CITY OF SOUTH BEND DIGITAL EQUITY PLANNING PROCESS

We will be launching a Digital Equity Roadmap for South Bend in the summer of 2022. Our roadmap will focus on initiatives and goals in three broad areas of digital equity: connectivity, devices, and digital skills.

In each of these broad areas, we will outline the following:

1. **Current state**, leveraging Census Data, Purdue University's Digital Divide Index, and additional data captured through tests and surveys
2. **Goals and commitments**, outlining key priorities for community-wide digital access (e.g., achieving 75% participation in the Affordable Connectivity Program for eligible households) and commitments for City-led initiatives (e.g., tripling the number of access points in the public South Bend Open Wi
   Fi network by 2024)
3. **Current projects**, including initiatives providing in-home internet access, expanding our dark fiber network, providing devices and connectivity in community centers, and offering digital skills training.

Our digital equity roadmap has been shaped by conversations with members of the [South Bend Connectivity Coalition](), a task force of local organizations working to bridge the digital divide in South Bend. Additionally, our team conducted a community engagement process in early 2022 to inform the expansion of public internet in South Bend with a focus on historically underserved communities. This engagement included conversations with neighborhood organizations, an immigration advocacy nonprofit, and 141 resident nominations for locations they thought would be great sites for connectivity.

Our team has also launched additional forms of outreach to inform this roadmap and future digital equity initiatives: a resident-crowdsourced speed test and a digital literacy survey. We will leverage libraries, community organizations, and assisted living communities to particularly engage

elderly and LSES residents through our speed test and digital literacy survey.

Please see our uploaded documentation for an overview of the sites nominated for public internet.