

County of Santa Clara
Board of Supervisors
Supervisorial District Three
Supervisor Otto Lee



110727

DATE: May 18, 2022

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Otto Lee, Supervisor
Otto Lee, Supervisor

SUBJECT: Budget Inventory Item 148 - SJECCD Center for Economic Mobility

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Approve Inventory Item No. 148 to provide a grant to San Jose Evergreen Community College District (SJECCD) Center for Economic Mobility (CEM) in the amount of \$20,000 relating to purchase of Chromebooks and hot spots to support digital literacy classes, and refer item for final consideration and approval on June 16, 2022. (Lee)

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

There is a one-time cost of \$20,000.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

According to a 2015 study, 95,000 San Jose residents do not have internet access or an internet capable device at home. In 2016, the City Council approved the Smart City Vision, a program focused on embracing technology to improve the lives of residents. The City of San Jose took a first step in creating a program to offer low cost internet services and equipment to its underserved residents. However, to use those services and equipment residents need to become digitally literate.

In response, CEM has created digital literacy courses including programs teaching basic computer and Internet use, Zoom and the use of Google Apps (including Gmail, Chrome and Google apps). Courses are offered at senior and community centers, local libraries, and schools, but in many cases these locations lack equipment – including computers or tablets and internet access such as hot spots.

Requested funding would support the purchase of Chromebooks, hotspots, monthly hot spot service fees, and mice for Chromebooks. This equipment would allow CEM to expand their services to areas that do not currently have equipment or high speed internet access available.

CHILD IMPACT

The recommended action will have a positive impact on children and youth who will gain digital literacy skills.

SENIOR IMPACT

The recommended action will have a positive impact on seniors who will gain digital literacy skills.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

The recommended action will have no/neutral sustainability implications.

BACKGROUND

As part of the San Jose Evergreen Community College District, the Center for Economic Mobility (CEM) was created to offer workforce development training and other services to underserved populations. Recently accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) CEM offers continuing education, financial literacy, career development readiness, adult education, community and contract education, parent and family education and K-12 programs. Their focus is to serve students and community members with an equity mindset leading to greater participation in our colleges and leading to increase pathways to a highly skilled and diverse locally grown workforce.

Many of CEM's programs require the use of a computer, smart phone, or table and in a digital age those who don't have access to and knowledge of how to use computer-based programs are at a disadvantage.

STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL

County staff will contact grantee to execute agreement and distribute funds.