's five stated BTOP statutory purposes. Our project will 1) "Provide improved access to broadband service to consumers residing in underserved areas of the country", 2) "Provide broadband education, awareness, training, access, equipment, and support to libraries" and 3) "Stimulate the demand for broadband, economic growth, and job creation".

Montana as a state is underserved in terms of broadband service penetration. In a Q3 2009 report titled, "The State of the Internet", Akamai ranks all US states (and the District of Columbia) by penetration and speed of broadband across IP connections. The report defines broadband as connection speeds above 2 Mbps. In this report, Montana ranks 50th (out of 51) in broadband penetration, with only 34% of connections having speeds above 2 Mbps. It is clear that in terms of broadband penetration and adoption, Montana ranks among the lowest in the United States.

Given Montana's low population densities, investing in libraries is the most effective and efficient way to increase broadband access to the underserved population. Montana's overall population density averages 7 people per square mile. Population densities in the areas served by Montana's most rural libraries can reach as low as .027 people per square mile. This is remarkably rural relative to the overall United States which has a population density greater than 80 people per square mile. In these rural Montana towns, libraries are often the only feasible source of broadband Internet access. Unfortunately, many Montana libraries face workstation congestion and slow Internet connection speeds and therefore cannot serve their patrons effectively.

Based on surveys we conducted of our participating libraries, the average wait times at computing centers are approximately 20 minutes, with maximum wait times reaching as high as 2 hours. These findings are corroborated by a 2008 American Library Association (ALA) survey,



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which showed that only 20.8% of Montana libraries reported always having sufficient computers available to serve patrons. Furthermore, the ALA survey reported that Montana libraries have slower broadband connection speeds than the US library average with 44.7% of Montana libraries having facility connection speeds below 1.5 Mbps compared with 21.9% of US libraries in total. Lastly, 80% of Montana libraries cited cost as the limiting factor stopping them from adding more computers to their locations. This suggests that targeted funding to enhance computing centers should be a part of any solution aiming to address Montana's broadband service needs.

Our project seeks to address Montana's needs by providing more public access computers and faster broadband connections to all Montana public libraries. We established communication with all 110 public libraries in Montana to describe the goals of our project and the approach we will use to accomplish them. Of the 110 public libraries, 42 were selected to participate in our project. The 42 participating libraries serve 29 counties, covering approximately 827,916 people or roughly 86% of the Montana population. Libraries were selected based on 1) the demonstrated need of the library and surrounding geography, 2) their ability and willingness to sustain investments in their computing center, 3) their ability and willingness to sustain increases in broadband service, and lastly, 4) their ability to adhere to BTOP reporting requirements. While some libraries were not included, MSL hopes to address these libraries' needs through future grant opportunities and, potentially, through increased budget expenditures from the state over time.

The libraries selected for this project cover a substantial population making sustainable broadband enhancements available to 86% of the Montana population. We will achieve this enhancement by increasing the average facility broadband speed at participating libraries to 21 mbps while also cutting computing center wait times in half by increasing the total number of workstations from 439 to 634. We also hope to accomplish this reduction in wait times by increasing library operation hours by 5% overall. Our project will provide improved access to the disabled through a combination of ADA recommended software, hardware, and furniture, and through minor construction projects aimed at increasing accessibility of computing center facilities. We plan to increase computer literacy by offering a combination of face-to-face and online courses for librarians and patrons. To extend the reach of our project to include citizens living far away from existing computing center locations, MSL plans to build a mobile computer lab in partnership with Missoula Public Library. The mobile computer lab will serve as a model for other large libraries interested in increasing their reach into the community. To raise



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awareness of our project, we have developed a robust outreach program designed to emphasize the investments that would be made through our project. Through our project, we expect to increase the number of patrons that use computing centers on a weekly basis from 17,487 to 25,693. Lastly, our solution will empower state and local organizations and increase the reach of services to those in most need.

**12. Recovery Act and Other Governmental Collaboration:**

Montana State Library (MSL) is collaborating with Montana Digital Academy (MTDA) to expand distance learning opportunities in the state of Montana. By enhancing public computing centers at local libraries we will increase the number of locations where people can go to participate in online courses expanding the reach of the MTDA program.

Montana Digital Academy was passed in the 2009 legislative session and is a state-funded distance learning academy. The program is currently being developed with courses scheduled to begin in September 2010. MTDA has received approximately \$2.2M in one time start up funding to develop curricula and hire resources for launch, and has commitments of approximately \$2M per year in ongoing operational funding that will be provided by the state of Montana.

MTDA will advise MSL on current and future technology requirements for our computing centers to ensure libraries have sufficient computer and broadband resources to allow participation in MTDA courses. Our collaboration will lead to greater program efficiencies as we ensure that the investments made in public libraries will be compatible with the MTDA program, and this ensures that students interested in participating in online courses can do so at their local libraries. Furthermore, since the MTDA is still in its infancy and undergoing course development, knowing more rural communities will have access to high speed broadband will allow them to incorporate more rich media (i.e. video and online conferencing) into their course work and curricula improving the experience for students.

MSL is also collaborating with Montana Department of Labor and Industry (DLI), the Montana Supreme Court, the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS), and the Montana Census and Economic Information Center (CEIC). These relationships typically include a two-way training element where the organization will train librarians and patrons on the best use of their resources, and where the organization is trained on the best use of library resources. The collaborations also usually include a co-marketing component where organization materials will be made available in the libraries to increase public awareness of state government



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services, while the organizations commit to marketing the improvements in public library computing centers to the organizations clients. This co-marketing component ensures that people make the most use of both library and organization resources. All of these organizations are funded by the state of Montana and will leverage enhanced computing centers at public libraries to extend the reach of their programs to better serve Montana citizens.

**13. Technology Strategy:**

MSL has a simple and effective technology strategy to create enhanced computing centers at Montana public libraries. Our technology strategy consists of 6 key components:

1. Purchase of additional public access computers for each library
2. Build a mobile computing lab in partnership with Missoula Public Library
3. Increase broadband connection speeds at each library
4. Purchase of new WLAN (Wireless Local Area Network) infrastructure where necessary
5. Contract IT setup and support for the initial 2 years of the project
6. Purchase of WebJunction content subscription to train librarians and patrons

1) Additional Public Access Computers: We intend to supply 344 new public access computers to expand computing center capacity at participating libraries from 439 to 634 total workstations for a cost of \$753,919 (this also includes peripherals like printers, monitor upgrades, headphones, etc). We will provide 190 desktop computers, 116 laptop computers, 30 children's computers, and 8 touchscreen desktop computers. MSL administered two surveys to all participating libraries to determine need and preference for workstations. We also intend to increase the accessibility of participating libraries by providing disability software and furniture solutions to each computing center based on need.

2) Mobile Computing Lab: To extend our solution to vulnerable populations not in reasonable distance of a library, MSL plans to build a mobile computing lab in partnership with the Missoula Public Library. In western Montana, Missoula County encompasses several rural areas and hard-to-reach populations, most with limited or no access to a library. The mobile computing lab will visit several remote areas on a rotating ten day schedule. The mobile computing lab will be equipped with ten computer learning stations plus one instructor computer station for demonstration. Visitors will have an opportunity to learn how to use library resources (e.g., the catalog and electronic databases), how to search the Internet, how to use a variety of web resources, and how to use popular computer programs like Excel and Word. The mobile



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computing lab will also serve as a model that other large library districts in Montana can use to reach remote populations in their communities.

3) Increased Broadband Connection Speeds: MSL has offered each library the opportunity to increase its broadband connection speed, with a goal of increasing actual per workstation speeds to 300 kbps. Of the 42 participating libraries, 29 have been budgeted to receive broadband upgrades, 6 were determined not to need upgrades based on current speeds, and 7 were not able to commit to sustaining the service upgrades and therefore could not be included with this aspect of the project. We will support the acquisition of more broadband by covering all upfront expenses involved with a service upgrade, and 2 years worth of incremental monthly recurring charge (MRC). We have contacted nine internet service providers in Montana who stand ready to provide service to participating libraries.

4) Wireless Local Access Network (WLAN) Equipment: MSL plans to purchase WLAN equipment (routers, firewalls, switches, filters, and cabling) to ensure libraries can support the predicted increase in patron use of their computing center networks. WLANs must be robust enough to serve patrons who use library-owned workstations, but also robust enough those who bring their own laptops or netbooks into the library. MSL also plans to provide upgrades where WLAN equipment is outdated and may be a part of the problem contributing to a slow browsing experience. Throughout our purchases and upgrades we will sensibly reuse existing switches, web filters and LAN cabling to maximize the impact of government funds.

5) Contract IT Setup and Support: The level of technological sophistication varies greatly between Montana libraries with some contracting local IT service providers, some having internal resources dedicated to IT management, and some libraries with no external or internal support to address IT needs. To help implement our project, MSL has designed an IT setup and support solution that is flexible enough to handle the diverse needs of Montana's libraries. We plan to deliver end-to-end solution setup and management by regionally based IT contracting firms for libraries with no IT support, while offering installation reimbursement for libraries with existing IT support relationships. Based on detailed conversations with local Montana IT contracting groups, NextX Communications and Acme Gadget, MSL received a project total price estimate of \$58,080 for one-time set up of equipment and \$63,360 per year thereafter to maintain our IT setup and support solution.



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6) WebJunction Content Subscription: MSL is planning to purchase access to WebJunction course materials for \$32,000 per year in order to train librarians and patrons on how to get the most out of the investment in their public access computing centers. WebJunction offers training courses on topics including (but not limited to):

- Application Courses – Adobe Acrobat, Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Access, Visio, Outlook)
- Technology Courses – Computer basics, web browsing and search, web design and development, Flash, Windows OS, Linux
- Networking and Security Courses – Email systems, general networking, servers, network security
- Library Service Courses – Children's programs, readers activities, reference and information resources, technical services, young adult and teen programs

MSL will leverage the networking and network security courses to ensure that librarians can sustain the investments made in their computing center. The WebJunction content subscription will act as a trial for the library system and if deemed effective, MSL will seek state or other funding to sustain the subscription beyond the 2 year trial period.

**14. Public Availability:**

All of our computing centers are available to all members of the general public, free of charge. Our computing center facilities are located on the premises of public libraries, and all public libraries in Montana are open to the general public without access fees or membership charges of any kind. The source funding for the operation of our libraries is provided entirely through a combination of local and state taxes, charitable organizations and foundations, and federal grant programs - such as the BTOP program to which this application is directed.

It is due to the fact that we do not charge fees that necessitates our application for BTOP funding. It is only with the help of BTOP funds that will we be able to expand the capacity of our computing centers so that we can provide service to even more members of the general public. BTOP funds will be used specifically to improve bandwidth speeds, increase computer workstations, upgrade Wi-Fi interconnections, expand library hours, improve access for the disabled, and provide computer literacy and training classes. The program that we have outlined in this application is intended to help attract and facilitate computing center use among an even greater population than we already serve. Offering free services to the general public is a part of our mission, and BTOP funds are critical to us in fulfilling this goal.



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**15. Restrictions on Center Use:**

None of our computing centers, or the public libraries in which the centers are located, are restricted to the general public for any purpose. All computing centers are open to the general public during library operating hours. Each of the computer workstations within the computing centers are configured to provide open access to the Internet.

Many of our participating libraries already conduct computer literacy workshops or other training classes, which are available to the general public on a scheduled basis. Depending upon attendance and the size of the computing center, some workstations may be occupied during the training, thereby restricting the use of those workstations by other patrons who are not participating in the class workshop. In those cases, patrons with their own laptops would be encouraged to access the free Internet connection via Wi-Fi. Others without their own laptops may be able to check-out library-owned laptops.

**16. Involvement of Community College:**

Montana libraries have a history of partnerships with community colleges in the state. This project will help to expand the benefits of those partnerships. Dawson Community College works with Sidney-Richland County library to provide support for distance learning for northeastern Montana residents. Flathead Valley Community College has an agreement with Lincoln County library in Libby whereby the public library serves as the college library for students at the branch campus in Libby. Enhancing public computing centers in both of these libraries will serve the interests of both colleges and their surrounding communities.

The MSU Billings College of Technology has adopted a mission to become the community college for Billings and Yellowstone County. Parmly Billings public library is entering into a joint library agreement with College of Technology. This new branch library will open in the fall of 2010 and will provide library services including public access computing to the growing and currently unserved area of West Billings. Encouraging the community to use computing facilities in the shared library at the College of Technology will encourage people to visit the campus and to support new and existing programs as they are implemented. Familiarity with and use of modern computer technology and high speed networks can greatly enhance people's readiness for post-secondary education in a community college setting as well as their preparation for 21st century jobs.



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**17. Is the applicant is seeking a waiver of the Buy American provision pursuant to section x.Q of the NOFA?**

- No

**18. Is the applicant delinquent on any federal debt?**

- No
- If Yes, justification for delinquency:

**19. Are you seeking a waiver of any requirement set forth in the NOFA that is not mandated by statute or applicable law?**

- No

## C. Partners

**20. Are you partnering with any other key institutions, organizations, or other entities for this project?**

- Yes

If YES, key partners are listed below:

Project Role: Other Name: Currie, Robert Email: Robert.Currie@msl.umt.edu Address 1: 32 Campus Drive Address 2: Address 3: City: Missoula State: Montana Zip Code: 59812-6336 Organization: Montana Digital Academy, The University of Montana Organization Type: State or State Agency Small business: No Socially and economically disadvantaged small business concern: No
Project Role: Other Name: Menzies, Lois Email: lmenzies@mt.gov Address 1: PO Box 203005 Address 2:



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Address 3:  
 City: Helena  
 State: Montana  
 Zip Code: 59620-3005  
 Organization: The Supreme Court of Montana  
 Organization Type: State or State Agency  
 Small business: No  
 Socially and economically disadvantaged small business concern: No

Project Role: Other  
 Name: Bartholomew, Bob  
 Email: bbartholomew@aarp.org  
 Address 1: 30W 14th Street, Suite 301  
 Address 2:  
 Address 3:  
 City: Helena  
 State: Montana  
 Zip Code: 59601  
 Organization: AARP Montana  
 Organization Type: Non-profit Corporation  
 Small business: No  
 Socially and economically disadvantaged small business concern: No

Project Role: Other  
 Name: Olson, Steve  
 Email: solson@mt.gov  
 Address 1: PO Box 1728  
 Address 2:  
 Address 3:  
 City: Helena  
 State: Montana  
 Zip Code: 59624-1728  
 Organization: Montana Department of Labor and Industry, Workforce Services Division  
 Organization Type: State or State Agency  
 Small business: No  
 Socially and economically disadvantaged small business concern: No

Project Role: Other  
 Name: Whiting Sorrell, Anna  
 Email: AWhiting-Sorrell@mt.gov  
 Address 1: PO Box 4210  
 Address 2:



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<p>Address 3:  City: Helena  State: Montana  Zip Code: 59604-4210  Organization: Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services  Organization Type: State or State Agency  Small business: No  Socially and economically disadvantaged small business concern: No</p>
<p>Project Role: Other  Name: Craige, Mary  Email: mcraige@mt.gov  Address 1: PO Box 200505  Address 2:  Address 3:  City: Helena  State: Montana  Zip Code: 59620-0505  Organization: Montana Department of Commerce, Census and Economic Information Center  Organization Type: State or State Agency  Small business: No  Socially and economically disadvantaged small business concern: No</p>
<p>Project Role: Sub-recipient  Name: Bullard, Mary  Email: colstriplibarymk@gmail.com  Address 1: PO Box 1947  Address 2:  Address 3:  City: Colstrip  State: Montana  Zip Code: 59323-1947  Organization: Bicentennial Library of Colstrip  Organization Type: Other  Small business: No  Socially and economically disadvantaged small business concern: No</p>
<p>Project Role: Sub-recipient  Name: Pierson, Samantha  Email: spierson@lincolncountylibraries.com  Address 1: 220 West 6th Street  Address 2:</p>



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<p>Address 3: City: Libby State: Montana Zip Code: 59923-1898 Organization: Lincoln County Public Libraries – Eureka Organization Type: Other Small business: No Socially and economically disadvantaged small business concern: No</p>
<p>Project Role: Sub-recipient Name: Wells, Carolyn Email: gccl@nemont.net Address 1: 408 Third Avenue South Address 2: Address 3: City: Glasgow State: Montana Zip Code: 59230-2498 Organization: Glasgow City-County Library Organization Type: Other Small business: No Socially and economically disadvantaged small business concern: No</p>
<p>Project Role: Sub-recipient Name: Schmidt, Nancy Email: laurelpl@mtlib.org Address 1: PO Box 68 Address 2: Address 3: City: Laurel State: Montana Zip Code: 59044-0068 Organization: Laurel Public Library Organization Type: Other Small business: No Socially and economically disadvantaged small business concern: No</p>
<p>Project Role: Sub-recipient Name: Bray, Honore Email: hbray@missoula.lib.mt.us Address 1: 301 E Main Address 2:</p>



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Address 3:  
 City: Missoula  
 State: Montana  
 Zip Code: 59802-4799  
 Organization: Missoula Public Library  
 Organization Type: Other  
 Small business: No  
 Socially and economically disadvantaged small business concern: No

Project Role: Sub-recipient  
 Name: McGrath, Renee  
 Email: reneemcgrath@northvalleylibrary.org  
 Address 1: 208 Main Street  
 Address 2:  
 Address 3:  
 City: Stevensville  
 State: Montana  
 Zip Code: 59870  
 Organization: North Valley Public Library  
 Organization Type: Other  
 Small business: No  
 Socially and economically disadvantaged small business concern: No

Project Role: Sub-recipient  
 Name: McCandless, Bruce  
 Email: mccandlessb@ci.billings.mt.us  
 Address 1: 210 N 27th Street  
 Address 2:  
 Address 3:  
 City: Billings  
 State: Montana  
 Zip Code: 59101  
 Organization: Parmly Billings Library / MSU-B College of Technology  
 Organization Type: Other  
 Small business: No  
 Socially and economically disadvantaged small business concern: No

Project Role: Sub-recipient  
 Name: Trosper, Marilyn  
 Email: mtrosper@polson.lib.mt.us  
 Address 1: PO Box 820  
 Address 2:



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Address 3:  
City: Polson  
State: Montana  
Zip Code: 59860-0820  
Organization: Polson City Library  
Organization Type: Other  
Small business: No  
Socially and economically disadvantaged small business concern: No

Project Role: Sub-recipient  
Name: Fenger, Michelle  
Email: ronancitylibrary@gmail.com  
Address 1: 203 Main Street SW  
Address 2:  
Address 3:  
City: Ronan  
State: Montana  
Zip Code: 59864-2706  
Organization: Ronan City Library  
Organization Type: Other  
Small business: No  
Socially and economically disadvantaged small business concern: No

Project Role: Sub-recipient  
Name: Hesper, Cheryl  
Email: chesper@rosebudcountymt.com  
Address 1: PO Box 7  
Address 2:  
Address 3:  
City: Forsyth  
State: Montana  
Zip Code: 59327-0007  
Organization: Rosebud County Library  
Organization Type: Other  
Small business: No  
Socially and economically disadvantaged small business concern: No

Project Role: Other  
Name: Nishi, Jill  
Email: jill.nishi@gatesfoundation.org  
Address 1: PO Box 23350  
Address 2:



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Address 3:  
City: Seattle  
State: Washington  
Zip Code: 98102  
Organization: Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation  
Organization Type: Non-profit Foundation  
Small business: No  
Socially and economically disadvantaged small business concern: No

**21. Description of the involvement of the partners listed above in the project.**

MSL has formed partnerships with various organizations across the public sector, private sector, and local community.

The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF), has generously agreed to provide funding support for both our application preparation and BTOP funding cash match. During application preparation, BMGF contributed \$119,155 in cash funding to hire the strategy telecommunications consulting firm CSMG to support our grant writing process (we have only claimed \$75,000 of the \$119,155 as match to ensure we stay within the 5% pre-application limit for eligible expenses). In addition, BMGF have agreed to provide \$150,000 in funding to hire an E-rate expert to train local librarians on the E-rate process during the first two years of the project. Most importantly, BMGF has committed \$440,000 in match funding, contingent upon BTOP grant approval, to apply towards a cash match. The total committed cash support of BMGF equals \$709,155 (being claimed is \$665,000).

MSL is excited to partner with the Montana Digital Academy (MTDA). MTDA's goal is to develop a leading edge distance learning program for the state of Montana. Through our partnership, MTDA will advise MSL on minimum hardware and broadband speed requirements to participate in online courses. MTDA will refer students to library computing centers as locations to participate in online courses. We have developed plans to train MTDA instructors and local librarians on the best use of each others resources. The MTDA also plans to use local libraries as a distribution point for promotional materials to raise awareness about distance learning opportunities.



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The Montana Supreme Court and Montana State Library (MSL) have agreed to partner to bring increased legal information and self-help services to self-represented litigants across Montana. In a 2005 survey of low and moderate income households conducted by the Montana State Bar Association, it was found that 83.6% of legal situations were not handled by a lawyer, but by self-litigation. To increase awareness of self-litigation resources, the Montana Supreme Court will hold training seminars with staff at libraries. The Montana Supreme Court also plans to use email follow-ups to reinforce the message of the seminars. Lastly, the Montana Supreme Court has agreed to provide phone support to librarians when specific question on self-litigation resources arise that they cannot address.

MSL is pleased to partner with AARP Montana. AARP is a non-profit membership organization for people age 50+. AARP has over 156,000 members in Montana who will benefit from enhancements to computing centers. Our two organizations have agreed to participate in awareness campaigns to promote improved computing center resources to AARP members, and to promote AARP resources to library patrons. MSL is also committed to posting computing center volunteer opportunities on AARP's website titled "Create the Good". This will allow senior members of the community to help their local library monitor computer labs, answer patrons' technology questions, and ease the demands on local librarians.

To help address poverty and joblessness in Montana, MSL is partnering with the Montana Department of Labor and Industry (DLI) Workforce Services Division to increase use of DLI's online web resources. Montana is facing unemployment of 7% with some counties in our service area reaching levels above 12%. This translates into a high number of people seeking services via DLI's Job Service Workforce Centers. DLI has committed to providing training and materials to familiarize librarians on available resources. DLI has also committed to leverage existing marketing opportunities to promote public library computing centers as locations to apply for jobless benefits. By redirecting patrons who typically lack Internet access to local library computing centers, we will help reduce strain at Job Service Workforce Centers and better serve DLI patrons.

The Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) and Montana State Library (MSL) are forming a partnership to boost awareness and participation in a new online application submission tool. This online submission tool will allow patrons to complete a single application to determine their eligibility for a number of benefit programs. To boost participation in this program, DPHHS has committed to provide training documentation for librarians so they



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can direct patrons to the appropriate site when questions arise at the library. Furthermore, DPHHS plans to make training documentation available to the general public through its web site.

The CEIC is planning a series of courses to train librarians, grant writers, government officials and small businesses on how to leverage the 2010 Census data as it is made available. As part of our partnership, the CEIC has agreed to develop a training webinar they will offer to all librarians and make publicly available on MSL and local library web pages. This will make trainings materials available to all Montanans, extending the reach of the CEIC's service.

MSL is designating 10 of its participating libraries as sub-recipient partners. These libraries each have either a construction project, an FTE component, or both as part of their local project. These types of expenses will not benefit from group purchase discounts (like computer equipment will), and therefore it makes more sense from a reporting and logistics perspective to allow these libraries to establish local relationships with contractors and employees directly.

Lastly, MSL has engaged several local organizations, school principals and superintendents to make them aware of our project and to ensure their local communities and students benefit from investments in public computing centers. We have received letters of support from these organizations expressing how the purpose of our project is aligned with their organizational mission and goals

## **D. Congressional Districts**

### **22. Applicant Headquarters**

- Montana

### **23. Project Service States**

Montana

### **24. Project Service Areas**

Montana - At-Large



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25. Will any portion of your proposed project serve federally recognized tribal entities?

- Yes

26. Indicate each federally recognized tribal entity your proposed project will serve.

Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes

Blackfeet Tribal Business Council

27. Have you consulted with each of the federally recognized tribal entities identified above?

- No

## E. Demographics

### Demographics

28. Will your proposed project be specifically directed to serve vulnerable population groups?

- Yes

If "Yes" which vulnerable population groups will your proposed project serve? Check as many as apply:

Native American or Native Alaskan

Disabled

Low Income

Unemployed

Senior Citizen (55 and over)

Youth



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Other

**Other: Self-Represented Litigants**

**29. Vulnerable Populations**

Native American populations comprise 4.8% of the population of the counties we are serving. This compares to a US average of only 1.0%. Several of the participating libraries in our project are on or close to reservations and get inflows of Native Americans as patrons. By investing in these libraries we will be providing support for the Native American populations using the libraries. Prior to implementing this project, MSL will hold discussions with the Montana Office of Indian Affairs to determine additional outreach efforts we can make toward Native Americans.

Across the counties we plan to serve, 15.8% of Montanans are living with disabilities. To engage this vulnerable population we are offering a variety of disability-friendly workstations at public libraries, including software to assist blind patrons, and are funding minor construction projects to increase accessibility of computing centers.

Median household income in the 29 counties we plan to serve averages \$43,265. This compares to a US average of \$50,740. 17 of the 29 counties have median household incomes at 80% or below the US average. Unemployment in several of the counties we are serving, unemployment levels are above 12%. To engage these populations, MSL is partnering with the Montana Department of Labor and Industry to raise awareness of online portals where patrons can go for service. MSL is also planning to offer basic technology training aimed at boosting computer literacy among those patrons in need.

Approximately 14% of the people in our service area are over the age of 65. This compares with a US average of only 13%. To engage the elderly, MSL has partnered with AARP Montana to raise awareness of the investments made in public computing centers. MSL also plans to leverage AARP's volunteer website titled, "Create the Good", to engage seniors interested in volunteering at public library computing centers.



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Approximately 23% of the people in the counties we are serving are under 18 years of age. MSL is engaging the youth through our partnership with the Montana Digital Academy (MTDA). Our partnership involves outreach to raise awareness of both the MTDA and of libraries as a place students can go to participate in online courses. We will also provide children’s workstations geared for children ages 2 - 10 to increase child literacy and get children comfortable using technology at a young age.

In a 2005 survey of low and moderate income households conducted by the Montana State Bar Association, it was found that 83.6% of legal situations were not handled by a lawyer, but by self-litigation. MLS has partnered with the Montana Supreme Court to increase awareness of self-litigation resources, and make these resources more visible at libraries.

**30. Accessibility**

It has been a long-established goal of the MSL to increase the accessibility of its public libraries and computing centers for those with disabilities. All of our librarians already have experience working with a variety of disabled and aged populations within their libraries and computing centers. They understand the needs of these populations and have guided us in developing specific technology packages that will assist disabled groups with their computing center use. Almost all libraries in our project will receive one or more of these specialized workstations, based on the librarians’ own understanding of their community’s needs. In this way, we have ensured that the appropriate computer technology will reach the library patrons who need it – in the most accurate and cost effective way.

Our technology configurations include:

Low Dexterity Solution – Designed for those patrons who experience difficulty working a standard keyboard and mouse either due to low dexterity or poor vision. The package includes a USB keyboard with large fonts, a mouse with an extra large trackball, screen magnification software (ZoomText), a document magnification tool (MonoMouse USB), and speech to text software (Dragon Naturally Speaking).

Adjustable Height Desk – Designed to accommodate the needs of wheelchair bound patrons, we are providing a workstation desk with an ADA recommended adjustable height range of 24” to 36”. The desks come with a hand crank that can easily be used to raise and lower the height of



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the desk to meet the comfort level of the patron without having to ask for assistance. This desk may be combined with a Low Dexterity Solution at certain locations.

Computing for the Blind – Designed for libraries needing to serve the blind or nearly-blind patrons, this solution includes JAWZ screen reading software and MAGic screen magnification software. Developed exclusively for blind populations, this software package is complex and requires patrons and librarians to attend training seminars on how to use this software. Funding for registration of training seminars and travel to training seminar locations is included in our budget. Given the resource intensive nature of this solution, we have limited the allocation of this solution to libraries expressing significant need.

In addition to these technologies, five libraries have requested additional funding for minor construction projects aimed at increasing the physical accessibility of public library computing centers. Each of these projects are scoped at less than \$20,000, and include interior lobby wheelchair ramps, automatic/electronic doors, and modifications to bathrooms for the purpose of providing a comfortable and accessible computing center experience for patrons of all abilities. Details of these interior modification projects are provided in the Environmental Questionnaire section of this application.

### **31. Other Languages**

This project does not have a multilingual or ESL (English as a Second Language) training component to it. The US Census Bureau reports that Montana is comprised of 99% English speaking populations, and therefore we did not identify an expressed need for this type of service. Further, in our communications with librarians, a pronounced need for an ESL component was not brought forth.

## **Outreach**

### **32. Public Computing Centers Outreach**

MSL has a record of successful statewide marketing initiatives using a variety of avenues to raise awareness. We depend on libraries and their local relationships to spread the word about statewide projects. In the past, we have managed this by creating a wide range of creative



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materials, such as press releases and posters, which libraries can personalize and distribute on their own.

MSL also has conducted statewide media campaigns. MSL contracts with an agency to manage media purchases. Because the agency buys a large number of ads around the state, MSL receives a discounted purchase price that otherwise would not be available.

MSL's most effective distribution method revolves around partnerships. We have established partnerships with AARP Montana, Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services, and the Montana Department of Labor and Industry to help us distribute printed materials to their members and clients who would be difficult to connect with otherwise. Should our grant be successful, we will hold discussions with the Montana Office of Indian Affairs to determine additional outreach efforts we can make toward Native Americans.

We plan to use the proven, cost-effective elements from previous MSL statewide marketing efforts over an 18 month period. We will manage our outreach program by contracting a part-time marketing professional. This person will be responsible for writing materials, approving designs, making material available to librarians, assisting with distribution and personalization, and overseeing the agency that we will contract for media buys.

The materials we plan to create for our outreach program will include:

- Press releases announcing receipt of the grant and the communities affected
- Media advisories to announce grand re-openings of PCC's that have been remodeled
- Op-eds talking about the value of the grant and what it brings to the local communities
- Newsletter articles for libraries to include in their print and online newsletters and to distribute for churches, clubs, and partners to include in their own newsletters
- Postcards that announce the availability of the new computers and centers that can be mailed from libraries, distributed at the desk, or mailed by partners
- Bookmarks and other give-away materials that can be distributed to potential users
- Table-toppers that can be set up at tables throughout the libraries
- Posters that can be displayed in the library and distributed throughout the community

In total we will print a combination of 6,000 postcards, bookmarks, table-toppers and posters that will be sent out to our participating libraries. Additionally, we will develop a series of newspaper ads and radio PSAs that will announce the availability of these enhanced public computing



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centers and how the program will affect Montanans. The sum of newspaper circulations for the counties of our libraries is greater than 250,000 readers.

**33. How many total users do you expect to generate through the use of BTOP funds at your public computer center(s)?**

➤ 8206

**Training and Education**

**34. Peripherals and equipment**

Each desktop workstation will include a monitor, basic keyboard and USB mouse. Each workstation (desktop or laptop) also comes equipped with speakers, headphones, and microphones to be lent out at librarians' discretion. All workstations also come equipped with privacy screens which allow only users directly in front of the screen to see the contents being displayed on the monitor. We identified this as a need at several libraries as many patrons felt uncomfortable submitting personal information at crowded computing centers.

In addition to workstations, each library will also receive printers in a ratio of 1 printer for every 6 new workstations. This is to ensure enough printing resources at each library. In order to support the planned increase in patrons, libraries will receive upgraded wireless routers and firewalls to set up WLANs at their computing centers. Libraries are also going to receive monitor upgrades based on need. We will supply 76 monitor upgrades across 22 libraries to replace outdated CRT (cathode ray tube) monitors. Lastly, we plan to provide 2 projectors for 2 libraries which have expressed a need to hold training classes.

**35. Workstation software**

The workstations at the public library computing centers will be used primarily for general, public access computing. This includes mainly internet browsing, social networking, email composition, and some word processing and document preparation. Given this fact, the only software that is included on our standard workstations will be the Microsoft Office suite. In certain locations, which have made specific requests, we are providing a media software bundle that will include Adobe Acrobat, Adobe Photoshop Light, and Adobe Dreamweaver to allow librarians and patrons to work on professional documents, photo editing, and web design.



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Beyond software installed locally on computer hard drives, MSL has planned to subscribe to WebJunction which will make a range of courses and applications available to library staff and library volunteers. This online portal will also benefit patrons who use library computing centers through increased training options. These courses include training on Microsoft Office 2007, web design using Adobe Dreamweaver, and basic networking and security.

### **36. Training and education programs**

The rural nature of Montana's population makes delivering face-to-face educational programs challenging and expensive. In many areas with significant emigration, school systems are having trouble sustaining basic courses for students. To augment traditional education delivery styles, the Montana Digital Academy (MTDA) was formed to make distance learning opportunities available to all school-age children through the public school districts of Montana. Through our partnership with the MTDA, we will co-promote the distance learning opportunities provided by the MTDA and also refer students to local libraries as a place where they can participate in online courses. MSL, through its subscription to the Peterson's Testing and Education Reference Center, already offers preparatory classes in SAT/ACT testing which will be promoted to MTDA students and library patrons to help with college entrance preparation. Our partnership with the MTDA will help demonstrate a sustainable delivery system for delivering distance learning courses to the students of Montana, and offer a wealth of new courses that were previously unavailable to students.

MSL plans to boost computer literacy across the state by making online computer training courses available to all library staff through WebJunction. The courses available over WebJunction include (but are not limited to) training on computers basics, Microsoft Office, web browsing, web design, web development, general networking and network security. Library staff and volunteers will be able to use WebJunction course materials as a tool to train patrons during 1-on-1 and group training sessions. WebJunction is the ideal way to boost computer literacy because it is relatively inexpensive compared to its impact, and its available for all library staff to use on demand. We will also use WebJunction course material on general networking and network security to train librarians on how to manage the computer networks and WLANs being set up at their locations. Furthermore, given an annual subscription to WebJunction allows for unlimited access across the entire library system, all library staff who are interested will be able to participate in online courses, even those libraries not directly participating in our project.



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MSL will ensure all librarians are comfortable using the latest technology we provide and comfortable helping patrons maximize their use of these resources. To do this, we plan to hire one full-time FTE for two years to develop and deliver trainings to librarians on basic computer technology, WebJunction resources, and disability software. Some librarians in Montana lack the computer skills necessary to help patrons with basic computer use. The FTE we plan to hire will develop courses and leverage WebJunction to deliver trainings to librarians to ensure that all librarians are up-to-speed on the latest technology and feel comfortable providing assistance to patrons using the computing center. The FTE will also educate librarians on resources available at WebJunction. This is important as we want to ensure our libraries maximize the use of this resource to get its true value. Being knowledgeable of all WebJunction resources will allow librarians to train patrons with the most appropriate course information to get the precise training they need. Lastly, as part of our disability solutions, we are planning to provide speech-to-text, screen magnification, and text-to-speech software to libraries where it is needed. The FTE will train librarians on how to install software, set-up necessary peripherals, and how to perform the basic operations of the software so they can instruct patrons. The FTE will play a complimentary role to all technology investments made in Montana libraries, and will ensure librarians are well equipped to assist patrons make the most use of their new and improved workstation environment.

To sustain increases in broadband service, MSL will hire an E-rate coordinator to train librarians on how to apply and get the most support from E-rate. The E-rate coordinator will develop and deliver trainings to librarians in person and over the web, educating them on the E-rate process. During the third year of our project, the E-rate coordinator will oversee the submission of E-rate applications.

Lastly, to support the training of senior members of our community, MSL is partnering with AARP to post volunteer opportunities on Create the Good, AARPs volunteer website. The generational gap between trainers and trainees has been identified as a significant obstacle during previous attempts to training seniors on computer technology. Feedback from seniors suggests younger trainers move too fast, and don't explain concepts in ways that seniors understand. Having a peer of similar age available to explain computer basics will make participation in online training courses less intimidating and more productive. Through posting volunteer opportunities on Create the Good, technology literate seniors will be able to volunteer at their local library to assist with monitoring public computer labs, and answering the basic technology questions of youth and seniors alike.



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**37. If you are providing educational or training programs, how many people in total will these programs reach on an annual basis?**

➤ 25693

**38. How many hours of training will be provided to each participant?**

➤ 2

**39. How many Full Time Employee (FTE) instructors or facilitators will you employ for these courses?**

➤ 2

## F. Project Budget

40. Project Budget	
<b>Federal Grant Request</b>	\$1,829,473
<b>Total Match Amount</b>	\$867,231
<b>Total Budget</b>	\$2,696,704
<b>Match Percent</b>	32.2%

**41. Projects Outside Recommended Funding Range:**

➤

**42. Sustainability:**

The following budget costs are recurring costs & the rationale for their continued sustenance if funded by BTOP from years 1-3 is as follows:

1. Personnel – The Mobile Computer Lab driver and trainer are the only personnel costs recurring after yr 3 - these costs are paid by the Missoula Public Library from launch in yr 2. Technicians to train librarians on library technology and E-rate are only required initially & are



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not costs incurred after yr 3. Project manager and compliance officer required only for the project's implementation until end of yr 3.

2. Fringe Benefits – Same as personnel costs.

3. Travel – No recurring costs

4. Equipment – No recurring costs. All equipment costs are onetime expenses accompanied by manufacturer warranty. MSL has also set aside budget for training library staff on general management of computer investments.

5. Supplies – Mobile Computer Lab fuel cost is the only cost under this category that recurring after year 3 - these costs are paid by the Missoula Public Library from launch in yr 2.

6. Contractual – Mobile Computer Lab Insurance and Maintenance costs will recur after yr 3 and these costs will already be paid by the Missoula Public Library from launch in yr 2.

Costs associated with program outreach are onetime costs at the start of the program. IT maintenance after yr 3 will be done by community outreach programs and librarians who are trained in yrs 1-3.

7. Construction – See “Other”

8. Other – For broadband upgrades, MSL will support 2 yrs worth of increase in broadband for all participating libraries through BTOP funds. The 42 libraries currently pay an estimated \$79,538 collectively annually for Internet access and with broadband upgrades this cost will increase to an estimated \$168,713 annually. The 2 year BTOP funding period provides time for libraries to afford this increase in broadband expenses estimated at \$89,175 annually (\$168,713 minus \$79,538). A majority of participating libraries are not current E-rate participants & after quarter 2 of yr 3 will sustain this increase in broadband by applying to the E-Rate program & increasing out of pocket spend from current levels. The libraries have indicated a willingness to do both of the above. The E-rate training will oversee E-Rate applications for 2 yrs & train local librarians on how to get the most out of the E-Rate program.



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Library specific construction costs & Mobile Computer Lab setup are onetime costs. Local library FTE costs after yr 3 will be funded by the local library where the new FTE position is designated as permanent. The WebJunction content subscription to train librarians & patrons on areas ranging from network management to basic computer applications (e.g. Word, PowerPoint & Excel) will benefit librarians. The two year WebJunction subscription will act as a trial after which MSL will determine if it would like to support this service.

9. Indirect Charges – No recurring costs

43. Matching Funds	
<b>Applicant is providing matching funds of at least 20% towards the total eligible project costs?</b>	Yes
<b>Describe the matching contributions</b>	<p>The total match for the project is \$867,231, which is 32.2% of the total budget.</p> <p>This match is comprised of \$665,000 in cash (24.7% of the total project budget) and \$202,231 in in-kind contributions (7.5% of the total project budget).</p> <p>A.Cash Match - The Montana State Library has secured cash commitment from The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) as a key partner who has committed to \$665,000 in cash in the form of grant match. \$75,000 of the cash from BMGF was to hire consulting staff for preparing the grant application. \$150,000 of the cash from BMGF has been restricted to E-Rate training and support - \$75,000 of this cash will be given each year over a 2 year period from Q3 in year 1 to Q2 in year 3. The remaining \$440,000 in cash from BMGF is unrestricted to the project and will be used to fund project-related costs. A maximum of \$220,000 of this cash match will be given in each of the first two years of the project.</p> <p>There are no financing terms and conditions associated with this grant</p>



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	<p>match from BMGF.</p> <p><b>B.In-Kind Match</b> – The in-kind match totals \$202,351 and this consists of 4 components –</p> <p>1.<b>Mobile Computing Lab Operating Costs</b> – The Missoula Public Library has committed to funding the operating costs of the Mobile Computing Lab in years 2 &amp; 3. These costs include salaries for a driver and operator as well as fuel, utilities, insurance and maintenance together estimated at \$71,400 per year for 2 years = \$142,800. The Missoula Public Library is one of the 42 libraries are applying for the BTOP grant and is also designated as a sub-recipient for the capital funds needed to set up the Mobile Computer Lab. There are no financing terms and conditions associated with this in-kind match.</p> <p>2.<b>Construction Costs</b> – 5 libraries have been designated as sub-recipients for funding minor construction work and these libraries will collectively contribute \$5,000 towards these construction costs. These 5 libraries are Glasgow City-County Library, Lincoln County Public Library in Eureka, Bicentennial Library of Colstrip, Ronan City Library and Parmly Billings Library. Each library is also one of 42 libraries applying for the BTOP grant. There are no financing terms and conditions associated with this in-kind match.</p> <p>3.<b>MSL Personnel Application Preparation</b> – 2 current MSL employees – Bob Cooper and Kris Schmitz – have spent a significant amount of time in preparation of this grant application and based on their current compensation levels and time utilization, this application preparation time is valued at \$13,082. There are no financing terms and conditions associated with this in-kind match.</p> <p>4.<b>MSL Personnel Program Coordination</b> – The 2 MSL employees mentioned above – Bob Cooper and Kris Schmitz – estimate that they will spend 10% and 5% respectively of their total work time in years 1-3 to help with co-ordination of the program and its execution if</p>
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	BTOP funds this project. This time over 3 years by these employees is valued at \$41,349. There are no financing terms and conditions associated with this in-kind match.
<b>Unjust enrichment</b>	MSL is not expecting to receive nor has applied for any federal support for non-recurring costs in the areas for which we are seeking an award.
<b>Disclosure of federal and/or state funding sources</b>	We expect the participating libraries receiving broadband upgrades to apply for E-rate discounts in the third year of our project (they will apply in February of 2012 to receive support in July of 2012). These libraries will apply for E-rate in order to sustain broadband service upgrades using E-rate to cover a portion of their monthly recurring Internet costs. We have not budgeted to pay for any connectivity costs that will also be paid by E-rate or any other federal funding support and therefore have avoided any duplicate funding. E-rate is a program under the Universal Service Fund (USF), administered by the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) under the direction of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). Aside from E-rate, we do not expect to receive or apply for any federal or state funding for activities or projects to which this project relates.

<b>44. Budget Narrative</b>	
<b>Budget narrative</b>	<p>Total project budget is \$2,696,704 for 42 libraries.</p> <p>1. Personnel: Total – \$616,458  Our project will be managed for 3 yrs by a project manager (\$54,250/yr) and compliance officer (\$50,375/yr). An expert will train librarians on using new equipment/technology for two year (\$31,000/yr). E-rate expert will train libraries for 2 yrs on E-rate program (\$58,125/yr). The mobile computing lab driver and operator in yrs 2&amp;3 will be paid \$16,275/yr and \$24,800/yr respectively. 2 current MSL staff contributed an in-kind match of \$10,138 in grant preparation &amp; their time for project execution if awarded is estimated at \$32,045.</p>



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	<p>2.Fringe Benefits: Total – \$178,973 Benefits assumed at 29.03% of total compensation of “Personnel” based on MSL benchmark.</p> <p>3.Travel: Total – \$8,400 Travel costs for equipment set up at libraries from Q2Y1-Q1Y2.</p> <p>4.Equipment: Total – \$764,119 Libraries will get 190 desktops, 116 laptops, 30 Children’s PCs, 8 touchscreen PCs, 76 monitor upgrades, 50 low-vision software bundles, 22 adjustable desks, 5 blind patron software packages, 2 projectors, 42 router packages, furniture for 174 PCs, 12 advanced media software packages, 344 headphones &amp; microphones, 103 speakers, 75 printers and 344 privacy screens. Equipment will be supplied from Q2Y1 to Q1Y2. Please see detailed budget for per item cost. MSL has also allocated \$40,000 for CPE equipment for libraries needing to change service providers to upgrade broadband speeds.</p> <p>5.Supplies: Total – \$21,000 Outreach program print materials will total \$4,200. Missoula Public Library will provide an in-kind match by covering the operating fuel costs of \$7,200/yr (\$14,400) and utilities \$1,200/yr (\$2,400) for the Mobile Computer Lab for yrs 2 &amp; 3 of the project.</p> <p>6.Contractual: Total – \$272,200 IT set up and maintenance at libraries is estimated at \$49,680 and \$126,720 respectively. 149 old PCs replaced will cost \$200 each to dispose (\$29,800). Outreach program will hire a part-time marketing expert for \$36,000, design services for \$6,000 and account management for \$4,000. In-kind match by Missoula Public Library for Mobile Computer Lab insurance and maintenance costs in yrs 2 &amp; 3 at \$10,000/yr (\$20,000).</p> <p>7.Construction: No costs</p>
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	<p>8. Other: Total – \$765,190 29 libraries will get broadband upgrades for 2 yrs totaling \$178,351. 5 sub-recipients will get FTEs funds Q2Y1 to the end of yr. 3 (\$242,498). 5 sub-recipients will get construction funds Q3Y1 - Q2Y3 (\$33,442). Set up costs for the Mobile Computer Lab (\$132,900). Outreach ads and miscellaneous costs from Q3Y1 - end of yr 2 will be \$40,000 &amp; \$1,400 respectively. Web Junction Subscription in yrs 2 &amp; 3 at a cost of \$32,000/yr (\$64,000). In-kind match of consulting services in application preparation totaled \$119,155 but has been reduced to \$75,000 to keep pre-application expenses below 5% of the BTOP fund request.</p> <p>9. Indirect Charges - MSL's indirect charge of 4% of the federal portion of a grant (\$1,761,509) = \$70,364</p>
<b>Budget reasonableness</b>	<p>Budget costs were estimated through a thorough process combining library surveys, discussions &amp; price quotes from all major ISPs, equipment provider research, cost benchmarks for marketing, training, contractual programs &amp; personnel. The program is designed to address library computing &amp; broadband needs comprehensively by augmenting equipment with training to draw maximum program effectiveness.</p> <p>1. Personnel – Salary costs for project manager, compliance officer, Mobile Computing Lab driver &amp; trainer based on local salaries for comparable positions. Costs for FTEs training librarians on E-rate &amp; equipment technologies in line with comparable benchmarks. MSL staff costs in application preparation based on current salaries &amp; time utilization.</p> <p>2. Fringe Benefits: Fringe benefits 29.03% of salary compensation in line with state employee benchmarks.</p> <p>3. Travel – Travel costs to set up equipment &amp; broadband based on inputs from companies providing these services today.</p>



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	<p>4. Equipment - Equipment needs were assessed through detailed MSL library surveys. Proposed equipment addresses the precise needs of each library. Equipment prices researched through well known internet retail sites. Broadband CPE equipment costs from ISP planning inputs on price.</p> <p>5. Supplies – Fuel costs for running the mobile computer lab based on average of 5 weekdays, 80 miles a day at a fuel price of \$3 per gallon. Outreach print material costs estimated from marketing cost benchmarks.</p> <p>6. Contractual – IT setup &amp; maintenance based on a professional service provider in Montana providing input on design &amp; price. Outreach costs based on previous successful MSL initiatives. MSL can precisely target communities with planned investment &amp; will hire media agency to secure lowest ad rates. Mobile Computer Lab insurance &amp; maintenance costs are based on vehicular insurance benchmarks.</p> <p>7. Construction – No costs</p> <p>8. Other – For broadband upgrades, MSL targeted a minimum actual speed of 300 kbps per workstation &amp; held discussions with all major Montana ISPs (9 providers) to receive price estimates. Each library was budgeted broadband funding based on these price estimates. If our project is funded, a full RFP process will be held at each library where necessary to maximize government funds.</p> <p>Library FTE &amp; construction needs based on a MSL library survey screened for requests consistent with program objectives. Mobile Computer Lab setup costs based on inputs from Missoula Public Library that will operate it. MSL will hire a program outreach agency to research &amp; purchase ads in target communities. WebJunction subscription cost sourced from company sales personnel. Application preparation costs based on actual costs.</p>
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	<p>9. Indirect Charges: Indirect charge rate for MSL has been negotiated with the state of Montana at 4% of all federally supplied grant funding. All federal grant funds supporting our project are subject to this indirect charge.</p>
<p><b>Demonstration of need</b></p>	<p>The two-year budget passed by the Montana State Legislature and signed by Gov. Brian Schweitzer estimates that revenue for FY 2010/11 will total \$3.6B, down 5.2% from the 2008/9 biennium budget of \$3.8B. As a result, all Montana state agencies have been ordered to reduce their annual expenditures by 5%, a situation that leaves the Montana State Library with a more challenging fiscal situation than it has faced in the past.</p> <p>The Montana Library Commission’s FY 2010 operational budget is currently estimated at \$5.4M (our grant request is \$1.7M, or 31%). Even though this figure reflects level-funding of operations from last year to this year, we must reduce it by an additional 5% (~\$270K). In addition, our budget already factors in personnel cost reductions of \$436K (-20%) and operating cost reductions of \$666K (-27%) from 2009. Note that these reductions are hoped to be partially offset by grant funding from LSTA of up to \$1M. Thus, we are in the position of having to rely more heavily than ever before on federal LSTA funds to maintain current operations leaving few alternative sources to support this project – especially one of this size.</p> <p>Even if budget cuts were not the reality for 2010 and 2011, it is unlikely that this project would gain funding from the State of Montana. Several times in recent years, the State Library has requested new funding through the Executive Budget Process to support modest improvements in its library services. In each case, dating back to 2004, the proposal has been either denied or altered. Note the following special library project requests and outcomes since 2004:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• March 2008 – Statewide Courier Pilot Project: requested \$200K per</li> </ul>



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	<p>year in 2010/11, received \$80K</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• March 2008 (also Jan 2007) – Public Library Construction: requested \$5M, received \$0. Denied in both EPP and legislative session</li> <li>• March 2008 (also Jan 2007) – Statewide Funding for OCLC Group Services: requested \$500K per year in 2010/11, received \$0. Denied in both EPP and legislative session</li> <li>• March 2008 (also July 2006) – Digitization of the State Publications Collection: requested \$600K, received \$0. Denied in 7/2006 and in 3/2008</li> <li>• March 2007 – Funding for Statewide Databases: requested \$288K per year in 2008/9, received \$288K per year. Passed legislative session</li> <li>• July 2006 – Montana Shared Catalog: requested \$496K, received \$0</li> <li>• July 2006 – Statewide Information Access Program: requested \$2M, received \$0</li> <li>• April 2004 – Aid for Library Branches: requested \$100K, received \$0. Denied in EPP</li> </ul> <p>Based on the budget situation through 2011, the size of our project, anticipated levels of federal LSTA funding, and previous history of State Library special project requests, it is clear that the Montana State Library would not be able to implement this proposed project without federal assistance.</p>
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**45. Funds to States/Territories**

States	Amount of Federal Grant Request
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Montana	1,829,473
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**Funds to States/Territories Total:** \$1,829,473

## G. Historical Financials

<b>46. Matching Funds</b>			
	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>
<b>Revenue</b>	4,406,376	4,813,405	5,176,108
<b>Expenditures</b>	4,406,376	4,813,405	5,176,108
<b>Net Assets</b>	0	0	0
<b>Change in Net Assets from Prior Year</b>	0	0	0
<b>Bond Rating (if applicable)</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A

## H. Public Computer Center Summary

<b>47. Jobs</b>	
<b>How many direct jobs-years will be created from this project?</b>	24
<b>How many indirect jobs will be created from this project?</b>	8
<b>How many jobs will be induced from this project?</b>	11

### 48. Methodology used to estimate jobs:

We adopted the approach recommended by the Council of Economic Advisor’s guide with an important modification.

- 1.Total project spend (\$2,696,704) divide by \$92,000 to estimate “Total Job Yrs”: 29.31
- 2.Multiply total job years (29.31) by 36% to estimate “Induced Job Yrs”: 10.55
- 3.The remainder (18.76) is the “sum of Direct Job Years & Indirect Job Yrs”



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At this point, we elected to report actual job yrs created in this project, rather than identifying spending on what might be termed “Direct Jobs”, and then divide by \$92,000.

Our project will hire -

- Project manager and compliance coordinator for 3 yrs each = 6 job yrs
- E-rate specialist, library tech trainer, mobile computer lab driver & trainer for 2 yrs each = 8 job yrs
- 5 sub-recipient libraries will combine to hire 3.6 FTEs, for 11 quarters or 2.75 yrs = 9.97 job yrs

This gives a final value of 23.97 Direct Job Yrs.

This number is greater than the combined number of Direct & Indirect Job Yrs (18.76) predicted by the method in the Council of Economic Advisor’s guide. To estimate Indirect Job yrs we subtract the FTE costs associated with Direct Job Yrs (\$983,498) from the estimated costs for Direct & Indirect Job Yrs which equals \$742,393. This is equal to the Indirect Job Yrs Cost and divided by \$92,000 = 8.07 Indirect Job Yrs

Hence, and in summary, we estimate the following Job Years:

- Total Job Yrs: 42.59
- Direct Job Yrs: 23.97
- Indirect Job Yrs: 8.07
- Induced Job Yrs: 10.55

<b>49. Proposed # of Public Computer Centers</b>	
<b>Schools (k-12)</b>	0
<b>Libraries</b>	42
<b>Medical and Healthcare Providers</b>	0
<b>Public Safety Entities</b>	0
<b>Community Colleges</b>	0
<b>Public Housing</b>	0
<b>Other Institutions of Higher Education</b>	0



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<b>Other Community Support Organization</b>	0
<b>Other Government Facilities</b>	0

**Total Proposed Public Computer Centers**      42

**Current Total Persons in Service Area**      827916

<b>50. Minority Serving Institutions</b>	
<b>Historically Black Colleges and Universities</b>	0
<b>Tribal Colleges and Universities</b>	0
<b>Alaska Native Serving Institutions</b>	0
<b>Hispanic Serving Institutions</b>	0
<b>Native Hawaiian Serving Institutions</b>	0
<b>TOTAL MINORITY SERVING INSTITUTIONS</b>	0

<b>51. Weekly Usage Summary</b>	
<b>Total Current # of Persons Served per 120-hour Business Week</b>	14370
<b>Total Proposed # of Persons Served per 120-hour Business Week</b>	20577
<b>Total Current # of Persons</b>	3117



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<b>Served per 48-hour Weekend</b>	
<b>Total Proposed # of Persons Served per 48-hour Weekend</b>	5116

<b>52. Broadband Workstation Summary</b>	
<b>Number of Current Workstations proposed to be upgraded</b>	149
<b>Total Current # of Broadband Workstations</b>	439
<b>Total Proposed # of Broadband Workstations</b>	634
<b>Average Current Facility Broadband Connection Speed</b>	3.55 Mbps
<b>Average Proposed Facility Broadband Connection Speed</b>	21.30 Mbps

## **I. Project Readiness**

### **53. Licenses and Regulatory Approvals**

5 of our participating libraries are undergoing minor construction and renovation as part of our project. These libraries may need to receive building permits in order to complete their construction. We have designated these participating libraries as sub-recipients in our grant, and therefore each sub-recipient library is responsible to acquire the necessary permits to complete their project. We are confident they will have the necessary licenses should our project be funded as we have held conversations with each library and they have expressed that their construction project is shovel ready. Furthermore, each sub-recipient library signed letters of commitment stating that they understand all conditions of BTOP funding, including the need to complete all aspects of our project within 3 years of receiving funding. Beyond this element, MSL does not require any local, state, or federal licenses or regulatory approvals to complete the objectives of our project. Montana State Library has the existing authority and relationships with local libraries to execute this project as planned.



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#### 54. Organizational Readiness

The Montana State Library (MSL) has been in existence since 1929. Beginning in 1956 with the passage of the federal Library Services Act, MSL assumed its administrative role as a financial and library development conduit for support of public libraries. With the adoption in 1964 of the federal Library Services and Construction Act (LSCA), MSL administered a series of state projects and sub-grants to libraries extending library services to Montanans who were inadequately served because of distance, physical handicaps, or other disadvantages. LSCA funds also were used for construction and remodeling of library facilities to improve energy conservation and access for handicapped persons. Additionally, MSL used LSCA funds to establish regional library networks that laid the foundation for future collaboration and resource sharing among Montana libraries. During 30 years of administering LSCA funding, MSL leveraged over 10 million dollars in federal funding to impact the library needs of Montana communities.

In the mid-1990's, using funds provided by the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) which followed LSCA, MSL began funding public library connectivity projects. For six consecutive years MSL expended approximately \$150,000 per year providing broadband development and access support for libraries.

While these MSL-initiated connectivity projects were underway, MSL began its relationship with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF). MSL partnered with the BMGF and local libraries in a series of projects aimed at developing and maintaining public access computing. MSL assumed responsibility for management and oversight of numerous BMGF public Internet access initiatives in Montana including the Gates State Partnership Grant (\$801,233), Gates Staying Connected Grant (\$198,720), Gates Public Access Computing Hardware Upgrade Grant (\$295,500) and Gates Rural Library Sustainability Grant (\$31,650).

Key staff aligned with MSL's proposed BTOP PCC project include:

Darlene Staffledt, State Librarian, has been with MSL for 33 years. She has had a significant role in the management and oversight of many of the LSCA, LSTA, and Gates Foundation projects undertaken successfully by MSL during her tenure.



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Bob Cooper, Statewide Library Resources Director, has been with MSL for 16 years. He has been responsible for the implementation and program direction of numerous LSCA, LSTA, and Gates Foundation projects.

Kris Schmitz, Centralized Services Manager, has been with MSL for 18 years and assumed primary responsibility during that time for the accounting and auditing aspects of managing numerous LSCA, LSTA, and Gates Foundation projects administered by MSL during her tenure.

In summary, MSL has the proven grant management and reporting experience, project management experience, fiscal and accounting systems, and experienced staff to successfully, implement, manage, and sustain its proposed BTOP PCC project.

#### **55. Project Timeline and Challenges**

##### **Yr 1 – Q1 Activities**

- Project enters Phase 1 – “Project Plan Socialization and Resource Development”
- MSL submits RFPs for centrally purchased items
- Local libraries conduct staffing interviews, release RFPs for construction and broadband service
- MSL conducts interviews for staffing needs, develops and socializes project plan

##### **Yr 1 – Q2 Activities**

- Project enters Phase 2 – “Project Plan Implementation”
- Equipment roll outs and installations begin
- Library FTEs are hired and construction begins at libraries
- Vehicle for mobile computer lab is purchased and remodeling begins
- Interviewing continues to fill both marketing and e-rate training positions
- Regional IT contractors begin setting up new computers and WLAN equipment at local libraries
- Project Manager and Compliance Coordinator positions are filled

##### **Yr 1 – Q3 Activities**

- Broadband service upgrades installed at participating libraries
- Marketing FTE is hired to assist with outreach campaign, outreach campaign begins
- E-rate training begins at participating libraries

##### **Yr 1 – Q4 Activities**

- Mobile computer lab renovations are completed



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**Yr 2 – Q1 Activities**

- Computers and equipment installations are completed
- Missoula Public Library operationalizes the mobile computer lab
- WebJunction subscription begins
- Librarian technology training begins

**Yr 2 – Q2 Activities**

- Minimum of half of construction projects are completed

**Yr 2 – Q3 Activities**

- Roll out and delivery of training continues

**Yr 2 – Q4 Activities**

- 18 month outreach campaign is completed

**Yr 3 – Q1 Activities**

- 100% of construction projects are completed

**Yr 3 – Q2 Activities**

- Project enters Phase 3 “Shift to Sustainability”
- Final quarter for broadband MRC support
- Final quarter for E-rate training
- E-rate coordinator oversees submission of E-rate applications

**Yr 3 – Q3 Activities**

- WebJunction subscription is evaluated, decision to renew is made
- MSL funded IT support ends, responsibility shifts to library IT resources

**Yr 3 – Q4 Activities**

- Final payments made for local library personnel, funding responsibility transferred to libraries
- Librarian Technology Training is completed
- All project level positions end with project

Challenges to our project timeline include staffing acquisition, construction projects, equipment roll outs, and increases in broadband service taking longer than expected to be completed. To mitigate staffing risks, MSL budgeted a full quarter to complete hiring and assume these positions temporarily. Construction project delays have been mitigated as libraries were asked for estimates from local contractors. To mitigate the impact of equipment roll out delays MSL will shift initial training schedule to libraries with adequate resources and return to delayed locations later. Broadband service delays are low probability as MSL has received pricing estimates from Montana internet service providers.



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56. SPIN Number

## J. Environmental Questionnaire

57. Does this PCC application have construction or ground disturbing activities?

Yes

If no, please answer the questions below. If yes, please do not answer the questions below and instead proceed to the next page to answer the expanded environmental questionnaire.

58. Does the proposed action involve the procurement of materials? If so, will the materials be installed, stored or operated in an existing building or structure? If yes, please click "Add" to include the list of equipment and peripherals to be procured.

59. Does the proposed action involve procurement of electronic equipment? If yes, will the equipment be disposed of in an environmentally sound manner at the end of its useful life?

60. Does the proposed action involve construction, remodeling, or renovation? If so, will these activities be limited to only minor interior renovations to a structure, facility, or installation? If yes, click "Add" to include a description of the proposed renovations with your project summary.

61. Does the proposed action involve the production and/or distribution of informational materials, brochures, or newsletter?



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62. Does the proposed action involve training, teaching, or meeting facilitation at an existing facility or structure? If yes, click "Add" to explain.
63. Does the proposed action involve ground or surface disturbance to accommodate new fiber optic cable? If yes, please click "Add" to include a description of the extent of service upgrade, a list of the permits required, and linear footage of underground fiber optic cabling required.
64. Does the proposed action involve an upgrade of broadband service to an existing facility or structure? If yes, please include a description of the extent of service upgrade, a list of the permits required, and linear footage of underground fiber optic cabling required?

## **K. Environmental Questionnaire – Part 2**

### **65. Project Description**

Our Enhancing Computing Centers at Montana Public Libraries project includes 5 construction projects all of which can be described as minor, interior renovations aimed at increasing accessibility for the disabled or aimed at increasing accommodations for computing labs. The five locations requiring renovations are:

- Bicentennial Library of Colstrip: project would move computer lab to the front of the library – renovations include updating electrical wiring to support relocation of computers
- Glasgow City-County Library: project would increase accessibility for the disabled by automating exiting doorways. Renovations include installing motorized door openers on two door ways and wiring them from an electrical panel in the lobby.



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- Lincoln County Public Library of Eureka: project would make bathrooms accessible to the disabled – renovations include enlarging the bathroom, installing appropriately sized sink and toilet, and installation of grab bars.

- Parmly Billings Library: project would complete building new computing area. Renovations include installation of electrical and Ethernet wiring, along with new carpet.

- Ronan City Library: project would increase accessibility for the disabled by automating one doorway in the library. Renovations include installing motorized door opener on one door way and installing appropriate wiring.

Our project does not include any ground breaking construction activities.

**66. Property Changes**

Our project includes no new sites and therefore does not entail any property changes or zoning issues. No construction project proposed will include clearing, excavation, or fencing of property. The only locations to be “disturbed” by minor renovations are those as described above. No portion of this project is proposed to be on public land owned or managed by the federal government.

**67. Buildings**

The project does not involve building construction. All the libraries included in this project are established facilities. The amount of building property to be affected by minor renovations include small sections the following buildings:

- Bicentennial Library of Colstrip – 4,400 square feet,
- Glasgow City-County Library – 8,648 square feet,
- Lincoln County Public Library of Eureka – 1,200 square feet
- Parmly Billings Library – 55,000 square feet
- Ronan City Library – 3,420 square feet.

Our project does not include any funding for ground breaking activity or linear projects.

**68. Wetlands**



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No wetlands are present or near the project.

**69. Critical Habitats**

The Fish and Wildlife Service’s geographic mapping tool has been inoperable (see attached screen capture). We have therefore been unable to use that tool to document that there are no critical habitats present or near the planned projects.

However, the library locations included in this project are existing locations. Furthermore, all construction activities can be described as minor renovations having minimal effect on the buildings themselves and therefore virtually no effect on surrounding areas. Therefore, we conclude that no critical habitats will be directly or indirectly affected by our project.

**Species List by County**

**Rosebud County**

- Bird – Arctic Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus tundrius*)
- Bird – Least tern (*Sterna antillarum*)
- Mammal – Black-Footed ferret (*Mustela nigripes*)

**Valley County**

- Bird – Arctic Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus tundrius*)
- Bird – Least tern (*Sterna antillarum*)
- Bird – Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*)
- Bird – Whooping crane (*Grus americana*)
- Fish – Pallid sturgeon (*Scaphirhynchus albus*)
- Mammal – Black-Footed ferret (*Mustela nigripes*)

**Lincoln County**

- Bird – Arctic Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus tundrius*)
- Fish – Bull Trout (*Salvelinus confluentus*)
- Fish – White sturgeon (*Acipenser transmontanus*)
- Flowering Plants – Spalding's Catchfly (*Silene spaldingii*)
- Flowering Plants – Water howellia (*Howellia aquatilis*)
- Mammal – Canada Lynx (*Lynx canadensis*)
- Mammal – Gray wolf (*Canis lupus*)
- Mammal – Grizzly bear (*Ursus arctos horribilis*)

**Yellowstone County**



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- Bird – Arctic Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus tundrius*)
- Bird – Whooping crane (*Grus americana*)
- Mammal – Black-Footed ferret (*Mustela nigripes*)

Lake County

- Bird – Arctic Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus tundrius*)
- Fish – Bull Trout (*Salvelinus confluentus*)
- Flowering Plants – Spalding's Catchfly (*Silene spaldingii*)
- Flowering Plants – Water howellia (*Howellia aquatilis*)
- Mammal – Canada Lynx (*Lynx canadensis*)
- Mammal – Gray wolf (*Canis lupus*)
- Mammal – Grizzly bear (*Ursus arctos horribilis*)

**70. Floodplain**

No facility or site is located within a 100 or 500 year floodplain.

**71. Protected Land**

Glasgow City-County Library, Lincoln County Public Library of Eureka, and Parmly Billings Library are located within one-mile of historic properties. Ronan City Library is located on a tribal land.

Glasgow City-County Library is within a one-mile radius of 3 historic properties including: Glasgow US Post Office and Courthouse, First National Bank of Glasgow, and Rundle Building

Lincoln County Public Library of Eureka is within a one-mile radius of 2 historic properties including: Eureka Community Hall and Farmers and Merchants State Bank

Parmly Billings Library is within a one-mile radius of 14 historic properties including: Acme Building, Armour Cold Storage, Billings Chamber of Commerce Building, Billings Historic District, Billings Townsite Historic District, Electric Building, Fire House No. 2, Masonic Temple, North Austin House, Donnell I.D. House, Western Heritage Center, Billings US Post Office and Courthouse, Yegen Christian House, and Yegen Peter House

Ronan City library is located on the Flathead Indian reservation which is home to the Salish and Kootenai tribes.



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All of our construction projects are minor, interior renovations only. No historic properties or tribal lands will be disturbed as part of our project. Maps of our locations and their relations to the historic properties and tribal lands are provided in the supplemental information upload section.

**72. Coastal Area**

No coastal lands are located on or near the project sites.

**73. Brownfield**

None of the proposed libraries to be renovated are within a brownfield site.



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**Uploads**

The following pages contain the following uploads provided by the applicant:

Upload Name	File Name	Uploaded By	Uploaded Date
Management Team Resumes and Organization Chart	MSL BTOP Resume & Org Chart 03.12.10.pdf	Cooper, Bob	03/13/2010
Government and Key Partnerships	Gov and Key Partners LOS 03.12.10.pdf	Cooper, Bob	03/13/2010
Historical Financial Statements	2008_2009_MSL_financial_report.pdf	Cooper, Bob	03/13/2010
Public Center Detail	PCC Details Attachment - Montana V2 Mar 13 2010.xls	Cooper, Bob	03/13/2010
Detailed Budget	PCC Detailed Budget Attachment Montana v3 Mar 12 2010.xls	Cooper, Bob	03/13/2010
BTOP Certifications	MSL BTOP Certificate.pdf	Cooper, Bob	03/13/2010
SF424 Budget (A or C)	Form SF424A - Montana FINAL.pdf	Cooper, Bob	03/13/2010
SF424 B and D Assurances	Form SF424B - Montana FINAL.pdf	Cooper, Bob	03/13/2010



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Supplemental Information	Supplemental Info TOC.pdf	Cooper, Bob	03/13/2010
Supplemental Information	Additional Letters of Support.pdf	Cooper, Bob	03/13/2010
Supplemental Information	Missoula Public Library Mobile Computing Lab Program Description.pdf	Cooper, Bob	03/13/2010
Supplemental Information	Disabled Mapping Tool - FWS Critical Habitat Mapper Down 8mar10.pdf	Cooper, Bob	03/13/2010
Supplemental Information	Glasgow - Valley County Library MT Protected Lands.pdf	Cooper, Bob	03/13/2010
Supplemental Information	Lincoln County Library Eureka - MT Protected Lands 2.pdf	Cooper, Bob	03/13/2010
Supplemental Information	Parmly Billings - Yellowstone County Library MT Protected Lands.pdf	Cooper, Bob	03/13/2010
Supplemental Information	Ronan - Lake County Library MT Protected Lands.pdf	Cooper, Bob	03/13/2010