



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Department Name: Child Support Services
Department No.: 045
For Agenda Of: 02/07/2023
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Time:
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Joni Maiden, Dept. of Child Support Services, Director
Director(s)
Contact Info: (805) 568-2343

SUBJECT: Digital Literacy Program for Qualifying County Residents

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence:

As to form: Risk

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Recommended Actions:

It is recommended that the Board of Supervisors:

- A. Approve the Subrecipient Agreement with Santa Barbara Partners in Education to administer a digital literacy program beginning on February 7, 2023 and ending performance upon completion, but no later than June 30, 2025; in an amount not to exceed \$375,000.00 (Total Maximum Contract Amount), to be paid from ARPA funds; and
- B. Determine that these actions do not constitute a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) based on CEQA Guideline 15378(b)(4) since the actions are a government funding mechanism which does not involve any commitment to any specific project which may result in a potentially significant physical impact on the environment, and based on CEQA Guideline 15378(b)(5) since the action is an administrative activity that will not result in physical changes to the environment.

Summary Text:

This item is on the agenda to approve a Subrecipient Agreement with Santa Barbara Partners in Education (SBPIE) to administer a digital literacy program with a goal of providing equitable access to technology and enhancing digital literacy and inclusion by those the County serves in regards to services and programs offered by Health and Human Services (HHS) departments and their partners.

Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF), a part of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), will constitute the sole funding source. All funds must be expended no later than June 30, 2025.

Background:

The impacts of COVID-19 have resulted in an increased reliance on technology in education, healthcare, and other virtual systems to access information and services. Across the County, there has been widespread concern about the digital divide, or the disparity of digital resources that families are able to make available to their children and the lack of available technology for residents to access digital County services, such as telehealth appointments. On April 14, 2022, as part of the County’s Health and Human Services Recovery Plan, the Board of Supervisors approved ARPA funds for a subrecipient to administer a digital literacy program and to provide resources, including technology, internet connection, and digital literacy training, to County families and residents with a demonstrable need. On September 23, 2022 County staff released a request for letters of interest and statements of qualifications for subrecipients to administer the program. The competitive solicitation closed on October 28, 2022 and SBPIE was thereafter selected to be the awarded subrecipient.

Discussion

SBPIE currently administers a Computers for Families (CFF) program which serves approximately 1,000 households countywide. CFF originated in the mid-1990s to address the digital divide. In the early 2000s, an endowment fund was created, ensuring a strong financial foundation for the program for years to come. In addition, SBPIE collaborates with over 100 organizations that provide volunteers, donate computers and offer other resources to leverage their impact with the goal of filling service gaps rather than duplicating services.

CFF participants receive free refurbished laptops/Chromebooks as well as technology support. The program is more vital than ever in the current environment. When COVID-19 prompted a shift to virtual learning and work, SBPIE offered free computers and tech support services to anyone in need regardless of student status.

SBPIE’s digital literacy team trains participants in the use of the provided technology and in staying safe in a digital world. Unique partnerships with schools and social service agencies allow SBPIE to reach those most in need. Their mobile outreach expands capacity to those who might be disenfranchised both from technology and digital literacy services.

With the collaboration and added funding from Santa Barbara County, SBPIE will expand digital literacy programming and technical support. Areas of focus will be technology distribution, in-person and virtual technology training, one-on-one coaching and call-in training and outreach to high need communities. Santa Barbara County will play an active role in program outreach to customers served by the Health and Human Services departments. The Subrecipient Agreement provides additional means by which SBPIE can ensure that technology doesn’t represent a barrier to family stability, health, education and wellness.

Performance Measure:

Key Performance Indicators	Output Measures	Outcome Measures
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase access and utilization of technology service and information needs. • Eliminate digital divide and social exclusion of individuals and individuals through digital literacy training, enhanced internet access, and tools. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of individuals receiving new or refurbished technology. • Number of individuals who receive digital literacy trainings. • Number of trainings provided. • Number of pieces of technology provided. • Number of inquiries for technical assistance. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3,000 individuals will receive computers; of the 1,000 computers distributed, our efforts will be focused in communities with highest poverty rates. • 1,000 unique participants will participate in Online Safety Training and/or 1:1 coaching with at least 1500 support calls fielded. • 100% of recipients who report they have no or inadequate internet will receive support calls and/or assistance
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Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

A Budget Journal Entry (BJE) will be forthcoming at a later Board date to establish appropriations in Department 12 from which the Agreement will be paid.

Fiscal Analysis:

<u>Funding Sources</u>	<u>Current FY Cost:</u>	<u>Annualized On-going Cost:</u>	<u>Total One-Time Project Cost</u>
General Fund			
State			
Federal (ARPA)			\$375,000
Fees			
Total	\$	-	\$
		-	\$
			375,000.00

Key Contract Risks:

The Agreement recommended for approval can be terminated by the County for non-appropriation of funds, or for convenience upon 30 days written notice. Furthermore, the Agreements are cost-reimbursement contracts. This allows the County to disburse funds for eligible incurred costs to the extent prescribed by Agreement. The County will only reimburse costs that are documented and eligible under the Agreements. Child Support Services staff will assess performance and cost documentation prior to reimbursement.

Staffing Impacts:

Legal Positions: 0

FTEs: 0

Special Instructions:

Please return one digital copy of the fully executed Subrecipient Agreement to Joni Maiden (Jmaiden@countyofsb.org) and retain the original County executed Subrecipient Agreement for Clerk of the Board records.

Attachments:

- 1) Santa Barbara Partners in Education Subrecipient Agreement

Authored by:

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cc: Terri Maus-Nisich, Assistant County Executive Officer
Lindsay Walter, Principal Analyst
Ted Teyber, Fiscal and Policy Analyst