



CITY OF SOUTH BEND BROADBAND AFFORDABILITY EFFORTS

Increasing the affordability of high speed, reliable internet is one of our highest priorities. In 2022, we are launching significant initiatives to increase competition in the broadband market and are providing free in-home internet to LSES families.

Since the beginning of distance learning amid the COVID-19 pandemic, we have supported [Citywide Classroom South Bend](#), a partnership with the South Bend Community School Corporation that provides students and their families with internet in their homes, either through discounted Comcast Internet Essentials or a mobile hotspot.

As the need for connectivity has only increased since 2020, we have looked to new ways to connect students and their families through this partnership. In the fall of 2022, the South Bend Community School Corporation will [launch a private LTE network through the CBRS band of spectrum](#) to offer a more sustainable, secure, and reliable form of connectivity for these families in their homes. This network was made possible by a \$150,000 grant from the City of South Bend.

Additionally in the fall of 2022, we will apply for funding through the NTIA's Middle Mile Grant to build a City-owned dark fiber network in historically underserved neighborhoods in South Bend. We will partner with ChoiceLight, Inc., a dark fiber nonprofit, to manage this network and lease the fiber to internet service providers. This infrastructure will serve to increase competition, lower costs, and increase broadband quality in South Bend's areas of greatest need.

Finally, we have begun implementing a series of policies to become an Indiana "broadband ready" community. These policies, such as a "dig once" policy, are [identified by the State of Indiana to increase competition and affordability](#).

Please see our uploaded documentation for the following:

1. An agreement outlining the donation of \$150,000 to the South Bend

Community School Corporation to create a private LTE network for students and families

2. A 2021 study performed by CTC Technology & Energy assessing the cost and feasibility of a City-owned fiber network in South Bend – this study will be revised to form the basis of our Middle Mile Grant application
3. A collaborative document between the City's Innovation & Technology and Public Works departments outlining policy changes to be pursued in 2022 to promote broadband competition and affordability