NOTICE OF FUNDS AVAILABILITY

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF TECHNOLOGY OFFICER (OCTO)

DC – Broadband Education, Training, and Adoption Program Digital Inclusion Subgrant

The District of Columbia Office of the Chief Technology Officer is soliciting applications for the DC – Broadband Education, Training, and Adoption (DC-BETA) Project. **The purpose of the DC-BETA project is to increase Internet usage and adoption among the District's vulnerable populations where broadband technology has been underutilized.** DC-BETA projects include digital literacy training and outreach campaigns to increase the relevance of broadband in people's everyday lives. In the long term, these investments will help bridge the digital divide, improve access to education and healthcare services, and boost economic development for communities held back by limited or no access to broadband – communities that would otherwise be excluded. OCTO will award funds to an organization that can increase broadband adoption among small and start-up businesses in the District, preferably in District Wards (5, 7, and 8) with the lowest adoption rates.

The DC-BETA project is a city-wide project through the Connect.DC Digital Inclusion Initiative. The subgrant is through the National Telecommunications and Information Administration's Broadband Technology Opportunities Program – Sustainable Broadband Adoption (SBA), funded by American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 to bridge the digital divide, to improve Internet access and provide digital literacy training, and to increase broadband adoption throughout the District. Specifically, the DC-BETA project supports local efforts in the District that 1) provide job training to unemployed or under-employed individuals, 2) help individuals and small businesses leverage technology in a meaningful ways through digital literacy training, and 3) encourage broadband adoption.

Eligibility: The following organizations are eligible to apply: nonprofit entities established in the District for the purpose of supporting digital inclusion efforts by such entities, including the following:

(A) Providing computer literacy training;

(B) Providing free or low-cost computers;

(C) Developing new online content;

(D) Conducting public outreach concerning the use, availability, and benefits of computers and the Internet; and

(E) Similar efforts to enhance the accessibility, usability, affordability, and perceived value of computers and the Internet among under-served populations of the District.

Current DC-BETA subgrantees are ineligible to apply for this grant.

Non-profit and Not-for-Profit organizations must have 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status, been incorporated to operate in the District of Columbia, and been providing since October 1, 2011; must be organized under the District of Columbia Non-profit Corporation Act (DC Code, sec.29-501 et seq.); must be a

community-based organization, defined as: non-profit agency with a board of directors that is reflective of the community of population served.

Length of Award: The grant award is from the award date through July 31, 2013, with funding authority expiring on July 31, 2013. No extensions of funding authority will be granted.

Available Funding for Award: The amount available for this award period is approximately sixty-eight thousand dollars ($68,000.00). A minimum match of ten (10) percent of requested grant amount in cash or in-kind must be committed by the applicant in the event of an award.

Anticipated Number of Awards: It is anticipated that the Office of the Chief Technology Officer (OCTO) will have funding available for one (1) award.

The Request for Applications (RFA) will be released on **Monday, August 20, 2012** and the deadline for submission is **Thursday, September 20, 2012 at 5:00 p.m. (EST)**. Any applications submitted after 5:00 p.m. (EST) will not be accepted. The RFA will be available on the District Grant Clearinghouse website: http://opgd.dc.gov/opgd/, www.Connect.DC.gov , or by contacting OCTO – Connect.DC at 202-CONNECT (266-6328).

For more information about the NOFA or RFA, please contact Michell Morton, Outreach Coordinator and Subgrant Administrator, at (202) 478-5960 or octosubgrants@dc.gov.

OCTO – Connect.DC will facilitate one (1) Pre-Application Grant Technical Assistance (GTA) Workshop for applicants. **Applicants are strongly encouraged to attend the Pre-Application GTA Workshop, but are not required to participate.** To register for the Pre-Application GTA Workshop, please send an email to octosubgrants@dc.gov. The GTA Workshop will be held on **Friday, September 7, 2012, from 1-3 p.m**.

The workshop will be held at the Office of Partnerships and Grant Services located 300 E Street, NW, Washington, DC 20001 (3rd Street Side of One Judiciary Square) in the conference room.

No one will be admitted once the workshop has begun and attendance will be taken at the end of the workshop. Pre-Registration for the Pre-Application Technical Assistance Workshop is required.