



State of Vermont
Department of Libraries
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Agency of Administration

November 18, 2008

Dear _____

We are pleased to report that _____ meets the initial eligibility criteria and has been selected to apply for a new grant from the **Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation in the Opportunity Online Hardware Grant Program**. These grants, to be administered by the Vermont Department of Libraries, are designed to provide public libraries with funding for computer hardware replacements and upgrades to maintain quality technology services. Your library may be eligible to receive funding for: (1) new and replacement computers and other hardware; (2) funds to use for technical support and training; and (3) free participation in a national advocacy training program. Don't miss out on this opportunity!

Initial eligibility was based upon an assessment of your community's poverty level. Final eligibility will be based upon the number and age of the computers available for *public use* in your library. You will *not* have to fill out a formal grant application; but **to qualify for grant consideration you will need to complete an inventory of your current computer technology by using *TechAtlas***, an easy-to-use online tool available via WebJunction.

The Vermont Department of Libraries has partnered with NELINET to help you qualify for grant consideration. Please complete the steps outlined in the accompanying information so you don't miss out on this chance to improve the technology you provide to your library patrons. **It is critical that you complete the *TechAtlas* inventory before the deadline of January 6, 2009.**

If you have questions, or need help with the inventory, please don't hesitate to ask! We want your inventory to be a success so that your library will be considered for grant funds.

You can get help by contacting NELINET:

***TechAtlas* Questions:** Mare Parker-Otoole, parkerotoole@nelinet.net / 508-597-1923

General Questions: Stephen Sanzo, sanzo@nelinet.net / 508-597-1948

Keep in mind that this is the LAST hardware grant the Gates Foundation will be offering to public libraries. Don't miss out; contact the NELINET representatives listed above for assistance. Or, if you have general questions, please contact Michael Roche, Regional Librarian, at the Northeast Regional Library in St. Johnsbury, the DOL contact for this grant program: michael.roche@mail.dol.state.vt.us / 802-748-3428, or your regional consultant.

Remember: the deadline for completing the *TechAtlas* inventory is January 6, 2009.

Good luck! I hope that your library will be one of many Vermont libraries to secure Gates Grant funding.

Sincerely,

Martha Reid
State Librarian