

### Program #78000B - Digital Access Coordinator

**Program Contact:** Tracey Massey

County Assets **Department:** 

**Program Offer Type:** Innovative/New Program Program Offer Stage: As Adopted

**Related Programs:** 

Program Characteristics: One-Time-Only Request

### **Executive Summary**

The Digital Access Coordinator will work with internal and external stakeholder groups Countywide to address the digital access and affordability divide. The coordinator is responsible for tracking the various barriers to internet access throughout the County, and assessing strategies and pilot programs to address these barriers, investigating State and federal grant opportunities, and aligning the County's planning with community organizations, other municipalities, nonprofits, and advocacy groups. To coordinate these efforts, the County will fund a limited duration position project coordinator within the Department of County Assets, Information Technology Division.

### **Program Summary**

In 2020, DCA completed a broadband feasibility study in partnership with five cities within the County that identified equity gaps and barriers to broadband services throughout the County. Since the completion of the study, DCA has worked as a convener of a stakeholder group that evaluates and plans for possible strategies to address the broadband barriers highlighted in the study.

The feasibility study found that 2,800 County households that are entirely unserved by any broadband service. Affordability is a major barrier for low income residents to internet access. The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted how essential broadband is as school, work, and healthcare services have moved online.

There are many groups working Countywide to address both the infrastructure, access, and affordability gaps for specific community populations. There are also new revenue streams becoming available as both the State and Federal government have developed grant programs to address this complex issue. There are also many private and nonprofit organizations looking for ways to partner to build solutions to this issue.

To track all of these efforts, the Digital Access Coordinator will continue to convene the Countywide connectivity group, participate in other committees and groups throughout the County and State, as well as gather feedback and input from community and advocacy groups. The position would ensure that County leadership is involved in strategies as they develop and track grant funding opportunities.

Performance Measures								
Measure Type	Primary Measure	FY20 Actual	FY21 Budgeted	FY21 Estimate	FY22 Offer			
Output	Summary report developed.	NA	NA	NA	1			
Outcome	Community participation in stakeholder events.	NA	NA	NA	2			

#### **Performance Measures Descriptions**

Output: A written report of work completed.

Outcome: Stakeholders are involved in the process of collecting information through participating in events over the course of the year.

7/6/202

# Revenue/Expense Detail

	Adopted General Fund	Adopted Other Funds	Adopted General Fund	Adopted Other Funds	
Program Expenses	2021	2021	2022	2022	
Personnel	\$0	\$0	\$150,000	\$0	
Total GF/non-GF	\$0	\$0	\$150,000	\$0	
Program Total:	\$0		\$150,000		
Program FTE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	

Program Revenues						
Total Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		

## **Explanation of Revenues**

This program offer is funded by one-time-only general funds.

# **Significant Program Changes**

Last Year this program was: