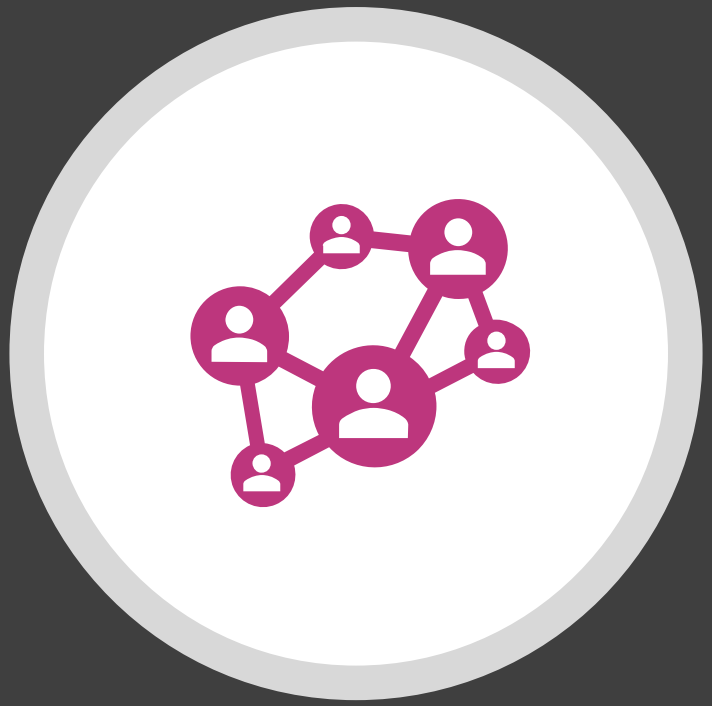


Digital Equity & Empowerment
Digital Inclusion Fund Update

Jill Bourne, City Librarian
Abigail Shull, Broadband Officer
Ann Grabowski, Division Manager – Digital Equity

Recommendation

1. **Accept the report** from Neighborhood Services and Education Committee on December 8, 2022

2. **Transfer fiscal management** of the San José Digital Inclusion Fund Grant Program (Grant Program) from the California Emerging Technology Fund (CETF) to the San Jose Public Library Foundation (SJPLF), and

3. Adopt a resolution:
   a. Authorizing the City Manager to negotiate and execute an agreement between the City and the SJPLF to manage small cell usage fee revenue allocations (from City to SJPLF), subject to appropriation of funds, and matching fundraising revenue to administer the funding of the Grant Program as fiscal agent from July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2029.
   b. Authorizing a $500,000 payment from the Digital Inclusion Fund (DIF) to SJPLF to distribute grant awards pursuant to the City's agreement with SJPLF.

Partners

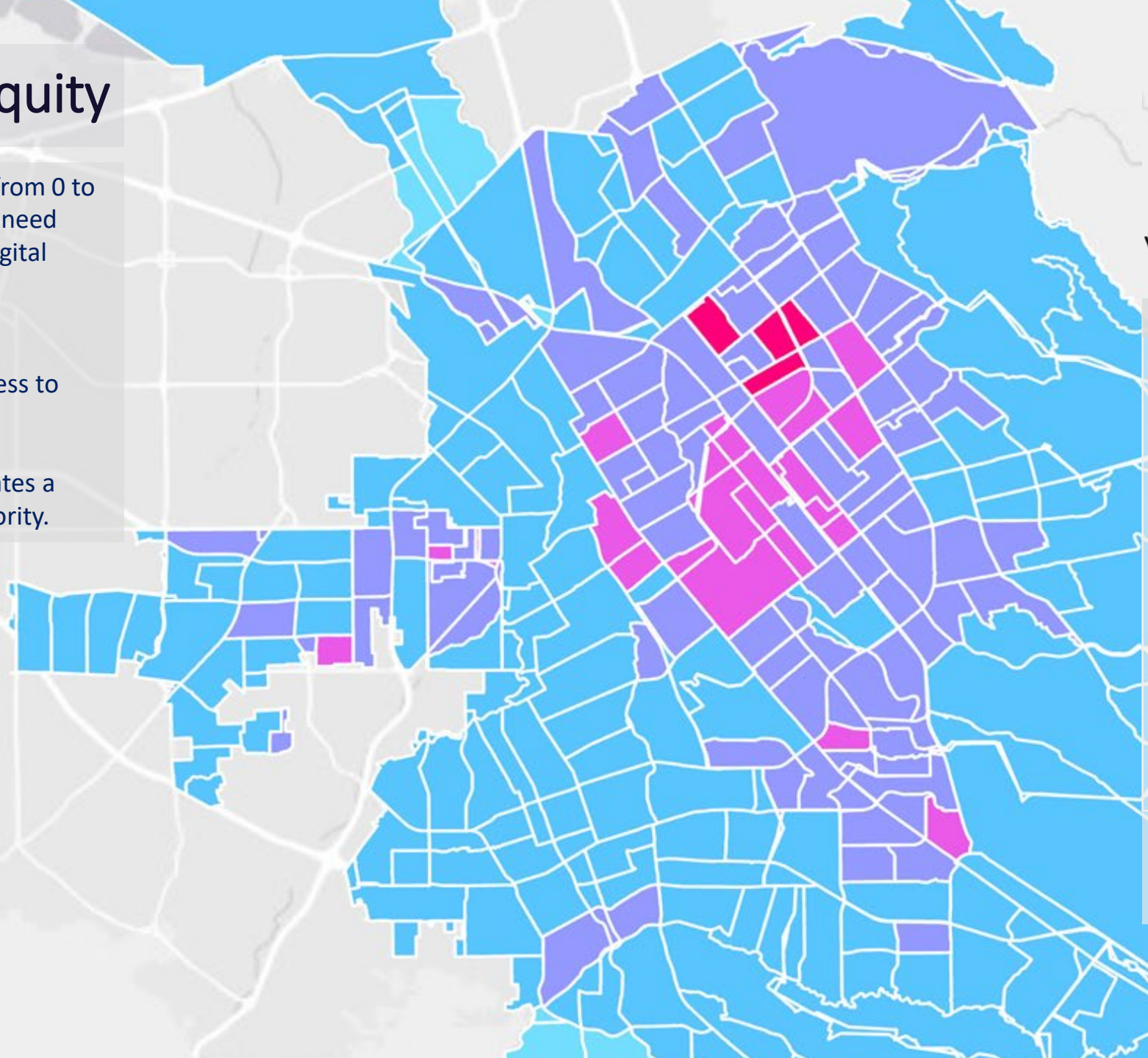
Alum Rock Union School District
AT&T
Berryessa Union School District
Pathway to the Future
Billy DeFrank LGBTQ+ Community Center
alpha public schools
Cambrian
Campbell Union School District
CETF California Emerging Technology Fund
East Side Union High School District
Silicon Valley
Evergreen School District
FMSD Preparing All Children as Global Learners
SOMOS MAYFAIR
SIREN Services, Immigrant Rights & Education Network
LitLab
Downtown College Prep
PATH Making it Home
hp
SOURCEWISE Community Resource Solutions
Mount Pleasant Elementary School District
Where Students Realize Their Extraordinary Potential ace
LifeMoves
EscuelaPopular
Fremont Unified School District Inspire • Educate • Challenge
Catholic Charities USA
Moreland School District Innovate Collaborate Educate
Discovery Charter
Next Door Solutions to Domestic Violence
Sacred Heart Community Service
GFS Grail Family Services
Oak Grove School District
Rocketship
San José Public Library Foundation
San José Unified School District
AACSA Strength in Unity
Summit Public Schools
Santa Clara County Office of Education
Voices College-Bound Language Academies
University Preparatory Academy Est. 2007

Centering Equity

Priority Index is a ranking from 0 to 100 indicating the relative need within a census tract for digital access based on:

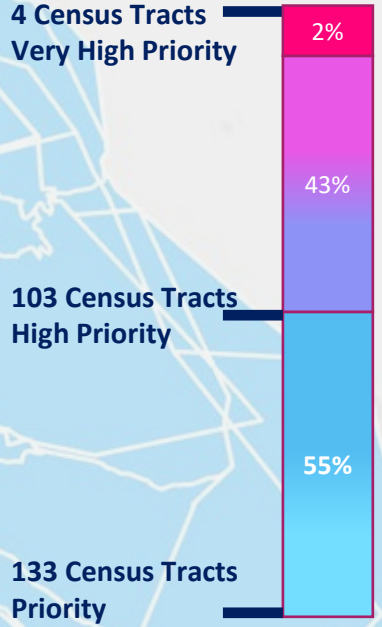
- Household income
- Households without access to Broadband

A higher index value indicates a greater need or higher priority.



Priority: 39 to 40, 40 to 50
High Priority: 50 to 60, 60 to 70
Very High Priority: 70 to 80, 80 to 90

Citywide Priority Breakdown



45% of City, measured by census tracts, is very high and high priority

2022-2023 Workplan

8,031 Hotspots in Use

2,225 Chromebooks & iPads in circulation to residents

~98%

Hotspots in circulation to residents

Community Wi-Fi
6 attendance areas operational (176k);
1 in final testing (10.7k);
1 in construction

SJ311 Service Add
-
Outreach Campaign

Updated Needs Assessment & Evaluation

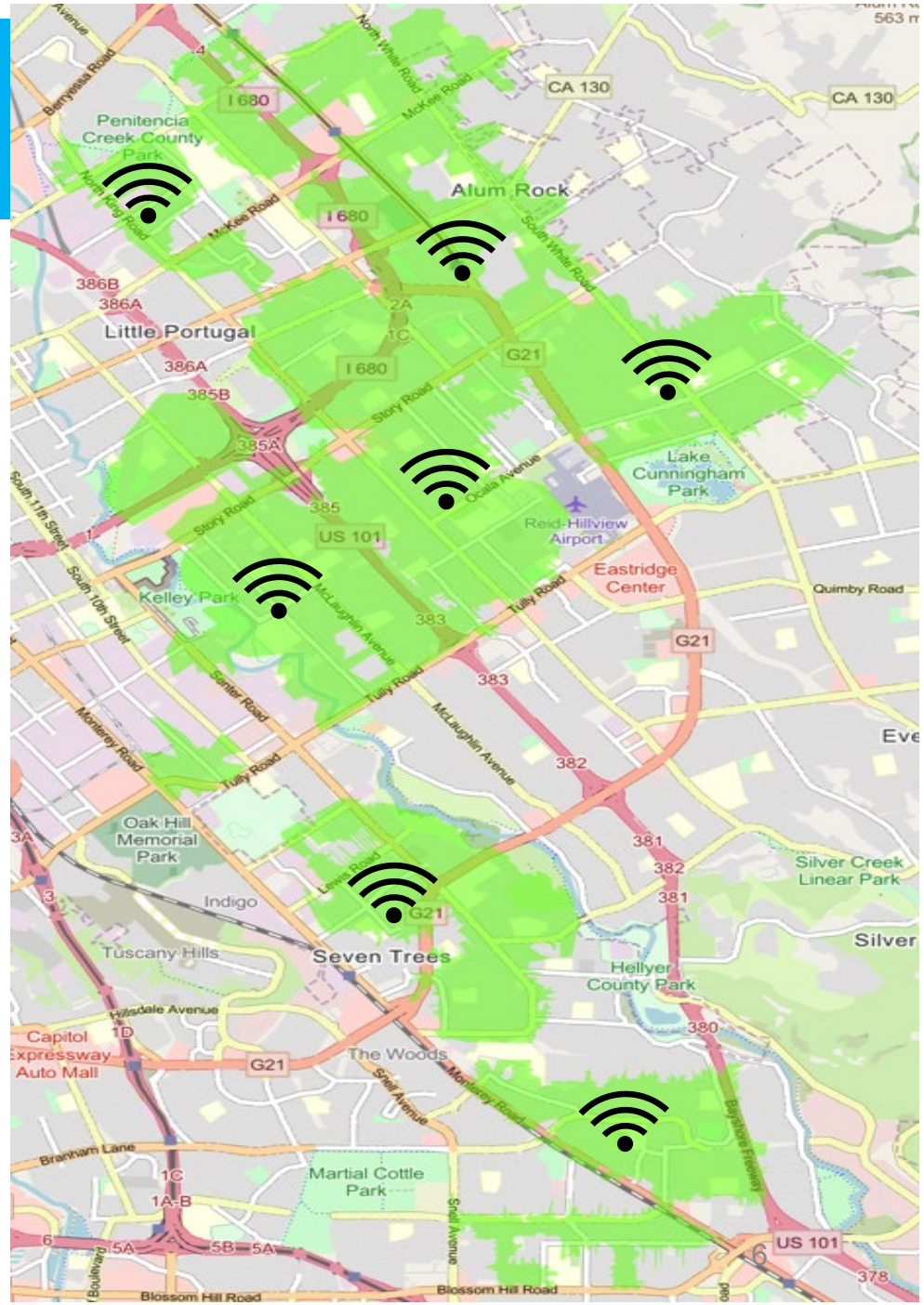
SJ Access – Community Wi-Fi

Network Name: SJ Access Free Wi-Fi
Currently Serving: ~ 176,800 residents

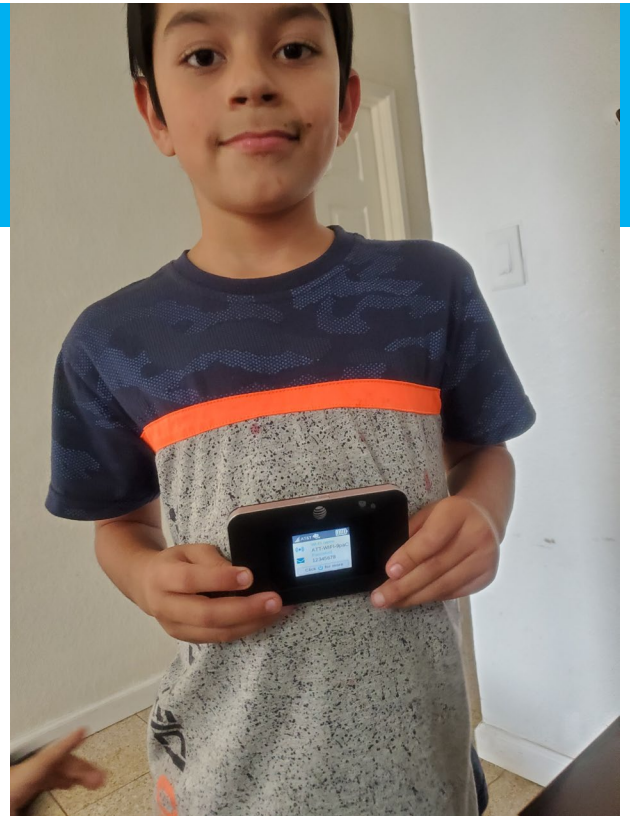
James Lick	200 APs	44,200 Households ~ 176,800 residents
Overfelt	200 Aps	
Yerba Buena	200 APs	
Independence	340 APs	
Andrew P Hill	200 APs	
Oak Grove	243 APs	
Mt Pleasant	200 APs	- 2,678 Households ~ 10,700 residents
Silver Creek	200 APs	

Current speed: up to 20 Mbps.

Currently scoping infrastructure changes to increase speeds to 100/100 Mbps, Citywide.



Hotspots & Devices



Device	Quantity	Check-Out Rate	Funding Source
Hotspot - Unfiltered	4,090	99%	American Rescue Plan
Hotspot – Filtered	3,941	85%	Emergency Connectivity Fund
Wi-Fi Chromebook – Unfiltered	600	80%	General Fund (2021 purchases)
LTE Chromebook – Filtered	1,500	75%	Emergency Connectivity Fund
Wi-Fi iPads	120	100%	Grant Funded
Laptop Kits	35	100%	Grant Funded

8,031 filtered and unfiltered hotspots, and 2,255 computing devices available at Library branches

Digital Inclusion Grant Program

- Digital Inclusion Fund
  - Funded by fees paid by telecommunications companies to attach small-cells to City-owned streetlights
    - Originally estimated to generate $32,000,000
    - Pandemic and industry shifts have caused a reduction in revenue to the fund
    - 55% decrease from original: Currently projected to generate $14,500,000

  - Digital Inclusion Fund Grant Program
    - Funding for CBO's to help un/under connected households:
      - Sign up for an affordable internet plan
      - Access a computing device that they can keep
      - Complete digital literacy trainings
    - Originally estimated to offer $1M in grants per year
    - Currently providing $500,000 in grants per year

Digital Inclusion Grant Program

2020 Awards: $787,750 Grantees: 21 Adoptions: 3,151 SCCOE: $1.39M for distance learning	**2021** Awards: $393,750 Grantees: 9 Adoptions: 1,121
2022 Awards: $752,500 Grantees: 13 Adoptions: 560 July -Dec	**Cumulative** Awards: $2,784,223 Grantees: 30 Adoptions: 4,832

Recommendation Rationale

- Technology changes and pandemic impacts has reduced revenue to the Digital Inclusion Fund

- Shift to the San Jose Public Library Foundation allows for:

  - Greater sustainability of the Digital Inclusion Fund, preserving funding for future grant rounds

  - Alignment to the City's Council Policy 0-30 – Education & Digital Literacy Strategy, and alignment to the Digital Literacy Quality Standards

  - Leverages the staffing and operational capabilities of the Library

2023-2024 Workplan

Affordability	Access	Adoption
Support enrollment in the Affordable Connectivity Program; lessen reliance on City devices and WiFi	Manage device lending program	Implement DIF Grant Program Round 4 with SJPLF
Operate and Optimize 8 Community WiFi areas Identify any improvements needed		Expand Library Digital Skillbuilding; 8 new pathways/training modules

Administration & Management

Finalize Needs Assessment & Program Evaluation

Seek all available State/Fed funding

State Digital Equity Plan Meeting

In Partnership with the Santa Clara County Office of Education & the County of Santa Clara:

SAVE THE DATE

State Digital Equity Plan Regional Meeting
Friday, May 5, 2023
10:00am – 2:30pm
Santa Clara County Office of Education
1290 Ridder Park Drive

Meeting Outcomes:
Identify challenges and strategies to overcome the digital divide in Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties, which will be included in the State Digital Equity Plan.

Recognition

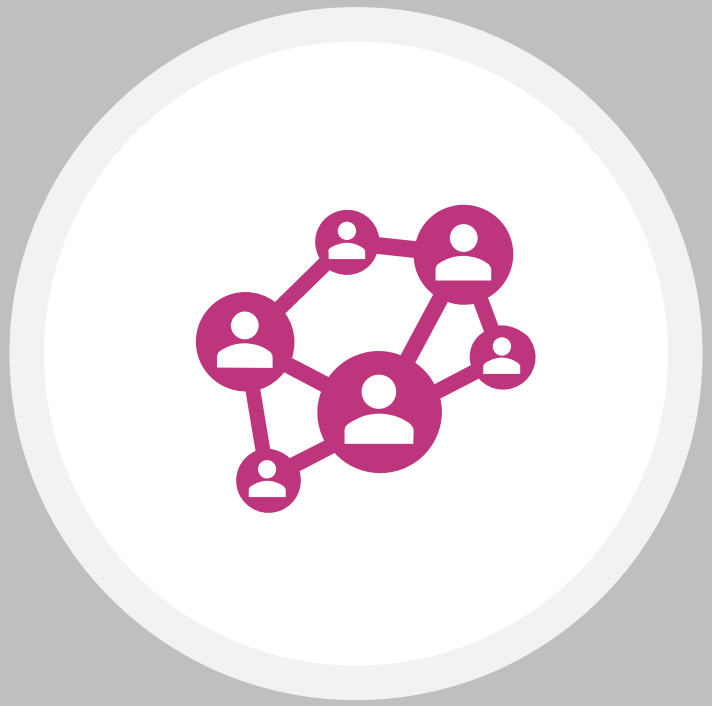
Thank you to the Citywide Team that has carried this programmatic work forward:
(core team bolded)

DOT:	Ho Nguyen, Brian Macias
Housing:	Mindy Nguyen
ITD:	**Shirley Dương**, **Uarporn Nopmongcol**, Ed Kim, Tommy Kuu
Library:	**Karla Alvarez, Bobby Rodrock, Samantha Cramer, Yadirha Orozco-Lemus, Mike Lobach, Nancy Macias, Moises Moreno**, all Public Services staff
Public Works:	**Marlon DeLeon**, **Antonio Hueso**, Mario De Leon

Recognizing CETF

Thanks to CETF for their work to incubate the Digital Inclusion Fund Grant Program in San Jose

Sunne McPeak
Charlene Tatis



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