

**LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY
REC-N-TEC INITIATIVE**

Grantor: The United States Conference of Mayors and other entities

Amount of Grant: \$150,000 Talent for Tomorrow: Digital Equity Challenge Grant from the United States Conference of Mayors and grant funds from other entities in an amount not to exceed \$50,000, for a total grant amount not to exceed \$200,000

Term of Grant: January 1, 2025 to December 31, 2026

Grant Summary: The REC-N-TEC Initiative grant will provide digital skills workforce development programming at the City's recreation centers to improve program participant's workforce opportunities through digital skills training and support.

Contracts: Contracts are necessary for the purchase of materials, equipment, supplies, services, and training, including but not limited to, hardware and software, needed to implement the grant. Professional services and software vendors are necessary to acquire software, if needed, and to provide various technology projects, training, and other related services.

Contract Funding: Payable from the grant proceeds accepted under this ordinance.

Additional Information:

The City of Cleveland is committed to prioritizing neighborhoods and residents by improving their economic mobility and prospects. This commitment to economic mobility is epitomized in the recent technology overhaul at the City of Cleveland Recreation Center computer labs with an aim to providing a window then bridge into the digital world and economy through a digital skills training and workforce development pilot initiative called "REC-N-TEC".

Given Cleveland's status as the second poorest big city in the nation, this initiative is critical in uplifting residents by equipping them with vital workplace-related digital skills through the leveraging of our computer labs and their dedicated broadband networks to provide this requisite workforce development training that both fosters economic growth and enhances livelihoods.

The first-year goal is to enroll at least 500 participants with an 80% completion target. Effectiveness will be measured through pre- and post-assessments with the ambitious aim of 60% of graduates securing digital-related jobs or career advancement within six months, post-completion. Surveys will also be conducted of participants upon completion to ensure we are addressing their career aspirations and workforce development gaps.

With the City's role as co-chair of the Greater Cleveland Digital Equity Coalition, we will leverage the approximately 80 local organizations to spread the word about the enhanced and expanded Rec Center digital skills-related workforce development training opportunities, consequently helping grow and further strengthen the local and regional digital equity ecosystems that support our residents in every facet of their digital journey.

While this initiative will serve all Clevelanders looking to grow personally and professionally, we especially hope to empower vulnerable populations such as our unsheltered residents, seniors, single parents, and justice-affected residents.

This holistic and inclusive approach not only can help bridge the digital divide but also can create a robust infrastructure for ongoing learning and employment opportunities, thereby contributing significantly to the economic empowerment and revitalization of Cleveland.



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May 21, 2024

The Honorable Justin Bibb
City of Cleveland
601 Lakeside Avenue E
Cleveland, OH 44114

Dear Mayor Bibb:

On behalf of The U.S. Conference of Mayors (USCM) and Comcast, it is my pleasure to inform you that you are a medium-sized city USCM/Comcast Digital Equity Challenge \$150,000 grant award winner for your REC-N-TEC initiative. This award honors mayoral commitment in advancing programs designed to grow college and career readiness, close the skills and opportunity gap, advance economic mobility, and lay the foundation for generational wealth in under-resourced communities through equitable digital access and skills training.

The USCM/Comcast Digital Equity Challenge Grant award winners will be announced at the 92nd Annual Conference of Mayors in Kansas City on **Friday, June 21st** at the Opening Plenary Session from **9:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.** We invite you to join us in Kansas City for a formal presentation of the award at the Opening Plenary Session.

We realize that this is exciting news for both you and the city, **but we are asking that you keep your status as a winner confidential until the award ceremony on June 21st.** USCM staff will prepare a press release and work on publicity for the award-winning cities, and will be in touch with further details closer to the meeting.

Again, congratulations on a successful program and I look forward to seeing you in June. If you have any questions, you may contact Kathy Amoroso, Assistant Executive Director, at 202-341-3006 or by e-mail at kamoroso@usmayors.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Cochran".

Tom Cochran
CEO and Executive Director