



STATE OF FLORIDA
DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

CHARLIE CRIST
Governor

RUBEN D. ALMAGUER
Interim Director

August 5, 2009

The Honorable Larry Strickling
Assistant Secretary of Commerce
Administrator
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Ave. NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Honorable Strickling:

I am writing to endorse the State Library and Archives of Florida's application for a Public Computing Center expansion grant from the Broadband Technology Opportunity Program at NTIA.

I understand that this grant will allow Florida public libraries to upgrade the internal infrastructure within library outlets in order to expand access to computers connected to the Internet for public use. These services would be of great value to any region affected by a natural disaster such as a hurricane.

The community counts on normal library service before and after a storm, whether it is access to the Internet to help reach loved ones; an access point for local government information; or library materials to pass the time until life gets back to normal. Establishing normal service quickly after a disaster provides hope, re-establishes government presence, reduces stress, and offers recreation and distraction to those affected by the storm. Further, the community counts on the library before and after a storm to offer access to various communication equipment; to be a trusted provider of accurate, reliable information; to produce needed information aids where they do not exist; and to deliver this information using whatever technology the community uses and can afford.

We pledge to work with the program to do the following:

- Assist public libraries with the coordination of services related to working with evacuees from affected areas.
- Insure that there is good communication (with multiple venues) between the public library and the various EOC components.

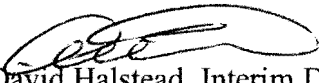
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- Use the increased broadband and internal upgrades in public libraries to leverage local community response to disasters/emergencies and assist in a coordinated response with the local EOCs.
- Assist with coordinated training between the public libraries and the EOCS on both getting to know more about public library services and disaster relief, and also coordinating specific services and plans.

Sincerely,



David Halstead, Interim Deputy Director
Florida Division of Emergency Management

DH/mlh