City of San Antonio - Digital Inclusion
Innovation and Technology Committee
March 23rd , 2021

Brian Dillard, Chief Innovation Officer

Agenda

- Connected Beyond the Classroom Update
  - San Antonio ISD, Edgewood ISD, Harlandale ISD
- Collaborative Edgewood ISD Pilot
- Community Digital Equity Strategy

Expected Outcomes

- The development of a flexible distance learning network that aims to:
  - Provide in-home school system access for up to 20,000 students within the priority neighborhoods
  - Not be dependent on any one technology
  - Leverage collective capabilities and assets of all partners (vendor contracts, buying power, fiber, vertical assets, networks, etc.,) that can be applied within each neighborhood
  - Use multiple funding models to grow and sustain the network

Connected Beyond the Classroom
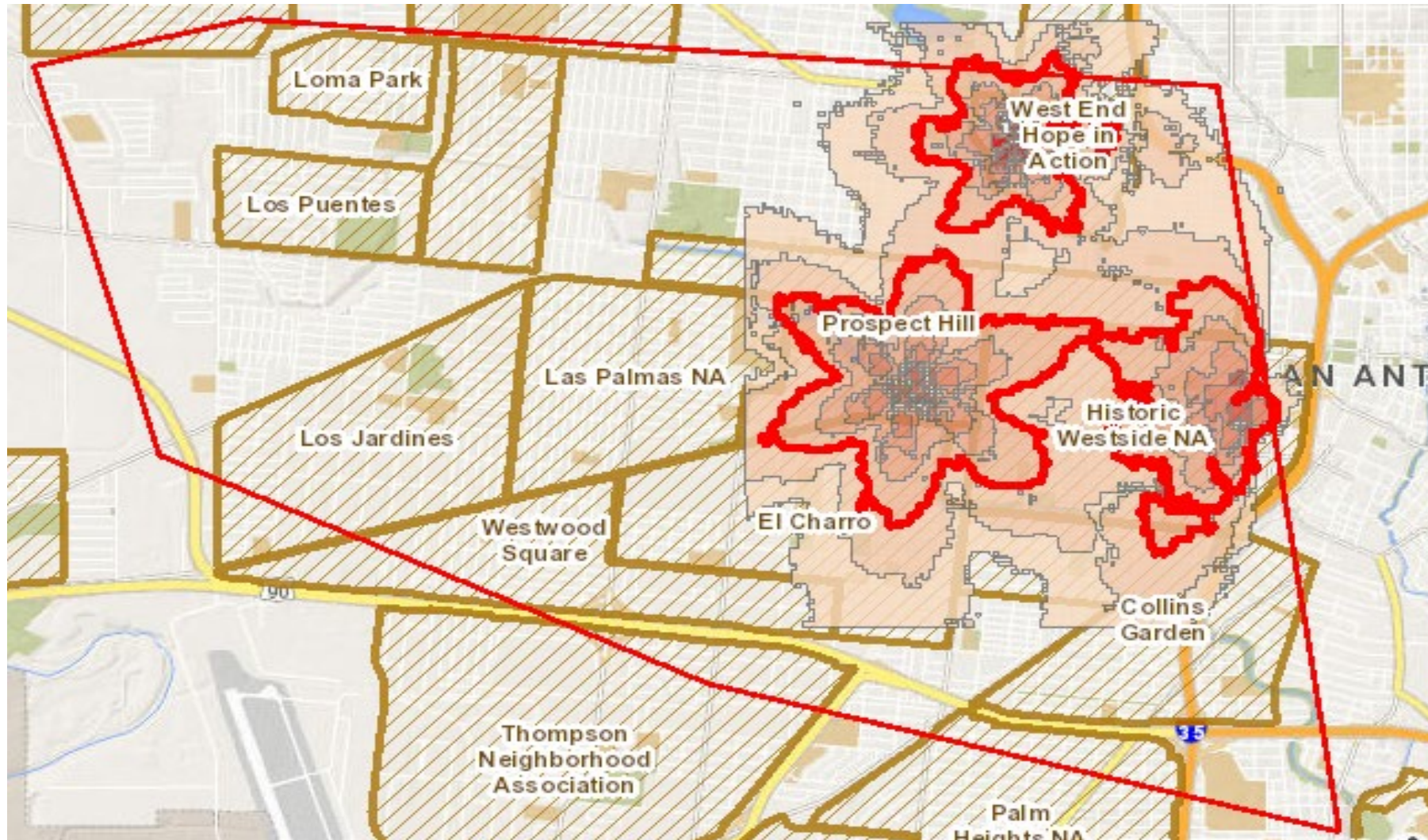
CBTC Collaboration Process: SAISD Pilot

| Introduce Concept | Provide Proposal | Receive ISD Approval | Create Design Plan | Initiate Project | Updated Coverage Maps | Bring in Students | Evaluation |

The Connected Beyond the Classroom project is following a structured process to ensure collaboration and commitment to the sustainability of the network.

1. **Introduce Concept**– Complete
2. **Provide Proposal**– Complete
3. **Receive ISD Approval**– Complete
4. **Create Design Plan**–Complete
5. **Initiate Project**– Complete
6. **Updated Coverage Maps**– Complete
7. **Bring in Students**– Once students have been identified by ISD a technology pick-up process is implemented to safely provide students home equipment and installation instructions
8. **Evaluation**– TAMUSA is creating a survey and will be capturing impact through surveys and interviews with students, family, staff, leadership, and community.

Bringing in Students: SAISD Pilot

- 560 units distributed to SAISD

- Working w/SAISD to scale to current capacity of 1200 through March

- 800 additional students will be added through May once Bazan and Collins are complete in early May.

- SAISD will be lead on identifying and deploying equipment to students

- Technical support will be provided by CoSA/TAMUSA

CBTC Collaboration Process: EISD & HISD

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1. **Introduce Concept**– Complete
2. **Provide Proposal**– Complete
3. **Receive ISD Approval**– Complete
4. **Create Design Plan**–CoSA and selected vendor initiate a walk thru and assessment of facilities to firm up costs and timeline for the project.

Collaborative EISD Pilot

City of San Antonio
Digital Inclusion

Community Digital Equity Strategy

Where are we (going)?

- **San Antonio IS a national leader for digital inclusion**
- Building from a foundation that we created over several years
- Centering our work on the efforts City Council already built through the guiding principles of the recovery and resiliency plan
- Leveraging what we've learned from the community re: needs and challenges
- Continued focus on three legs of the digital inclusion stool
- Strong collaboration to leverage skills, resources, and talents
- Current national momentum to accelerate our strategy and efforts
- Build a road map to make us 'shovel ready' to apply/receive funding support

San Antonio: National Leader in Digital Inclusion

- Digital Inclusion Alliance of San Antonio

  - 40+ organizations

- Digital Equity embedded in Smart Cities DNA

- City & County 2020 Digital Inclusion Survey and Assessment

- NDIA 2020 Digital Inclusion Trailblazer

- Digital Inclusion Pillar: Recovery and Resiliency Plan

  - Connected Beyond the Classroom

    - Leveraging of Resources & Partners

    - Holistic eco-system approach (3 legs of the stool)

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Guiding Principles

Public Health and Safety

- Ensure continued COVID-19 related public health and safety while building resilience and fostering economic stability for households, nonprofits and businesses.

Equity

- Imbed equity in policy decisions and distribution of resources.

Braided Funding

- Appropriately integrate local, state and federal resources to achieve maximum impact.

Community Resilience

- Ensure households and businesses affected by COVID-19 have the resources and tools to become financially resilient and better prepared to withstand future economic challenges.

Well-Being

- Strengthen generational family well-being built upon a solid foundation of thriving non-profit organizations.

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Broadband Internet Access (before COVID)
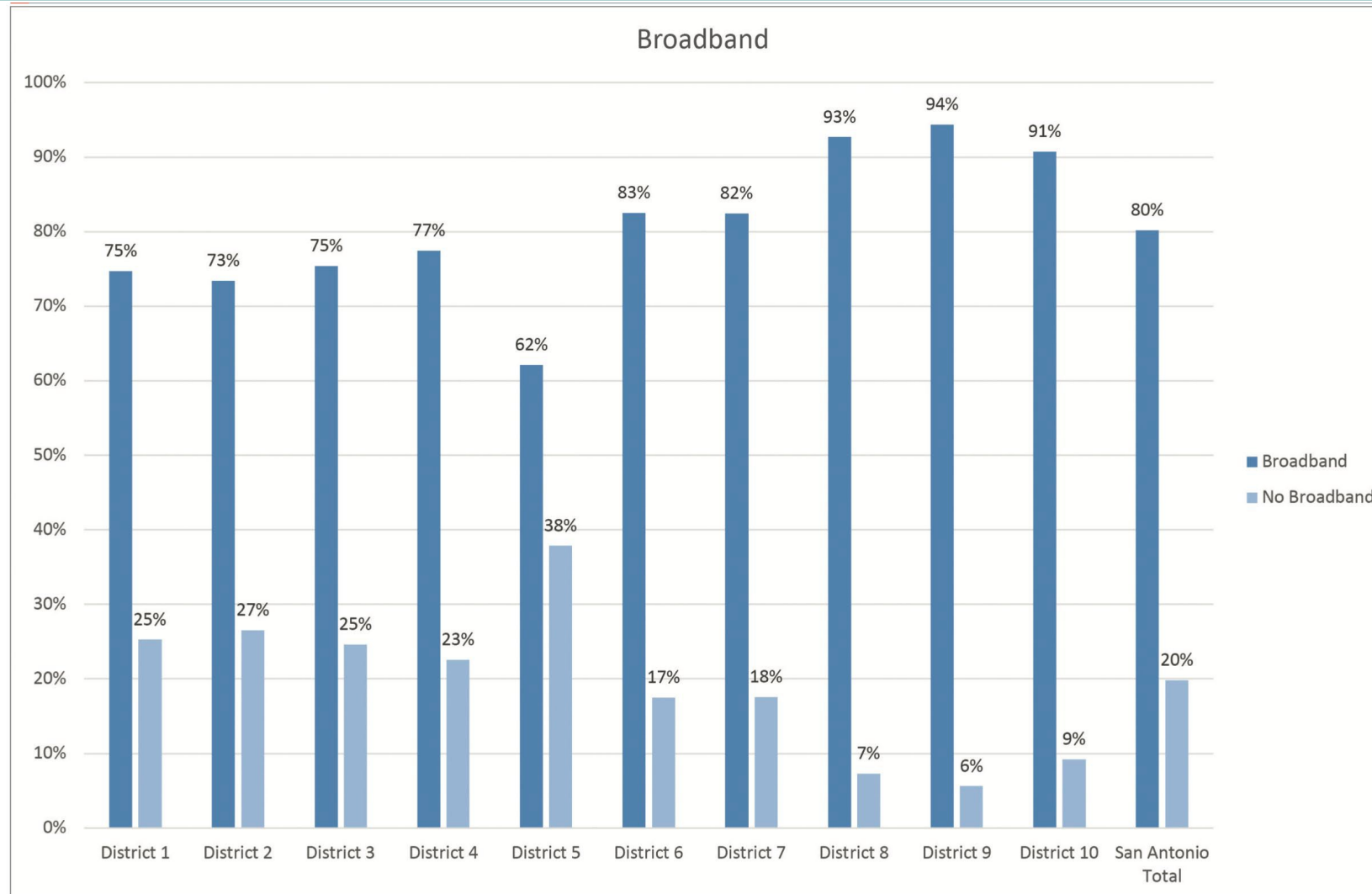
Digital Inclusion Report Insights

- Respondents reflected a knowledge of the value of digital connectivity
  - Internet Access = Opportunity
- Disparities exist across the board regarding digital inclusion for San Antonio residents
- Disparities shown from the Digital Inclusion report reflect confirmed racial/income inequities
- Disparities are tied to education, income, and where you live in San Antonio

Digital Inclusion Report Insights

- Barriers:
  - Affordability
  - Access to Device
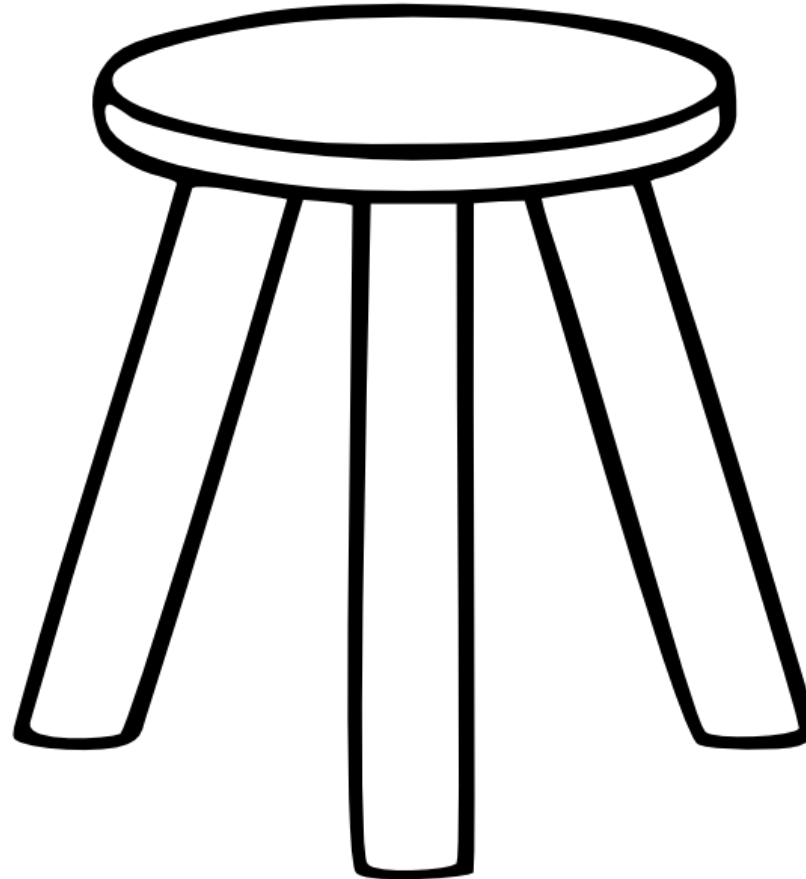 - Unreliable Internet Connectivity
  - Safety/Privacy

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Three Legs of Digital Inclusion

Broadband Internet Access

Digital Literacy

Access to Devices

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Digital Inclusion Momentum

- 2020 Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) | $150 billion

- Emergency Broadband Benefit | $3.2 Billion | FCC

- Broadband Expansion to Underserved Communities | $300 Million | NTIA

- Office of Minority Broadband Initiatives | $285 Million | NTIA

- Office of Internet Connectivity and Growth | NTIA

- American Rescue Plan Act of 2021

- Etc...

What's Next?

Comprehensive Digital Equity Strategy SA & Bexar County

Deliverables

Alignment across key stakeholders on the objectives (e.g., equity, focus areas, adoption levels, sustainable solutions)

Community-level map of the gaps for broadband, devices, digital literacy across the City and County

Fact base on barriers to access including availability, affordability, and adoption

Recommendations to close the gap impacting households, students, older adults, veterans, workforce, telemed and the justice system

Roadmap and activation plan with timelines, milestones, stakeholder roles, and required investment for key initiatives

Method to track and monitor progress and outcomes

Buy-in from local partners and community to ensure all committed to the strategy and execution

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Step 0 *(4 weeks)*

Planning & Alignment

Facilitate stakeholder interviews to align on shared goals and priority focus areas

Research to understand status of the needed data:
- Supply side: infra., speeds, costs
- Demand side: household tech access, key barriers

Engage local partners (incl. providers) to ensure buy-in

Step 1 *(6 weeks)*

Understand the fact base & needs

Conduct interviews and collect data to map infrastructure & understand address-level options

Analyze barriers to access:
- Run surveys / focus groups to identify key barriers to adoption
- Partner with districts to analyze engagement and adoption rates

Synthesize primary issues and identify highest priority areas to focus on

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Step 2 *(4 weeks)*

Create a strategy to address the needs

Facilitate 1-2 workshops to assess technical & financial requirements and pressure-test solutions

Recommend solutions and path forward for key topics:
- Strategy and initiatives
- Ongoing data tracking
- Partnerships and procurement
- Funding and polices
- Leadership, stakeholder engagement, and activation plan

Evaluate and develop solutions impacting households, students, older adults, veterans, workforce, telemed and the justice system

Public-Private-Community Partnership

Roadmap to be 'Shovel Ready'

- Leveraging Opportunities for our Community:
  - Emergency Broadband Benefit | $3.2 Billion | FCC
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