



**City of Racine, Wisconsin**  
**Agenda BRIEFING MEMORADUM**

**AGENDA DATE:**

March 18, 2025 – Common Council  
March 24, 2025 – Finance and Personnel Committee  
April 2, 2025 – Common Council

**SUBJECT:**

Communication sponsored by Alder Horton, on behalf of the Chief Information Officer, requesting permission to apply for the 2025 Wisconsin Public Service Commission (WI PSC) Digital Equity Capacity Grant Program – Digital Navigator Track (Grant Control #00630).

**PREPARED BY:** Adele Edwards, Chief Information Officer

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

The Management Information Services (MIS) Department is requesting permission to apply for the 2025 Public Service Commission of Wisconsin's (PSC or Commission) Digital Equity Capacity Grant Program – Digital Navigator Track (Grant Control #00630). The grant is for three years, with the purpose of advancing internet adoption and digital skills for Wisconsin residents and specific covered population groups, and to build local capacity to promote digital opportunities. This track's purpose is to expand current and/or support new digital navigator staff, programs, and projects that serve the covered populations, and increase internet adoption, digital skills and related digital opportunities within local communities.

**PROJECT BACKGROUND & ANALYSIS:**

The State Digital Equity Capacity Grant Program was funded by the 2021 Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) and administered by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA). After NTIA awarded funds to Wisconsin in November of 2024, the Commission made determinations on the program design and budget. The grant has a three-year performance period, and no application can be for more than \$950,000. Grant projects are required to target, serve or engage, and tailor services and programs to members of one or more of the following Covered Population groups:

The Covered Populations are: (1) individuals who live in Covered Households (defined as households with income from the most recently completed year of not more than 150% of the poverty level), (2) aging individuals, (3) incarcerated individuals, other than individuals who are incarcerated in a Federal correctional facility, (4) veterans, (5) individuals with disabilities; (6) individuals with a language barrier, including English learners and those with low levels of literacy, (7) individuals who are members of a racial or ethnic minority group, (8) individuals who primarily reside in a rural area. The city has all but #8 of the covered populations.

Digital Equity Capacity Grant Program – Digital Navigator Track's purpose is to expand current and/or support new digital navigator staff, programs, and projects that serve the covered populations, and increase internet adoption, digital skills, and related digital opportunities within local communities.

Our application will focus on implementing the three core values and goals in the State's Digital Equity Plan, adoption, trust, and sustainability, as well as The City of Racine's Digital Equity Plan.

**BUDGETARY IMPACT:**

If awarded, we expect to receive no more than \$950,000. Match funding is not required for this grant.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Staff recommendation is to approve the request for the Chief Information Officer to apply for the 2025 Wisconsin Public Service Commission (WI PSC) Digital Equity Capacity Grant Program – Digital Navigator Track (Grant Control #00630).