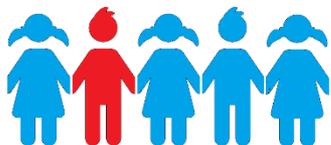




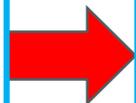
Thursday, August 20, 2020



Data on internet access in Chicago confirms what families are saying – we have an inequity



1 in 5 children in Chicago lack internet access*



- 100,000 kids across 60,000 households
- Mostly African American/Latinx neighborhoods
 - Just over 1 in 3 households in Austin
 - Nearly 1 in 3 households in Humboldt Park
 - Nearly 1 in 2 households in West Englewood

The immediate COVID need for internet access will help build permanent infrastructure to bridge the Digital Divide

- Even post-COVID, internet access is a critical issue to promoting educational outcomes and righting broader inequities (poverty, housing access, food access)
- Research indicates that **internet access can improve students' GPAs and can improve standardized test scores**
- Internet access will help with engaging children in summer school and reducing summer crime

* "Digital Equity in Education", Kids First Chicago & Metropolitan Planning Council, April 2020 (students 18 and under)

** CPS Data for Google Meet and Platform Access from April 26 - May 2



- **One of the largest and longest city-run internet accessibility program in the country (100,000+ students)***
 - Focus is on high-speed household internet access at the Federal Communications Commission standard of 25 MBPS/3MBPS
 - Includes a WiFi hotspot component focused on students where wired-service cannot be used
- **Student household eligibility based on six equity factors:**
 1. ***Economic circumstances*** indicating that the cost of internet will likely be a challenge (e.g., Medicaid, eligibility for free meals, homelessness, UIC's researched-based Community Hardship Index)
 2. ***Student-level factors*** indicating students who are most likely to be disadvantaged academically (Diverse Learning, English Language Learning)

*See cps.edu/ChicagoConnected for more information



Chicago Connected is a tight collaboration between a number of critical partners

<u>Entity</u>	<u>Responsibilities</u>
City of Chicago	Co-project manager, charged with managing the scope of the program, developing the budget, securing funding, and co-drafting legal agreements
Chicago Public Schools	Co-project manager, responsible for identifying the students/household populations, marketing the program to households, and conducting ongoing management of program once operationalized
Kids First Chicago	Tertiary project manager, tasked with facilitating conversations between CPS/City and the ISPs/CBOs/community at large. Potential lead for CBO engagement, accountability, and support
United Way of Metro Chicago	Fiscal agent, responsible for entering into legal agreements with each party, managing flow of funds, coordinating ongoing program management once operationalized
Children First Fund (CFF)	Fiscal agent, responsible for entering into agreements with each of the CBOs and managing flow of funds between select parties
Internet Service Providers (ISPs)	Service providers, tasked with delivering internet services to residents at low, subsidized costs (includes Comcast, RCN and T-Mobile)
Community-Based Organizations (CBOs)	Local neighborhood organizations, responsible for community outreach, marketing the program, helping households connect to the internet, and training families on digital literacy (35 CBOs in total)
Philanthropic Organizations	Providing seed funding for the program alongside the City and CPS (to date includes Citadel, Crown Family Philanthropies, Pritzker Traubert Foundation, the Chicago Community Trust, United Way, the Chicago Community Covid-19 Response Fund, The Joyce Foundation, ITW, The MacArthur Foundation, JPB Foundation, and a personal commitment from Barack and Michelle Obama)

★ High-Level Project Architecture captures the coordination of these various partners and connection of households to the internet



01

Funders support the project through United Way and Children First Fund (CFF), who will both act as fiscal agents for the program. United Way and CFF disburses funds to three key project players: (1) Chicago Public Schools (CPS), (2) Community Based Organizations (CBOs), and (3) Internet Service Providers (ISPs).



02

CPS identifies CPS families who qualify and connects them to services provided by the ISPs.

CBOs help identify and connect hard-to-reach families. CBOs also provide additional digital literacy support to local families.



03

ISPs are responsible for providing free internet service to qualifying households for a minimum of one year—and potentially up to four.

ISPs will also provide digital literacy and marketing support for the program.



04

Households are connected to high-quality broadband internet. The City, and Chicago Public Schools continue to partner with United Way, CFF and Kids First Chicago to support and maintain the program alongside CBOs and ISPs.





Community Based Organizations Form a Critical Backbone in the Most Disconnected Communities

- **Not every neighborhood will have a CBO partner**
 - Partnerships will be focused on areas with the greatest need
- **Trusted in their communities, CBOs will lead the following:**
 - Act as a liaison between Chicago Connected and their neighborhoods
 - Engage eligible households to raise awareness and connect families
 - Support newly-connected households with troubleshooting and digital literacy
 - Connect families to resources for workforce development and other online tools
- **Chicago principals also received lists of eligible students in their buildings to support outreach**



How You Can Help!

How to help

- Ask Parents to check their email, US Postal Mail and texts for any messages that provided them their activation code. If they have received the code, they should be instructed to call the assigned internet service provider as the next step
- Please guide parents to:
 - The Chicago Connected website:
cps.edu/chicagoconnected
 - The parent hotline at 773-417-1060 (M-F 7:30am-4:30 pm)
- Spread the word! Share information about this program on social media, with your neighbors/friends/colleagues.

Eligibility (cps.edu/ChicagoConnected)

Check Eligibility for Chicago Connected

Students who qualify for high-speed internet at no cost through the Chicago Connected program have been assigned an activation code to provide to their internet service provider.

Find Your Activation Code

Enter your child's student ID and date of birth in the form below to see if your family is eligible for free internet access. Can't find your student ID? Look for it on:

- Report cards or progress reports
- Parent Portal
- Student ID card
- Or call your school for assistance

STUDENT ID:

DATE OF BIRTH:



SEARCH

★ Myths vs. Facts About Chicago Connected

Myth

✓ Fact

It could take four years to get connected to the internet.



Eligible families can sign up for internet access **immediately.**

Families need to share a Social Security Number to sign up.



Families **do not need to have or share a Social Security** number to sign up. There are several other forms of ID allowed, such as a driver's license, a utility bill in the applicant's name, or even current employment badge / photo ID.

Families who sign up need to pass a background check.



Families who sign up **do not undergo a background check.**

Families will be responsible for secret additional charges (modem, data overages, etc.)



Families who sign up **do not receive a bill.** There are no connection or modem fees, with the exception of a customer that asks for excessive home visits or does not return equipment.



Questions?