RESOLUTION NO. 2020-0267

Establish Digital Equity Response Program; Execute a CARES Act Grant Agreement

BACKGROUND


B. On March 5, 2020, the County of Sacramento proclaimed a public health emergency as a result of the threat of COVID-19 in the county.

C. On March 13, 2020, the City Council adopted a resolution declaring a local emergency relating to the pandemic.

D. On April 21, 2020, the City received $89.6 million from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act.

E. On May 12, 2020, the City Council held a workshop to discuss a Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) framework and funding priorities for expenditure of the $89.6 million. During the workshop, Council and stakeholders expressed overall interest in funding programs and projects that, among other things, provide small business assistance, get people back to work, offer opportunities for youth enrichment, address homelessness and housing issues, and support the arts and tourism industries that were directly impacted by this pandemic.

F. On May 26, 2020, City Council committed $28 million in CRF to support immediate local economic relief services and programs for residents and adopted a general framework proposed by the Mayor for funding priorities.

G. On May 26, 2020, City Council also directed the City Manager to continue to identify and prepare CRF funding recommendations.

H. Many households and individuals in Sacramento face unprecedented challenges due to the isolation and economic conditions arising from efforts to reduce the number and severity of COVID-19 infections. Some individuals and households have been isolated from resources, services, and social emotional support by the public health orders due to lack of access to digital resources. The Sacramento Digital Equity Response program
will specifically target individuals who lack adequate access and resources due to COVID-19, have needs unmet by existing resources, and face economic barriers to digital resources and knowledge.

I. On July 29, 2020, staff issued a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) and Request for Applications inviting organizations to submit proposals to implement the City’s Digital Equity Response Program. Six organizations submitted proposals to the NOFA. Staff evaluated the proposals and determined that United Way California Capital Region’s proposal best met the City’s requirements for implementing this program.

BASED ON THE FACTS SET FORTH IN THE BACKGROUND, THE CITY COUNCIL RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1: The Digital Equity Response Program is approved.

Section 2: The City Manager or the City Manager’s designee is authorized to transfer $750,000 to the Digital Equity Response Program (G02610100) from the Digital Divide Program in the Federal CARES Act Fund (Fund 2704).

Section 3. The City Manager or City Manager’s designee is authorized to negotiate, with the assistance of counsel, and execute a CARES Act grant agreement with United Way California Capital Region in the amount not to exceed $750,000 for the implementation of the City’s Digital Equity Response Program, consistent with the program description provided.

Adopted by the City of Sacramento City Council on August 18, 2020, by the following vote:

Ayes: Members Ashby, Carr, Guerra, Hansen, Harris, Schenirer, Warren and Mayor Steinberg

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Member Jennings

Attest: Mindy Cuppy

Mindy Cuppy, City Clerk

The presence of an electronic signature certifies that the foregoing is a true and correct copy as approved by the Sacramento City Council.