

Memorandum



Date: February 18, 2010

Agenda Item No. 9(A)(1)

To: Honorable Chairman Dennis C. Moss
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

From: George M. Burgess
County Manager

Subject: Recovery Act, U.S. Department of Commerce, Broadband Technologies
Opportunity Program – Public Computer Centers

The item was amended at the January 11, 2010 Recreation, Culture & Tourism Committee to reflect that the Department was not selected as a recipient of the award prior to BCC consideration.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners (Board) approve the attached resolution ratifying the Mayor's or Mayor's designee's submission of an application for a grant in the amount of \$2,224,960 from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009 - Broadband Technologies Opportunity Program administered by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration within the United States Department of Commerce. Ratification of this application is necessary because of the short timeframe imposed by this Recovery Act deadline. It is further recommended that the Board authorize the Mayor or the Mayor's designee to receive and expend grant funds, and to execute such contracts, agreements, Memoranda of Understanding (MOU), and amendments, after approval by the County Attorney, as required by program guidelines. It is also recommended that the Board authorize the Mayor or the Mayor's designee to apply for, receive, and expend additional funds that may become available; to file and execute any amendments to the application; and to exercise amendments, modifications, renewal, cancellation, and termination clauses of any contracts and agreements, subject to the approval of the County Attorney's Office.

Scope

The scope of the project is countywide in nature and aims to enhance and expand public broadband access, speed, branch and infrastructure equipment, customer training and support services, with the ultimate goal of increasing user reliability and safety at 48 Library branch sites located throughout Miami-Dade County. The proposed comprehensive upgrade to the Library's computer services and infrastructure will provide an increased density of access points, increased computer availability and training, and quicker transaction processing for wireless connections. Specifically proposed funds will: 1) create two new state-of-the-art computer labs; 2) create 52 new broadband access opportunities via laptops at 10 library sites; 3) increase Wi-Fi density through the addition of 20 wireless access points; and 4) enhance the broadband network architecture by acquiring additional servers and related infrastructure equipment.

Fiscal Impact/Funding Source

If funded, this grant will provide a one-time ARRA award in the amount of \$2,224,960 for implementing a 36-month project. A 24% in-kind match in the amount of \$544,231 has been committed to the proposed project in the form of personnel support and fringe benefits, as required to successfully implement a project of this scope and size.

Track Record/Monitor

Miami-Dade Public Library System's will be the administering agency for the grant and responsible for overall grants management and fiscal administration.

Background

The need for broadband access is becoming a prerequisite for daily living. Community reliance on broadband Internet services is rapidly increasing as more essential services become digitized and are made available online. Online access is now necessary to efficiently manage finances, communicate with teachers and monitor your child's grades, communicate with vendors to purchase desired products and commodities, search and apply for employment, register for government services including Medicare/Medicaid, Food Stamps, Housing and Unemployment.

The Miami-Dade Public Library System is a community anchoring institution that provides free broadband access services and a wealth of online resources to meet all the informational needs of the Miami-Dade County community. As the overall community's need for broadband access increases, so does the Library's need to enhance and expand training services, broadband access points, and overall network infrastructure to accommodate the growth. Factors preventing the Library from effectively meet all the growing broadband needs of the Miami-Dade County community include: the communities' lack of computer skills; long wait lists for computer training classes and for public computers; better centralized training locations, wireless connectivity at or near maximum capacity; and slower connection speeds associated with overall institutional IT growth.



Alex Munoz,
Assistant County Manager



MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

TO: Honorable Chairman Dennis C. Moss
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: February 18, 2010

FROM: R. A. Cuevas, Jr.
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 9(A)(1)

Please note any items checked.

- "3-Day Rule" for committees applicable if raised
- 6 weeks required between first reading and public hearing
- 4 weeks notification to municipal officials required prior to public hearing
- Decreases revenues or increases expenditures without balancing budget
- Budget required
- Statement of fiscal impact required
- Ordinance creating a new board requires detailed County Manager's report for public hearing
- No committee review
- Applicable legislation requires more than a majority vote (i.e., 2/3's _____, 3/5's _____, unanimous _____) to approve
- Current information regarding funding source, index code and available balance, and available capacity (if debt is contemplated) required

Approved _____ Mayor

Agenda Item No. 9(A)(1)
2-18-10

Veto _____

Override _____

RESOLUTION NO. _____

RESOLUTION RATIFYING THE MAYOR OR MAYOR'S DESIGNEE'S SUBMISSION OF AN APPLICATION FOR FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,224,960 FROM THE AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT (ARRA) OF 2009 - BROADBAND TECHNOLOGY OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAM (BTOP) OF THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION ADMINISTRATION; AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OR MAYOR'S DESIGNEE TO RECEIVE AND EXPEND SAID GRANT FUNDS; AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OR MAYOR'S DESIGNEE'S TO EXERCISE AND EXECUTE SUCH CONTRACTS, AGREEMENTS, MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING, AND AMENDMENTS AFTER APPROVAL BY THE COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE; AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OR THE MAYOR'S DESIGNEE TO MODIFY OR AMEND THE APPLICATION IN ORDER TO RECEIVE ADDITIONAL FUNDS OR TO EXTEND THE PERFORMANCE PERIOD AS REQUIRED IF AWARDED; AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OR MAYOR'S DESIGNEE TO APPLY FOR, RECEIVE, AND EXPEND ADDITIONAL FUNDS THAT MAY BECOME AVAILABLE

WHEREAS, this Board desires to accomplish the purposes outlined in the accompanying memorandum, a copy of which is incorporated herein by reference,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, that this Board hereby ratifies the Mayor or the Mayor's designee's submission of an application for a grant award in the amount of \$2,224,960 from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009 - Broadband Technology Opportunities Program of the United States Department of Commerce National Telecommunications and Information

Administration; authorizes the Mayor or the Mayor's designee to receive and expend said grant funds; authorizes the Mayor's or Mayor's designee to receive to apply for, receive and expend future additional funds should they become available through this grant program; authorizes the Mayor or Mayor's designee to execute such contracts, agreements, Memoranda of Understanding (MOU), and amendments as required by grant guidelines or to further the purposes described in the funding request, following approval by the County Attorney's Office, authorizes the Mayor or Mayor's designee to file and execute necessary amendments to the application for and on behalf of Miami-Dade County, Florida; and to exercise amendments, modifications, renewal, and extension provisions, cancellation, and termination clauses in any such applications, contracts, agreements, and MOUs, after approval by the County Attorney's Office.

The foregoing resolution was offered by Commissioner , who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

Dennis C. Moss, Chairman	
Jose "Pepe" Diaz, Vice-Chairman	
Bruno A. Barreiro	Audrey M. Edmonson
Carlos A. Gimenez	Sally A. Heyman
Barbara J. Jordan	Joe A. Martinez
Dorrin D. Rolle	Natacha Seijas
Katy Sorenson	Rebeca Sosa
Sen. Javier D. Souto	

The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this 18th day of February, 2010. This resolution shall become effective ten (10) days after the date of its adoption unless vetoed by the Mayor, and if vetoed, shall become effective only upon an override by this Board.

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA
BY ITS BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

HARVEY RUVIN, CLERK

By: _____
Deputy Clerk

Approved by County Attorney as
to form and legal sufficiency.



Richard Seavey



Agenda Item: 9(A)1

File Number: 100331

Committee(s) of Reference: Board of County Commissioners

Date of Analysis: February 3, 2010

Type of Item: Resolution Ratifying Submission of a Grant Application

Summary

This resolution ratifies the submission of a grant application in the amount of \$2,224,960 from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009-Broadband Technologies Opportunity Program (BTOP).

Background and Relevant Legislation

The Recovery Act signed into law by President Obama on February 17, 2009 includes measures to modernize the nation's infrastructure, enhance energy independence, expand educational opportunities, preserve and improve affordable health care, provide tax relief, and protect those in greatest need. The Recovery Act seeks to create new jobs as well as save existing ones, spur economic activity, invest in long-term economic growth, and foster accountability and transparency in government spending. The Recovery Act intends to achieve this by the following:

- Providing \$288 billion in tax cuts and benefits for millions of working families and businesses;
- Increasing federal funds for education and health care as well as entitlement programs (such as extending unemployment benefits) by \$224 billion;
- Making \$275 billion available for federal contracts, grants and loans; and
- Requiring recipients of Recovery funds to report quarterly on the amount of monies spent, the status of the project, the number of jobs created and/or saved, and other details, all of which

are posted on Recovery.gov so that the public can track where the total \$787 billion Recovery funds are going and how they are being spent.

Under the Recovery Act, the U.S. Congress has appropriated \$4.7 billion to establish a Broadband Technology Program for awards to eligible entities to develop and expand broadband services to rural and underserved areas and enhance broadband capacity at public computer centers, and to encourage sustainable adoption of broadband service.

According to the U.S. Department of Commerce National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) website, the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program Projects and funding include the following:

- Broadband Infrastructure (up to \$1.2 billion);
- Public Computer Center category (up to \$50 million); and
- Sustainable Broadband Adoption (up to \$150 million).

A BTOP press release on December 17, 2009 reflects initial BTOP grant awards from the first round application pool on a rolling basis into February 2010 which include the following recipients:

Broadband Infrastructure Projects:

Georgia: North Georgia Network - \$33.5 million

Maine: Three Ring Binder - \$25.4 million

New York: ION Upstate New York Rural Broadband Initiative - \$39.7 million

South Dakota: Project Connect South Dakota - \$20.6 million

Public Computer Center Projects:

Arizona: Arizona Public Computer Centers - \$1.3 million

Massachusetts: (Boston) City of Boston Public Computing Centers - \$1.9 million

Minnesota: (Minneapolis/St. Paul) Broadband Access Project - \$2.9 million

Washington: (Spokane) Spokane Broadband Technology Alliance - \$1.3 million

Sustainable Broadband Adoption:

New Mexico: Fast-Forward New Mexico - \$1.5 million

Washington: (Spokane) Spokane Broadband Technology Alliance - \$980,000

Miami-Dade County Updates

As of March 2009, the Miami-Dade County Manager has provided over 13 updates on ways the County departments are reviewing, requesting and planning to use ARRA funds. The Office of Grants Coordination (OGC) is charged with actively researching the federal government's Recovery.gov and Grants.gov websites to find current grant opportunities associated with the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

One of the last County Manager ARRA updates issued in September 22, 2009, provided a complete list of 80 ARRA related applications submitted by the County totaling \$480 million.

Of the 80 ARRA related applications submitted by the County, the Miami-Dade County Public Library System (MDPLS) has only one application submitted on its behalf which is the BTOP through the U.S Department of Commerce-NTIA.

As of November 2009, the County has applied for over \$578 million in ARRA funding; approximately \$230 million has been awarded.

Miami-Dade County Legislation

On June 30, 2009, the Board of County Commissioners approved Ordinance 09-60 which extended the County Economic Stimulus Ordinance sunset provision to January 2013 and includes the capital projects and the acquisition of goods and services funded through ARRA.

Budgetary Impact

The grant amount (\$2,224,960) requires a county match in the amount of \$544,231 (24% in-kind match) which will be derived from the Library's (MDPLS) Operating Budget.

Library Operating Expenditures (dollars in thousands)

	Budget FY09-09	Proposed FY09-10
Administration and Support Services	\$16,230	\$17,131
New Facilities, Renovations, Repair and Maintenance	\$6,383	\$9,161
Office of Director	\$5,298	\$5,128
Outreach Services	\$3,561	\$3,062
Public Service	\$50,453	\$40,421
Total	\$90,925	\$74,903

The grant award will be used to enhance and expand public broadband access, speed, branch and infrastructure equipment, customer training and support services at 48 Library branch sites located throughout Miami-Dade County.

According to the Library Department, the grant amount plus the county match totals \$2,769,191 which will cover the entire cost of running the 36-month project. The project amount will include purchasing and installation of equipment, set up of the labs, development of training modules and facilitating training programs.

Questions

When will the County be advised if the BTOP grant application has been awarded to MDPLS?

On January 11, 2010, County staff informed the members of the Recreation, Culture & Tourism Committee 9RCTC)that the MDPLS will not be a recipient of the 2009 ARRA-BTOP Grant award, however, legally the submission for the grant required ratification by the Board of County Commissioners. Furthermore, the MDPLS Director informed the members of the RCTC Committee that he was not in receipt of correspondence informing him of the reasons why MDPLS was not included in the grant award.

If the BTOP grant is not awarded to MDPLS, will this project be suspended?

According to MDPLS staff, without this award the project is suspended.

If the BTOP grant is not awarded, will alternative funding sources be used to continue this project?

According to MDPLS staff, there is no alternative funding source in line for this project.

Prepared By: Mia B. Marin.