



City of Racine, Wisconsin
Agenda BRIEFING MEMORADUM

AGENDA DATE:

October 7, 2024 – Finance and Personnel Committee

October 15, 2024 – Common Council

SUBJECT:

Communication sponsored by Alder Horton, on behalf of the Chief Information Officer, requesting permission to formally accept award of 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 applied and was awarded 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, Racine Health Department, and the library. We will provide positive and impactful digital inclusion change for 460 City of Racine residents.

BUDGETARY IMPACT:

Award amount of \$576,049. No match required.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Staff recommendation is for the Chief Information Officer be granted permission to accept award of the 2024 Capital Project Fund Digital Connectivity and Navigators Program Grant (Grant Control #00572).