

## City Council – Action Request Form

**Date:** September 12, 2022

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**To:** Mayor, Mayor Pro Tempore, and Members of the City Council

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**From:** Ben Rowe, Assistant City Manager  
 Scott Tesh, Director, Budget and Performance Management  
 Meridith J. Martin, Deputy Director, Budget and Performance Management

**Council Action Requested:**  
 Resolution Authorizing the Use of the City’s Allocation of Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (CLFRF) to Partner with WinstonNet for the Forsyth County Digital Equity Committee Pilot Program

**Strategic Focus Area:** Service Excellence  
**Strategic Objective:** No  
**Strategic Plan Action Item:** No  
**Key Work Item:** No



**Summary of Information:**  
 The City of Winston-Salem has accepted \$51.7 million through the American Rescue Plan Act’s (ARPA) Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (CLFRF) from the U.S. Department of the Treasury. The City received the first tranche totaling \$25,866,035.50 in May 2021 and received the second tranche in June 2022. The City must obligate all funds by December 31, 2024, and the funds must be spent with work completed by December 31, 2026.

As part of the ARPA framework, which was endorsed by the Mayor and City Council in 2021, \$5 million in funds were earmarked for digital divide initiatives. On August 29, 2022, City staff provided the Mayor and City Council an ARPA update, which included a presentation for a pilot program from the Forsyth County Digital Equity Committee. The pilot program proposal includes several technology build-outs to support the education and training of City residents such as building a computer art and music (CAM) lab for the City’s youth and an updated technology center for specialized training sessions at the Martin Luther King Community Center.

The proposed program will provide services such as technology/digital literacy, digital equity

**Committee Action:**

<b>Committee</b>	Finance 9/12/22	<b>Action</b>	Approval
<b>For</b>	Unanimous	<b>Against</b>	

**Remarks:**

and internet training, job seeker services training, connections to wraparound service resources, smart boards, the CAM lab, and updated specialty computer technology at the Martin Luther King Community Center. The project will also provide internet-ready devices to at least 1,250 city residents. The proposal target populations are marginalized communities within qualified census tracts (QCTs).

Approval of this item will allow the City to enter into a contract with WinstonNet to perform the proposed digital divide initiative for a total amount of \$2 million. ARPA funds originally earmarked within the digital divide category will be utilized for this initiative. WinstonNet will provide regular update reports to the Mayor and City Council on progress of building out the WinstonNet lab at the Martin Luther King Community Center. WinstonNet will also provide performance metrics related to the programs provided through this initiative. The project will be managed and monitored by the City's Information Systems Department.