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Organization:	Regents of the University of Minnesota
Project Name:	Broadband Access Project (BAP)
Project Type:	Public Computer Centers
State(s):	Minnesota
Federal Award:	\$2,862,333

ABOUT THE PROJECT

The Broadband Access Project proposes to enhance broadband awareness and use for residents in four federally-designated poverty zones in Minneapolis and St. Paul. These enhancements plan to better serve vulnerable populations, including African-Americans and Hmong and Somali immigrants whose needs are not currently being met because of financial, educational and technological constraints. The project plans to establish one new public computer center and improve 10 existing computer centers, adding 93 new workstations and replacing 49 existing workstations. The project intends to provide broadband speeds of at least 16 Mbps to these locations. The Broadband Access Project expects to provide broadband training to vulnerable, low-income, minority and immigrant populations to promote education, health care, workforce preparation and community revitalization. Plans include providing training to residents, not-for-profit organizations and small businesses to help create jobs and develop the skills necessary to compete in today's economy. The project expects to train 17,000 people over the life of the grant. In addition, the Minnesota Multicultural Media Consortium plans to conduct culturally-specific outreach and translate project materials into languages spoken locally.

The project proposes to:

- Conduct a public awareness campaign to attract members of vulnerable populations to the project sites, advertising in minority-operated media, and sponsoring booths at cultural celebrations.
- Translate many of the project's training materials into Hmong, Vietnamese, Spanish and Somali.
- Provide software that helps persons with disabilities and non-native English speakers access the Internet.

ORGANIZATION'S HISTORY

The University of Minnesota is uniquely qualified to carry out this project. The Urban Research and Outreach/Engagement Center, Office for Business and Community Development, and Extension Services have decades of combined experience in public engagement, broadband and Internet training, and development of computer curricula for public audiences. The Minnesota Multicultural Media Consortium has experience working closely with immigrant and ethnic populations in the community.

PROJECT PARTNERS

- Asian Community Technology Center
- Centro
- Church of St. Philip/Nellie Stone Johnson School
- Glendale Townhomes—Minneapolis Public Housing
- Hmong American Partnership
- Lifetrack Resources
- Minnesota Multicultural Media Consortium
- Patchwork Quilt at Kwanzaa Freedom School
- Phyllis Wheatley Community Center
- Project for Pride in Living
- Sabathani Community Center
- YWCA

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.broadbandusa.gov.

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

