



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

File Number:

Agenda Item Number: 23

Agenda Date: December 16, 2021

In Control: City Council A Session

DEPARTMENT: Library

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Ramiro Salazar

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: Citywide

SUBJECT:

Texas Supports Libraries Grant Program

SUMMARY:

This ordinance authorizes the San Antonio Public Library (SAPL) to accept a grant in the amount of \$180,400 from the Texas Supports Libraries Grant Program administered by the Texas State Library and Archives Commission to expand the Library's Older Adult Device Lending Program and to fund phase two operating costs.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The San Antonio Public Library (SAPL) was awarded \$180,4000 from the Texas Supports Libraries Grant Program administered by the Texas State Library and Archives Commission and will enable the San Antonio Public Library to expand its Older Adult Device Lending Program which began as a pilot program in 2021. Funding is provided by the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) under the American Rescue Plan Act.

In 2021, SAPL pursued and secured funding through the San Antonio Public Library Foundation, to launch an Older Adults Device Lending Program Pilot specifically tailored to

address digital inclusion for older adults. After a successful launch of the pilot program, SAPL pursued funding to expand the number of devices for checkout and to fund phase two operation costs. This funding has been successfully secured via the Texas Supports Libraries Grant Program.

The Older Adults Device Lending Program lends an internet enabled tablet device with a data plan to adults aged 60 and older who are Bexar County residents. A program participant can check out the device for a six-month period during which the customer also has access to digital literacy classes, one-on-one support, as well as a curated set of apps on the device designed to access library and other important services.

SAPL partners with the City of San Antonio Department of Human Services to distribute the devices to Older Adults who use the City's Senior Centers. In this way, additional classes and resources can be offered to Older Adults participating in the program to improve their literacy skills and help them access all of the benefits of the internet and digital access. Local partners include OASIS and Senior Planet (OATS) who provide digital literacy classes and one-on-one technical support by telephone, respectively.

The devices under the pilot program were checkout through the Senior Centers with the highest level of need using the City's Equity Atlas which reflects, by census tract, information about the community including race, income, education, language and redlining. In this way, the program focuses on areas of the community with highest need for improvement in digital inclusion and equity. In the expansion of the pilot, using these grant funds, devices will be checkout through all comprehensive senior centers.

The grant award adds an additional 200 devices to the existing fleet of 130 devices in the program and funds phase two program costs.

ISSUE:

This ordinance authorizes the San Antonio Public Library (SAPL) to accept a grant in the amount of \$180,400 from the Texas Supports Libraries Grant Program.

ALTERNATIVES:

If authorization is not provided, the San Antonio Public Library will not be able to expand the Older Adult Device Lending Program.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The grant award for \$180,400 from the Texas Supports Libraries Grant Program. There is no match requirement for this grant award.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval of this ordinance.