

# Digital Access and Inclusion for Schools during the Covid-19 Pandemic

- Kip Harkness, Deputy City Manager, City of San Jose
- Jill Bourne, City Librarian, City of San Jose
- Dr. Mary Ann Dewan, Santa Clara County Office of Education
- Sunne McPeak, California Emerging Technology Fund

# Activated EOC Branch + Expanded Team

## EOC Operations Section

### Digital Inclusion Branch:

- **Jill Bourne – Branch Lead**
- **Ann Grabowski – Assistant Branch Lead**
- **Rob Lloyd + Rajani Nair – City Infrastructure**
- **Abby Shull – Civic Innovation/Telcos**
- **Kerstyn Olson – Digital Inclusion Fund**
- **Lauren Hancock + Karla Alvarez – SCCOE + District Partners**
- **Samantha Cramer – Partnerships + Fundraising**
- **Lizzie Nolan + Adrian McBride – Outreach + Implementation**

## Digital Inclusion Strategy in support of Distance Learning:

- 1) Develop a Digital Inclusion Strategy by SCCOE in coordination with CETF;
- 2) Leverage the Schools/City Collaborative Partnership;
- 3) Implement Digital Inclusion Fund Grants;
- 4) Convene Public Private Partnerships;
- 5) Build out Community WiFi (Overfelt and Yerba Buena);
- 6) Continue small cell deployment; and
- 7) Secure emergency funding

# April 21, 2020 Council Direction

Return to Council on May 5 with updates on:



Coordination with SCCOE as lead for school districts serving San José



Community Wi-Fi expansion



Work with Telecommunications Industry and other private partners



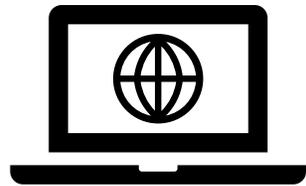
Leveraging the Digital Inclusion Fund



# Coordination with SCCOE

## Coordinating with SCCOE on:

- Quantifying student need in San José
- Identifying connectivity gaps
- Exploring immediate connectivity solutions at schools, parks, libraries, etc.
- Exploring reimbursable/alternate funding streams



~11,600 Devices Needed



Solve Connectivity for ~8,574



Mapping connectivity in  
San José

# Explore Potential Funding Sources

## CORONAVIRUS AID, RELIEF, & ECONOMIC SECURITY (CARES) ACT FUNDS

- City of San Jose Allocation - \$178 million (+ specific funds)
- Elementary & Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSERF) - \$1.482 billion (state allocation)
  - Potential uses align with digital inclusion, devices, connectivity, hot spots, etc.
- Timeline and district allocations TBD | Provide support

## SAN JOSE (SJ) LEARNS GRANTS

- 2020 and 2021 Grantees include Districts with immediate need
  - Alum Rock USD, Campbell USD, FMUSD, Luther Burbank SD, Mt. Pleasant ESD
- Programs cannot proceed as designed | Expand allowed uses



# Community Wi-Fi Expansion

- **October 2017:** James Lick HS attendance area complete
- **Summer 2020:** Overfelt HS attendance area to be completed
- **January 2021:** Yerba Buena attendance area expected to be completed

Expansion Phase 1: Potential future attendance areas

- Independence High School
- Oak Grove High School

Cost per attendance area: Approximately \$1.5M



# Community Wi-Fi Expansion

## Total Project Build Cost

Title 1 Attendance Areas	87 (Overbuild)	20 (Focused Build)
Area (1.5 sq. miles per)	~131 sq. miles	~30 sq. miles
Project Costs (\$1.45M per)	\$126M	\$29M

## Annual Operating Cost

Annual Program (\$200K + \$50K/ea)	\$4.6M/year	\$1.25M/year
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## 5-Year Refresh Cost

Infrastructure Refresh (\$290K/yr/ea) (Assumes 5-year engineered lifecycle)	\$25.2M/year	\$5.8M/year
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## Project Timeline of ~2.5 Years

- Expansion Areas Not Yet Identified and Assessed
- Some Phase overlap will occur to expedite deployment
- Assumes 2 deployments in parallel the first 5 months, 6 deployments over the next 10 months periods, and 12 deployments the next 15 months period



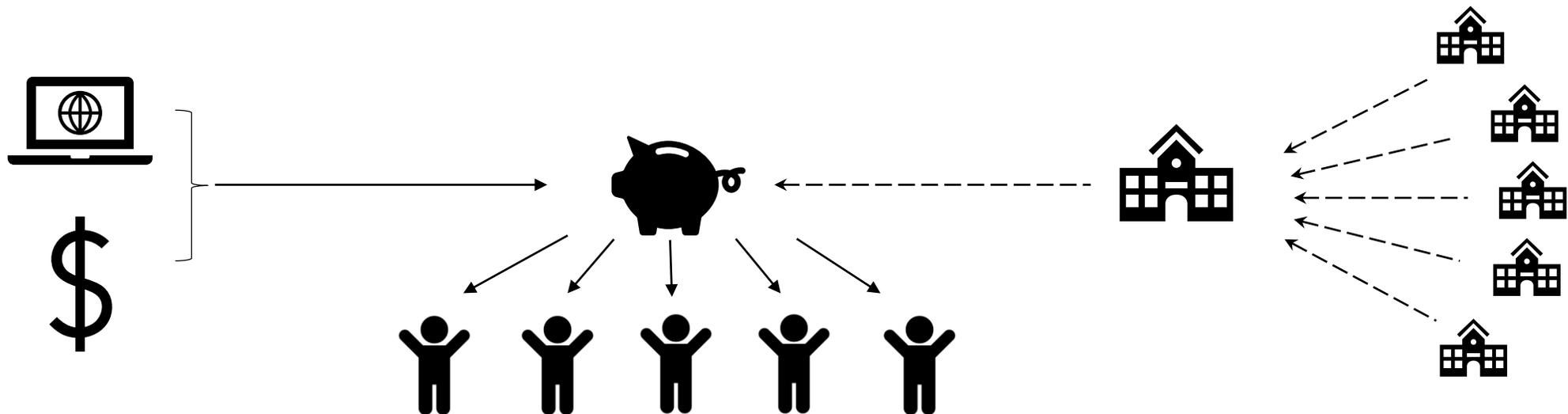
# Working with Private Partners

- Advocating for reducing barriers to internet access via advocacy letters to telecommunications companies (Council Action)
- Reviewing areas of connectivity to determine:
  - Areas with low connectivity to recommend for small cell deployment
  - Areas that may benefit from rapid deployment units
- Supporting Districts and other Cities that may want to create a PPP program of their own

# \$ Leveraging the Digital Inclusion Fund

## Emergency Response Resource Allocation

- Fund accepting devices and funding contributions
  - Expediting allocation of resources as designated by the donor and SCCOE



# Work closely with Digital Inclusion Grantees to realign outcome-oriented metrics

## Education-Focused Grantees

- |                                   |                |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|
| • Ace Charter Schools             | 200 Households |
| • Alum Rock Union School District | 500 Households |
| • Cristo Rey San Jose High School | 100 Households |
| • Rocketship Public Schools       | 100 Households |
| • San Jose Library Foundation     | 600 Households |
| • Hoover PTA                      | 100 Households |

## Other Non-School Grantees

2500 Households

GRAND TOTAL: 4000 Households

# Opportunities to Support Digital Inclusion

**Device Contributions:** support donations of suitable devices to the Digital Inclusion Fund

**Funding Contributions** – support fundraising efforts to the Digital Inclusion Fund

**Advocacy:** Staff will continue to inform the Council of opportunities to advocate for meaningful changes, such as those included in this recommended action.

**Community Wi-fi:** The Council will be asked to take various actions related to the expansion of Community Wi-Fi.

**CARES Funding:** Staff will coordinate with SCCOE and consultant Witt O'Brien to expedite the school districts' ability to access ESSERF funds. Staff will return to City Council for discussion regarding the potential uses of CARES funding.

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Questions?