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Organization:	Delaware Department of State
Project Name:	Delaware Library Job/Learning Labs
Project Type:	Public Computer Center
State:	Delaware
Federal Award:	\$1,899,929

ABOUT THE PROJECT

To address the online access needs of economically vulnerable communities in Delaware, its **Department of State's** Division of Libraries is proposing an equipment upgrade and the expansion of a training program at public computer centers throughout the state. The project plans to serve residents by providing public access computers, assistive technology, videoconferencing capabilities, and wireless networking. The computer centers at the Dover, Georgetown, Seaford, and Wilmington libraries will become Job/Learning Labs focusing specifically on the needs of the unemployed, with specialized training for resume building, job search, and interview skills. The project also proposes to expand Spanish-language computer training programs in Wilmington, the area with the largest Hispanic population in Delaware.

The Delaware Library Job/Learning Labs project also proposes to:

- Upgrade public computer centers at all 32 public libraries statewide and deploy approximately 50 new computer workstations.
- Almost double the number of new users each week, serving a projected 2,000 weekly users in total. Many of the upgraded centers will also offer improved access speeds and shorter wait periods.
- Train as many as 2,000 residents with approximately 29,000 hours of teacher-led training over the three years of the project. Training will focus on digital literacy, test preparation, and workforce education.

ORGANIZATION'S HISTORY

Delaware's Department of State is an agency with a wide range of missions, including promoting Delaware's economy and generating state revenue; managing and facilitating citizen access to government, educational, and recreational information; and providing regulatory, licensing, investigative, and consumer services to protect the public's health, safety, and economic welfare. The Department is fully familiar with federal funding regulations and requirements. The mission of the Delaware Division of Libraries is to provide leadership and support for the timely development of Delaware's libraries, to ensure convenient access to, and encourage use of, current information resources and reading material by all Delawareans.

PROJECT PARTNERS

- Delaware Technical Community College
- Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
- Literacy Volunteers Serving Adults
- Christina Adult Education Program
- Retired Seniors Volunteer Program
- Delaware Workforce Investment Board
- Delaware Center for Distance Adult Learning
- The Delaware Economic Development Office and the State Departments of Education, Labor, and Technology & Information

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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