

1 **2023 RES-042**

2 **ACCEPTING FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION AFFORDABLE CONNECTIVITY**
3 **PROGRAM OUTREACH GRANT FUNDS**

4 The Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) from the Federal Communications Commission
5 (FCC) is a program that provides up to a \$30 benefit to qualifying households to reduce the
6 monthly cost of internet service. It also provides up to \$75 per month for qualifying households
7 on Tribal lands. In addition to the internet service discount, the program allows for a one-time
8 \$100 discount to purchase a computer, desktop computer, or tablet from a participating provider
9 provided they contribute more than \$10 and less than \$50 toward the purchase price.

10 Internet service is no longer an optional service, it has become a requirement to participate in
11 daily life. Services for basic functions such as banking, healthcare, and school have all shifted
12 online. There is great opportunity in providing these functions on a computer rather than
13 driving, taking a bus, or walking, however, not every person is able to afford the internet service
14 to utilize these features.

15 The Dane County Board of Supervisors recognized this important need and established the
16 Dane County Broadband Task Force in 2021. The Task Force has been meeting since mid-
17 2021 and developed over 30 recommendations to expand access throughout Dane County.
18 Several of the recommendations include addressing affordability issues that prevent people
19 from having internet service. The Affordable Connectivity Program acknowledges the disparity
20 between those that can and cannot afford internet service. This program is an opportunity to
21 reduce this disparity, but is only beneficial if those that qualify are aware of the benefits it
22 provides.

23 Approximately 20% of eligible households in Dane County have signed up for the ACP benefit,
24 which leaves approximately 80% who have not.

25 In early 2023, Dane County Planning Development applied for the FCC Affordable Connectivity
26 Program Outreach Grant in an effort to increase the awareness and sign-up to this program.
27 Dane County was recently awarded a grant for \$86,500 to do this work. The outreach will
28 include a multi-prong outreach effort including holding sign-up events in the rural areas of the
29 county, working with Spanish and Hmong community organizations to reach non-English
30 speakers, and utilizing the existing service infrastructure that Dane County already has in place
31 to increase sign-up and awareness.

32 As a trusted messenger, Dane County already plays a role in every resident's life by providing a
33 wide variety of services to support and improve people's lives. The ACP Outreach Grant funds
34 will provide another opportunity to support residents in the community.

35 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Dane County Department of Planning and
36 Development is authorized to sign online documentation regarding the grant in FCC online
37 portal: Grants.gov.

38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the following revenue account be in the Department of
39 Planning and Development:

40	PDPLNDIV 81596	"ACP Grant Revenue"	\$86,500
41	PDPLNDIV 20245	"ACP Grant Expenses"	\$40,900

42	PDPLNDIV	10072 "LTE Expense"	\$42,360
43	PDPLNDIV	10108 "Social Security"	\$3,240