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Organization:	MyWay Village, Inc.
Project Name:	Getting Illinois Low Income Seniors and People with Disabilities Online
Project Type:	Sustainable Broadband Adoption
State:	Illinois
Federal Award:	\$4,731,442

ABOUT THE PROJECT

According to a recent survey, fewer than one in twenty residents in low-income elder-care facilities in northern Illinois, use broadband services despite the demonstrated appeal for staying in touch with distant family, accessing social and government services, and improving quality of life. **MyWay Village**, in partnership with the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity and the Illinois Low Income Senior Internet Coalition, plans to transform its Connected Living Adoption and Sustainability Program, a longstanding program that ties technology, training, and technical support together in a way uniquely tailored for the senior community.

Through both traditional and grassroots awareness efforts, the project plans to engage its 23 targeted senior housing communities to teach the basics of e-mail, Web access, and other practical broadband applications. The project also intends to collaborate with local Workforce Investment Act organizations to help seniors who develop their digital literacy skills to find part time work.

Getting Illinois Low Income Seniors and People with Disabilities Online also proposes to:

- Provide computer skills and broadband training to as many as 4,900 residents over the life of the project, offering approximately 224,000 training hours focusing on online connectivity, community resources, and education.
- Provide a free computer and subsidized Internet connectivity to each participant that attends the education and training programs available at their center and successfully completes an Internet literacy and skills evaluation.
- Engage "Resident Ambassadors" for each housing development to lead seniors through the Internet adoption process, beginning with awareness, through education, training, practice, and competency, and finally to regular use and subscription.

ORGANIZATION'S HISTORY

MyWay Village is a Quincy, Massachusetts-based social impact company founded in 2006 dedicated to transforming the experience of aging everywhere by delivering a "Connected Life." It has designed and implemented successful training and adoption programs in Massachusetts and Illinois. MyWay Village's "High-tech, High Touch" approach of combining simplified technology with engaging classes and friendly support ensures that broadband technology is adopted and usage is sustained.

PROJECT PARTNERS

- Habilitative Systems, Inc.
- Bethel New Life, Inc.
- Senior Lifestyle Corporation
- Atmosphere Communications, Inc.
- Over 20 different housing authorities in six communities in northern Illinois

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.

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