



**Louisiana Libraries
Connecting People to
Their Potential**

State Library of Louisiana
BTOP Stimulus Grant
Round 1

Problems Facing Louisiana

- 57.1% of households in Louisiana are without broadband access.
- As many as 20% of Louisiana's adults are non-literate and not able to read simple instructions.
- More than 18% of our population lives below the poverty level. The national average is 13.6%.
- In 2008 the labor force participation rate for Louisiana was 59.4%. The national average is 63.4%.

Other Factors Considered

- Over 17,000 legally blind and more than 57,000 seriously visually impaired Louisianans cannot read standard print.
- Approximately 26%, or over 1.13 million, of Louisiana's 4.3 million residents are individuals with disabilities or functional limitations, including some 493,660 persons over the age of 64.

What Our Project Provides

- Laptops that can be checked out from the public library in every parish (county)
- Mobile laptop labs that can be used statewide for training
- Assistive technology in every library
- Online homework help for students
- Access to quality online databases, including workforce development tools as well as medical and health information

What This Does for Our Workforce

It makes quality technology training available to help people acquire the job skills they need, particularly in areas where no training is otherwise available.

The laptops that may be checked out enables people to go home and practice their new skills, access a workforce database, or create resumes and fill out job applications.

Training

There will be over 2700 training sessions provided around Louisiana which could provide training for over 40,000 people.

Sample Topics:

Microsoft Office

Public Speaking

Wireless Installation

Resume Building

Home Networking

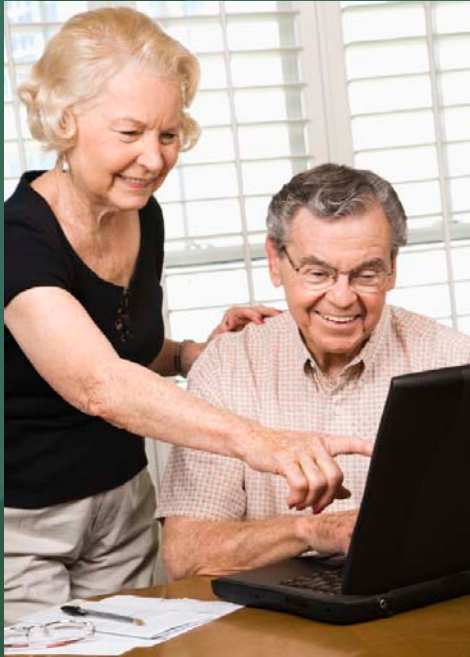
Time Management



Career Cruising

- The Career Cruising database provides an online career exploration and portfolio development system with
 - Detailed occupation profiles,
 - Comprehensive post-secondary education information, and
 - Industry-leading assessments.

Hardware, Software, & Assistive Technology



- Ten laptops per parish (county) that libraries can check out = 640 laptops
- One computer per library in each parish with
 - A large monitor
 - Split keyboard
 - Trackball mouse
 - JAWS screen reading software
 - CCTV standalone reader
- Text enlarging software for at least one computer per library building (340 libraries)

Partners

The State Library partnered with all 68 public library systems (340 libraries) in Louisiana.

Other Support:

- Louisiana Convergence Services, Inc.
- Lantec of Louisiana, LLC
- Lieutenant Governor's Office
- Louisiana Assistive Technology Access Network
- National Federation of the Blind of Louisiana
- Louisiana Library Association
- Louisiana Economic Development



Budget

Overall Project Budget: \$11,149,797

BTOP Awarded: \$8,797,668

Our Share: \$2,352,129