



MEMORANDUM

TO: DISABILITY AND AGING SERVICES COMMISSION

THROUGH: KELLY DEARMAN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, DAS

FROM: CINDY KAUFFMAN, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, DAS COMMUNITY SERVICES

DATE: May 3rd, 2023

SUBJECT: REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF AGING CONTRACT DC-2223-06, ASSOCIATED BUDGET DRAFT, AND ALL SUBSEQUENT AMENDMENTS

The Department of Disability and Aging Services (DAS) is requesting approval to enter into a new contract (DC-2223-06) with the California Department of Aging to provide services under the Digital Connections (DC) Program.

Through this program, the California Department of Aging (CDA) will distribute tablet devices (Apple iPads) and allocate funding of \$1,223,062 to the City and County of San Francisco.

Presentation of this standard contract document before the Disability and Aging Services Commission for your approval is a required step in the California Department of Aging's contract certification process.

Background

The COVID-19 pandemic has put a spotlight on digital inclusion. In August 2020, Governor Newsom signed Executive Order N-73-20 to improve broadband speeds and access in California. This includes improving download speeds to bridge the digital divide for two million Californians who lack broadband access. The EO specifies the population we serve as a priority that are at-risk for isolation and loneliness in their communities when impacted by the Digital Divide.

The DC program is a Digital Inclusion initiative led by CDA. In September 2022, CDA has reached out to all Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) to complete a survey to understand the counties' interest and needs. CDA allocated funding and devices using the data collected. CDA will provide 1,400 tablet devices (iPads) and \$1,223,062 in funding to the County of San Francisco.

The funding in this DC contract is one time in nature through the Older Adults Recovery and Resilience Fund – Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) and currently available for expenditure through December 31, 2023. However, the Digital



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and Aging Services**

Inclusion initiative led by CDA will continue to be supported beyond December 2023 through CDA to collectively maintain strategies on broadband access, digital literacy resources, as well as device maintenance and program support by the AAAs.

Next Steps

DAS plans to utilize this grant to implement the DC program in the following three areas:

1. Broadband service support: support and enhance broadband service capacities at all SF Connected labs including upgrading broadband service plan and enhancing wireless connections.
2. Digital literacy support: expand our SF Connected program partners' digital literacy training and tech support capacity.
3. DC program outreach, oversight, and administration: outreach to and connect with consumers who are eligible for DC program tablets and other resources including the Affordable Connectivity Program, a Federal Communications Commission benefit program that helps ensure that households can afford the broadband they need.

DAS' Office of Community Partnerships staff will coordinate with HSA Contracts/Fiscal staff and the Office of Contract Administration (OCA) for necessary procurement and administration of the funds. Contract modifications and/or new grant authorizations will come before the DAS Commission for approval and will identify source funding as DC.

Attachments

- DC Contract DC-2223-06 and associated budget draft

Recommended action: Approve the CDA Contract DC-2223-06, associated budget, and all subsequent amendments.