



**CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE**  
**City Commission Agenda Memo**  
**REGULAR MEETING**

**#23-0211**

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**TO:** Honorable Mayor & Members of the  
Fort Lauderdale City Commission

**FROM:** Greg Chavarria, City Manager

**DATE:** March 8, 2023

**TITLE:** Resolution Accepting a Grant Agreement from the Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) and Authorizing the City Manager to Execute the Grant Agreement and all Documents Necessary or Incidental to the Grant - \$906,510 - (**Commission District 1,2, 3 and 4**)

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**Recommendation**

Staff recommends the City Commission approve the acceptance of a grant from the DEO in the amount of Nine Hundred and Six Thousand Five Hundred Ten Dollars (\$906,510.00), in substantially the form attached, and authorize the City Manager to execute the grant agreement, and any and all documents necessary or incidental to the grant. Funds will be used for a wireless broadband pilot project in selected low-income census tracts and a seven-week summer Education Enrichment Program.

**Background**

On October 21, 2021, City Commission adopted a resolution authorizing the City Manager to submit a grant application to the Department of Economic Opportunity.

In April 2020, pursuant to passage of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) allocated additional CDBG-CV funds to the State of Florida to address issues related to the impacts of COVID-19. The DEO announced the availability of these additional funds for Small Cities and Entitlement units of local government under the CDBG-CV program. The CDBG-CV programs are designed to help local governments prepare for, prevent, or respond to the health and economic impacts of COVID-19. The activities must be critical to their locality and primarily used for the benefit of low- and moderate-income residents.

To address the City's continuing COVID-19 recovery efforts, two public planning meetings were convened to gather input from residents and stakeholders on the best uses for the funding. The meetings were held on August 13, 2021, and August 27, 2021, respectively. Based on feedback gathered from the planning meetings, Housing and Community Development division recommend that the funds be used as indicated in (Table 1). Staff has researched and assessed various leading technologies, to identify digital inclusion solutions that will improve the digital equity needs of the community, while maintaining

compliance with grant requirements. Upon acceptance of the funding, a competitive process will be used to select an appropriate vendor. Pursuant to the agreement the performance period for this grant ends on September 30, 2023.

Table 1 Proposed grant funding use

Digital Inclusion Broadband Internet Access Pilot for low- income areas:	\$756,510
Education Enrichment Activities:	\$100,000
Administrative Costs:	\$50,000

The associated budget amendment will be on the March 8<sup>th</sup> agenda CAM # 23-0087.

### **Resource Impact**

There is no known fiscal impact associated with this action.

### **Strategic Connections**

This item is a *2022 Top Commission Priority*, advancing the Homelessness and Housing Opportunities.

This item supports the *Press Play Fort Lauderdale 2024 Strategic Plan*, specifically advancing:

- The Neighborhood Enhancement Focus Area
- Goal 4: Build a thriving and inclusive community of neighborhoods.
- Objective: Ensure a range of affordable housing options

This item advances the *Fast Forward Fort Lauderdale 2035 Vision Plan: We Are Community, and We Are Prosperous*.

This item supports the *Advance Fort Lauderdale 2040 Comprehensive Plan* specifically advancing:

- The Neighborhood Enhancement Focus Area
- The Housing Element
- Goal 1: The Comprehensive Plan shall support the provision of adequate sites for future housing, including affordable workforce housing.

### **Attachments**

Exhibit 1 – DEO Grant Agreement

Exhibit 2 – Commission Agenda Memo 21-0881

Exhibit 3 – Resolution

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Prepared by: Rachel Williams, Rachel Williams, Manager, Housing & Community Development

Department Director: Christopher Cooper, AICP, Director, Development Services