

Organization Information

Organization Name
Legal name as it appears in IRS documentation
Former Organization Name
Web Address
Phone Number
Fax
Mailing Address
 City
 State
 Zip
Business Address
if different than mailing
 City
 State
 Zip
 County
 Founding Year

Fed. ID Number (EIN)
Tax Exempt Status:(See FAQ)
 501(c)(3) & 509(a) described as "not a private foundation"
 If preliminary, date the advanced ruling ends
 Publicly funded entity (i.e. municipality)
 Describe

Number of staff:
 Paid full time
 Paid part time
 Volunteer full time
 Volunteer part time

Financial Summary

Organizational Financial Information (See FAQs)
 Ending date of fiscal year

Budget for current fiscal year
Income
Expenditures
 Describe pledged and anticipated sources of support:
 We expect that we will continue to receive donations from our membership and other individuals, and expect to see an increase in both income and expenditures as our work expands.

We have also begun to receive a regular income from Google advertisements on our website. We expect these to contribute between \$2000 and \$2500 this year.

This, clearly, does not take into account our application for funds from the Meyer Trust.

Financial Information for previous fiscal year
Income
Expenditures
 Major sources of support and amounts:
 Individual donations from members and other interested parties.

CEO Information

Chief Executive Officer
 or equivalent
Name Prefix
First Name*
Last Name*
Title
Email Address
Phone Number*
Fax
Mailing Address*
 City*
 State*
 Zip*

*This information is required in this section OR the Project Contact Information section.

Purpose of the Organization

This field is limited to 150 characters, including spaces.
 The purpose of this organization.
 To promote and build public wireless networks through community support and education.
This information is required in order to submit an application.

History & Programs

This field is limited to 1600 characters, including spaces.
 Summary of this organization's history and programs / services.
 Personal Telco (PTP) was formed in late 2000 by a few friends, when consumer wireless networking (AKA WiFi) was a budding technology. Since then the group has swelled to around 50 official members along with close to 100 active participants who don't claim membership.* In the last 4 years, PTP has been one of the primary resources for those looking to push the boundaries of this technology. We provide education and internet resources to the Portland community, and others around the world through our website, public meetings, seminars and formal classroom offerings. All these are 100% volunteer operated functions.

Our largest project is building a wireless network throughout the city of Portland, capable of offering internet access, community information and Voice over IP (VoIP) phone service to the public anywhere in the city. We believe this resource should belong to the people of Portland, and towards this end we seek to involve every interested individual in education projects and the actual building and maintenance of the network. The skills that people gain through their involvement with PTP are also very valuable in the IT field, and the services we offer help bridge the "digital divide". This benefits our entire community by making Portland's population more computer and internet savvy, and ensuring that all residents of our city have access to affordable and high speed internet connections, as these are quickly becoming a fifth utility.

*Numbers differ from our volunteer numbers because some members don't actively volunteer, and some volunteers aren't members.
This information is required in order to submit an application.

Project Contact Information

Project Contact Information
 If different than CEO
Name Prefix
First Name*
Last Name*
Title
Email Address
This email address will receive the registration confirmation with the login and password, and the confirmation after submission.
Phone Number*
Fax
Mailing Address*
 City*
 State*
 Zip*

*This information is required in either this section OR the CEO Contact Information section.

Project Description

Name of project (limited to 75 characters including spaces)
 Describe the project and what it would accomplish.
 The project will construct a wireless network, capable of providing internet and telephone services as well as "local" resources that are accessible exclusively from the network. The network will be built around the popular 802.11b/g standard, commonly known as Wi-Fi, a low-cost, consumer technology. Among the benefits offered by this technology are:

- It is unlicensed: Because the frequencies used for Wi-Fi are available to the public without any form of FCC license, the initial cost of deploying the network is lower, and one source of recurring fees (FCC license) is eliminated.
- It is wireless: There is no need for data cables connecting points on the network and all that is needed to connect is a wireless card for your computer, meaning that we can offer service to many people without the expense and time associated with running cables.
- Ubiquity: Consumer Wi-Fi equipment is readily available. A trip to Fred Meyer or Best Buy will yield a multitude of options for connecting a desktop or laptop computer to the network, most for under \$100. Since our network will provide high-speed internet access, this is extremely affordable when compared to cable or DSL which average \$50-60 a month.

Internet service over the network will be as simple as obtaining a Wi-Fi device that is either installed in the user's computer or connects via a cable. All access will be entirely free and unencumbered. As part of the project, we will offer instruction on connecting to the network and provide a limited number of households that complete a brief seminar with free equipment to get on the network. We will also offer more advanced classes that teach students to become network administrators. These individuals will become resources for their neighbors who want to connect to the network and will play a vital role in the sustenance and growth of the network.

We will also implement network specific local services such as a community calendar, bulletin board and local weblogs. These services will be introduced based on community interest and request and will provide a forum for Personal Telco to work with the community to make this network theirs.

In addition to these services, phone service over the network will be possible using Voice Over IP, a fairly new technology that is rapidly gaining popularity because it can offer service comparable to traditional landline phone service over broadband internet connections. We'll use this project to test our abilities to provide VoIP service with an eye towards making it a permanent offering. The work we do here will go a long way towards offering this service both to the Mississipi area and Portland as a whole.

Needs Statement

Explain the need for the project and why it is important.
 Currently, high-speed internet connections cost over \$50 a month. Additionally, a basic phone line is at least \$15 a month, meaning that the average Portland household looking for telephone and internet access pays more than \$65 a month, with prices reaching \$100 or more with the addition of a few basic add-ons. These costs are often out of reach for many people, leading to the abandonment of one, or even both services. Nonetheless, a home telephone is considered a utility, and as the internet grows as an information resource and an avenue for conducting day-to-day business, broadband internet connections are fast becoming another utility—an expectation rather than a luxury.

Personal Telco is seeking to provide a solution to the expense of maintaining these two utilities by building a community owned and operated network capable of providing both phone and internet service to Portland, and sharing our knowledge to become an educational resource for Portland and other communities wishing to do the same thing.

The Mississippi Community Network would offer the residents and business owners of the Mississippi Ave. area the choice to distance themselves from traditional utility companies. This project will also provide Personal Telco with the opportunity to install a high density network to fully understand and design the systems that we will need to implement as we build similar networks in other communities in Portland, eventually connecting the entire city in one community operated network. Our intention is for the Mississippi Community Network, in addition to being a fantastic resource to the immediate community, to be an example of the work that Personal Telco is capable of doing, leading to an influx of financial support for a group that has previously made do with very minimal donations and a lot of "sweat equity" from dedicated volunteers.

Program Qualifications

If funds are being requested for program activities, describe the organization's qualifications in the program area.
 Not Applicable.

Use of Trust Funds

Explain specifically how Meyer Trust funds will be used.
 Approximately 50% of the funds will be used to purchase the equipment that will form the main infrastructure of the network. This will be permanently installed on rooftop locations in the Mississippi area and will remain after the life of the grant to continue serving the community. This equipment will be supplemented by an in-kind equipment donation from Intel, with the combined equipment comprising the entirety of the network backbone.

We will also purchase a number of VoIP phones that will be set up in various locations to test reliability and offer the community opportunities to experience this technology. These will eventually be placed permanently in locations that are practical and useful for the community.

Close to 10% of the funds will go towards networking equipment that will be given to individuals from the community who donate their time to learning about the network and assist in its promotion. It is important for Personal Telco to have a direct avenue to end users of the network, as we need to develop strong relationships with community members who will become stewards of the network after the life of the grant. Having the incentive of free hardware to connect to the network allows interested users to quickly become involved with the project, without a need for them to find the necessary equipment themselves.

A portion will also be allocated to pay a small salary to the project administrator. This salary is figured as \$12/hr. @ an average of 10 hours a week for the life of the grant (with 2 weeks withheld as vacation). The project administrator will oversee all equipment purchasing, setup and installation, provide technical oversight, act as a volunteer coordinator and serve as the liaison between PTP and any and all Mississippi community members. In short, this person will be responsible for successful completion of the grant project—a vital role as PTP does not maintain paid staff.

Finally, a small portion of the Trust funds will go towards the modest advertising costs for the network, which are planned as 5 runs of half page flyers distributed through the neighborhood with updates on the network and ways to become involved.

Who Benefits

Describe the people, organizations, or groups, and the number of people expected to benefit from the project and ways that they would benefit.

Based on population statistics from PortlandMaps.com, we estimate that the Mississippi Community Network will cover approximately 3000 residents in the neighborhoods surrounding Mississippi Ave. The most immediate advantage of this network will be free broadband internet service for the residents in that area. This service alone would normally cost a household over \$50 a month, whereas there will be no fees for connecting to our network. In addition to this benefit, the community calendar, message boards and other community resources on the network will provide residents and business owners with a simple way to stay connected with their neighborhood and a new avenue for forging relationships.

Retail businesses, especially on Mississippi Ave. also stand to benefit from the network, as free wireless access draws customers to distant districts, located on eating and drinking establishments, and the network can serve as a means of introducing the patrons of one business to the offerings of other establishments in the area. Much in the way that shop owners give recommendations to their customers on other shops and restaurants in their area, the network can provide trusted recommendations 24 hours a day.

Finally, the free education that Personal Telco will offer will teach community members about wireless networking, safe and responsible internet usage, VoIP phone technology and using computers as a means to connect with the surrounding community, all skills that will be beneficial as the world shifts more and more towards computers as everyday tools. Personal Telco's goal is to one day offer this level of service to the entire city of Portland, and with this project, the Mississippi area will become a shining example to others in the city.

Project Plan

Describe how the project accomplishes its goals, including a plan of action and a timetable for the implementation.

Our plan is to initiate the project in May of 2005 with the installation of three rooftop radio assemblies along Mississippi Avenue, on buildings that have already been designated for the project. Internet service via a DSL line will also be installed at this time, at the central rooftop. The completion deadline for these installations will be June 15th.

Following the initial installations, we will distribute our first advertisements, indicating that the service has been installed, and specifically soliciting additional rooftops in the neighborhoods surrounding Mississippi Ave. for five more installations. July and August will be dedicated to responding to requests for more information and the installation of any additional rooftops we are offered. We will also issue a press release in June about the project, and anticipate at least one feature about it, as a number of local publications have expressed an interest in covering our first grant-funded project.

In mid-August we will distribute another round of fliers to residences and businesses in the area, advertising the network, and specifically educational opportunities. Interested parties will be invited to attend half-day seminars featuring an introduction to both Personal Telco and the technology we use. Those who are interested in delving deeper into the technical end of things will be able to sign up for more in-depth training courses, while those who have a more cursory interest will be invited to attend our weekly and monthly meetings.

We will continue to offer half-day seminars according to interest for the rest of the project duration. These will also provide an opportunity for community members to request additional services over the network.

By the end of September, we intend to have all of the rooftop installations complete for a total of eight. In October, we will offer our first in-depth technical training. This will be a focused series of classes covering the technical aspects of installation, setup and maintenance. We will also do another round of advertisements sometime in October. This advertisement will mention that we have hardware available for individuals who come to four Personal Telco meetings or events to learn about the group and how to use the equipment.

In November, we will install the Grandstream VoIP phones in locations determined over the previous months and begin testing and configuration of the service.

In January, we will have our fourth advertising round, highlighting the experimental VoIP services, and free hardware offer, provided there is hardware remaining.

In February, we will offer another set of in-depth technical classes.

In March, we will have our final advertising round, with a push for individuals to become involved in the maintenance and continued improvement of the network.

In April, we will finalize installation of VoIP phones in their permanent locations and integrate them as a fully functional feature of the network and Mississippi Ave. life and offer a final set of in-depth classes.

Basic timeline:
 May 2005-June 2005: Installation of network backbone along Mississippi Ave.
 June 2005: Press release and anticipated media features. First advertisements.
 July 2005-August 2005: Respond to inquiries about network and install more rooftop setups.
 August 2005: Second advertisements. Begin half-day seminars.
 September 2005: Complete rooftop installations.
 October 2005: Offer first set of in-depth technical classes. Third advertisements. Begin offering free hardware.
 November 2005: Installation of all VoIP phones.
 January 2006: Fourth advertisements.
 February 2006: Offer second set of in-depth tech classes.
 March 2006: Final advertisements.
 April 2006: Permanent phone installations, and final in-depth classes.

Project Duration

Project Period
 in months
Beginning
Geographic Area Served

Project Budget

Do not include in-kind contributions (See FAQ)
Do not include in-kind contributions in the total project cost. There is a separate field for this information at the bottom of this page.

Quantity	Description	Cost of Each	Request from MMT Cannot exceed	Amount from other sources	Item Total Cost Will total automatically when you update.
8	Metrix Communication Mark II Radio kit	\$ 450	\$ 3600	\$ 0	\$ 3600
8	2.4 GHz Antenna arrays	\$ 140	\$ 1120	\$ 0	\$ 1120
1	DSL Setup Fees	\$ 324	\$ 324	\$ 0	\$ 324
15	Grandstream Budgetone 101 VoIP phones	\$ 65	\$ 975	\$ 0	\$ 975
1	Project Administrator Salary*	\$ 6000	\$ 6000	\$ 0	\$ 6000
15	Linksys WET11	\$ 70	\$ 1050	\$ 0	\$ 1050
25	Proxim ORINOCO 11b Client PC Card Gold	\$ 25	\$ 625	\$ 0	\$ 625
5	Print Runs of 2000 advertisements each**	\$ 61	\$ 305	\$ 0	\$ 305
1	Antenna Mounting equipment for 8 rooftops**	\$ 753	\$ 753	\$ 0	\$ 753
0		\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Totals			\$ 14752	\$ 0	\$ 14752

How did you arrive at the expense amounts?
 (i.e. bid, catalog, hourly wage, etc.)(See Q# in FAQ)
 All equipment prices and DSL setup are based on catalog prices.

*Project Admin salary is for one contracted employee to oversee the project. Based on \$12/hr for an average of 10 hr/wk for 50 weeks.

**Bid from local printshop.

***Equipment varies somewhat by rooftop. This is based on catalog prices for components needed for each installation and is not an estimate.

Total Amount Requested from Meyer Trust **\$ 14752**
Amount received or pledged from other sources. **\$ 0**

What are the amounts from other sources in the following categories?

Currently in hand \$ if zero type 0
 Grants \$ if zero type 0
 Individual \$ if zero type 0
 Corporate \$ if zero type 0
 Sales \$ if zero type 0
 Other \$ if zero type 0

Total cost of the project (not to exceed \$20,000; excluding in-kind contributions) **\$ 14752**

Describe in-kind contributions.
 6mb/sec DSL circuit from Stephouse Networks (www.stephouse.net) valued at \$120/mo. (This donation will continue after the length of the grant indefinitely.)
 3 Cisco 1230 radios from Intel, valued at \$606.47 each.

Sustainability

Explain how the project will be sustained, if appropriate, after the period for which support is requested.

By installing all equipment needed for the Mississippi Community Network, we'll have eliminated financing as a concern for the sustenance of the project. The biggest hurdle, the recurring fee for DSL, has been covered by the generous donation of a permanent high-speed broadband circuit by Stephouse Networks and the equipment installed during the project will remain current and functional for many years.

Our intention is for the network to be adopted by the Mississippi Community and largely maintained by individuals from the area that we have connected with through the outreach work done as part of the initial project. Personal Telco volunteers will still be available to assist with technical troubleshooting, but we should have a core group of residents and/or business owners trained to handle most of the maintenance of the network.

Ultimately, if PTP receives the funds to build this network, we will ensure that it remains functional and thrives, as we have with the other installations we have undertaken.