



Good Neighbors

San Diego
Housing Commission

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REPORT

DATE: For the Agenda of July 20, 2001

ITEM 101

REPORT NO.: HCR01-086

SUBJECT: Application to the U.S. Department of Education for a Community Technology Program Grant (Council Districts 1,3,4,5,6,8)

SUMMARY

Issue: Should the Housing Commission ratify the submission of an application for funding to the U.S. Department of Education under the Community Technology Centers Program in order to support and strengthen existing Learning Opportunity Centers?

Recommendation: That the Housing Commission ratify submission of an application to the Department of Education for a Community Technology Centers Program grant.

Fiscal Impact: A successful application would result in \$216,885 in Department of Education funding which would be used for computer instruction, a youth tutoring program, educational/instructional software, Resident Services staff salaries and benefits, supplies and indirect costs. (See attached Summary of Expenditures.)

Previous Related Action(s): The Housing Commission has consistently ratified and/or approved grant applications in support of education, computer technology and career development. Nine consecutive Public Housing Drug Elimination and three Resident Opportunities for Self-Sufficiency grant applications have provided funds to assist in the development of seven Learning Opportunity Centers at various public housing sites.

BACKGROUND

In a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) published May 30, 2001, the Department of Education invited applications for one-year awards for Community Technology Centers Program grants. The estimated total funds available are \$32,275,750 with an estimated range in grant awards of \$75,000 to \$300,000, for an average of \$180,000. The Housing Commission is asked to ratify submission of this grant application because, due to the May 30, 2001 release date for the NOFA and the need to coordinate plans with partner agencies, it was not possible for staff to develop a program design and application plan before the last Housing Commission meeting. Applications were due July 16, 2001.



The purpose of the Community Technology Centers program is “to promote the use of technology in education through the development of model programs that demonstrate the educational effectiveness of technology in low-income or economically distressed urban and rural communities.” The program is in response to a series of U.S. Department of Commerce studies called “Falling Through the Net”, which show that while many Americans own computers, minority and low-income households are still far less likely to have computers or on-line access to the Internet. Funds can be used to establish or expand community technology centers. Encouraged program activities include:

1. Adult Education and Family Literacy
2. After-school Activities for Children
3. Career Development and Job Preparation
4. Small Business Activities

DISCUSSION

The Department of Education, in publishing this notice of funding availability, has stated a particular interest in projects that address one or more of three invitational priorities. Those invitational priorities are: 1) projects that demonstrate substantial community support and that leverage community assets; 2) projects that exemplify effective strategies for participant retention, address special needs including language proficiency, and demonstrate best practices for instructing with technology to improve education and employment outcomes for youth and adults; and 3) projects that will operate a community technology center within a HUD-designated Empowerment Zone or Enterprise Community.

The Housing Commission, with its development of seven on-site Learning Opportunity Centers with computers, computer coaches and on-line capability, has demonstrated a commitment of resources to providing access to computer technology to its residents. In its extensive collaborations with community based organizations and educational institutions, it has developed successful programs and strategies for attracting and instructing low-income youth and adults and in addressing the barriers that confront them. Regarding the third invitational priority, the Market Street LOC is within the San Diego Enterprise Community (EC), the Juniper LOC is within 0.15 miles of the EC, and the Santa Margarita LOC is within 0.41 miles of the EC. Alaquinas and Juniper are both located within Enterprise Zones designated by the State of California.

It would appear that the Housing Commission’s focus on computer centers over the past five years, the experience gained in providing instruction and related services, and the geographic location of many of the centers, would make the Housing Commission a strong candidate for an award.

The funds requested for the Community Technology Centers Program grant will serve all seven of the Housing Commission’s LOCs. Some of the funds (\$80,000) will be used to support the UCSD Early Academic Outreach tutoring program which will no longer be able to provide the

matching funds it has provided in the past because of severe budget cuts related to the energy crisis. Other monies, \$24,625, will be used to cover the cost (wages and mileage) of a computer instructor to provide adult computer instruction. A total of \$50,000 will be used to purchase educational instructional software for all seven centers. Grant funds will also be used to cover a portion of the salary and benefits of current Resident Services staff, including forty-five percent of a full-time Senior Resident Initiative Coordinator (\$31,500).

ALTERNATIVES

Do not ratify submission of an application to the Department of Education for a Community Technology Program grant. This is not recommended because it would eliminate a potential source of funding for the LOCs and adversely affect the on-going access of residents to computer technology.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Duplechan
Director, Housing Programs

**Signature on File
With Original Document**

Approved by,

Elizabeth C. Morris
Chief Executive Officer

Attachment: Summary of Expenditures

Summary of Expenditures
Resident Services Self Sufficiency Activity
Department of Education Computer Technology Centers Program

	Current Budget	Proposed Revision	Revised Budget
Salaries & Benefits	601,235		601,235
Services & Supplies			
Legal	2,750		2,750
Training	475		475
Travel	7,500		7,500
Contract/Consultant	17,500		17,500
Office Rent	37,755	10,000	47,755
Sundry	72,164	3,115	75,279
Insurance	815		815
Total Services & Supplies	138,959	13,115	152,074
Housing Programs			
Resident Services	507,219	163,625	670,844
Total Housing Programs	507,219	163,625	670,844
Equipment	59,420		59,420
Reserves	0	15,750	15,750 ¹
Total Budget	1,306,833	192,490 ²	1,499,323

¹ Reserves consists of \$15,750 Salaries & Benefits for FY 03.

² Total grant amount is \$216,885, difference is in Salaries and Benefits, where there is no net change to budget (\$192,490 + \$24,395).