# BROADBANDUSA
## CONNECTING AMERICA'S COMMUNITIES

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| **Organization:** | **City of Boston** |
| **Project Name:** | **City of Boston Public Computing Centers** |
| **Project Type:** | **Public Computer Centers** |
| **State(s):** | **Massachusetts** |
| **Federal Award:** | **$1,906,439** |

## ABOUT THE PROJECT

The Boston Public Computing Centers project, a partnership between the City of Boston's Management and Information Services Department, Boston Public Library, Boston Centers for Youth and Family, and the Boston Housing Authority, proposes to expand computer and Internet capacity at the city's main library and 25 branches, 16 community centers, and 11 public housing sites. A majority of project sites are expected to be in the city's lowest income areas, and plan to offer before- and after-school, job readiness, enrichment, workforce development, and alternative education programs. The project intends to provide computer access and training for students, seniors, limited-English speaking residents, and people with disabilities with 379 workstations and laptops. An estimated 18,700 people will be served per week at the 53 public computer centers.

The project also plans to:

- Offer a 70 percent increase in computer availability and a 41 percent increase in the number of residents served per week.
- Partner with a small and disadvantaged business to purchase and maintain computer systems.
- Expand computer literacy training from 2 to all 26 library branches, 11 community centers and 6 Boston Housing Authority sites (10 PCCs will offer mainly open lab hours and existing training courses).
- Increase the frequency of basic computer training at the main Library from a weekly to daily basis.
- Offer weekly computer classes in Spanish and other languages upon request, workforce skills, English as a Second Language, General Education Diploma, standardized test preparation, and community health.

## ORGANIZATION'S HISTORY

The Boston Public Library is the oldest free municipal library in the United States and has one main and 25 neighborhood branches. Boston Centers for Youth and Family is Boston's largest youth and human service agency serving more than 90,000 residents annually in 46 facilities, including 29 public computer centers. The Boston Housing Authority operates 62 public housing sites, serving 11,500 households, with 11 computer labs.

## PROJECT PARTNERS

- Boston Centers for Youth and Families
- Boston Digital Bridge Foundation
- Boston Public Library
- Boston Housing Authority
- Openairboston.net
- P.J. Systems, Inc.
- Timothy Smith Network