TO: BOYD

FROM: RILEY

SUBJECT: 5/25 COMMISSION FOR VOLUNTEER SERVICE MEETING ON DIGITAL DIVIDE GRANT

DATE 5/26/00

CC: SIMMONS

Below are my notes from the May 25, 1:30 meeting held by the Commission on Volunteer Service. Marsha Meeks Kelly called the meeting to inform interested parties of potential funding from an AmeriCorps grant. The Corporation for National Service issue a notice on April 28 on the availability of funds for AmeriCorps State and National, and Learn and Serve K-12 School-Based grants that support efforts to help overcome the digital divide and provide digital opportunities. $12.5 is available for the purpose of supporting AmeriCorps members and Learn and Serve participants in efforts to overcome the digital divide.

The following parties were at the table and identified the following ideas for their agency's use of grant funds:

State Board for Community and Junior Colleges (Eloise Richardson) – use AmeriCorp members in teaching basic computer skills in SBCJC's ABE courses and to possibly expand SBCJC's virtual classrooms.

Department of Education (Helen Soule) – in conjunction with Governor's task force, have identified 12,000 classrooms in need of computers and those will have to have lines run, plus the teachers need training

100 Black Men of Jackson (Leslie McClemore) – provide computer training to 5 inner city schools (students, parents and neighborhood)

Department of Education (??) – training for teacher assistants and to provide family literacy training through the family resource centers

Boys and Girls Club of Metro Jackson – to provide homework help/tutorials at five inner-city sites in Jackson

Governor's Office (Riley) – establish 2 or 3 teams of AmeriCorps members to assist Governor's task force

Center for the Book (Thurman Boykin) – *working with the Governor's Office*, place computers in schools and libraries and to utilize the program to acquaint students and their families with library resources

Boys and Girls Club of the Gulf Coast – to set up and run computer centers

North Mississippi Regional Center – enable the center to reach more of its 24-county area's developmentally disabled clients

West Jackson Community Development Center – use AmeriCorps members to train teachers and aides in 6 after-school programs and to give students that don't have access at home or school, access to a computer

America Reads Mississippi (Randee Williams) – provide computer training to 250 full-time reading tutors; provide access to higher education courses to those tutors who want to earn teaching degree

Hinds County Development Council (?) (Della Archie) – enhance math and reading in extended day and summer programs – most sites already have computers

AG (Kimbrell ??) – didn't offer a suggestion or proposed use of funds

Piney Woods – training for students, teachers and residential living staff

Governor's Office on Literacy – AmeriCorps members to assist GED students and as a resource for the office's ABE/literacy efforts (train the trainer)

MSU (Ben Rosenkrans and ??) – assist schools in developing web pages

North Midtown Community Development Center (Tom Schnaubelt for Marci) – for in-school and after-school tutoring and to provide job skills to welfare-to work clients; Tom thinking of using to establish a lab on wheels w/ wireless internet connections and then also to develop a database of virtual mentors

In discussing the details of the grant, Kelly said that interested parties should submit a letter of intent to the Commission for Volunteer Service indicating their interest in requesting funding. The Commission has hired Ann Haworth of the Girl Scouts to write the statewide grant. The grant is funded for up to 3 years. You must request a minimum of 20 AmeriCorps members (approximately $200,000-250,000).

The money will need to have a home or "legal applicant". The AG's representative asked how this will be decided. Kelly responded that, based upon everyone's saying under their breath that they didn't want it, that "that won't be a problem." Kelly stated that everyone's needs may not be met in the final proposal and that some parties may

leave the party unhappy. She stressed that each party may submit an individual grant if they wish to do so.

The grant only pays for AmeriCorps personnel. There is a 10% cap on funds that may be used for equipment. There is also a 10% cap for indirect costs of grantees. The grant requires a 15% cash match and a 20$ in-kind match. The grant will start up sometime between September and January. The grantee will recruit AmeriCorps members from a pool.

During discussions, Kelly announced that PowerUp! has 50,000 to donate to organizations. She said that she has confirmation from PowerUp!, *and in working with the Governor's Office*, that they want to place 5-20 computers at 50 to 100 sites in the state . PowerUp! has some sort of partnership w/ AOL. PowerUp! is already assisting three non-profits in the state. Kelly has contacted Jeff Beal of the National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC) who has said he will send a team down to help train the AmeriCorps members. **Her plan is three-fold: 1) jumpstart PowerUp! via NCCC training, 2) obtain computers from PowerUp!, and 3) obtain the personnel (AmeriCorps members) through this Digital Divide grant. Her model encompasses placing two AmeriCorps members at each site with computers provided by PowerUp! and training of the trainers provided by the NCCC.**

Upon leaving, I asked Kelly if she could forward us documentation of PowerUp's commitment for the computers and she said that I had the info in my packet (copy attached). She also said that she has a meeting with us on June 6 to discuss this proposal.

Thurman Boykin phoned this morning and expressed concern that Kelly may not understand that Gateway (I think he meant PowerUp!) will have to put the computers where the Governor wants the computers. He said that Kelly is going to "have egg on her face" because the Governor may not want to place computers in some of the sites represented at the table yesterday. He said that putting a computer in a school or a library is much more worthwhile than placing a computer in a Boys or Girls Club.