

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**



ITEM: 3.37
(ID # 13300)

MEETING DATE:
Tuesday, August 25, 2020

FROM: HOUSING, HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION AND WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS:

SUBJECT: HOUSING, HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION AND WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS/WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT DIVISION (HHPWS/WDD): Establishment of Educational Device Support Program for Riverside County Private Schools, CEQA Exempt, All Districts [\$1,000,000 - 100% Federal CARES Act Funds].

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Find that the project is exempt from California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3);
2. Authorize the allocation of \$1,000,000 in federal funding under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (Section 5001, Public Law 116-136; CARES Act) to establish the Educational Device Support Program for Riverside County Private Schools (the "Project") which will provide computer devices and hotspots to students to facilitate access to online learning and educational support services; and
3. Authorize the Department of Housing, Homeless Prevention and Workforce Solutions (HHPWS) to implement the Project which includes outreach to the local private school sector; the establishment of an online applicant portal which includes comprehensive program information; application processing, and the issuance of direct grants to eligible private schools for device purchases.

ACTION: Policy


Heidi Marshall, Director 8/13/2020

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

On motion of Supervisor Jeffries, seconded by Supervisor Hewitt and duly carried by unanimous vote, IT WAS ORDERED that the above matter is approved as recommended.

Ayes: Jeffries, Spiegel, Washington, Perez and Hewitt
Nays: None
Absent: None
Date: August 25, 2020
xc: HHPWS

Kecia R. Harper
Clerk of the Board

By: 
Deputy

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FINANCIAL DATA	Current Fiscal Year:	Next Fiscal Year:	Total Cost:	Ongoing Cost
COST	\$1,000,000	\$0	\$1,000,000	\$0
NET COUNTY COST	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
SOURCE OF FUNDS: 100% Federal CARES Act Fund			Budget Adjustment:	No
			For Fiscal Year:	2020/21

C.E.O. RECOMMENDATION: Approve

BACKGROUND:

Summary

On July 17, 2020, Governor Newsome announced new statewide rules for private and public schools. These provisions included specific requirements for schools located in counties on the state's COVID-19 watch list. Thirty-two counties are on the state's watch list, including Riverside, San Bernardino, Los Angeles, Orange, and Ventura. All schools, public and private, in those counties must begin the 2020-21 school year with distance learning.

On August 04, 2020, the Board of Supervisors took action to address the needs of public schools in the rapid transition of students to full time distance learning through the appropriation of \$10 million in local CARES funding. The \$10 million dollar allocation will support the Riverside County Office of Education's "All for One" campaign which was established to close the gap in providing a device for each public-school student. There are currently 510 public schools in Riverside County which serve over 400,000 students daily.

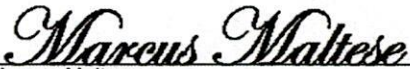
Staff recommends providing a similar program to facilitate distance learning for private school students. This will ensure that all students have the tools necessary to succeed in a distance learning format. There are approximately 130 private schools in operation in Riverside County which serves an estimated 24,793 students. Staff recommends establishing the Education Device Support Program which will allow private schools to apply for grant funding to assist with the purchase of computer and hotspot devices. Applicants must demonstrate the need for devices and cost estimates. Grants will be capped at \$10,000.

Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the Project was reviewed and determined to be categorically exempt from CEQA under State CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3), General Rule of "Common Sense" exemption. The Project provides funding to private schools to purchase devices for students to facilitate online learning. It can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the Project may have a significant effect on the environment, as the aforementioned activities will have purely financial and social-welfare benefits and will not lead to any direct or reasonably indirect physical environmental impacts.

Impact on Residents and Businesses

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The proposed funding allocation will provide digital devices and hotspots to underserved students and will expand access to online service. This will ensure that all students have the necessary tools to continue their education during the COVID-19 pandemic.



Marcus Maltese

8/18/2020



Gregory V. Priamos, Director County Counsel

8/17/2020