

ATTACHMENT VI

Multi-Faceted Approach to Community Broadband Access in Hayward

The City of Hayward is taking a multi-faceted approach to addressing broadband access and providing high-speed connectivity to the Hayward resident and business community. Below is a list of the City's ongoing projects and programs aimed at helping to provide broadband access throughout the City, primarily managed by Hayward Public Library (HPL) and the Information Technology (IT) Departments, along with other community partner agencies:

Ongoing and Near-Term Projects and Programs

Hayward Public Library:

- HPL maintains open public computers and Wi-Fi access at the Downtown Library, as well as at Weekes Library which are available during open hours. Members of the public can also use the Wi-Fi from outside while the library is closed.
- HPL and community partner/stakeholder agencies have come together over the last year and a half and aligned services to help bridge the digital divide, leveraging federal, state, and local funding for purchase of 684 computing devices such as Chromebooks, including 304 hotspots and 84 tablets (with built-in hot spots), which were made available through the Hayward Unified School District (HUSD) for students and families to use at home. This distribution was focused on the South Hayward/ Hayward Promise Neighborhood (HPN) area.
- HPL anticipates growing its Technology Lending Library with up to 500 devices including Chromebooks, tablets, Mi-Fi/hotspots through the use of Stimulus Funds. These devices will be available to the general public as well as students and is anticipated to largely improve access to the internet throughout the City.

Hayward Unified School District:

- Like the Library, HUSD provided computing devices and hotspots for families in need of internet connection. For consistency's sake, the same models and data plans as the Library were purchased. Tutorials and educational support for the use of technology were also provided.

Eden Youth and Family Center:

- Eden Youth and Family Center (EYFC) with support from the City and other partners offers services to the underserved Eden area of Hayward. In 2001, supported by Intel, Bay Area tech firms, and enthusiastic local Hayward donors, Eden Computer Clubhouse was organized as an original member of The Clubhouse Network (TCN), a project of the MIT Media Lab and Boston Museum. The Clubhouse continues to "to serve as a hub for young people to explore their creativity and expand their skill-set through technology," and to bridge the digital divide. Safe in-person summer Clubhouse programming resumed on June 27th.

California State University East Bay:

- During the pandemic, California State University East Bay's (CSUEB) library provided loaner laptops and Wi-Fi access to a large number of students through the FCC's [Emergency Broadband Benefit Program](#). The Program, intended to help families and households struggling to afford Internet access during the COVID-19 pandemic, made it possible for eligible households to receive discounted broadband, laptops, and associated equipment rentals.

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Comcast Lift Zones:

- Comcast announced a multi-year program to launch more than 1,000 Wi-Fi-connected “Lift Zones” in community centers nationwide to help students get online, participate in distance learning, and do their homework. HPL/City staff are working closely with CSUEB, HPN, and partnering agencies on an application for three (3) lift zones in South Hayward. At this time, assessment is ongoing to determine if the Matt Jimenez Center, EYFC, and Glad Tidings are viable locations for Lift Zones.

California Education Network Initiatives Corporation (CENIC):

- Through a State Library program, Weekes Library is expected to have access to highspeed broadband through the CENIC network by September.

Long-Term Projects and Programs

Emergency Connectivity Fund:

- The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, a \$1.9 trillion coronavirus relief package, was signed into law on March 11, 2021. Included in the legislation is the creation of the Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF) for broadband internet service and equipment to support remote learning. A new funding source consisting of \$7.1 billion to be distributed through the federal E-Rate program.

Though HPL is not yet enrolled in the E-Rate program, City staff are actively working with local community partnering agencies to investigate the feasibility of applying for funding to expand resources to connect community members with broadband internet and to purchase equipment for the library at discounted rates, potentially as part of the CENIC project. Discounts on purchase of equipment could be as high as 90% based on the number of students eligible for Free and reduce lunches in HUSD. E-Rate funding can carry over for many years.

Assembly Bill 128:

- This year’s proposed state Budget Bill AB 128, contains the opportunity for significant multi-year investment in broadband, including \$6 million for library broadband connectivity and another \$35 million to connect schools, libraries, and telehealth providers in hard-to-connect areas of the state.

IT Department’s Assessment of Broadband Availability:

- In anticipation of state and federal funding, as well as the scope and definition of the state infrastructure project related to completing broadband, the IT Department is working on a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) project to identify the gap in broadband coverage based on data and research versus anecdotal and perceived gaps. This way, when the funding becomes available and the scope is defined, Hayward will be in an improved position to act on data based on factual evidence.