Digital Equity for Adults with Barriers to Access and Services

The Opportunity

o King County Council has allocated a total of $695,000 to support a digital equity program for **seniors, limited-English-proficient residents, unemployed residents, and those experiencing homelessness** (target beneficiaries) who face barriers to accessing digital services.

o King County seeks applications from organizations who will be able to provide digital access through technology, internet connectivity, and/or digital literacy support.

o King County is making this investment because 16% of residents do not have Internet access at home. Ensuring equal access to the Internet for all residents, regardless of age, income, or ability will allow them to connect to important online resources. Increasing access to these critical resources will help vulnerable King County residents recover from the health, economic, and social impacts of COVID-19.

Program Scope

Increased digital access may take the form of assistance navigating online resources for health, economic, or other basic needs, providing technology for individuals to access the internet and online resources and services, and classes on digital and online literacy.

Activities allowed under this grant include providing:

- Broadband enabled devices like refurbished laptops, tablets, Wi-Fi hotspots and/or other computing devices;

- Technical assistance and training, in-language as needed, to help participants use the devices and other resources;

- Other assistance that will help achieve the intent and objectives of this grant program. Goods or services that fall under this heading will need King County pre-approval.

Eligible Organizations

Organizations are eligible to apply if they:

o Have an existing relationship with at least one of the target populations;

o Have competency in providing technology access, offering technology resources, or digital literacy assistance.

o Will address language access for adults with limited English proficiency and ensure accessibility to the program for adults with disabilities.

o Can meet Federal terms and conditions, including record keeping requirements.

Process

1. Submit any questions by September 9th

2. Submit an application by September 22nd by sending completed application materials to digital.equity.grants@kingcounty.gov;

- ◦ A. Questions at the end of the RFA document
- ◦ B. Excel Spreadsheet
- ◦ C. KC-W9
- ◦ Applicants can request between $25,000 - $500,000

3. Applications will be reviewed that week and we will notify awardees by October 2nd.

4. Payments will generally be made on a reimbursement basis, but there is an option for a drawdown.