



**NEVADA COUNTY  
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES  
AGENCY**

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**NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

**Board Agenda Memo**

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**MEETING DATE:** July 11, 2023

**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Rachel Peña

**SUBJECT:** Resolution approving execution of a Contract with FREED Center For Independent Living for the provision of providing access to digital connectivity and technology assistance to our older adults and adults with disabilities for the maximum amount of \$320,669 for the term of July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024.

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**RECOMMENDATION:** Approve the attached Resolution.

**FUNDING:** This grant is provided by the California Department of Aging (CDA) for the administration of services and supports in alignment with the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) spending plan. Grant funds appropriated for this program are non-competitive and will be provided to all county human services departments that opt to participate. There are no County General Funds required in this agreement.

**BACKGROUND:** The California Department of Aging by the Division of Home and Community Living (CHCL) Access to Technology grant to meet the needs of diverse older adults (i.e., 60 years of age and older) and adults with disabilities to gain access to digital connectivity and technology to reduce isolation, increase social connections, and enhance self-confidence in navigating digital and online resources. This opportunity is in alignment with the California Governor's Master Plan on Aging.

The program goals are to connect older adults and adults with disabilities to technology, providing them with greater access to resources and information. Provide older adults and adults with disabilities with enhanced vital services, such as telehealth; social engagement/isolation prevention; and information on nutrition, transportation, and long-term support services through broadband access/internet connectivity. Reduce social isolation and improve well-being by expanding access and increasing connections and communication with family members, friends, caregivers, healthcare professionals, community resources, and services. Enhance self-confidence by working to eliminate fears and doubts over ability to use technology and develop the confidence that comes from familiarity with and knowledge of the advantages and benefits that technology can offer. Educate older adults and adults with disabilities on how to use technology to assist

in the basics of daily living, such as paying bills and grocery shopping, thereby helping them to continue living independently in their communities.

Adult Services will work collaboratively with the ADRC/FREED and refer older adults and adults with disabilities to this program. Adult Services staff, Adult Protective Services, and In Home Support Services are actively in the homes of our customers and will be able to personally share this exciting program and explore what type of technology will best suit their needs. ADRC/FREED will purchase the requested equipment, assist our customers with choosing the best California Low Cost Internet Plan, and provide support on how to use the technology. Area 4 on Aging also provides on-line internet support classes.

It is recommended that the Board approve this contract, as the services provided will reduce isolation and increase social connections.

**Item Initiated and Approved by:** Rachel Peña, LCSW Director of Social Services