

# SA DIGITAL CONNECTS

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## San Antonio, Bexar County, Community Leaders and Organizations Unite to Create a Roadmap to Close Digital Divide

*SA Digital Connects Plan will provide a roadmap to utilize local, federal and state investment and maximize all engaged stakeholders*

SAN ANTONIO (September 21, 2021) — SA Digital Connects is a public/private/ community investment in a **San Antonio and Greater Bexar County Community Digital Equity Plan and Roadmap** that will lead to future action steps; including timelines, milestones, key stakeholder roles, and required investment for execution. With this roadmap, our community is “shovel ready” to make effective use of local, state, and federal funding for key digital access and equity **initiatives impacting households, students, older adults, veterans, people living with disabilities, workforce, telemedicine, and the justice system.**

“The pandemic has shown us that the digital divide is an issue of equity at its core. It’s about those that have and those that are left behind. We have all experienced the critical nature of internet access to every aspect of our lives one way or another. It will take a great deal of hard work and heavy lifting to meet our goals set forward in the roadmap and plan. SA Digital Connects will convene, advise, and supply experts so public officials can designate funds to close the digital gap. This initiative will prepare San Antonio and Greater Bexar County with a trained workforce and connected community for the technology that awaits us in the future. We are grateful to all the partners who have committed to implementation over the next 4-5 years and are ready to get to work,” states Luisa Casso, Manager, Corporate Communications, Toyota Motor North America

With twenty percent (20%) of San Antonio and Greater Bexar County residents disconnected from digital resources and hundreds of millions of dollars coming to our community in local, state, and federal funding; Our leaders have united behind a comprehensive plan that will be ready-to-act on and help public officials make the best and smartest decisions regarding the use of these funds for the community, specifically aimed at bridging the digital divide.

“Everyone worked hard to serve the needs of the community when COVID-19 hit, particularly when it came to the digital divide. This includes our local non-profits, school districts, and institutions of higher education who have demonstrated success in our community in these areas. The private sector also saw many needs around connectivity, devices and digital literacy. They initiated the development of our plan so we would be prepared as a community – now we have a road map – and we plan to engage everyone for activation. We are grateful to our business community for getting us started and sticking with us and look forward to turning to the SA Digital Connects Plan and Roadmap to guide us into the future,” shares Brian Dillard, Chief Innovation Officer, City of San Antonio.

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“The City of San Antonio’s City Council and the Bexar County Commissioner’s Court have mobilized and invested to support this plan and roadmap. We look forward to the consideration and allocation of local, state and federal dollars to implement the plan. Access to internet and technology is an equity issue at its core and the importance of digital access is only likely to grow as jobs increasingly shift online and digital applications (e.g., healthcare, education) expand across sectors. If we do not act now, we could lose this opportunity. This is an ideal time to make this commitment to connect everyone in San Antonio and Greater Bexar County,” states Laura Cole, Bexar County BiblioTech Director.

The SA Digital Connects Community Digital Equity Plan and Roadmap, funded through public and private sector investment (listed left) will be **launched for the community on Wednesday, September 22 at 10:00 am via ZOOM. The meeting is open to the public, click [HERE](#) to RSVP and register for this important update.**

Immediately following the Community Launch, the SA Digital Connects web portal will be live online, which will include research, data and detailed information that will help stakeholders utilize the plan. Information includes but is not limited to, internet access, devices, and literacy programing goals.

The plan will be implemented by SA Digital Connects private and public partners and guided by the Executive Director, Board of Directors, and all of our community partners. Together, we aim to build the best future for all of San Antonio and Greater Bexar County.

After the community launch on September 22, more information can be found by visiting [www.sadigitalconnects.com](http://www.sadigitalconnects.com) or by emailing [connect@sadigitalconnects.com](mailto:connect@sadigitalconnects.com).

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## About SA Digital Connects:

SA Digital Connects is a public/private/community investment and unincorporated nonprofit dedicated to the implementation of the San Antonio and Greater Bexar County Community Digital Equity Plan and Roadmap that will lead to future action steps; including timelines, milestones, key stakeholder roles, and required investment for execution. With this roadmap, our community is “shovel ready” to make effective use of local, state and federal funding for key digital access and equity initiatives impacting households, students, older adults, veterans, people living with disabilities, workforce, telemedicine, and the justice system.

## About the SA Digital Connects Board of Directors

The SA Digital Connects Board of Directors serves as the governing body of the unincorporated nonprofit. The Board is chaired by Luisa Casso, Manager of Corporate Communications and External Affairs for Toyota Motor North America. Vice Chair is Brian Dillard, Chief Innovation Officer for the City of San Antonio. Laura Cole, Director of BiblioTech serves as Secretary.