



**FOR MORE
INFORMATION**

www.recovery.gov
www.broadbandusa.gov

Organization:	Montana State Library
Project Name:	Enhancing Computing Centers at Montana Public Libraries
Project Type:	Public Computer Center
State:	Montana
Federal Award:	\$ 1,829,473

ABOUT THE PROJECT

Third party research indicates that Montana's adoption of broadband services lags behind the rest of the nation, a problem made more challenging by the state's low population density and expansive geography. In many cases, public libraries are the only feasible source of broadband Internet access in remote communities. The **Montana State Library** proposes to provide more access at faster speeds to 42 local libraries in 29 counties across the state within reach of 86 percent of Montana's population. Participating libraries were chosen based on demonstrated library need and geographic challenges, as well as their ability and willingness to sustain project investments.

Enhancing Computing Centers at Montana Public Libraries also proposes to:

- Deploy as many as 195 new workstations and upgrade another 149, increasing to approximately 630 the number of workstations available at participating public libraries.
- Offer basic technology training to increase computer literacy and use of employment, educational, health, and other online resources among economically distressed populations.
- Offer disability-friendly workstations, distance learning opportunities for all ages, and workstations geared for ages 2-10.

ORGANIZATION'S HISTORY

The Montana State Library, founded in 1929, is the financial and library development conduit for support of public libraries in the state. Since 1964, the Montana State Library has established regional library networks through state projects and sub-grants to libraries that extended services to underserved Montanans. The Montana State Library, a state government entity, is highly experienced with federal funding regulations and requirements, having received federal Library Services and Technology Act funds, and other federal awards.

PROJECT PARTNERS

- Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
- AARP Montana
- Montana Digital Academy at the University of Montana
- Montana Departments of Labor & Industry and Health & Human Services
- The Supreme Court of Montana Self-Help Law Program
- Census and Economic Information Center of the Montana Department of Commerce

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

For press-related inquiries, contact 202-482-7002 or press@ntia.doc.gov. For the general public, contact BTOP@ntia.doc.gov.

