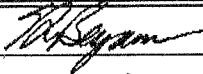



COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

DATE: July 14, 2010	AGENDA NO. VI. C. 4. a.	SUBJECT: Permission to Apply for a LSTA Program Grant
Department Head: 		
Parks, Rec & Library	Heinz Bergann	
City Manager: 		
	Nathan M. Cherpeski	
PRESENTED BY: Heinz Bergann		

Recommendation: That Council allows staff to submit an application for a Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) Program grant.

Background: We have a continuing need in the San Luis Valley to provide access to, and affordable training in, the use of computers for our community members.

Our project, SLV Libraries Technology Learning, was established using grant funds from an award in 2009 through the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and the Colorado State Library via a Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) in the amount of \$72,559.

Equipment was purchased, courses created, and classes conducted during this past year. Surveys and other records reflect the attendance of 751 SLV community members in these classes as of July 2, 2010. We consider this a very successful project. Community groups and businesses such as Headstart, Rocky Mountain SER, and Veterans for Green Jobs have sent their employees and clients to take these classes. SLV Small Business Development would like to see us continue so they too can benefit from the technology training.

Our communities continue to show a need for these services with requests for more advanced courses and a continuation of the basic computer classes. With this grant, we plan to create partnerships with more community organizations & employers, focusing on developing lesson plans to meet their needs.

Staff at the Southern Peaks Public Library is attempting to be a part of this new LSTA grant project because we will no longer have a technology trainer available to teach these classes after August 2010 due to grant completion by September 2010. None of the budgets of the member libraries will allow us to hire a trainer to provide instruction.

To fill the gap being left due to the conclusion of the current grant, the Carnegie Libraries in Monte Vista and South Fork; libraries in Del Norte, Blanca, Fort Garland, San Luis, Conejos, and Saguache; and our Alamosa library will be partnering again on a LSTA project for the year of October 1, 2010 to September 30, 2011. The goal for the grant is: "Colorado residents will be able to access resources and services electronically through libraries to meet their information and learning needs."

An overview of our project is to conduct technology training to the general public; creating partnerships with community groups and employers who have inquired about classes and would participate in future computer classes. We will create special courses that have lesson plans and exercises that will require the students to attend a group of classes. Upon completion of those classes the students would be issued a Certification of Completion for their portfolios and resumes.

Each of the libraries named above will offer computer training classes by purchasing additional laptops and equipment to leave at those libraries that have to date been sharing and hiring a qualified technology trainer who will conduct the classes. The Southern Peaks Public Library will not be receiving any new equipment, only

services of the Technology Trainer.

The LSTA grant process requests an in-kind match and a cash match. We will make the in-kind by using 10% of each library's project director's salary. If we do not have a cash match, we lose points on the rubric established by the CDE, but it will not disqualify us. However, we will gain points on the rubric because we are forming a collaboration of several libraries in the valley.

Staff is also asking City Council to allow the City of Alamosa to be the Fiscal Agent for the overall grant. City staff would be able to receive, hold, and disperse the funds from this LSTA grant which could approximate from \$49,000- \$52,000. As Fiscal Agent and upon grant approval, City staff would request funding from the Colorado Department of Education and then pay the project's expenses as generated by the entities involved. This was done for the last grant, which helped to make the project very successful. The Project Managers thank City Council for allowing that to happen.

Issue Before the Council: Does Council wish for staff to submit the proposed LSTA grant and be the Fiscal Agent for the project?

Alternatives: While Council is free to select or develop any number of alternatives, those listed below are examples.

1. Allow staff to submit the LSTA project grant and be the overall Fiscal Agent.
2. Decline staff's request to submit the LSTA grant.
3. Decline to act and provide staff with further direction.

Fiscal Impact: If awarded, the City would receive unbudgeted revenues and incur unbudgeted expenses over two fiscal years. Upon award and thereafter, staff would return to Council, as needed, to request amendments to the City's budget.

Legal Opinion: City Attorney will be present if there are any legal questions regarding this action.

Conclusion: By September 2010, we will no longer be able to offer free computer classes to the public. We wish to apply to the Institute of Museums and Libraries Services through an LSTA grant to allow this project to grow in a different direction that will hopefully allow the valley's public libraries to sustain the current project and forge new partnership in the upcoming year.