

Proposal Document – 11/8/00

Hewlett-Packard Company
Digital Village Program
Application Information

Part 1 – General Project Information

Contact Information

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Part 2 – Community Partnership Information

- **List each community agency and organization partnering in this effort**
(contact name and e-mail address for each partner, if available)

1. Albion College, Peter T. Mitchell, President, ptmitchell@albion.edu;
2. Albion Public Schools (APS), Carol Hansen, Assistant Superintendent, chansen2@albion.k12.mi.us;
3. Greater Albion Alliance, Marda Hinkley, Exec. Director, mhinkley@forks.org;
4. Starr Commonwealth, Arlin E. Ness, President, nessa@starr.org;
5. City of Albion, Mike Herman, City Manager, citymanager@ci.albion.mi.us;
6. Albion Department of Public Safety, L. J. McKeown, Jr., Chief, ljmckeown@hotmail.com;
7. Albion Downtown Development Authority, Elizabeth Porter, Director, director@dda.albion.mi.us;
8. SMARTCenters, Larry Weeks, ljweeks@hotmail.com;
9. Trillium Hospital, William Stoffer, Board Chairman, amtco@aol.com
10. Albion Economic Development Corporation, Peggy Sindt, psindt@forks.org;
11. Albion Chamber of Commerce, Sue Marcos, Exec. Dir., smarcos@forks.org;
12. Albion Public Library, Karen Sherrard, Director, ksherrard@forks.org;
13. Technology Action Team (TAT), John Kondelik, Co-chair, jkondelik@albion.edu;
14. Business Subcommittee-TAT, Gary Grigowski, Chair, garygrigowski@team1plastics.com;
15. Community Network Subcommittee-TAT, Troy VanAken, Chair, tvanaken@albion.edu;
16. Albion Community Foundation, Michelle Mueller, Exec. Dir., execdir@albionfoundation.org;
17. Albion Volunteer Service Organization, Judy Tymowicz, Director, avso@forks.org;
18. Sheridan Township, Marilyn Hennon, mhennon@hotmail.com (sheridan@forks.org);
19. Albion Township, Peggy Sindt, psindt@forks.org;
20. St. Johns School, Sylvia Jewel, Principal, diokazooalb@impresso.org;
21. Albion Real Estate Board, Carol Yeomans, realtor, mcyemans@hotmail.com;
22. Kellogg Community College-Eastern campus, Wyhomme Matthews, Director, matthewsw@kellogg.cc.mi.us;
23. Community Education (APS), Cathy Campbell, Director, ccambe2@albion.k12.mi.us;

24. Albion Public Housing, Anne Kemp, Director, albionh@triton.net;
25. Brighter Futures Program (APS), Mike Campbell, Director, mcampbel@albion.k12.mi.us;
26. H.O.S.T.S. Program (APS), Ellen Brooks, Director, ellen_brooks@juno.com;
27. Business Education Partnership, Joyce Spicer, joyce_spicer/harvard@harvardind.com;
28. Minority Program Services, Paula Langston-Ware, lang_2000@ivillage.com;
29. Albion Ministerial Association, Fr. Gordon Greene, President, glgreene@triton.net;
30. Kids 'N Stuff, Becky Mitchell, bmittchell@albion.edu;
31. Youth Advisory Council of the Albion Community Foundation, Kellyn Parker, kparker@hotmail.com;
32. Albion Historical Society, Marjorie Ulbrich, President;
33. Caster Concepts, Bill Dobbins, own/CFO, bdobbins@casterconcepts.com;
34. Albion Motors Ford-Mercury, Inc., Bill Vann, Jr., fordirtcheap@aford.com;
35. Wilking Office Supply (authorized HP dealer), Scott Blodgett, scott@officestore.com;

- Identify the people or groups in the community served by the partners (up to 250 words)

The Greater Albion community is unusually diverse. On one hand, it is the home of Albion College, a respected liberal arts college. It is also a foundry town with a long tradition in manufacturing and light industry. Outside the city limits are two largely rural townships characterized by farms, light industry, and suburban housing.

The total population of the Greater Albion community (Albion, Albion Township, and Sheridan Township) is served by Trillium Hospital, the Albion Public Library, the Albion Volunteer Service Organization, and the Albion Community Foundation. The City of Albion residents are served by Albion Public Safety and the City Government. Special groups and targeted populations served by the partners include: children; minority groups; low-income housing residents; senior citizens; non-profit community organization members; the business community; community health care providers, and health care recipients (including \$1 million in indigent care provided by Trillium Hospital); small downtown shops, retailers, and entrepreneurs; light and heavy industry; retail services; arts and cultural groups (e.g., community theatre); philanthropic donors and volunteers; college students; and the rural population.

- Describe the resources that the partnership will provide to the project, e.g. staff, funding, etc. (up to 250 words)

Albion College: Trainer .5 FTE at \$22,750 per year; Network Connection, 50% of the annual cost will total \$4,233.60 per year; Technology Specialist .5 FTE at \$26,000 per year; Donated Computer \$10,800 per year; Training Facility Equipment 50% of total cost or \$18,250.

Albion Public Library: The library's mission is to provide information of all kinds. It devotes resources to providing community internet access and training. The library provides administrative support and leadership to the Forks Initiative and the community network. We share library resources between the college library, and the public school libraries.

Albion Public Safety: The Public Safety Department provides neighborhoods with access to the internet through our Smart Centers. Also, public safety information is provided via the internet. Through community policing efforts, APS will continue to maintain safety and security within the neighborhoods, so that individuals can feel secure in their travel to and from the Smart Centers.

Albion Public Schools: Labs at high school and middle school for training staff to teach classes; space for meetings; and mentors to help families get up and running on computers.

Albion Economic Development Corporation: Management staff .5 FTE at \$22,000 per year and Support staff .25 FTE at \$8,700 per year.

Albion Volunteer Service Organization: Recruitment of volunteers

Albion Community Foundation: \$4,000 in need-based scholarships for KCC computer classes and textbooks; \$6,000 (anticipated) in "Smart Grants" for vision action teams; and expertise in establishing a permanent funding source.

Trillium Hospital: Telemedicine project and internet-based health links.

- **Identify any current and past support from other sources including corporations, funders, etc. for any current and past partnership efforts (up to 250 words)**

A \$2 million 5-year technology grant (W. K. Kellogg Foundation--1995) and a 2-year \$800,000 grant (HUD--1996) provided funds to the college for telecommunication linkage systems within the Albion community.

Albion College President, Peter Mitchell, was honored by the John S. & James L. Knight Foundation in December 1999 with a \$150,000 award for his leadership in development of Albion the Smart Community. Half of these funds, \$75,000, were matched by the W. K. Kellogg Foundation with a supplemental technology grant of \$75,000. These monies are being used to fund the executive director of the Greater Albion Alliance, providing leadership of the SMART Community vision implementation.

After facilitating part of the Smart Community visioning process, a W. K. Kellogg Foundation trustee designated Foundation gifts totaling \$4,000 to date for the community vision.

The Smart Centers received \$17,000 from Eastern Michigan University (1999) and \$73,000 from the Kellogg Foundation (2000).

A \$10,000 Ameritech grant was received for a pilot project between Albion College and Albion Public Schools for pre-service and in-service teacher website development training.

The Battle Creek Community Foundation granted \$40,000 to Trillium Hospital for a telemedicine project (June 2000).

The Albion Public Library received a \$16,108 grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation's library program (Fall 2000).

A \$1 million 5-year grant from the Rollin M. Gerstacker Foundation to Albion College to invest in Albion's Smart Community (Fall 2000).

The Kids 'N Stuff received \$40,500 from the Michigan Council for the Arts and Cultural Affairs (Fall 2000).

- **Identify any HP employees involved in current and past community efforts.**

Albion College has identified a minimum of ten alumni currently employed by (or retired) Hewlett Packard in locations throughout the U. S. However, we are not able to identify HP employees currently involved in the Greater Albion community, a situation we would like to remedy.

HP Employees/Albion College Graduates (Class year):

1. Steven B. Beebe (1981), Accounting Manager, Colorado Springs, CO;
2. Patrick D. Cahill (1982), Credit Analyst, Marietta, GA;
3. Daniel B. Harrington (1950), Hewlett Packard, Corvallis, OR;
4. John E. Herczeg (1983), Application Engineer, Boulder, CO;
5. Dana L. Hinrichs (1983), Contracts Rep., Indianapolis, IN;
6. Walter K. Hinrichs (1952), Hewlett Packard, Spring Hill, FL;
7. Kathleen S. Johnson (1976), Research Consultant, Andover, MA;
8. Alan J. Lesko (1980), R & D Electrical Engineer, Loveland, CO;
9. Nelson A. Mills (1961), Software Section Manager, Corvallis, OR;
10. Jerry W. Rowland (1984), Patient Monitoring Account Manager, VanNuys, CA.

Part 3 – Community Vision

- **Does your community have a group of local government officials, business people, civic and social service group representatives, and citizens that has developed a vision document for the community? (Y/N)**
- **If yes, please list the groups, organizations, and citizens who contributed to the development of the vision (name and affiliation, and e-mail)**

The Smart Community was developed in 1998-99 by a committee representing the Greater Albion area and was introduced at a community-wide celebration during Michigan Week in May 1999.

Peter Mitchell (co-chair), Albion College, ptmitchell@albion.edu

Peggy Sindt (co-chair), Albion Economic Development Corporation, psindt@forks.org

Sue Marcos (co-chair), Albion Chamber of Commerce, smarcos@forks.org

Bill Wheaton, City of Albion

L. J. McKeown, Albion Public Safety Department, ljmckeown@hotmail.com

Kim Cox, City of Albion*

Judy Dobbert, Albion Public Schools*

Bill Stoffer, Trillium Hospital, amtco@aol.com

Harry Bonner, Minority Program Services

Bob Frahm, Frahm Chevrolet, Buick, Pontiac, Geo, info@bobfracm.com
Ken Lauer, Sheridan Township, sheridantwp@voyager.net
Juanita Solis, K-Mart,
Blanche Wilson, Century 21 and Chemical Bank, bwilsc21@tir.com
Ketwana Wilson McCormick, Albion Senior High School student, twana_w@hotmail.com
Rev. James Gibson, Albion Ministerial Association*
Judy Tymowicz, Albion Volunteer Service Center, avso@forks.org
Ben Hancock, Albion College, bhancock@albion.edu

*Three committee members left the community and have been replaced by:
Mike Herman, City Manager, citymanager@ci.albion.mi.us;
Emerson Payne, Albion Public Schools Superintendent, epayne@albion.k12.mi.us; and
Fr. Gordon Greene, Albion Ministerial Association, glgreene@triton.net

- **If no, please provide a short explanation (up to 250 words)**
- **Provide a summary of the current community vision statement.** Summarize your vision for the community (up to 1000 words). Address short-term goals and objectives and a longer-term vision (10 to 20 years) for the community.

Albion, Michigan -- The Smart Community

Albion, Michigan has envisioned a dynamic and progressive future for this remarkably diverse and progressive community. Building on our strengths of genuine warmth and friendliness, rich cultural diversity, deep and abiding commitment to children and their education, beautiful parks and historic buildings, a nationally renown liberal arts college, and an incredible infrastructure of information technology, Albion is destined to serve as a model for small town development. The citizens of Albion, Michigan believe this vision of **The Smart Community** is a marvelous opportunity to promote the Greater Albion Area as a technologically advanced community, but also a place that makes smart decisions, both for today and for its future.

The Greater Albion Alliance identified 44 characteristics of a smart community, which will serve as the long-term vision. Below are nine examples, the entire list is available at <http://smart.albionmi.net>.

- *Extends access to worldwide technology for all citizens
- *Provides support for lifelong health, fitness, and wellness
- *Promotes and attracts artists and artisans
- *Affirms diversity as a core value
- *Capitalizes on its downtown National Historic District
- *Champions a strong ethic of volunteerism
- *Aggressively pursues responsible economic development
- *Maintains a global perspective and international connections
- *Views education as a community-wide commitment

All 44 characteristics are being developed into operational plans by 12 Action Teams identified below and implemented through the Greater Albion Alliance with the support of all our citizens.

GAA Action Teams: Technology; Diversity; Economic Development; Education/Workforce Development; Retirement Destination; Infrastructure/Community Services; Moral & Spiritual Leadership; Community Center; Housing/Beautification/Environmental Protection; Health Care; Artistic & Cultural Development; and Marketing.

Of special importance to Albion as the Smart Community is our commitment to celebrating diversity. Albion is very fortunate to be the home of Starr Commonwealth's nationally renowned Institute for Healing Racism. The following statement on diversity was endorsed by the City Council, Starr Commonwealth Board of Trustees, the Albion College Board of Trustees, and the Greater Albion Alliance:

DIVERSITY STATEMENT -- As residents of Albion, we embrace and celebrate our ethnic diversity, shared cultures, and the oneness of humankind. We honor the traditions, cultural heritage and gifts of each individual, and value all contributions to our community. In order to build upon our diversity, we seek to know: 1) what we share in common; 2) how we differ; and 3) what is needed to recognize, understand, respect, and live well with individuals of different ethnic and racial background, gender, age, and economic situation. We seek to achieve freedom from bias or favoritism in the distribution of resources and in the access to power, to develop an ethic of responsibility and human service, and to create a strong, ethnically rich, and economically progressive community.

Short-Term Goals & Objectives:

The Smart Community has established several short term goals and objectives, clustered around four major initiatives: HP in schools; HP in neighborhoods; HP in homes; and HP in economic & cultural development.

HP in Schools

1. Albion Public Schools (APS) K-12 classes will incorporate technology education for all students and enhance training of teachers in the use of information technology in pedagogy.
2. APS and the Calhoun Intermediate School District will collaborate in offering technical training in computers, including building and installing computers and software, network administration, CAD classes, etc.
3. Starr Commonwealth will utilize information technology to link its child services in a national network of best practice in addressing the needs of neglected or abused children.
4. APS, Kellogg Community College, Albion College, and the Chamber of Commerce will implement a workforce development plan to provide classes, internships, and employment opportunities for local youngsters to prepare for an information technology career.
4. Kellogg Community College will design and offer associate degree programs in computer and information technology
5. Albion College will enhance its bachelor's degree in computer science and expand its focus in teacher education to include the new Michigan Certification for Outstanding Achievement in Teaching with Technology (M-COATT). Albion graduate, Beth Ashley '2000, was the first student in Michigan to receive that certification.

HP in Neighborhoods

1. Expand Smart Centers from the current five to 16 so that every major neighborhood has a convenient place for skills development and general technology training. The centers will provide access for those who choose not to have a computer in the home.
2. Smart Centers will include an economic development perspective, providing a venue for training or retraining our current workforce and for those adults who are entering the workforce for the first time.
3. Trillium Hospital will expand its on-site efforts in telemedicine, and explore establishing a remote clinic in one of the Smart Centers.

HP in Homes

1. Every home to have a computer, providing everyone with high-speed access to the Internet for education, employment, and recreation. The more at ease and expert the community is with technology, the stronger the argument that we have employees for technology-based businesses.
2. Expand on the experimental WebPolis project that is serving as a “virtual town meeting” to become a standard for community engagement in decision-making.

HP in Economic & Cultural Development

1. Expand the industrial base through expansion of current industries and carefully targeted new companies.
2. Establish a technology incubator to nurture entrepreneurs who are starting technology businesses, or who are moving a fledgling business into its first leased space. The incubator offers below or at market rate space, access to office machines such as copiers and fax machines, high-speed Internet access, business counseling services, and access to training. We intend to develop venture capital resources for our clients; technology start-ups are extremely capital intensive.
3. Establish Kids ‘N Stuff: An Interactive Experience (KNS) as a regional children’s museum. KNS will have spin-off impact in education, economic development, and downtown revitalization.

- **How will you sustain and maintain the community vision?** Describe how the community’s vision effort will be sustained over the long term (up to 500 words). Include any pertinent information like sources of funding, dedicated staff, organizational commitments to participate, etc.

The Greater Albion Alliance was founded in 1990 because city and county governments were not addressing the pressing issues facing our town. Grassroots and established leaders created task forces to solve problems and made excellent progress through 1997. In 1998, the focus of GAA switched to envisioning a distinctive future for our community.

The Smart Community vision was established in 1999 after nine months of intense planning by many Albion citizens. Ownership by the community is pervasive and powerful. We believe in the potential of transformation through technology. The vision guides all our major planning from K-12 education to economic development to city government to technology infrastructure to cultural programs to becoming a retirement

destination. We often ask ourselves, first facetiously, but now as a matter of course, "Is this the smart thing to do?" Being and becoming the smart community has been internalized in Albion, Michigan through the 12 Action Teams.

The Smart Community has already generated foundation grants of \$150,000 for an Executive Director of the Greater Albion Alliance and we anticipate that person will generate enough grant support to sustain the position. The \$1 million Gerstacker Foundation grant will be paid out at \$200,000 annually for five years and will be used to enhance the vision with a few big-ticket items and is indicative of our potential to attract funding over the long haul.

The 44 characteristics of a smart community identified by the GAA are long-term goals that will command our attention for years to come. In many ways, we can only make progress on achieving the characteristics because they are noble goals, always beyond our reach, yet guiding us toward continuous improvement.

In addition to being a creative and cohesive community, Albion has a knack for taking a good idea and making it operational. In the study of societal change, there are five stages: innovation, early adoption, adoption, resistance, and laggards. Albion is an early adopters kind of place. We did not invent symbiotic college-community relations, but we certainly are very good at it. We did not invent the idea of a wired city, but have made impressive strides to connect our people via technology. We did not invent ideas like digital divide or racial tension, but are striving to bridge the divides that separate people. The HP grant did not create our vision, but it certainly will allow Albion's vision to be implemented faster and better.

- **If your community receives an award, how will the community extend and build upon the effort after the three years of comprehensive support?**
Describe how the community will provide leadership, staffing, and financial support for the community network after the first three years (up to 1000 words).

The key to sustaining Albion as a digital village is creating a wealth of resources within the community. The better educated and more highly technically trained our community workforce becomes, the more attractive Albion will be to high-tech, high growth industries and companies. The more industries, which contribute to the community both as employers and donors, the more money there is to invest in continued growth. As they grow, those same companies will require additional skilled workers. Both companies and employees will pay for more, quality education. There will be increased opportunities for a variety of start-up, support businesses, such as computer repair and network design. Once started, it is a renewing cycle.

With regard to sustaining and upgrading the equipment, the Albion Community Foundation can establish a Smart Grants program endowment to help fund replacement computer systems. Other ideas include a revolving loan plan and the "recycling" of computers. As Albion's residents become more technically adept, their marketability as employees will increase, and they will be able to purchase their own home computers, customized to fit their needs. The idea of "sweat equity" also carries merit; those who have learned skills and received a start at the neighborhood Smart Center can give back by volunteering and bringing others up to the level that they have achieved. Other ways of "giving back" to the community include donating money to the Albion Community

Foundation endowment and other community service activities, providing leadership and serving as mentors to others in the community.

The history of Albion and the partners associated with the Smart Community vision and this proposal are a great indication of successful sustainability of this project. Albion's past fund-raising efforts show a commitment that Albion leaders and residents believe in our future, and that donors believe we are heading in the right direction. The progression of the Albion Public Library is an excellent example of how a dream became reality, from the first computer purchased in 1994 via the Forks Initiative, a grass roots community effort which raised the original funding, to additional capacity with dial-in access offered to the community through grant monies from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation and HUD grants, to the current computer lab configuration that recently added computers and software from a Gates Foundation Library grant via Michigan's State Library Association.

Another example is the way in which Albion Public Safety saw the creation of Smart Centers in public housing neighborhoods as both a way to bring technology to these underrepresented citizens and as a way for Public Safety officers to reach out to children and adults and offer a personal connection.

The Greater Albion Alliance now has an executive director, thanks to funding from the Knight and Kellogg Foundations. This staff position will provide additional direction and focus to the vision efforts. Dedicated leadership is already in place within the community. Albion's history of successful fund-raising should only increase after the implementation of an HP Digital Village. The momentum has been building since 1998 with the birth of the Smart Community vision, through the many existing partnerships within the greater Albion community, and the cooperation among those many varied entities, from Albion College to the Economic Development Corporation to Starr Commonwealth to Albion Public Safety to the Albion Public Schools. This momentum has sustained us to this point through many difficulties faced in our community, and can only continue to grow.

- **What will your community do if it does not receive an award?** Describe what plans the community has, if any, to use the proposal as a springboard for the community/region to address technology needs and/or to develop and sustain a community network (up to 1000 words).

As stated earlier, the Albion Community has a wealth of rich resources to offer its citizens, as well as a vision to be Michigan's Smart Community. Nevertheless, neighborhood and economic barriers continue to prevent full delivery and utilization of these resources.

To transcend these barriers, the community and Albion College have been creative and aggressive in securing funding, as evidenced in the list of current and past support from funding sources in Part 2. Our strength has been an unrelenting sense of shared purpose in the face of adversity. The people of Albion believe in our future, despite being designated a distressed city by the State of Michigan, despite an unemployment rate often twice that of neighboring cities, despite over 65% of our children eligible for free or reduced lunch in school, despite relatively high illiteracy and relatively low high

school graduation rates. In short, we believe in a better future and are determined that sheer force of will and a shared vision will enable Albion to succeed against the odds.

Albion partners are beginning to receive recognition for their resourcefulness and persistence amidst adversity. Albion College is among the nation's top 100 liberal arts colleges and rated the #7 Most Wired National Liberal Arts College by Yahoo Magazine. The Albion Public Schools were rated among the top 100 school districts in the country by *Offspring Magazine*. Starr Commonwealth was rated the as one of the most efficient charities in the nation by *Consumers Digest*. The Forks Initiative and Albion College utilized funds from previous grants made through the W. K. Kellogg Foundation and Housing and Urban Development to build a technology infrastructure and programs that have benefited Albion's citizens, students, and businesses.

Still, by contrast to these signs of achievement and potential, our most underserved populations have not had technology access beyond the schools and libraries. Albion has a disproportionate number of housing projects and most families located in Albion's Public Housing Projects are raising a third generation within these neighborhoods. Most Public Housing households are headed by single mothers (70%) making day care a problem for many of these residents.

The answer to the question, what will we do if we do not receive the award, is simple and straightforward. We will keep on keeping on. We will continue to use our creativity and collaboration to make modest progress. We will cling to our dream of the Smart Community and work diligently to move forward the agendas of the Greater Albion Alliance's 12 Action Teams. We will use the Gerstacker grant of \$1 million to start a major new initiative like Kids 'N Stuff or the cyber café or the technology incubator. We will write more grants and try to stretch our resources, financial and human capital, to the limit.

But, we would be remiss if we did not share the genuine, pervasive, even poignant sense of optimism generated by discovering the HP digital village concept. Albion College President, Dr. Peter Mitchell noted in calling the 35 partners together, "In my 17 years as a college president, I have not seen a better match between a grantor and grantee. It is as if the good people at HP knew about Albion, Michigan; that they understood our problems, appreciated our efforts in the face of adversity, and resonated with our hopes and dreams to truly be the Smart Community."

Working on this grant proposal has kindled the spirit of the entire community. We see the HP grant as the great breakthrough we have so fervently pursued and hoped for. To so many, the digital village is Albion's destiny. The requirements of the grant are uniquely suited for Albion: a vision yet a distressed area, success yet incredible obstacles, partnership yet bridges to be built if we are to reach our full potential. We feel like the HP digital village captures all our dreams, while acknowledging all our successes and failures, all our aspirations unfulfilled, all our proud heritage amidst struggle and hardship.

So, if we are not one of the two cities chosen, we will endure; we will continue work to make Albion a better community. Ah, but if we are selected! If we are selected, we will soar; we will gain the funding, equipment, and consulting expertise needed to take our

dreams and talents and sense of shared purpose to new heights. We will not merely endure, we will prevail.

Albion as a HP digital village will serve as a model – in two significant ways. First, Albion is a microcosm of America with ethnic and racial demographics almost identical to Detroit, only 100 times smaller. A successful HP digital village in Albion could be a model for larger metropolitan areas with diverse populations. Second, there are approximately 800 towns with a population under 30,000 that have a small, private liberal arts college as the anchor for the community. Many probably have dreams similar to Albion, but I know few, if any, have been as dedicated as the Albion Community and Albion College to work together to transform the community. Albion as an HP digital village will be wonderful for our community. But even more important, it will model ways for the other 800 small college towns of our nation to do likewise. In this way, HP does more than help one city, it creates a best practice to transform hundreds of small towns and even serves as a prototype for transformation in metropolitan areas.

Part 4 – Community Demographics

- Include only the data that applies to your community. Be prepared to provide additional documentation if requested. (Final candidates for the awards will be asked to provide verifiable sources of this data).

- **Population of the community** – official population of your community.

13446

- **Is your community or any portion of your community identified as an empowerment zone or enterprise community by the federal government (y/n)?**

NO

- **How many children (under 18) reside in the community/ what is the percentage of children in the community?**

26.5

- **How many children in the community are eligible for free or reduced lunch in school?**

65.3

- **How many people in the community have incomes below the poverty level?**

2587

- **What is the percentage of people in the community with incomes below the poverty level?**

19.2

- **What is the racial and ethnic mix of the population?** Describe the racial and ethnic distribution of the population within the community (no more than 200 words).

The story of Albion is the story of America - wave after wave of new ethnic and racial groups. Some came for agriculture, others for the auto industry, more recently to find refuge from communities that did not welcome them. Located at the forks of the Kalamazoo River in Michigan, Albion celebrates its rich diversity each year with a fall festival--the Festival of the Forks.

The racial and ethnic profile statistics will primarily be based on the 1990 Census data, because the 2000 data will not be available until December. The combined racial and ethnic profile of Albion (population 10,066), Albion Township (population 1,241), and Sheridan Township (population 2,139) was:

White 9,184 (68.3%)
 Black 3,303 (24.6%)
 Hispanic 564 (4.2%)
 American Indian 52 (0.4%)
 Asian 59 (0.4%)
 Other 284 (2.1%)

Recently, local industry has brought in approximately 100 Yemeni residents to provide them with work they cannot find under their current government of Yemen. The community and school system responded by offering courses in English to this newest wave of immigrant. The City of Albion's population has dropped to 9,840 in 1999, meaning the Arab population of the city is currently at one percent.

- **What percentage of people is over 55 in the community?**

21.8

- **What is the literacy rate in the community?**

21.0

- **What is the high school graduation rate? (%)**

71.2

- **Please provide gender and ethnicity information for graduation rate above,**

Gender distribution: Male 44 (42.3%); Female 60 (57.7%)

Ethnic distribution: African-American 40 (38.5%); Hispanic 7 (6.7%); Caucasian 57 (54.8%).

Ethnic distribution by gender: African-American Males 15 (14.4%); African-American Females 25 (24.0%); Hispanic Males 3 (2.9%);

Hispanic Females 4 (3.8%); Caucasian Males 26 (25.0%);
Caucasian Females 31 (29.8%)

- **How many classroom teachers are in the local school system(s) serving the community?**

129

- **How many of those classroom teachers have received formal instruction on how to use computers and the Internet in the classroom?**

23.3

- **How many of those classroom teachers in the community/region have received more than 4 hours of formal instruction on how to use computers and the Internet in the classroom?**

0

- **More than 8 hours?**

0

Part 5 – Community and Technology Assessment

- **How many ISPs in the community/region?** This is Internet Service Providers who offer local dial access to the Internet; any national, regional, or local provider may be included, as long as they offer local dial access (a long distance call is NOT required).

6

- **What percentage of those ISP's are local or regional companies (not national firms like AOL or MSN)?**

100.0

- **Provide the URL for the town/regional Web site**

<http://www.albion.mi.us/>

- **Provide the URL for the county Web site**

<http://www.calhoun-mi.com>

- **Provide the URL for the local school district Web site**

<http://www.albion.k12.mi.us>

- **Provide the URL for the local community/civic Web site**

<http://www.forks.org>

- **How many organizations in the community have broadband Internet access (public and private use) –** Broadband access is defined as permanent, full time (not dial up) Internet connections with speeds of 256 kilobits or more; DSL and cable modems can be counted as broadband connections. By necessity, this will be an estimate. Contact any public or private organizations that are likely to have more than 10 to 20 computers in use, and ask about how they get their Internet access. *The access may be T1 lines or other broadband access—but NOT dial up modem access.*

25

- **How many community and civic groups in the community?** Please describe in 2-3 sentences how you counted the number of civic and community organizations in the community.

165 (including churches)--The Albion Volunteer Service Organization has been the Albion area's nonprofit resource center since 1988, and has been maintaining and updating the list of community organizations since that time. This list includes, nonprofit organizations, public (governmental) departments, some grassroots (unincorporated) organizations, and area churches. Some of these organizations have an address outside of Albion, but are regional or county nonprofits which serve our area.

- **What percentage of those community and civic groups have a web site?**

12.0

- **How many of those community and civic groups use a mailing list to communicate with members?** (Specify whether mailing list is manual, electronic, e.g. e-mail, or both)

The 40 churches and most other organizations communicate mainly by postal mail (manual). Most membership organizations are volunteer-run and do not use e-mail to reach members on a regular basis. We estimate that less than 8 use electronic postings or e-mail to reach members or their constituencies.

- **How many neighborhoods are in the community?** Use your best estimate of neighborhoods that have a clear identity and/or are identified by local authorities for planning and zoning purposes.

16

- **How many of the neighborhoods counted above have community technology centers or some other clearly identifiable computer lab or facility expressly for neighborhood use?**

31.3

- **How many businesses in the community?** Use "official" estimates like local government counts of registered businesses.

535

- **How many of those business have a Web site?**

9.0

Part 6 – Preliminary Project Plan

- **Project plan** – Provide up to 500 words that briefly describes the key points of your project as you foresee it. Discuss who in the community will benefit from the effort and how they will benefit.

Bridging the Divide

Albion's plan as an "HP Digital Village" is to unleash the power of information technology as a vehicle to bridge the "digital divide," but equally important as a catalyst to bridge other divides. Present in all small towns are the divides of race, ethnicity, class, age, education, religion, health care, and quality of life. As the Smart Community, Albion will focus its energies, people, and resources, along with those of Hewlett Packard, to build the bridges that will unite our people and that will lead to greater happiness, prosperity, and sense of meaning and purpose.

Because of our small size, inherent friendliness, and rich diversity, every citizen of Albion will be impacted by this digital village initiative. Our children will grow up in a community where information technology is truly ubiquitous. From the moment they are able to talk, they will have access to computers and will be guided by family and friends who are already adept users. Our schools will be places for best practice in using IT for teaching and learning. Our businesses will ramp up on the Internet and become a drawing card for economic development. Our senior citizens and those unable to travel will find the virtual world awaiting them, inspiring them and guiding them to new vistas of understanding and wonder. Our hospital and local physicians will expand current digital diagnosis and treatment into a model health care delivery system driven by information technology. Our 40 churches and 16 distinct ethnic neighborhoods will connect with one another both virtually and in human touch. The current healthy respect for diversity will become the glue that bonds and binds the community together. If it takes a village to raise a child, Albion plans to show how it takes a digital village to unite a community.

Albion will be an HP Digital Village in our schools, our neighborhoods, our homes, and in our economic and community development with a plan to place technology in every home, business, classroom, and governmental or nonprofit organization. In specific, the following initiatives will be the centerpiece of Albion as a digital village:

*Albion College, with its talented IT staff and gifted students, will provide training for all members of the community;

*Albion Public Schools will develop a comprehensive strategy and teacher training for integrating information technology as a pervasive resource and delivery system for teaching and learning;

*Expand the current five "Smart Centers" located in housing projects to 16 Smart Centers, with one in every neighborhood, serving as a center for human development and neighborhood pride;

*Fast track the establishment of Kids 'N Stuff, An Interactive Experience as a dynamic, children's museum with a decidedly, but not exclusively IT emphasis;

*Establish a Cyber Cafe in downtown Albion, near Kids 'N Stuff, to serve as a place for all elements of the community to gather and attract venture capitalists looking for innovative potential dot.com companies;

*Establish a Technology Incubator to draw retail businesses and high tech companies to Albion.

- **Partner participation** – Provide up to 750 words that describe what role each major partner anticipates they will play in the effort, and what each partner is prepared to contribute to ensure the success of the effort.

Our HP grant theme, Bridging the Divide, will engage all 35 partners in four major initiatives described below.

1. HP in the Schools: Information technology will be a prime driver for educational equity and excellence in the Albion Public Schools (APS), including outstanding teacher training in information technology. The HP collaboration and grant will enable Albion to merge some of our creative initiatives and dreams with the best practice of other communities. Starr Commonwealth has a network of programs serving over 6,000 children and their families. The HP digital village would enable Starr to become a national network for similar children and family service providers, building on its rating by *Consumers Digest* as "the nation's most efficient child and family charity," attesting to the potential for Starr to be a national "virtual resource center" for best practice in helping troubled youth. Albion College, ranked among the nations top 100 liberal arts colleges and recognized by Yahoo Magazine as the #7 Most Wired College in the Country, is strategically poised to provide leadership, vision, and the marshaling of resources to make the HP digital village a reality. The College's Shurmur Institute in Education and its Ferguson Center for Computer-Aided Instruction, endowed at over \$3 million, offer innovative programs preparing technologically adept teachers, as evidenced by graduating the first student to receive the new Michigan Certificate for Outstanding Achievement in Teaching with Technology. Kellogg Community College (KCC) joins the partnership through its new Eastern Branch Campus, providing technical and workforce support, serving as an additional neighborhood Smart Center. APS, Starr, Albion College, and KCC are working collaboratively in ways unrivaled in other communities because we share a common vision of a smart community.

2. HP in the neighborhoods: The Greater Albion Alliance (GAA), combining grassroots and institutional leadership, is implementing the vision as the Smart Community. Twelve

action teams focus on areas like arts & culture, economic development, infrastructure, moral & spiritual leadership, education, technology, and health care. The current five Smart Centers, designed and staffed by members of the city police, are outgrowths of these action teams and have been very successful on several levels. The engagement of children and parents with technology is obvious, but equally important are the changes in attitude about police officers, the building of community in the housing projects hosting the Smart Center, the improvement in school attendance and performance, and the increased communication between children and their parents sparked by interest in technology. The Albion Public Library has provided excellent technology assistance as the mainstay in the Forks Initiative to infuse technology throughout the community. The Albion Community Foundation and Albion Volunteer Service Organization have provided financial and human support for the Smart Centers. Other partners helping with the Smart Centers are the Minority Program Services Program, Albion Public Housing, City of Albion, and the Community Network Subcommittee of the Alliance Technology Action Team. In each case, people and money are being applied wisely and creatively to make the Smart Centers vibrant and vital parts of their neighborhood with a goal of establishing a Smart Center in all 16 neighborhoods.

3. HP in the home: The Technology Action Team of the Greater Albion Alliance is designing systems and developing training programs that will enable Albion to connect every home to the Internet. GAA involves all 35 partners identified in Part 2 and all 35 partners have contributed to the development of this proposal. As impressive as the list of partners identified, even more inspiring is the commitment of all the players. The HP grant proposal has galvanized our community around the long-term goal of being a model digital village where every home, business, governmental agency and nonprofit organization is connected through information technology.

4. HP in the economic and cultural life of the community: The Chamber of Commerce, Downtown Development Authority, and Economic Development Commission are working together for economic revitalization. Included in their initiatives are expanding on recent success in attracting small technology companies, establishing a retirement village in collaboration with Albion College, developing a technology incubator, and starting a cyber café both as a local business and a place for E-commerce ideas to flourish. A major initiative that resonates with HP funding is the establishment of Kids 'N Stuff: An Interactive Experience. This children's museum, focused on technology, science, and the arts, will help revitalize downtown, enhance educational experiences for children, and bring distinction to Albion. APS, Albion College, Starr Commonwealth, and KCC are active partners in economic and cultural development.

- **Project outcomes** – Provide up to 750 words that describe what changes you expect to see in the community after the project is underway and after the completion of the project.

The Smart Community has ambitious goals. We have categorized our expected outcomes into overall community revitalization outcomes and specific outcomes for HP in our schools, HP in our neighborhoods, HP in our homes, and HP in our economic and cultural development. The time horizon for these outcomes is five years from the beginning of the project.

Overall community revitalization

- *Bridge the digital divide so that 80% of our people use information technology in their daily lives.
- *Bridge the divides of race, ethnicity, wealth, and neighborhood so that Albion becomes known as a diverse, yet unified community.
- *Train-the-trainer so that 10% of our population is equipped to train the remaining 90% in the use of information technology.
- *Increase the number of community and civic groups' websites so that 75% of all recognized groups have a website.
- *Decrease the unemployment rate to the average of the county.
- *Decrease the percentage of Albion's population living at the poverty level by 15%.
- *Establish a "Smart City" Local Government that offers an array of services online.
- *Expand the WebPolis virtual town meetings to be an important element in city governance, planning, and decision-making.
- *Provide access and train all community members (particularly senior citizens) to utilize on-line health resources.
- *Strengthen the connections between our nonprofit and civic groups.
- *Expand the community volunteer infrastructure and increase volunteer hours by 25%.
- *Establish a technology endowment for the community to underwrite continual updates in hardware, software, and network fees and services.
- *Establish the "Albion 100" – one hundred prominent liberal arts colleges located in towns under 30,000 population who are committed to becoming model "college towns" of the 21st Century.
- *Starr Commonwealth will create a national network for its Institute for the Healing of Racism.
- *A marketing study on how to become a high-tech retirement destination will be completed.

HP in our Schools

- *Attain the 100% level for training teachers in appropriate and effective use of technology in the classroom.
- *Extend the classroom to 24/7 through web-enabled technology.
- *Increase the high school graduation rate by 10%.
- *Develop formal "professional development school" relationships between Albion College and APS in at least one elementary school and either the middle or high school.
- *Establish a network between APS faculty and Albion College faculty dedicated to sharing best practice in specific disciplines (i.e. English, Biology, History, etc.)
- *Develop new certificate and associate degree programs in information technology at Kellogg Community College.
- *Increase scores on K-12 standardized tests by 10%.

HP in our Neighborhoods

- *Increase the number of neighborhood technology access sites (Smart Centers) to include all 16 neighborhoods in the Greater Albion community.

- *Increase the number of technology literate residents in the community to 75% of the population.
- *Increase communication between and among the community neighborhoods and partners.
- *Bridge the 'leadership divide' by employing neighborhood residents in the Smart Centers and developing their competencies that will lead to confidence and bring those people to leadership roles in the community.
- *Decrease the neighborhood crime rates due to the Smart Centers by 10%.
- *Establish an on-line telemedicine remote center in one of our elementary schools.

HP in our Homes

- *Increase the number of homes with high-speed computer access to the Internet, thereby decreasing the cost.
- *Increase the number of families able to acquire home computer systems.
- *Provide individual training for every household in the community.

HP in our Economic and Cultural Development

- *Establish the Kids 'N Stuff: An Interactive Experience as a regional children's museum.
- *Establish a cyber café in downtown Albion, near Kids 'N Stuff.
- *Establish a Technology Incubator.
- *Attract and support new businesses and jobs to the Greater Albion community for a total economic growth of 15%.
- *Attain a 'critical mass' of community-based employees with strong technology skills.
- *Increase the number of business websites to 80% of all registered businesses.
- *Decrease the number by APS students for the free lunch program by 15%.

Please do not submit a request for specific equipment.