

BTOP Round 2 Above-Ground Fact Sheet

Public Computing Centers (PCC)

- **What:** Provide broadband access to the general public or a specific vulnerable population. Must either create or expand a public computer center or improve broadband service or connections at a public computer center, including those at community colleges.
- **Key factors:** How many workstations, how many users served per month, proximity to vulnerable populations, availability to the public, accessibility of facility, training and education offered, how many jobs created.
- **Eligible costs:** Acquiring workstations and computer equipment, printers, connectivity, developing and providing training, staff salaries, PCC construction/acquisition/renovation.
- **Funds:** \$500,000 - \$15M federal funding over 3 years with 30% or higher local match.
- **Round 1 Winners:**
 - Minneapolis-St. Paul: \$2.9M for 11 PCCs in 4 federally-designated poverty zones; broadband training for 17,000 people, not-for-profit organizations and small businesses; translation of materials into Hmong, Vietnamese, Spanish and Somali; public awareness campaign and advertising at cultural celebrations.
 - Boston: \$1.9M for 53 PCCs at main library, 25 branch libraries, 16 community centers and 11 public housing sites in lowest-income areas. Offering before- and after-school programs, job readiness, and alternative education. Serving 18,700 people per week. Multi-lingual computer classes and training for seniors.

Sustainable Broadband Adoption (SBA)

- **What:** Innovative projects that promote broadband demand, especially among vulnerable population groups where broadband technology traditionally has been underutilized.
- **Key factors:** How many new adopters will continue to subscribe to broadband service after the term of the grant, cost per new user, support for vulnerable populations, how many jobs created, sustainability beyond the grant.
- **Eligible costs:** Broadband equipment, training and support programs, salaries, outreach.
- **Funds:** \$500,000 - \$15M federal funding over 3 years with 30% or higher local match.
- **Round 1 Winners:**
 - Spokane: \$980,000 to create 1500 new subscribers including 300 small businesses. Training at 11 not-for-profits and community centers includes multi-media, e-commerce, Internet for small businesses.
 - Massachusetts (Lowell and Merrimack Valley): \$783,000 to create 7,500 new subscribers in a HUD-designated “Renewal Community.” Building 11 PCCs to reach at-risk youth, the unemployed, residents without college degrees, and seniors. Training in English, Khmer, and Spanish. At-risk youth can develop content for broadcast on public cable channels.

ARRA Statutory Purposes:

- c. To provide broadband education, awareness, training, access, equipment, and support to: (i) schools, libraries, medical and healthcare providers, community colleges and other institutions of higher learning, and other community support organizations; (ii) organizations and agencies that provide outreach, access, equipment, and support services to facilitate greater use of broadband services by vulnerable populations (e.g., low-income, unemployed, aged); or (iii) job-creating strategic facilities located in state- or federally-designated economic development zones;
- d. To improve access to, and use of, broadband service by public safety agencies; and
- e. To stimulate the demand for broadband, economic growth, and job creation.

See the NTIA Notice of Funding Availability: http://www.broadbandusa.gov/files/FedRegNOFA_R2_NTIA.pdf