

SA DIGITAL CONNECTS

A San Antonio and Bexar County, Public-Private-Community Collaboration

San Antonio and Greater Bexar County Community Digital Equity Plan

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SA Digital Connects is a public-private-community collaboration that developed the **San Antonio and Greater Bexar County Digital Equity Plan.**

We advocate for City/County officials to **designate local, state, and federal funding** for initiatives to close the digital divide.

We will track and report progress in un/under-served areas, impacting **households, students, older adults, veterans, people living with disabilities, workforce, telemedicine, and e-justice.**

What SA Digital Connects DOES

What SA Digital Connects DOES NOT DO

PLAN + ADVOCATE + TRACK

- ✓ Develop the Digital Equity Community Plan
- ✓ Advocate for local, state, and federal funding for digital access and equity initiatives
- ✓ Keep the community informed and engaged
- ✓ Track key performance measures from the plan
- ✓ Emphasize an equity-first approach
- ✓ Pursue creative ideas to access more fiber for households
- ✗ Receive or distribute local, state, and federal funds
- ✗ Procurement for fiber
- ✗ Distribute grants for devices or digital literacy
- ✗ Implement the proposed digital access and equity initiatives

A broad coalition of public, private, and community partners have invested to develop a comprehensive plan

Private and Public Sector initiated/funded



Community informed



140+ community organizations, businesses, school districts and institutions of higher education **were engaged** through interviews, an inventory survey, and focus groups

Community Advisory Group of local digital leaders gave valuable input during weekly sessions

THE ISSUE

1 in 5 San Antonio/Greater Bexar County households have barriers to access due to



Availability

≈ 50,000 households



Affordability

≈ 90,000 households



Adoption

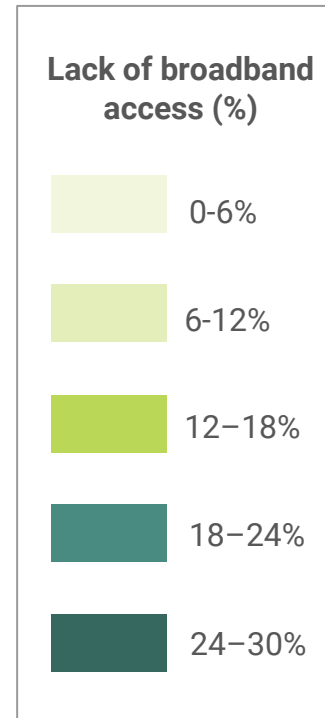
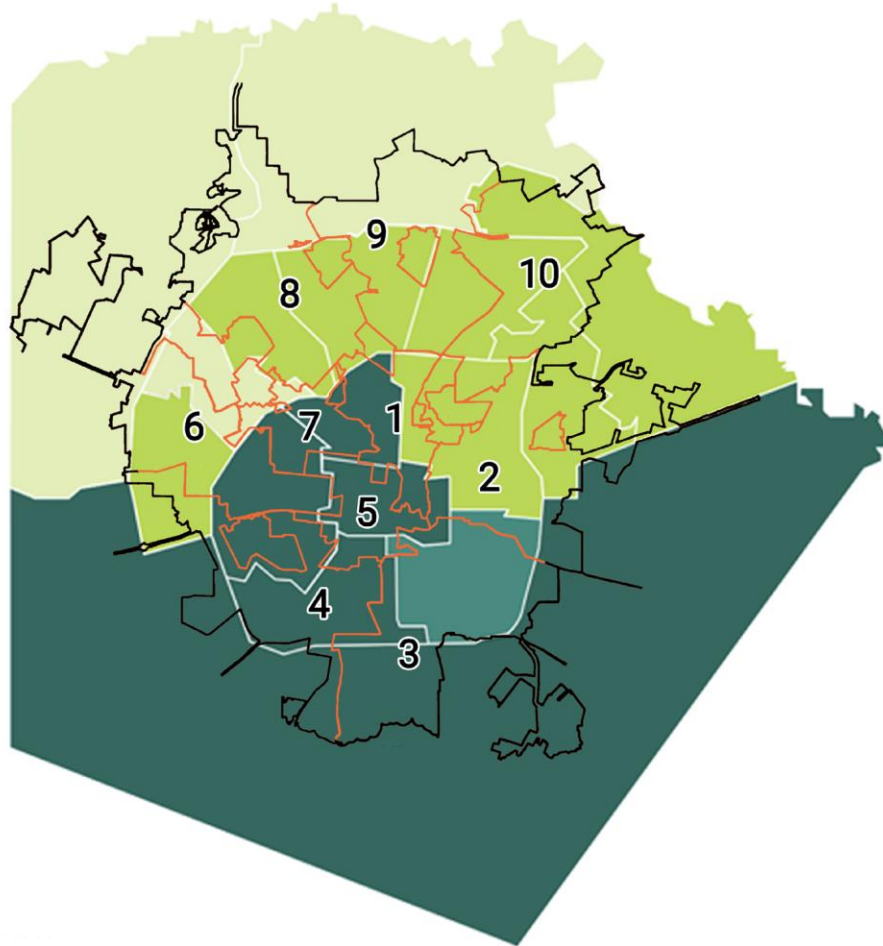
≈ 130,000 households

The digital divide disproportionally affects households who are already disadvantaged.

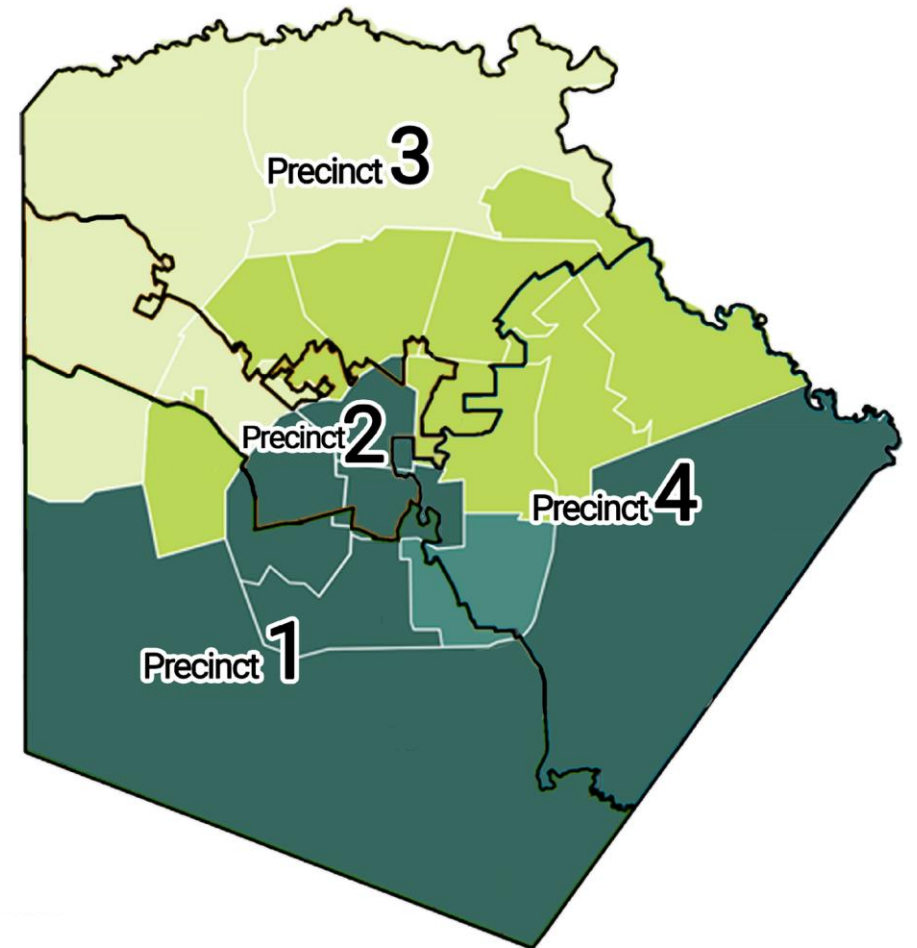
Source: US ACS Census (2020); SASpeakUp (2019); BroadbandNow

The divide impacts underserved - those in the South, West, and East areas

Lack of Broadband Access by Census Tract (ACS) with City Council District Overlay



Lack of Broadband Access by Census Tract (ACS) with County Precinct Overlay



Why does this matter?

Digital equity and access is foundational to reducing systemic inequities and driving the next generation of societal and economic development



Returns to individuals



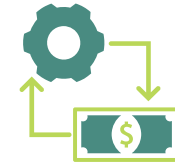
Expands opportunities and reduces inequities for individuals



Returns to community & society



Unlocks benefits across the community and society



Returns to the economy



Creates a \$2.40 societal ROI for every \$1 invested in digital access within 1-2 years, and annual GDP benefits

THE PLAN

SA Digital Connects Goals:

Components of access

Every household has ...

Availability



Reliable access to internet at speeds of 100/100

Affordability



Quality internet options at annual cost no more than 1% of household income

Device Access



Connected devices for foundational applications

Adoption Support



The ability to comfortably access the internet

We will act with an equity-first mindset, focusing initially on the areas and population segments with the greatest need. We aim to achieve our goal by Dec. 2024

Key Performance Indicators (KPI's) Identified in the Plan

Milestones to implement and achieve over the next 5 years:

	Initiatives	Details
1	Expand infrastructure access	Encourage residential fiber at reliable 100/100 mbps
2	Enable access in affordable housing	Retrofit or install adequate connectivity
3	Support school-sponsored access programs	Expand school-centric connectivity/device programs
4	Expand low-income internet offerings	Connect residents to available low-income solutions
5	Distribute devices	Create systems to supply low-cost devices
6	Stand-up adoption support programs	Multi-channel campaigns to enroll residents in digital programs
7	Collect data & track KPIs	Ongoing assessments and tracking plan in dashboard
8	Implement an effective operating model	Determine the model and procurement plan for implementation

Estimated Overall Investment Required to Close the Digital Divide

\$500 - 600M over the next 3 years



Availability

≈\$500M

\$10,000

Estimated **cost per household** for one-time fiber/other tech deployment and maintenance for broadband infrastructure

x

50,000
Households that lack broadband access



Devices

≈\$35M

65,000 households

New computers, laptops, and tablets and ongoing repair/maintenance for

– Issued in grants to non-profit organizations from the City and County



Adoption

≈\$40M

130,000 households

One-time adoption and ongoing digital literacy support for

– Issued in grants to non-profit organizations from the City and County

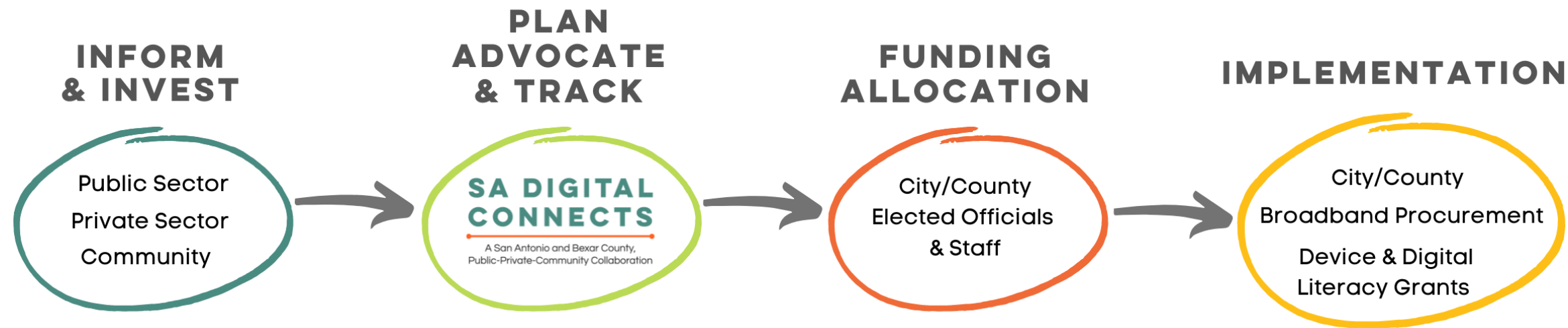


Affordability

Requires community participation in low-income activation campaigns/programs

NEXT STEPS

All stakeholders have a unique and important role in this process:



City, county, state, and federal public officials: prioritize and designate sustainable funding for the digital equity initiatives



Private sector: champion the need for digital investment and implementation



Service providers: ensure solutions are provided affordably and reliably (ex. speed and affordability)



Community organizations: elevate the needs of the community; points of contact to drive adoption and support digital skills



Educational entities (K-12, higher ed, libraries, workforce): expand digital/tech curriculum; focal points for data collection



Non-Profits: ongoing research, data collection, and execution of programming to close the digital divide

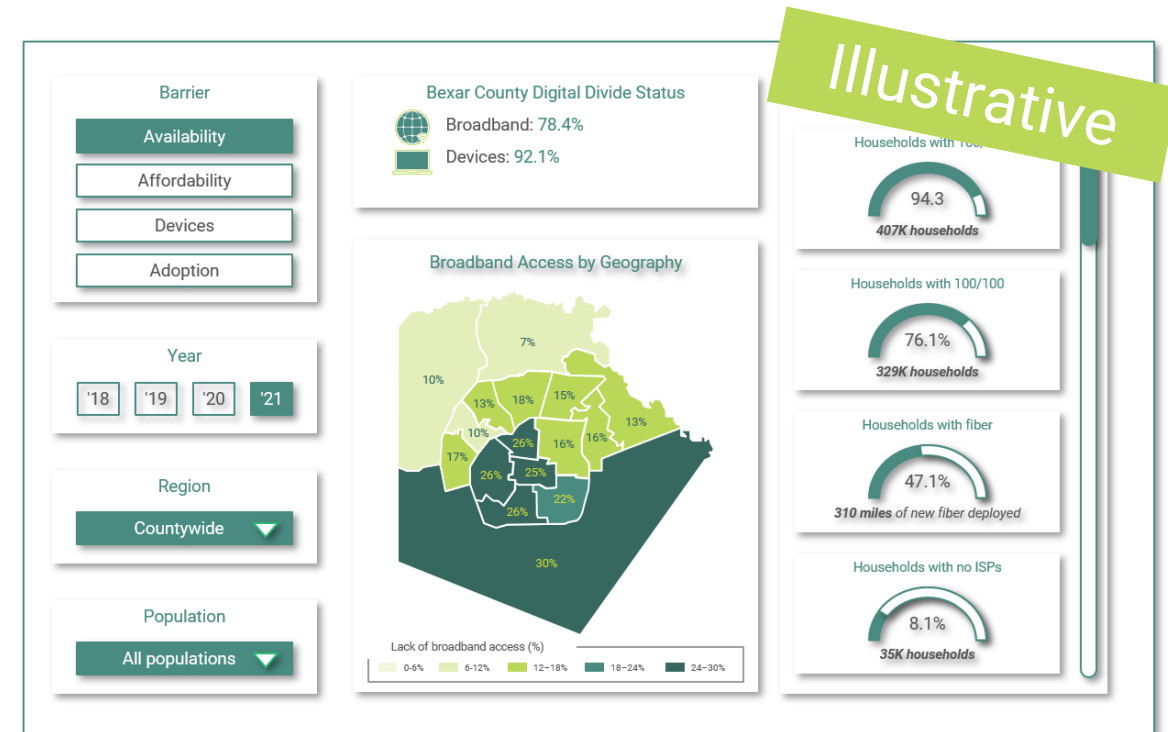
Keeping everyone informed and on track with the community portal:
www.sadigitalconnects.com

Full plan and roadmap is available online:
www.sadigitalconnects.com



Additional resources: @sadigitalconx

A dashboard will be developed to track key performance measures from the plan



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Thank You!

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Disclaimer

The information found in this portal is intended for public use. It reflects work produced and provided by the SA Digital Connects team and community members starting in January 2021 to the present.

Some information will reflect the moment in time when the work was done. Data, funding, maps and assumptions may fluctuate in the everchanging digital ecosystem.