



SA Digital Connects launches Affordable Connectivity Program Toolkit for San Antonio/Bexar County organizations to enroll and connect eligible households to the internet

SAN ANTONIO (August 25, 2022) – SA Digital Connects has developed an Affordable Connectivity Program ([ACP Toolkit and Enrollment Guide](#)) in collaboration with Family Service Association of San Antonio, Inc. and the City of San Antonio’s Innovation team for local community organizations who want to assist thousands of eligible households enroll in the ACP benefit. The toolkit includes a downloadable enrollment guide, which breaks down the ACP application step-by-step, an outreach script, a webinar, and forms to help organizations work through the complexities and nuances of the sign-up process for their clients.

ACP provides eligible households a discount of up to \$30 per month toward internet service and a one-time discount of up to \$100 to purchase a laptop, desktop computer, or tablet from participating providers. Access to the internet can be life-changing and positively impact a household’s [Social Determinants of Health \(SDOH\)](#), the conditions in the places where people live, learn, work, and play that affect a wide range of health and quality-of-life risks. Internet access can lead to economic mobility and participation in modern-day society, especially for residents who have lived in a culture with no or limited access to broadband internet.

“Affordability is a major barrier preventing households from accessing the internet, and our intent with the ACP toolkit was to make residents comfortable enrolling and for them to take advantage of the savings,” said Marina Alderete Gavito, Executive Director of SA Digital Connects. “We’re learning there’s a need for the toolkit; we’ve had inquiries from Chicago, Kansas City, and Long Beach on how to adapt it for their communities. We aren’t stopping there, we’re also focusing on digital literacy so that residents feel smart, safe, and secure while online.”

“I am proud Commissioners Court unanimously voted to invest \$25 million to help address the digital divide in our community,” said Bexar County Commissioner Justin Rodriguez. “Connectivity for those who cannot currently access or afford broadband internet will provide new opportunities for health, economic, educational, and social benefits that are currently out of reach.”

The ACP Toolkit also includes a [train the trainer webinar](#) hosted with partners and representatives from the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) who answered participant questions. Family Service Association of San Antonio, Inc. shared their experience using the toolkit to sign up families for the ACP benefit and are using the enrollment guide to train their staff to enroll more clients in ACP. The City of San Antonio’s Innovation team was on the call and announced a Spanish version of the enrollment guide will be launching soon.

“District 3 is greatly impacted by the digital divide, and partnerships with nonprofit organizations are key to reaching and enrolling San Antonio residents in the ACP benefit,” said Councilwoman Phyllis Viagran. “Quality and affordable internet will sustain our City’s economic mobility because residents will be able to apply for jobs, have access to telemedicine, enroll in school, and can take part in government public participation.”

Organizations and nonprofits can visit <https://www.sadigitalconnects.com/acp> to begin using the toolkit today and can email connects@sadigitalconnects.com to learn how to join SA Digital Connects in closing the digital divide.

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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. For more information, visit www.sadigitalconnects.com.