

San Bernardino Investment Playbook

Project Details: Fiber Network Installation

Installation of a citywide fiber network will ensure that San Bernardino residents, businesses, and organizations have the connectivity they need to thrive in the 21st century. A companion Digital Inclusion Initiative led by an organization with community standing will conduct outreach and provide training and equipment for residents from historically disadvantaged and disinvested communities so that all can access and benefit from this investment.

RATIONALE

San Bernardino currently does not have citywide broadband coverage. Lack of consistent access to high-speed Internet discourages businesses and organizations from locating in the city, slows the work of city government, and prevents area residents from taking advantage of remote work and education opportunities. Lower-income households in the city are disproportionately affected because they are least likely to have access to affordable broadband service.

OBJECTIVES

- Expand access to high-speed Internet
- Establish San Bernardino as an attractive location for innovation-intensive companies and research institutions
- Rectify racial and ethnic disparities in high-speed Internet access and usage

ADDITIONAL DETAILS

Establishing a citywide fiber network will require installation of 596 centerline miles of fiber (313.2 mi. residential, 138.45 mi. arterials, 90.35 mi. industrial/commercial, 54 mi. collectors).

The Digital Inclusion Initiative will develop inclusive digital access and skills training solutions that are tailored to residents' needs. A convener (either the City or another trusted actor) will bring together key stakeholders (e.g., municipal and county government, public libraries, and universities, local businesses, education and training providers, community-based organizations, nonprofits, philanthropies) craft a shared vision for digital skills acquisition. Using evidence-based problem solving, this group will develop custom solutions that align with local needs. The collaborative will also create and launch a performance management system in order to track progress over time. Stakeholders will align existing efforts in support of the broader vision and may need to redefine their roles in order to advance digital inclusion throughout the city. Thoughtful, targeted outreach will ensure that residents who need these services most are able to access them easily.

COST

\$150M Fiber installation

\$16M Digital Inclusion Initiative

- \$1M Long-term plan development
 - \$6.75M Device acquisition and maintenance/repair
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- \$8.1M Digital adoption assistance and ongoing digital skills support
- \$150K Marketing and outreach

Note: Cost estimates are based on San Antonio's SA Digital Connects plan (\$1M planning, \$500/household for devices, \$300/household for adoption and skills support) and Census data on San Bernardino household broadband access (~13,500 San Bernardino households lack access).

\$166M TOTAL

POTENTIAL FUNDING

Federal

ARPA funding for cities and counties
 FCC Affordable Connectivity Program
 NTIA Broadband Infrastructure Program
 US Commerce Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program
 US Commerce Digital Equity Act

State

California Broadband for All
 California General Fund
 California Middle-Mile Broadband Initiative
 Public Utilities Commission (PUC) Broadband Infrastructure Grant Account
 PUC Broadband Loan Loss Reserve
 PUC California Advanced Services Fund (CASF) Federal Funding Account
 PUC Local Agency Technical Assistance Grants

City

Measure S

Public-Private Partnership

SiFi Networks
 Netly

Philanthropic (for digital access initiative)

LEAD ORGANIZATIONS

City of San Bernardino IT and Public Works Departments

SIMILAR PROJECTS ELSEWHERE

City-owned

City of Santa Monica: [Santa Monica CityNet \(smcitynet.com\)](http://smcitynet.com)
 City of Menefee: Consultant evaluation of city-installed network

Private equity-owned

City of Riverside: SiFi Network [Riverside FiberCity® | SiFi Networks SiFi Networks](#)
 City of Pico Rivera: SiFi Network [Pico Rivera FiberCity® SiFi Networks](#)
 City of Solana Beach: Netly [Netly Fiber Announces Solana Beach, California is First Terabit-Ready Fiber City in United States – Netly Fiber](#)

Digital access initiative

The [San Antonio](#) Office of Innovation teamed up with Bexar County, local philanthropy, and private partners to develop a long-term roadmap for digital inclusion. Over the course of 14 weeks, stakeholders worked together to craft a comprehensive digital inclusion strategy for the city and county. This effort also led to the creation of [SA Digital Connects](#), a private-public-community collaboration that has been tasked with plan implementation.