



Mid-America Regional Council Community Services Corporation

600 Broadway, Suite 300 • Kansas City, Missouri 64105 • Phone 816/474-4240 • Fax 816/421-7758

May 24, 2022

**Meeting begins immediately following
the MARC Budget & Personnel Committee meeting**

Hybrid format: limited attendees in MARC's Board Room with a remote option via Zoom

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. VOTE: Approve Minutes of the March 22, 2022 Meeting
3. VOTE: Support Preparation of a Regional Digital Equity Action Plan
4. VOTE: Authorize an Application to the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation to Support and Expand the Educare Program
5. Other Business
6. Adjourn

AGENDA REPORT

MARC CSC Board of Directors

May 2022
Item No. 2

ISSUE:

VOTE: Approve Minutes of the March 22, 2022 Meeting

BACKGROUND:

The minutes of the March 22, 2022 meeting are enclosed.

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the minutes of the March 22, 2022 meeting.

STAFF CONTACT:

David Warm

Karina Bielecki



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MEETING SUMMARY

March 22, 2022

Immediately following the Budget & Personnel Meeting

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Commissioner Harold Johnson, Jr., Unified Government of Wyandotte/Kansas City, Kan. - MARC Board Chair

Mayor Carson Ross, Blue Springs, Mo - MARC Board 1st Vice Chair

Commissioner Janeé Hanzlick, Johnson County, Kan. - MARC Board 2nd Vice Chair

Mayor Eileen Weir, Independence, Mo. - MARC Board Treasurer

Mayor Pro Tem Beto Lopez, Lee's Summit, Mo. - MARC Board Secretary

Mayor Curt Skoog, Overland Park, Kan.

Commissioner Rob Roberts, Miami County, Kan.

Commissioner Becky Fast, Johnson County, Kan.

Mayor/CEO Tyrone Garner, Unified Government of Wyandotte/Kansas City, Kan.

STAFF PRESENT

David Warm, Executive Director

Carol Gonzales, Director of Finance and Administration

Ron Achelpohl, Director of Transportation and Environment

Lauren Palmer, Director of Local Government Services

Kristin Johnson-Waggoner, Public Affairs Program Director

Catherine Couch, Public Affairs Coordinator

Karina Bielecki, Executive Assistant

John Hwang, Network Administrator II

Joanne Bussinger, Grant Manager

Eric Winebrenner, Public Safety Program Director

Jay Heermann, GIS Manager

Karen Clawson, Principal Planner and Air Quality Program Manager

Bethany Reyna, Nutrition Program Manager

Darlene Pickett, Accountant II

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Carson Ross called the MARC Community Services Corporation Board of Directors meeting to order at 11:40 a.m.

Due to the meeting being conducted remotely, Mayor Ross provided instructions for participation. He reported that staff would present on all the agenda items, provide an opportunity for comments and questions after each item and ask for approval of all agenda items with one vote at the end of the meeting. Members would have an opportunity to abstain or object to any items necessary during the final vote.

VOTE: Approve the Minutes of the February 22, 2022 Meeting

AGENDA REPORT

MARC CSC Board of Directors

VOTE: Authorize an Application to the Kansas Department of Health and Environment and the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services for Community Health Worker Projects

MOTION: Commissioner Janeé Hanzlick moved for approval of all items and Commissioner Harold Johnson seconded. All were in favor of approving agenda items 2 through 3. The motion passed.

OTHER BUSINESS

No other business.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:41 a.m.

MINUTES APPROVED:

Carson Ross, Chair

Date

AGENDA REPORT

MARC CSC Board of Directors

May 2022
Item No. 3
Competitive Economy

ISSUE:

VOTE: Support Preparation of a Regional Digital Equity Action Plan

BACKGROUND:

Congress has authorized over \$100 billion to support addressing broadband infrastructure and digital equity needs. States and local communities recognize the importance of quality, reliable, affordable internet for businesses and residents. The states of Missouri and Kansas are considering the use of some American Rescue Plan dollars for broadband infrastructure, particularly to improve connections in rural areas. The recent Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act allocated \$65 billion for infrastructure and equity. Each state will be receiving a minimum of \$100 million for infrastructure and additional resources for digital equity. In the near future, states will be provided the opportunity to seek federal funds to support preparation of statewide digital equity plans. Following development of those plans, funds to support implementation would be available to communities and non-profits.

Initial planning work completed for the KC Rising Place Committee by Rockcreek Way has helped raise awareness among business and civic leaders that only 73.5 percent of our area households have broadband services, with disparities in many urban neighborhoods and rural communities. Meaningful use includes ability to use the technology with devices and knowhow for education, employment, and health. The technology and connectivity are fundamental to ongoing personal engagement and social and community involvement for personal well-being.

Local government, business, and civic interests recognize the opportunities and the challenges in front of us. There are sizable resources coming from the federal government for investments in broadband infrastructure and digital equity. The lack of clear plans and funding proposals limit the region's ability to be in a position to secure a portion of the funds being directed to the states of MO and KS.

MARC, KC Rising, and the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City have outlined an initiative to advance regional plans to improve broadband infrastructure and address digital equity. This effort is responding to needs identified by the KC Rising's Place Committee, the Coalition for Digital Inclusion, the UMKC digital equity task group, and others to achieve a mutually stated goal that all households in the KC region have access to quality, affordable broadband for meaningful use.

To respond to these opportunities and challenges, MARC (representing local governments), KC Rising (a business-led initiative), and the Kansas City Federal Reserve Bank (with background and expertise on this issue and community development engagement) have agreed to support the development of a strategic action plan taking full advantage of the expertise that exists in the community and with broad community engagement.

Work underway and planned to be initiated soon includes:

Gaps in Broadband Infrastructure - MARC proposes to contract with Black and Veatch to analyze unserved and underserved neighborhoods and areas in the Kansas City region using private and public data. The analysis will put the region in a better position to seek funds to reduce gaps and improve quality broadband availability. The \$49,770 cost would be split

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between MARC (\$29,770 from funding received from the COVID-19 Regional Response and Recovery Fund) and the Civic Council of Greater Kansas City (\$20,000).

Digital Equity - Support a regional digital equity strategy plan that identifies what investments are needed to move toward the goal of having all households in the metro area with access to affordable quality broadband. The planning work involves working with local and national consultants, local officials, libraries, schools, community experts, and others. Initial planning work in addition to the funds required for the broadband infrastructure analysis would be supported by approximately \$160,000 in COVID-19 Fund dollars. The planning will:

- Build on prior work by local governments and community organizations committed to digital equity.
- Be regional in focus.
- Engage local officials and community organizations to seek broad community input.
- Develop specific investment recommendations for infrastructure, connectivity, devices, and skill building.
- Include information identified by the National Digital Inclusion Alliance for state digital equity plans, and in coordination with state broadband offices, produce information and a plan that will ensure that the needs and possible investments for the KC area are incorporated into the state plans.
- The investments will focus on taking full advantage of existing assets, institutions, and organizations in the community; encourage collaborative approaches; recognize the challenges that many households face to connectivity to achieve meaningful use; and focus on securing federal funds in the short-term while considering long-term sustainability.

Digital Equity Pilot - MARC is in discussion with the Regional COVID-19 Fund's Advisory Board on use of funds as outlined:

1. Outline use of the \$800,000 to the Advisory Board members working on digital equity and secure approval from the Advisory Board for use of funds through MARC process
2. Secure support for recommendation from full board for use of initial \$200,000 toward planning
 - a. \$29,770 toward Black & Veatch analysis (plus \$20,000 from Civic Council)
 - b. \$35,000 initial investment for Triveece Penelton/Vireo to support community outreach for pilot project and design of outreach for digital equity plan
 - c. Funds of up to \$115,000 for nationally recognized digital planning consultant and additional community engagement
3. Secure support for MARC to oversee investment of remaining \$600,000
 - a. Ask for requests from community organizations to deploy digital navigators to help households apply for federal Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) and to identify device and training needs (up to \$200,000)
 - b. \$50,000 for KC Digital Drive to work with community organizations to provide training on how to take best advantage of ACP and other internet service provider programs for low-income households
 - c. Ask for requests/proposal plans to use up to \$200,000 for devices, working with PCs for People and libraries to provide or loan devices to households
 - d. Ask for requests/proposals for up to \$150,000 for digital literacy training (Goodwill, Literacy KC, Libraries)

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS:

The digital equity planning and broadband infrastructure analysis will be supported by a \$20,000 grant from the Civic Council of Greater Kansas City and up to \$200,000 from the

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Kansas City Regional COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund. The Fund's Advisory Board has set aside \$800,000 to address digital equity. MARC is determining the potential to guide the use of the remaining \$600,000 to pilot promotion of the federal Affordable Connectivity Program to help households with limited incomes with low-cost broadband services; and to provide devices and digital skills training to support households achieving meaningful use of the technology.

RECOMMENDATION:

Authorize MARC to partner with KC Rising and the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City to lead a regional digital equity planning effort, including a limited analysis of broadband infrastructure. Authorize an agreement with Black and Veatch for \$49,770 to prepare a broadband infrastructure analysis for the nine-county region and an agreement with Vireo for \$35,000 for digital equity community engagement. Authorize acceptance of funds from the Civic Council of \$20,000 toward the broadband analysis, and up to \$800,000 from the COVID-19 Fund to support digital equity planning and implementation of a pilot program.

STAFF CONTACT:

Marlene Nagel

AGENDA REPORT

MARC CSC Board of Directors

May 2022
Item No. 4
Quality Early Learning

ISSUE:

VOTE: Authorize an Application to the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation to Support and Expand the Educare Program

BACKGROUND:

MARC wishes to submit a two-year grant application to the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation to expand and strengthen the Educare Program. Since 2018, MARC has administered the Educare program. Educare is a twenty-year old state funded initiative that provides resources, technical assistance, and training opportunities at free or reduced cost to child care providers in Cass, Clay, Jackson, Platte, and Ray counties in Missouri.

Current state funding for this program has limited the impact to approximately 13% of eligible early learning programs in the region and funding is not available to support additional quality improvement materials and resources many of these programs lack such as learning materials, shelving, and basic health and safety equipment.

Funds from this grant will be used to provide:

- Environmental screenings in participating programs to determine material needs and improvements;
- Quality improvement equipment and learning material grants;
- Coaching support to up to 15 additional small, licensed centers and up to 15 additional family child care providers that serve a high proportion of subsidy children;

This project complements and fits with the current mission and supports the work of other initiatives within MARC's Early Learning Department. Much of the funding from this agreement will be passed through to direct service agencies. A portion of the funds will be used to support existing staff time in the management and oversight of the project subcontracts and to support data entry and coordination of program supports.

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS:

Funding from this grant will be included in the 2022 and 2023 budgets

REVENUES	
Amount	\$300,000
Source	Kauffman Foundation
PROJECTED EXPENSES	
Personnel (salaries, fringe, rent)	\$40,500
Contractual	\$208,000
Quality Improvement Grants	\$ 50,000
Other (supplies, printing, etc.)	\$1,500

RECOMMENDATION:

Authorize a two-year \$300,000 grant application to the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation and, if awarded, acceptance and expenditure of grant funds.

AGENDA REPORT

MARC CSC Board of Directors

STAFF CONTACT:

Jovanna Rohs

Kyle Matchell