

# COVID-19 RECOVERY & RESILIENCY PLAN: DIGITAL INCLUSION EFFORTS

According to the 2020 Digital Inclusion Survey and Assessment (DISA), about twenty percent of San Antonio households do not have access to broadband internet in the home there by creating disparities between those that are connected and those that aren't. COVID-19 is only aggravating those disparities especially for K-12 and colleges/ universities. The City of San Antonio is committed to supporting projects that focus on recovery and resiliency and the Connected Beyond the Classroom initiative will do so by helping to tackle these systemic disparities. Within the project, we propose to build a collaborative, citywide, multi-government agency network between the City and other governmental entities to expand fiber capability and student access in San Antonio, helping mitigate digital divide issues in our community, specifically in student populations, K-12 and colleges/universities.

## CONNECTED BEYOND THE CLASSROOM INITIATIVE BREAKDOWN

### CURRENT KEY STAKEHOLDERS

- ▶ 3 Independent School Districts (EISD, SAISD, & HISD)
- ▶ Texas A&M University, San Antonio
- ▶ Methodist Healthcare Ministries

### EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- ▶ The development of a flexible distance learning network that aims to:
  - Improve digital equity throughout San Antonio for students
  - Support pilot projects to develop, share and scale best practices
  - Provide in-home school system access for up to 20,000 students
  - Mimic their current school technology experience, by having them login to their school network (same login parameters and filters) as if they were using a computer on campus
  - Provide effective speeds and bandwidth to meet distance learning needs
  - Not be dependent on any one technology
  - Leverage collective capabilities and assets of all partners (vendor contracts, buying power, fiber, communication towers, building rooftops, networks, etc.,) that can be applied
  - Use multiple funding models to grow and sustain it
  - Use research and data to capture impact and success

### FUTURE POTENTIAL BENEFITS

- ▶ Allowing participating governmental entities to exchange information quickly and more efficiently
- ▶ Increasing broadband capabilities to each agency's internal and external constituents
- ▶ Establishing a platform for new broadband applications for the delivery of services to the public

### PRIORITY NEIGHBORHOODS

50 priority neighborhoods were identified with digital equity in mind with the following resources:

- ▶ Findings from CoSA's Digital Inclusion Survey and Assessment (DISA) on broadband access
- ▶ The City's Equity Atlas Maps
- ▶ Technical infrastructure map
- ▶ Feedback from key stakeholders

## SHORT TERM SUPPORT-\$920,000

- ▶ Hotspots: Distributed **\$500,000**, 1,662 hotspots to the following organizations
  - 1000 Edgewood ISD, 500 Northeast ISD, 90 PreK4SA, 72 Parks and Rec
- ▶ ISD Funding: provided **\$420,000** in CRF to leverage state resources provided by the Texas Education Agency (TEA)
  - \$60K for Judson, Southwest, Harlandale, Northside, and SouthSan ISD \$120k for San Antonio ISD
  - Reimbursement for hotspots, devices, and digital platforms to support distance learning

## MID TO LONG TERM COLLABORATION & SUPPORT-\$893,000

- ▶ COVID Recovery Portal, **\$273,000**
- ▶ Supporting EISD & HISD: **\$40,000**
- ▶ Digital Equity Strategy, **\$250,000**: City is working w/ Public-Private-Community partnership to support digital equity
  - Creation and support of a Digital Equity Roadmap
  - Creation of SA Digital Connects for execution of roadmap and advocacy of local, state, and federal funding for Digital Inclusion efforts across San Antonio & Bexar County
  - County is also supporting with \$250,000
  - Over \$1M have already been fundraised from private sector
- ▶ Parks Community Centers, **\$150,000**: 3 parks facilities have been upgraded with public Wi-Fi
  - Copernicus (D2), Millers Pond (D4), & Frank Ramirez (D4)
- ▶ Supporting SAHA, **\$180,000**: to expand public Wi-Fi at three of their locations
  - Three family facilities: Cassiano (D5), Alazan-Apache (D5), and Lincoln Heights (D1)
  - Implementing Mesh and Solar Mesh Wi-Fi technologies to cover up to 4,500 SAHA residents
  - Expected to be complete Fall 2021

## CONNECTED BEYOND THE CLASSROOM NETWORK-\$16,800,000 PHASE I-SAN ANTONIO ISD PILOT

- ▶ SAISD approved pilot project with five City facilities so they don't compromise their e-rate funds
- ▶ Neighborhoods include the Historic Westside (D5), Prospect Hill (D5), WestEnd Hope in Action (D1), Collins Garden (D5), Palm Heights (D5), and El Charro (D5)
- ▶ SAISD will be able to connect up to 2,000 students
- ▶ **Budget: \$2,500,000-COMplete**

## PHASE II-HARLANDALE AND EDGEWOOD ISD

- ▶ Neighborhoods include: El Charro (D5), Thompson Community (D5), Las Palmas (D5), Los Jardines (D6), Westwood Square (D5), Prospect Hill (D5), and Tierra Linda (D5)
- ▶ HISD Phase II (2 Rooftops, 3 Monopoles, & 1 existing Tower site)
  - HISD will be able to connect 800 for 2022/2023 school year
  - Rooftop Sites: Harlandale High and Fenley Center
  - Monopole sites: Leal Middle, Columbia Heights Elementary & Kingsborough Middle School
  - Existing Site: McCollum Tower
- ▶ EISD Phase II (11 Monopole Sites)
  - EISD will be able to connect up to 3200 students for 2022/2023 school year
  - Burleson, Henry B Elementary, Stafford Elementary, Gardenale, Winston Elementary, Brentwood, Alonso Perales and Las Palmas Elementary, Roy Cisneros Elementary, Wrenn Middle School, and LBJ Elementary
- ▶ **Budget: \$7,300,000-Complete**

## UPDATED PHASE III- SAN ANTONIO ISD, HARLANDALE ISD, & Edgewood ISD

- ▶ Add'tl 6 sites within Phase 1 to ensure coverage is adequate to cover the original goal of 2,000 students
- ▶ Extending maintenance & support service from 2 to 5 years for all sites to ensure sustainability of network
- ▶ SAISD will be able to connect an additional 1,000 students for a total of 3,000
- ▶ Adding an additional 8 sites in HISD per ISD request and overall goals of Recovery and Resiliency Plan
- ▶ 2 additional neighborhoods: Kingsborough Ridge (D3) and Mission San Jose (D3)
  - HISD will be able to connect an additional 2,400 students for 2022/2023 school year
- ▶ Adding an additional site at EISD to improve coverage
- ▶ Electrical and circuit updates to all SAISD sites
- ▶ **Estimated Budget: \$7,000,000- In Progress to be completed by June 2022**

## IMPROVING DIGITAL EQUITY

- ▶ Total budget: \$27,000,000 (COSA DIGITAL INCLUSION EFFORTS)
  - Current Spend: \$18,600,000 (\$1,813,000 Digital Inclusion Support & \$16,800,000 CBTC)
  - Savings: \$8,400,000
- ▶ Total Neighborhoods: 15 (CBTC) = 15 out of 50
  - Remaining 35 neighborhoods were removed from scope due to the following:
    - Not having enough vertical assets to leverage,
    - Not being able to leverage SAISD's network because of e-rate restrictions (making it cost prohibitive), and
    - 5 ISDs opting out of participating in Connected Beyond the Classroom due to:
      - Other connectivity options with Texas Education Agency (TEA)
      - CBTC would only cover a small portion of their overall student body
      - Security concerns over their network use
      - Having City owned monopolies erected on their property
- ▶ Total Students: 9,800 (CBTC) out of the 20,000

## CONTINUING TO IMPROVE DIGITAL EQUITY THROUGH ARPA FRAMEWORK

- ▶ Total Savings: \$8,400,000
  - \$1,500,000 allocated to ARPA Non-Profit Social Services
  - \$6,900,000 allocated to ARPA Digital Inclusion/Literacy
    - Economic & Workforce Development Committee (EWDC) to provide priorities
    - Staff will develop plan after EWDC provide priorities
    - EWDC and then full Council will approve plan for \$6.9M