

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

CALIFORNIA

JAIME H. PACHECO-OROZCO
GENERAL MANAGER



DEPARTMENT OF AGING
AN AREA AGENCY ON AGING
221 N. FIGUEROA ST., STE. 500
LOS ANGELES, CA 90012
(213) 482-7252

KAREN BASS
MAYOR

June 16, 2023

Honorable City Council
c/o Office of the City Clerk
Room 395, City Hall
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Honorable Councilmembers:

APPROVAL TO ACCEPT \$90,682 IN DIGITAL CONNECTIONS (DC) GRANT FUNDS FROM THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF AGING (CDA) TO EXPAND THE CONNECTIONS, HEALTH, AGING AND TECHNOLOGY (CHAT) PROJECT AND TO NEGOTIATE AND EXECUTE STANDARD AGREEMENT DC-2223-25 WITH THE CDA TO PROVIDE DIGITAL CONNECTIONS AND CHAT SERVICES

The City of Los Angeles Department of Aging (LADOA) requests City Council and Mayoral approval to accept the State of California Department of Aging (CDA) Digital Connections (DC) grant funds; to execute Standard Agreement Digital Connections-DC-2223-25 and any unilateral amendments to the subgrant agreement, in accordance with ED3, see enclosed ED3 waiver.

For questions regarding this matter, please contact Jaime H. Pacheco-Orozco at (213) 810-4006.

Sincerely,

Jaime H. Pacheco-Orozco

JAIME H. PACHECO-OROZCO
General Manager

JHP:MFRmn:gdh/LADOA Digital Connections DC-2223-25 Council Cover Ltr (ED3 Waiver)

cc: City Attorney
City Administrative Officer
Chief Legislative Analyst

TRANSMITTAL

TO
Department of Aging

DATE
06/15/2023

COUNCIL FILE NO.

FROM
The Mayor

COUNCIL DISTRICT

APPROVAL OF REQUEST TO ACCEPT \$90,682 IN DIGITAL CONNECTIONS (DC) GRANT FUNDS FROM THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF AGING (CDA) TO EXPAND THE CONNECTIONS, HEALTH, AGING AND TECHNOLOGY (CHAT) PROJECT AND TO NEGOTIATE AND EXECUTE STANDARD AGREEMENT DC-2223-25 WITH THE CDA TO PROVIDE DIGITAL CONNECTIONS AND CHAT SERVICES

Approved, ED3 Waived, and Transmitted for further processing.



MAYOR
(Chris Thompson for)

CITY OF LOS ANGELES

CALIFORNIA

JAIME H. PACHECO-OROZCO
GENERAL MANAGER



DEPARTMENT OF AGING
AN AREA AGENCY ON AGING
221 N. FIGUEROA ST., STE. 500
LOS ANGELES, CA 90012
(213) 482-7252

KAREN BASS
MAYOR

May 26, 2023

Council File Number: CF:
Council Districts: All
Contact Persons & Phone
Jaime H. Pacheco-Orozco
(213) 810-4006

Honorable Karen Bass
Mayor, City of Los Angeles,
200 N. Spring St., Room 303
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Attention: Legislative Coordinator

APPROVAL TO ACCEPT \$90,682 IN DIGITAL CONNECTIONS (DC) GRANT FUNDS FROM THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF AGING (CDA) TO EXPAND THE CONNECTIONS, HEALTH, AGING AND TECHNOLOGY (CHAT) PROJECT AND TO NEGOTIATE AND EXECUTE STANDARD AGREEMENT DC-2223-25 WITH THE CDA TO PROVIDE DIGITAL CONNECTIONS AND CHAT SERVICES

The General Manager of the Los Angeles Department of Aging (LADOA) respectfully submits this transmittal for your review and approval. Monies awarded through the Digital Connections and the Connections, Health, Aging and Technology (CHAT) grant funds provide technology-related support services.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The General Manager of the LADOA requests that the City Council, subject to approval of the Mayor:

1. AUTHORIZE the General Manager of the LADOA, or designee, to accept the State of California Department of Aging (CDA) Digital Connections (DC) grant funds; to execute Standard Agreement Digital Connections-DC-2223-25 and any unilateral amendments to the subgrant agreement, subject to review and approval of the City Attorney as to form and legality, and in compliance with Los Angeles Administrative Code §14.8 et seq. (City grant regulations); and to authorize the Digital Connections DC-2223-25 Budget;

2. AUTHORIZE the Controller to:

- a. Establish new accounts and appropriate \$90,682 for the Digital Connectivity Program within the Area Plan for the Aging Title III Fund Number 395 as follows:

Account No.	Account Title	Amount
02Y102	Aging	\$ 20,179
02YA21	Digital Connectivity	70,503
	Total	\$ 90,682

- b. Increase appropriations within Fund 100 – Department 02 and transfer funds on an as needed basis as follows:

FUND	Dept	Account No.	Account Title	Amount
From: 395	02	02Y102	Aging	\$ 20,179
To: 100	02	001010	Salaried – General	20,013
100	02	006010	Office & Adm. Exp.	166

- c. Expend funds upon proper demand of the General Manager, Aging, or designee.

3. Authorize the General Manager of the LADOA, or designee, to prepare Controller's instructions for any necessary technical adjustments that are consistent with the Mayor and Council actions on this matter, subject to the approval of the City Administrative Officer, and authorize the City Controller to implement the instructions.

BACKGROUND

On August 14, 2020, Governor Newsome issued Executive Order (EO) N-73-20 to improve access to two million Californians at-risk for isolation and loneliness, most specifically, older adults. CDA's first project to address the digital divide was the Connections, Health, Aging and Technology (CHAT) project.

LADOA's CHAT project authorized 541 iPad devices, along with a two-year data service option through June 30, 2023, unlimited technology education by CyberSeniors, and an evaluation conducted by the University of Southern California (USC) funded by the Archstone Foundation. USC continues to evaluate the status of the CHAT project, innovate practices, and assess success stories to improve programming more effectively for California's older adult community.

LADOA launched its CHAT project in December 2021. Currently, the CHAT project is still ongoing, and was recently extended by the CDA through December 31, 2023. Currently, this project is being administered directly by LADOA's Direct Services Division.

The CHAT project, and now the Digital Connections project, seek to address the following issues¹ impacting older adults and adults with disabilities:

- Nearly 1 in 4 adults aged 65 and over are considered socially isolated and nearly 1 out of 3 adults over 45 feel lonely;
- Social isolations increases the chance of premature death and rivals the risks of smoking, obesity, and inactivity;
- Older adults are now living longer than 20 years ago but are also more likely to live alone and to be far less socially engaged than the previous generation;
- A 2019 Pew Research Center study found that only 73 percent of people over 65 use the Internet;
- Older adults in California have limited Internet access in their own homes: only 69 percent of those 65 and over have broadband access, and for those 75 or older, the number declines to 58 percent; and
- The Center for Disease Control describes loneliness and social isolation as *“serious public health risks.”*

Through the CHAT pilot program, CDA and LADOA developed an understanding of how to best serve older adults and persons with disabilities by identifying the following needs:

- 1) The need for a mobile electronic device with downloadable applications;
- 2) The need for broadband internet connectivity; and
- 3) The need for digital literacy support to ensure a thorough understanding on how to use the device and utilize online digital resources.

To continue supporting older adults to overcome the digital divide, CDA approved the enclosed Digital Connections (DC) grant fund. The DC will provide 321 additional iPad devices, a Connectivity Fund², and an Administrative fund for direct oversight and programmatic support of the DC program. The proposed funding will continue serving participants of the original CHAT project in addition to new participants.

DIGITAL CONNECTIONS

iPad Devices	421
Connectivity Fund	\$70,503
Administrative Fund	\$20,179
<u>TOTAL Funding</u>	<u>\$90,682</u>

Per CDA, the Connectivity Fund can only be used by LADOA for the following services:

¹ Reference: *Stanford Center on Longevity*

² Per Program Memo 23-02 by the California Department of Aging

- 1) Broadband Service Support. Examples include purchasing equipment such as routers or hotspot broadband service plans, and supporting participant enrollment in programs such as Broadband for All, etc.
- 2) Digital Literacy Supports. Examples include digital navigator services, IT support, training, etc.
- 3) Program Outreach: Examples include distribution of equipment and services, advertising, etc.

However, subsequent negotiations with CDA provided that the City could use the Connectivity Funds to purchase additional iPads. We estimate that this will allow the Department to purchase 230 additional iPads, possibly resulting in a total of 651 iPads through this program.

Priority should be given to older adults who are low-income, disabled, or otherwise fall within the category of greatest economic and social need within the meanings of the Older Americans Act, the Older Californians Act, and respective regulatory counterparts.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

The proposed action involves the allocation of the Digital Connections (DC) and the Connections, Health, Aging and Technology (CHAT) funded by the CDA. There is no additional impact to the City General Fund.

Copy of this transmittal is being forwarded to the City Attorney and the Council on Aging for concurrent review and approval.

Sincerely,



JAIME H. PACHECO-OROZCO
General Manager

JHP:MFR:mn:gdh/LADOA Digital Connections DC-2223-25 Transmittal

cc: Regina C. Mills, Deputy City Attorney
Maria D. Gutierrez, Office of the City Administrative Officer
Rafael Garcia, Office of the City Administrative Officer
Wendy Caputo, Los Angeles Council on Aging