

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



ITEM: 3.18  
(ID # 20894)

MEETING DATE:  
Tuesday, April 04, 2023

**FROM :** RIVERSIDE COUNTY INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY:

**SUBJECT:** RIVERSIDE COUNTY INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY: Ratify and Approve Acceptance of the Local Agency Technical Assistance (LATA) Grant from California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), All Districts. [\$500,000 State Funding-100%]

**RECOMMENDED MOTION:** That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Ratify and approve the acceptance of the Local Agency Technical Assistance (LATA) grant from California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) in the amount of \$500,000; and
2. Authorize the Chief Information Officer, or designee, to sign and execute any related grant documents, including modifications, amendments, extensions, progress reports, and reimbursement requests with the State, and approved as to form by County Counsel, on behalf of the County.

**ACTION:**Policy

  
Jim Smith, Chief Information Officer 4/3/2023

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**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

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

Ayes: Jeffries, Spiegel, Washington, Perez, and Gutierrez  
Nays: None  
Absent: None  
Date: April 4, 2023  
xc: RCIT

Kimberly A. Rector  
Clerk of the Board

By:   
Deputy

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<b>FINANCIAL DATA</b>	<b>Current Fiscal Year:</b>	<b>Next Fiscal Year:</b>	<b>Total Cost:</b>	<b>Ongoing Cost</b>
<b>COST</b>	\$ 250,000	\$ 250,000	\$ 500,000	\$ 0
<b>NET COUNTY COST</b>	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
<b>SOURCE OF FUNDS:</b> State Grant Funds-100%			<b>Budget Adjustment:</b> No	
			<b>For Fiscal Year:</b> 22/23-23/24	

**C.E.O. RECOMMENDATION:** Approve

**BACKGROUND:**

**Summary**

On May 10, 2022 (Item 3.2), the Board provided direction for the Riverside County Broadband Master Plan. The Board item included an outline of steps for implementing the broadband strategy, including designating the County's Chief Data Officer as the Broadband Leader and setting out a plan of action to move forward. American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding was allocated on October 19, 2021 (Item 3.5) and February 8, 2022 (Item 3.3) to support these efforts. This plan included retaining outside staffing support to help identify and apply for grants from the passage of state and federal broadband-related legislation.

The County of Riverside Broadband Leader and his team have identified and applied for the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) Local Agency Technical Assistance (LATA) grant. On December 8, 2022, the County was awarded \$500,000 from the CPUC LATA grant. The LATA grant supports local agencies in expanding broadband service to underserved communities throughout the state. The department is requesting ratification of the grant acceptance.

The approved work plan within the grant application directs the creation of a Gaps and Opportunities report, a Stakeholder Engagement Summary report, and an update to the County's Broadband Strategic Plan. Upon the completion and delivery of the reports to the CPUC, funds will be reimbursed to the County during the remainder of the current fiscal year and the first half of FY 2023/24.

In an effort to improve broadband infrastructure across Riverside County, the Broadband team has met with all internet service providers within the county, including AT&T, Charter Spectrum, Frontier, GeoLinks, Wavelength, ConnectAnza, and Mediacom to discuss opportunities to expand and improve internet services for residents living in incorporated and unincorporated communities throughout the region. The goal of these ongoing discussions is the creation of a public-private partnership to pursue future state and federal broadband grants that will be open for grant application submission.

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The Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) is closing the internet affordability gap for students and their families participating in the state's free and reduced lunch program, adults and seniors receiving Supplemental Social Security (SSI), recipients of Medi-Cal, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (SNAP), WIC benefits, Federal Public Housing Assistance, those receiving a Veterans Pension or Survivors Benefits, or those living below 200% the federal poverty guidelines for Riverside County. The County has launched a public outreach campaign to promote the federally funded ACP, which provides a \$30 monthly subsidy for internet service to qualified households.

**Impact on Residents and Businesses**

Closing the digital divide remains a priority, and the County continues to work on initiatives that will positively impact residents and businesses. The County has established a toll-free call center to assist all residents in signing up for ACP benefits. The phone number is (866) 922-1016, and English and Spanish-speaking representatives are ready to assist.

**Additional Fiscal Information**

There will be no fiscal impact to the County. The County will receive full reimbursement for the reports detailed above.

  
Tom Mullen 3/9/2023

  
Alonzo Barrera, Principal Management Analyst 3/27/2023

  
Dave Rogers, Assistant County Executive Officer / CIO 3/29/2023