

June 5, 2024

**To:** Mayor and Members of City Council

**From:** Sheryl M. M. Long, City Manager *SL*

**Subject:** **Emergency Ordinance – Health: Hamilton County Digital Divide Public Wi-Fi Grant Program**

202401514

Attached is an Emergency Ordinance captioned:

**AUTHORIZING** the City Manager to apply for, accept, and appropriate a grant, effective FY 2025, of up to \$67,041 from the Hamilton County Digital Divide Public Wi-Fi grant program (ALN 21.027) to install public Wi-Fi infrastructure at various service locations operated by the Cincinnati Health Department; and **AUTHORIZING** the Director of Finance to deposit the grant funds into Public Health Research Fund revenue account no. 350x8556.

Approval of this Emergency Ordinance authorizes the City Manager to apply for, accept, and appropriate a grant, effective FY 2025, of up to \$67,041 from the Hamilton County Digital Divide Public Wi-Fi grant program (ALN 21.027) to install public Wi-Fi infrastructure at various service locations operated by the Cincinnati Health Department. The Emergency Ordinance further authorizes the Director of Finance to deposit the grant funds into Public Health Research Fund revenue account no. 350x8556.

The Hamilton County Digital Divide Public Wi-Fi grant program will provide resources to install Public Wi-Fi at six City of Cincinnati Primary Care (CCPC) locations and ten Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) locations, all of which are operated by the Cincinnati Health Department. Broadband infrastructure such as public Wi-Fi has been shown to be critical for work, education, health care, and civic participation, and installation of broadband infrastructure in these CCPC and WIC locations will expand the public's access to broadband internet service.

The City already applied for the grant, and received notice of award on May 10, 2024, but no grant funds will be accepted without approval by the City Council.

The grant does not require matching funds, and there are no new FTEs/full time equivalents associated with the grant.

The installation of public Wi-Fi infrastructure at CCPC and WIC locations is in accordance with the "Sustain" goal to "[b]ecome a healthier Cincinnati" as described on pages 181-192 of Plan Cincinnati (2012).

The reason for the emergency is the immediate need to accept the grant resources in a timely manner.

The Administration recommends passage of this Emergency Ordinance.

cc: Andrew M. Dudas, Budget Director  
Karen Alder, Finance Director



Attachment