To: MSL Network Advisory Council

Date: February 22, 2011

Re: MSL Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) Public Computing
            Center Grant (PCC) Update

Project Website- The BTOP website continues to grow. Information for the general public and potential vendors include "Recent Activities" and "Invitations for Bid." "Resources and Forms" has been added for participating libraries, which includes reporting forms for participating libraries, sample job descriptions, and links to compliance resources. http://msl.mt.gov/btop/

Needs Assessment Completed- The BTOP team has reassessed local library needs, as much time has passed since the initial submission of the grant application. These changes were incorporated into MOU's as addenda, listing the type and quantity of items each library will receive.

Equipment Arriving- MSL anticipates purchasing 183 desktops, 148 laptops, 30 children's PCs, 10 All-in-One touchscreens, 3 iMacs, 255 monitors, 153 headsets, 37 printers, 237 privacy screens, and 2 projectors for BTOP libraries. Desktops, laptops, monitors, printers, privacy screens, and accessories are being purchased under state term contracts, primarily under "premium pricing packages." This affords us the ability to provide a number of affordable upgrades, such as Intel i5/i7 3. GHz processors, 4GB memory, 250 GB hard drives, and a 3-year next day on-site warranty.

We have requested that libraries upload pictures of unpacking boxes and installing computers to our Flickr account. A selection will be posted to the BTOP website. The BTOP team estimates that all libraries will receive and install their computers, hardware, software and furniture by May 2011.

> Round One Purchases: Computers, monitors, printers, privacy screens, headphones, headsets, and projectors have been ordered for 14 of the 43 participating libraries (approximately 1/3). These libraries were chosen for the first round due to the fact that they were not ordering furniture and do not need assistance with installation. Libraries are in the process of accepting deliveries by mail.

Libraries	Summary of Items Purchased
Belt Public Library	58 Dell Optiplex 980 Desktops
Bozeman Public Library	3 iMacs
Carnegie Public Library (Big Timber)	83 19" Widescreen Monitors
Chouteau County Library (Fort Benton)	47 Dell Latittude 6410 Laptops
Fairfield Public Library	9 Printers
Flathead County Library (Kalispell)	74 Privacy Screens
Hearst Free Library (Anaconda)	22 Headphones
Judith Basin County Free Library (Stanford)	7 Headsets
Lewis & Clark Library - Helena Main Branch	1 Projector
Liberty County Library (Chester)	
Miles City Public Library	
Missoula Public Library	**Total Purchase: $128,951.55**
Ronan City Library	
Sheridan County Library (Plentywood)	

Round Two Purchases: E-quotes have been created for the next third, and orders will be placed by the end of February. The estimated equipment expenditures are $130,543.50. These libraries will also receive furniture.

E-rate- Comments from ISPs and local E-rate consultants highlighted the possible downsides of MSL partially paying for broadband services. In order to prevent any missteps that may cause negative consequences, we will be seeking professional guidance on this issue from a contracted E-rate consultant. A Request for Proposal (RFP) should post within the month, with services starting by April.

Broadband- MSL will survey all BTOP libraries next month on current service, desired service, interest in E-rate, level of assistance needed on E-rate applications, and known issues that may prevent full E-rate compliance.

Our budget anticipated that 29 libraries would need assistance. The budget includes $193,262.00 to supplement library monthly broadband bills, and $50,000.00 to install needed equipment on-site (primarily affecting those who are changing the type of line they have or their provider). The number of libraries that receive assistance may change depending upon the true costs of upgrading services.
We will use the following factors to prioritize who will receive broadband assistance:
- Current bandwidth not meeting needs;
- Upgrade is available with acceptable level of broadband improvement for a reasonable cost;
- Commitment from library to sustain level of service. This will require a sustainability plan, which may or may not include adding "data lines" to E-rate participation. If E-rate is not THE preferred method, the library must propose an alternative;
- The BTOP budget can support the level of financial assistance needed; and,
- General feedback and considerations identified by the contracted consultant.