



Agenda Action Form Overview

The Board is requested to approve Budget Ordinance Amendment No.25BCC048 recognizing \$180,000 of a grant award to the Durham County Library and to authorize the County Manager to sign and execute the Subaward Agreement between North Carolina Central University and Durham County Library, creating three (3) provisional FTEs.

Background/Justification

The National Telecommunication and Information Administration (NTIA) awarded North Carolina Central University (NCCU) funding to support the Digital Equity Leadership Program (DELP-Durham). Through this proposal, NCCU and its partners will leverage their expertise and resources to create a connected community where all residents can access, afford, and use digital technology effectively, particularly in Durham’s anchor communities and thrive economically in the constantly evolving digital landscape.

NCCU has organized a team to implement a pilot program to address the lack of broadband access, connectivity, adoption, and equity at NCCU and surrounding anchor communities. By bringing together resources, capabilities, and expertise in digital literacy in order to develop innovative ways to “help residents in the anchor communities who may lack the digital literacy skills needed to seek, obtain, and retain employment, as well as to perform other tasks in daily life.” Other community-based partners include Digital Durham collaborative for digital inclusion and other 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations: Kramden Institute, Durham Public Schools Foundation and Triangle Non-profit and Volunteer Leadership Center. The project will be evaluated by AG Brown, LLC and GL Davis and Company, LLC.

Durham County Library will provide educational programs for members of the community who lack basic or are interested in improving their computing skills. Durham County Library will provide digital literacy training and technical assistance through four branch locations and the Tech Mobile in eligible anchor communities. Durham County Library will hire three full-time Senior Library Assistants to carry out the following NorthStar Digital Literacy (<https://www.digitalliteracyassessment.org/>) curriculum:

1. Essential Computer Skills - Basic Computer Skills, Internet Basics, Using Email, Windows OS, Mac OS
2. Essential Software Skills – Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Google Docs
3. Using Technology in Daily Life - Social Media, Information Literacy, Career Search Skills, Accessing Telehealth Appointments, Supporting K-12 Distance Learning, Your Digital Footprint

In addition, these three FTEs will help continue the Library’s current ongoing two-hour computer literacy programs. Durham County Library will facilitate a “train-the-trainer” program creating a network of individuals and organizations to provide ongoing support to the targeted communities in Durham.

Target Population



The target population for this proposal is Durham residents who live in an “anchor community as defined in Internet for All: Connecting Minority Communities Pilot Program CMC Grant Recipient Handbook published by the U.S. Department of Commerce and the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, ed. 9/21/2022 (<https://broadbandusa.ntia.gov/node/8127>): “any area that is not more than 15 miles from a historically Black college or university, a Tribal College or University, or a Minority-serving institution; and has an estimated median annual household income of not more than 250 percent of the poverty line.”

Monitoring Progress & Impact

Durham County Library will track progress and monitor the impact of this project via the following metrics:

- Pre and post assessment of program participants
- A minimum number of 200 residents will receive training through the digital literacy program
- Amount of staff time spent on the DELF program
- Attendance and evaluations from a two-day training course for Community Technology Instructors (Digital Navigators).

Policy Impact

Accepting these funds is consistent with the County’s current policy to support services which increase equitable opportunities for life skills, technical training, and education.

Procurement Background

N/A

Fiscal Impact

These funds do not require a County match.

Legal Review

The Office of the County Attorney has reviewed and approved the agreement.

Recommendation

The County Manager recommends that the Board approve Budget Ordinance Amendment No.25BCC048 recognizing \$180,000 of a grant award to the Durham County Library and to authorize the County Manager to sign and execute the Subaward Agreement between North Carolina Central University and Durham County Library, creating three (3) provisional FTEs.