

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

City Council



STAFF

Nina Bodenhamer, City Give Director

SUBJECT

Resolution 2025-017 Approving an Intergovernmental Agreement and Grant Agreement with Larimer County for a Grant From the City's Digital Inclusion Program.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this item is to authorize the approval of an Intergovernmental Agreement and Grant Agreement with Larimer County for a Digital Inclusion grant made to the Larimer County Economic and Workforce Development to support the "Digital Roots" bilingual program.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends adoption of the Resolution.

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION

Connexion, created by and for our community, was launched to improve life and business in Fort Collins through faster, more accessible, and more affordable internet.

The City requires that 6% of Connexion's gross receipts be transferred to the City General Fund as a broadband Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT), per City Code Sec. 26-583. Council has recognized the economic inequality resulting from limited or unreliable internet access creates a gap in economic and educational opportunities for some City residents and their children, often referred to as the "digital divide."

Council appropriates funds to be used through the DI Program (the "DI Program") to address the "digital divide" by providing, among other things, grants to non-profit entities and other governments who will agree to use these grant funds to assist their economically disadvantaged constituents with access to affordable Internet services and digital literacy.

Larimer County Economic and Workforce Development has requested a \$85,000 grant in 2025 from the City's DI Program in order to support job seekers in learning or grow their digital skills for a successful job search through its program, Digital Roots, which also provides participants who successfully complete the program with a device that they get to keep upon completion. City staff has reviewed this request and has recommended that the grant be awarded.

To authorize and administer the Grant, City and County staff have negotiated and are proposing that the City and Larimer County enter into both an Intergovernmental Agreement Authorizing a Grant under the City of Fort Collins Digital Inclusion Program (the “Grant IGA”) and a Grant Agreement under the City of Fort Collins Digital Inclusion Program (the “Grant Agreement”).

CITY FINANCIAL IMPACTS

Council appropriated in the City’s biennial 2025-2026 budget (Neighborhood Livability and Social Health Budget Offer #34.2), funds to be used through the City’s Digital Inclusion Program (the “DI Program”).

Upon adoption, this Resolution will authorize the City Manager to enter into the Grant IGA and Grant Agreement on the City’s behalf, and to disburse from amounts appropriated in the City’s DI Program \$85,000 as a grant to the Larimer County Economic and Workforce Development for its Digital Roots program, a purpose which helps address the “digital divide” in the City. Funds disbursed pursuant to this Resolution, Grant IGA, and Grant Agreement are subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

BOARD / COMMISSION / COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

None.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

None.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Resolution for Consideration
2. Exhibit A to Resolution (Grant IGA)
3. Exhibit B to Resolution (Grant Agreement)