

**ACCEPTANCE OF AN AFFORDABLE CONNECTIVITY PROGRAM OUTREACH**

**GRANT**

On May 12, 2021, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) launched the Emergency Broadband Benefit (EBB) Program to help families struggling to afford internet service during the COVID-19 pandemic. The \$3.2 billion program provided qualifying households with a monthly subsidy up to \$50 for broadband service and a one-time subsidy up to \$100 for the purchase of a computer, laptop or tablet. Eligible households on Tribal lands received a monthly broadband discount up to \$75.

On November 16, 2021, the Board of Supervisors (Board) approved a motion titled Investments to Accelerate Digital Equity. The motion identified immediate and longer-term efforts to provide affordable and reliable high-speed internet services to underserved communities impacted by the digital divide. The motion also included an instruction for the Internal Services Department (ISD) through the Delete The Divide initiative to coordinate a countywide promotional campaign on subsidy programs, specifically the Federal Emergency Broadband Benefit (EBB).

MOTION

SOLIS \_\_\_\_\_

MITCHELL \_\_\_\_\_

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BARGER \_\_\_\_\_

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On December 6, 2021, ISD launched a countywide promotional campaign to increase awareness of EBB and encourage residents to enroll in the program. The campaign consisted of a targeted multimedia, multi-language effort with support from the Board of Supervisors, County departments, and numerous community-based organizations, school districts, healthcare agencies, faith-based coalitions, and local businesses. The campaign was limited in duration to only three weeks because the EBB enrollment deadline was December 30, 2021.

Based on FCC data reports, new EBB enrollments in Los Angeles County reached 43,219 in December 2021. This was a 44% increase from the previous month total of 30,041. It was also the highest monthly increase in new enrollments since the early stages of the program and reflected a spike among declining enrollments over the preceding months.

On December 31, 2021, the EBB was replaced by the \$14 billion Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP). Under this new program, qualifying households can receive a monthly subsidy up to \$30 for broadband internet service and a one-time subsidy up to \$100 for the purchase of a computer, laptop or tablet. The monthly broadband discount for eligible households on Tribal lands remains at a maximum \$75. Additionally, the ACP expanded the eligibility criteria and more households now qualify for subsidy benefits. An estimated 1.6 million households are eligible for ACP in Los Angeles County.

In February 2022, the County's Chief Executive Office identified \$3 million in one-time funding to support the countywide ACP promotional campaign. The funds

facilitated community outreach and the purchase of laptops for residents in need through the fiscal year ending on June 30, 2023.

On April 14, 2022, ISD launched a second countywide promotional campaign to increase awareness of the ACP and encourage enrollments. The campaign has been effective with more than 650,000 eligible households currently enrolled in the program, according to the ACP Enrollment Tracker on the California Department of Technology's Broadband For All website. Still, nearly 1 million households have yet to sign up.

On March 10, 2023, ISD was awarded \$700,000 from the ACP Outreach Grant Program administered by the FCC. A total of \$60 million in grants were awarded nationwide to 177 government agencies and community organizations. ISD was among only 15 entities that received grant amounts ranging from \$700,000 to \$750,000, which were the highest individual grant awards. The grant allows for assistance with the ACP process to be done remotely, such as explaining the enrollment process to eligible households. However, the grant requires that assisting individuals with completing and submitting an ACP application must be done in-person.

The ACP Outreach Grant Program provides awardees with reimbursements for qualifying expenses over two years. ISD's grant award is based on expanding the countywide ACP promotional campaign with in-person assistance at County libraries, community events, and large-scale enrollment events at major iconic venues. This grant will benefit and expand current efforts of the County's Delete The Divide initiative, ISD's recent grant award of ~~\$3,375,700~~ \$3,376,000 from the California Advanced Services Fund Broadband Adoption Account to implement a Digital Navigators Program, and the County's Community Broadband Network demonstration projects that will be

administered through public-private partnerships to deploy free and low-cost internet service to underserved communities impacted by the digital divide in Los Angeles County.

It is imperative that the County take advantage of this grant funding in support of the Board's initiative to Accelerate Digital Equity and rapidly deploy in-person assistance for ACP enrollments.

**I, THEREFORE, MOVE** that the Board of Supervisors:

1. Authorize the Director of ISD, or his designee, as an agent of the County of Los Angeles, to accept the grant from the ACP Outreach Grant Program in the amount of \$700,000 awarded on March 10, 2023 by the Federal Communications Commission.
2. Authorize the Director of ISD, or his designee, as an agent of the County of Los Angeles, to complete and submit any required forms and documentation according to the specified terms and conditions of the grant, and to seek reimbursement for applicable costs pursuant to this grant award.
3. Approve ~~the attached Budget Adjustment~~ an appropriation adjustment to reflect an increase of \$700,000 in ~~appropriation~~ Services & Supplies and revenue from the Federal Communications Commission for ACP Outreach Grant in the ISD Operation Budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2022-2023. ISD will carryover sufficient appropriation in its FY 2023-24 Supplemental Changes budget request should there be unspent funding from FY 2022-23.

# # #

HLS: tof

May 16, 2023

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

**REQUEST FOR APPROPRIATION ADJUSTMENT**

INTERNAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

**AUDITOR-CONTROLLER:**

THE FOLLOWING APPROPRIATION ADJUSTMENT IS DEEMED NECESSARY BY THIS DEPARTMENT. PLEASE CONFIRM THE ACCOUNTING ENTRIES AND AVAILABLE BALANCES AND FORWARD TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER FOR HER RECOMMENDATION OR ACTION.

**ADJUSTMENT REQUESTED AND REASONS THEREFORE**

**FY 2022-23**

**4 - VOTES**

SOURCES		USES	
INTERNAL SERVICES A01-IS-90-9001-13100 FEDERAL-OTHER INCREASE REVENUE	700,000	INTERNAL SERVICES A01-IS-2000-13100 SERVICES & SUPPLIES INCREASE APPROPRIATION	700,000
<b>SOURCES TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 700,000</b>	<b>USES TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 700,000</b>

**JUSTIFICATION**

Reflects an increase in Services & Supplies appropriation and revenue from the Federal Communications Commission for the Affordable Connectivity Outreach Program.

**ADOPTED**

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

4 MAY 16 2023

Sabra Johnson Digitally signed by Sabra Johnson  
Date: 2023.05.11 11:16:28 -07'00'

AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE

SABRA JOHNSON, ISD, ADMIN DEPUTY

BOARD OF SUPERVISOR'S APPROVAL (AS REQUESTED/REVISED)

CELIA ZAVALA  
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

REFERRED TO THE CHIEF  
EXECUTIVE OFFICER FOR---

ACTION

APPROVED AS REQUESTED

RECOMMENDATION  
BY **Lan Sam** Digitally signed by Lan Sam  
Date: 2023.05.11  
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APPROVED AS REVISED

AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

**Anthony Baker** Digitally signed by Anthony Baker  
Date: 2023.05.11  
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B.A. NO. 232

DATE 5/11/23

DATE 5/11/23