

RESOLUTION 2025-017
OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FORT COLLINS
APPROVING AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT AND GRANT AGREEMENT
WITH LARIMER COUNTY FOR A GRANT FROM THE CITY'S DIGITAL INCLUSION
PROGRAM

A. The City has established and is operating as a utility a fiber-optic broadband system known as Connexion, which provides various telecommunication services, including internet services.

B. Related to the City's operation of Connexion, the City Council has recognized that because of economic inequality many residents of Fort Collins do not have access to affordable and reliable Internet services causing a gap in economic and educational opportunity for these residents and their children, often referred to as the "digital divide."

C. To address this digital divide, the City Council appropriated in the City's biennial 2025-2026 budget, Ordinance No. 163, 2024 (Neighborhood Livability and Social Health Budget Offer #34.2), funds to be used through the City's Digital Inclusion Program (the "DI Program") to provide, among other things, grants to non-profit entities and other governments who will agree to use these grant funds to assist their economically disadvantage constituents with access to affordable and reliable Internet services.

D. The City has received an application from Larimer County Economic Workforce Development (the "County") for a grant under the DI Program that City staff has reviewed and is recommending that the grant requested be awarded.

E. The County has requested a grant of \$85,000 to be used to support the "Digital Roots" Program, which helps job seekers learn or grow their digital skills for a successful job search (the "County Grant").

F. City and County staff have negotiated and are proposing that the City and the County enter into both the attached Intergovernmental Agreement Authorizing a Grant under the City of Fort Collins Digital Inclusion Program (the "Grant IGA"), attached hereto as Exhibit A and incorporated herein by reference, and the Grant Agreement under the City of Fort Collins Digital Inclusion Program (the "Grant Agreement"), attached hereto as Exhibit B and incorporated herein by reference.

G. The City Council wishes to expressly grant the City Manager the authority to approve the County Grant, to enter into the Grant IGA and Grant Agreement on the City's behalf, and to disburse the grant funds under it to the County, subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

H. Colorado governments are authorized in C.R.S. § 29-1-203 to cooperate and contract with one another to provide any function, service, or facility each is lawfully authorized to provide.

I. The City and the County are both lawfully authorized to assist their respective constituents who are economically disadvantaged with access to affordable and reliable Internet services.

J. The City Council finds and determines that this Resolution is in the City's best interest and necessary for the public's health, safety, and welfare.

In light of the foregoing recitals, which the Council hereby makes and adopts as determinations and findings, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FORT COLLINS that the City Council hereby authorizes the City Manager to approve the County Grant, to enter into the Grant IGA and Grant Agreement on the City's behalf, and to disburse the grant funds under it to the County, subject to the availability of appropriated funds, with the Grant IGA to be in the form attached hereto as Exhibit A and Grant Agreement to be in the form attached hereto as Exhibit B, subject to such modifications as the City Manager, in consultation with the City Attorney, may determine are necessary and appropriate to protect the interests of the City or to effectuate the purposes of this Resolution and the DI Program.

Passed and adopted on March 18, 2025.

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk

Effective Date: March 18, 2025

Approving Attorney: Dianne Criswell