

**LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU FISCAL ANALYSIS**

**COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

**ITEM 21, FILE #100667**

**OCTOBER 4, 2010**

**AMY E. HEFTER**

File Number 100130 is a resolution relating to the application, acceptance and funding of a of a U.S. Department of Commerce Broadband Technology Opportunities Program grant funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

**Background**

1. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act provided the Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Utilities Service (RUS) with \$7.2 billion to expand access to broadband services in the United States. Of those funds, the Act provided \$4.7 billion to NTIA to support the deployment of broadband infrastructure, enhance and expand public computer centers, encourage sustainable adoption of broadband service, and develop and maintain a nationwide public map of broadband service capability and availability.
2. NTIA administers the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) within three project categories:
  - Comprehensive Community Infrastructure: Projects to deploy new or improved broadband Internet facilities (e.g., laying new fiber-optic cables or upgrading wireless towers) and to connect "community anchor institutions" such as schools, libraries, hospitals and public safety facilities.
  - Public Computer Centers: Projects to establish new public computer facilities or upgrade existing ones that provide broadband access to the general public or to specific vulnerable populations, such as low-income individuals, the unemployed, seniors, children, minorities and people with disabilities.
  - Sustainable Broadband Adoption: Projects that focus on increasing broadband Internet usage and adoption, including among vulnerable populations where broadband technology traditionally has been underutilized. Many projects include digital literacy training and outreach campaigns to increase the relevance of broadband in people's everyday lives.

**Discussion**

1. This resolution authorizes the Department of Administration-Information and Technology Management Division to apply for, accept, and fund, a Broadband Technology Opportunities Program grant from the U.S. Department of Commerce through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.
2. The purpose of this grant is to is to connect Milwaukee communities by deploying new computers, upgrading broadband speeds, and providing skills training to City residents at 6 libraries, 2 housing authority sites and at the United Community Center-Olga Village site
3. The project "Connecting Milwaukee Communities" (CMC) will:
  - Purchase computer hardware and software (270 new units) which will be placed at 6 libraries, 2 HACM sites and at the United Community Center-Olga Village.
  - Purchase furniture and software to be used in the computer rooms/lab – with an emphasis on special needs populations, such as, desks that are ADA-compliant.
  - Install employment training and job information kiosks at each site.
  - Develop a Bridging the Information Gap (BIG) website – which will be done within the offices of the City of Milwaukee Department of Administration - Information and Technology Management Division.
  - Support staffing for aides and teaching staff at the public computer centers.

4. The 6 libraries participating in the project are: Atkinson, Center Street, Martin Luther King, Jr., Villard Avenue, Washington Park and Forest Home libraries. Lapham Park and Hillside Terrace are the HACM sites participating in the project.
5. Local partner agencies and vendors include the United Community Center (UCC), Milwaukee Area Workforce Investment Board (MAWIB) and the Trinidad Group. The United Community Center/Olga Village will also be a site participating in the project.

**Fiscal Impact**

1. The total amount of this project is \$3,526,502, of which \$2,479,742 (70.3%) will be provided by the grantor and \$1,046,760 (29.7%) by the City.

<b>Grant Recipients</b>	<b>Grantor Share</b>	<b>In-Kind Share</b>	<b>Recipient Total</b>
ITMD	\$318,858	\$198,463	<b>\$517,321</b>
MPL	\$1,487,371	\$670,052	<b>\$2,157,423</b>
HACM	\$259,860	\$54,000	<b>\$313,860</b>
UCC	\$85,415	\$35,405	<b>\$120,820</b>
MAWIB	\$61,040	\$15,840	<b>\$76,880</b>
Trinidad Group	\$267,198	\$73,000	<b>\$340,198</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,479,742</b>	<b>\$1,046,760</b>	<b>\$3,526,502</b>

2. MPL will create 6 new Library Aide positions with salaries and fringe benefits funded by the grant. ITMD will create a new Bridging the Information Gap Coordinator position, at a proposed salary grade 6, with salary and fringe benefits funded by the grant. HACM will partially fund (50%) one Neighborhood Network Coordinator position and 4 Neighborhood Network Aide positions with the grant, including salary and fringe benefits for the Neighborhood Network Coordinator and salaries only for the Neighborhood Network Aides.
3. The grant period is from November 1, 2010 through December 31, 2013.

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 September 28, 2010