



City of Racine, Wisconsin
Agenda BRIEFING MEMORADUM

AGENDA DATE:

May 13, 2024 – Finance and Personnel Committee

SUBJECT:

Communication sponsored by Alder West requesting permission to apply for and if awarded accept the 2024 Capital Project Fund Digital Connectivity and Navigators Program Grant (Grant Control #00572).

PREPARED BY:

Adele Edwards, Chief Information Officer

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The Public Service Commission of Wisconsin’s Capital Project Fund Digital Connectivity and Navigator Program Grant will last for two years. It was created to address critical gaps in high-speed internet access, affordability, and adoption in Wisconsin. The program is prioritizing funding towards communities that were disproportionately affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and continue to be at higher risk for future disaster due to lack of access to critical services related to work, education, and health monitoring. It targets underserved and underconnected communities and households in Wisconsin, including those that are low-income or are impacted by low adoption rates. The city is applying to deploy digital devices (computers) and to provide digital navigation services (support and training) to qualifying citizens through partnerships with non-profit organizations and community anchor institutions such as schools and the library. We hope to provide impactful change for 460 City of Racine residents.

BUDGETARY IMPACT:

If awarded, we expect to receive \$550,000. No match required.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Staff recommendation is to approve the request to apply for and if awarded accept the 2024 Capital Project Fund Digital Connectivity and Navigators Program Grant (Grant Control #00572).