



# City of San Antonio

## Agenda Memorandum

**File Number:**21-1841

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**Agenda Item Number:** 1.

**Agenda Date:** 2/23/2021

**In Control:** Innovation and Technology Committee

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**DEPARTMENT:** Office of Innovation and Information and Technology Services Department

**DEPARTMENT HEAD:** Brian Dillard, CIO and Craig Hopkins, CIO

**COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED:** Citywide

**SUBJECT:** Digital Inclusion

### SUMMARY:

The purpose of this item is to provide the Innovation and Technology Committee with an update of the City of San Antonio's digital inclusion efforts.

### BACKGROUND:

According to the 2014 to 2018, American Community Survey 5-year estimates, 23.4% of San Antonio households don't have access to broadband internet at home; which creates the digital divide between those residents who have the skills and internet access to fully embrace broadband, and those who do not; making it clear that additional action to tackle the digital divide was needed.

In 2018, City Council took that action by approving the formation of a Smart Cities team within the Office of Innovation; that had as a main area of focus to work in collaboration with the Information & Technology Services Department of the City, the SmartSA partnership, the Digital Inclusion Alliance of San Antonio, and other key stakeholders to improve access to services for the community.

The Digital Equity & Action Plan began Phase 1 in 2019, when the City of San Antonio led by the Office of

Innovation, partnered with Bexar County and UTSA to develop and deploy the Digital Inclusion Survey and Assessment (DISA).

### **Digital Inclusion Survey and Assessment (DISA Phase 1)**

The digital inclusion survey was implemented as a SA SpeakUp campaign that made the survey available from December 2nd to February 8<sup>th</sup>. The responses were aggregated by UTSA and used to create the Digital Inclusion Survey & Assessment (DISA) report. The findings of the DISA report were shared with ITC at the June 2020 meeting and can be found on the City's SA SpeakUp site. The final DISA report has and will continue to inform the collaborative and multi-faceted Digital Equity Plan (Phase Two).

### **Collaborative Digital Equity Plan (Phase Two)**

COVID-19 has accelerated the need to act now. The Connected Beyond the Classroom (CBtC) \$27.3 Million initiative within the Digital Inclusion Pillar of the COVID-19 Community Recovery and Resiliency Plan is a first, but major component of the overall collaborative digital inclusion plan. Within the CBtC project, the City is proposing 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 for up to 20,000 students, K-12 and colleges/universities in up to 50 high priority neighborhoods. More information on CBtC can be found on the City's COVID-19 Recovery and Resiliency webpage: <https://covid19.sanantonio.gov/Recovery-Resiliency>

The team will be providing their monthly update on the City's digital inclusion efforts. Items will include: the overall Connected Beyond the Classroom project with a special presentation from City Education Partners, Methodist Healthcare Ministries, Edgewood ISD, and Texas A&M San Antonio as well as a briefing on a potential collaborative initiative to continue to support digital inclusion efforts in San Antonio and Bexar County.

### **ISSUE:**

Update on the City of San Antonio's Digital Inclusion efforts to include the Pillar of the Recovery and Resiliency Plan: Connected Beyond the Classroom.

### **ALTERNATIVES:**

This item is for briefing purposes only.

### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

This item is for briefing purposes only.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

This item is for briefing purposes only.

