



# Memorandum

**TO:** HONORABLE CITY  
COUNCIL

**FROM:** Mayor Sam Liccardo

**SUBJECT:** SEE BELOW

**DATE:** June 08, 2021

APPROVED:

Date: 06/04/21

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**SUBJECT: Actions Related to the Approval of Digital Inclusion Grant Awards.**

## **RECOMMENDATION**

1. Accept Staff recommendation to execute round two grant agreements between the City, the California Emerging Technology Fund (CETF), and the San José Digital Inclusion Fund's round one 23 participating grantees.
2. Direct the City Manager and Librarian to ensure Digital Inclusion Fund grants are outcomes-based in order to maximize opportunities for qualifying low-income residents in receiving assistance connecting to broadband internet at home, having an adequate computing device, and receiving digital literacy training to the UNESCO Level Three standard. Staff will only disburse round two grant funds to qualifying grantees who have demonstrated completion of full adoptions from round one.

## **BACKGROUND**

In May 2018, the City Council took the bold step of creating a \$24 million "Digital Inclusion Fund" formed with new revenue from private telecom firms' investments in 5G small cell networks and upgrades to existing broadband infrastructure. The Fund's goals are to sustainably connect 50,000 households in San José over ten years to broadband internet while offering digital skills training that will tangibly improve low-income residents' access to opportunities in education, employment, healthcare, etc.

The Fund officially launched in December 2019 as the nation was entering shelter in place due to the pandemic and played a critical role in ensuring households, especially those with school-aged children, were able to fully participate in distanced learning. From December 2019 to June 2021, the Fund raised over \$2.2 million in corporate and individual philanthropy, reached over 200,000 residents through omni-channel marketing educating them on Fund offerings, and currently have over 6,000 adoptions in-progress.

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Recognizing the challenges that the pandemic created for the Fund's participating grantees, existing grantees - based on qualifying performance - may now have the opportunity to continue participating in this strategic, vital mission to bridge the digital divide once and for all for our most marginalized families and to ensure no resident in the Capital of Silicon Valley is left behind in sharing the benefits of technology revolutions.