



**King County**

**Information**  
**TECHNOLOGY**

## **Community Connectivity Consortium (C3) Pilot Project Summary Report**

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**Response to King County Ordinance 18295, Section 2**

**February 2017**

## Report Stimulus – C3 Proviso Report

This report is in response to King County Ordinance 18295, Section 2 requesting the King County Executive prepare and file a summary report on the pilot project for the Community Connectivity Consortium (C3):

The executive is requested to undertake one or more pilot projects to use the [fiber optic network around Lake Washington] to expand access to high-speed broadband service within the unincorporated areas of King County that have been underserved by high-speed digital technology. The executive should prioritize economically disadvantaged communities, or communities facing other social or educational challenges, when selecting the pilot project areas and partners. At least one pilot project should be identified not later than March 31, 2017, with a target date for operation not later than December 31, 2017. The executive is requested to prepare a summary report for the proposed pilot project or projects outlining the objectives and the anticipated costs and benefits.

### Overview

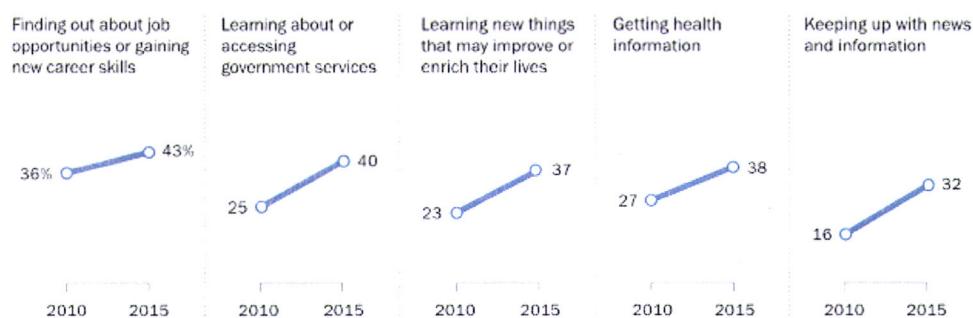
#### *Problem Statement (national landscape)*

The share of Americans with broadband at home has plateaued and now stands at 67 percent of Americans, down slightly from 70 percent in 2013<sup>1</sup>. Some of this is driven by smartphone usage; however, those who are smartphone dependent face challenges related to data-cap limits and the accessibility of applications such as completing a job application on a smartphone. Between 2010 and 2015, there has been a substantial increase in the share of adults who say that not having a home high-speed connection is a major disadvantage when looking for job opportunities, accessing government information, and in other areas.

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#### **Non-broadband adopters are increasingly likely to view lack of broadband as a disadvantage in key areas of life**

*% of non-broadband users who believe those without home broadband are at a major disadvantage in these situations*



Source: Survey conducted June 10-July 12, 2015. Sample size = 2,001.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

## ***King County's Landscape (in our backyard)***

Sixteen percent of households in King County do not have a broadband subscription at home, limiting their opportunities to access government services, apply for jobs online, or do many forms of homework. Not having Internet access at home means people must travel to libraries, community centers or schools to find information and access services, often placing an additional financial burden on those who are least able to bear that burden. King County residents who earn less than \$50,000 per year are five-and-a-half times less likely to have Internet access at home. This gap is not being met by commercial communications companies and they continue to overlook underserved areas due to low sales and limited return on investment.

## **Opportunity Statement**

The King County Department of Information Technology (KCIT) has technology infrastructure and assets like C3, I-Net, County fiber and cellular carrier partnerships, to enable access to technology and information services for underserved communities as a fundamental part of King County's social justice goal. Ensuring equal opportunity and access to technology tools and the Internet for all of our residents allows participation in our global economy, regardless of income, age, place or race. King County plays an important role in connecting people to the resources they need to succeed in our increasingly digital world.

KCIT's partnerships with community partners and communications companies increases the opportunity to deliver technology infrastructure to underserved communities. KCIT is working with our partners to identify one to two economically disadvantaged communities, or communities facing other social or educational challenges. Together we can build a unique collaboration of technology assets, commercial and community partnerships to deliver pilot program(s) that bring broadband services to targeted underserved communities.

Individual programs and technology elements already exist. However, KCIT will engage the right partners, broadband capacity, and technology to ensure selected underserved communities participating in the pilot programs have equal access to broadband and Internet resources.

## **Pilot Selection Criteria**

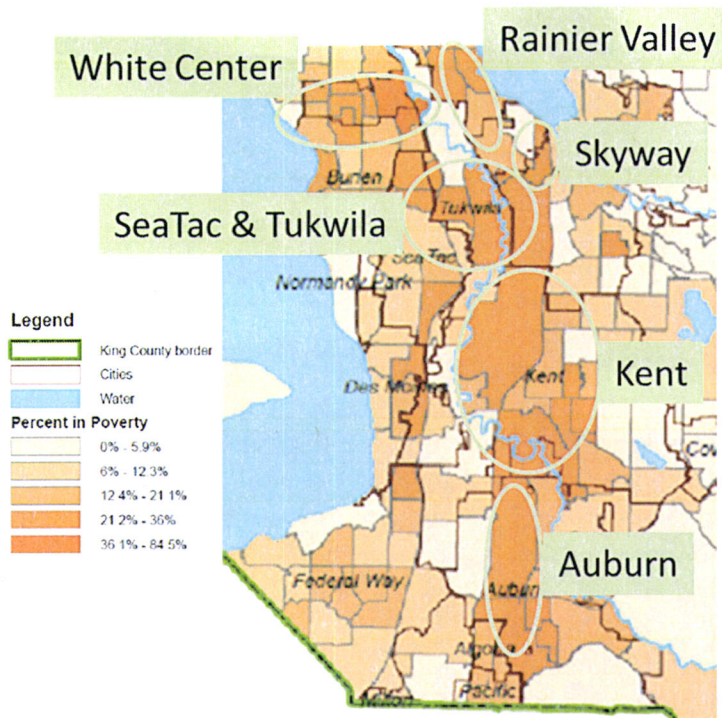
### ***Criteria for Candidate Participation***

We developed criteria that helps to define "underserved" areas for pilot participation by using King County Equity and Social Justice (ESJ) and the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) demographics. The following demographic criteria was selected:

- Residents earning less than \$50,000 per year or where annual household median income is less than \$50,000 per year (i.e. 200 percent of the U.S. poverty level)
- Schools with high populations of students receiving free and reduced priced lunch (greater than 50 percent)
- Communities with limited communications infrastructure (Internet at home, fiber, cellular coverage)

- Alignment with King County’s ESJ, Best Start for Kids, Community of Opportunities (OCC), and Youth Action Plan programs and their target communities

**Demographics Targets**



**Free or Reduced Price Student Lunch**

Most recent data (2013-2014 school year): 36% of students qualified for free or reduced price lunch or 99,114 students.

		Percent	Number
<b>King County</b>		36%	99,114
Region	District		
South	Kent	52%	14,399
South	Renton	54%	8,125
South	Auburn	54%	8,131
South	Federal Way	60%	12,618
South	Highline	69%	13,043
South	Tukwila	79%	2,381

**Notes:**

- In 2013-2014, a family of 4 making less than \$30,615 received lunch at no cost; a family of 4 making less than \$43,568 qualified for reduced price lunch.
- Data source: Washington State Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction
- Prepared by: Public Health - Seattle & King County; Assessment, Policy Development, & Evaluation, 1/2015

**Strategic Associations - Linkages to King County Initiatives**

- Includes Communities of Opportunity locations.
  - [Communities of Opportunity Program](#)
- Aligns with Best Starts for Kids Initiative
  - [Best Start for Kids Program](#)
- Supports ESJ’s Digital Equity “Technology Access” Goals
  - [ESJ Digital Equity](#)

## **Potential Pilot Candidates**

### ***Areas and Partners Meeting the Selection Criteria***

Skyway, White Center, Kent, Renton, and SeaTac are all target areas. The Renton School District has agreed to partner with us. We are in on-going conversations with other potential partners, such as the Kent School District, Technology Access Foundation (TAF), and the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA).

### ***Pilot Areas Segmentation***

#### **Low Income Neighborhoods**

1. Auburn
2. Kent
3. Renton
4. SeaTac
5. Skyway
6. Tukwila
7. White Center

#### **Schools**

1. Kent School District
2. Renton School District

#### **Community Centers**

1. YMCA
2. Boys & Girls Clubs
3. Others (Matumaini Counseling and Community Center)

## **Pilot Goals & Recommendations**

### ***Pilot Goals***

King County and its community partners will design one to two pilot projects that provide long-term, three to six year, access to the Internet via King County's cellular wireless capacity.

The pilot will also provide data that will enable us to evaluate:

- Impact to families without Internet access at home
  - 16 percent of families/homes do not have Internet at home.
- Scalability of the program to create a bigger and sustainable effort
  - Lessons learned and best practices.
- Contribution to solving the homework gap
  - Provide students anytime, anywhere access to information and online resources.
- Contribution to economic development
  - Expand opportunities for local businesses and resident's access to local government, jobs, healthcare and commerce online.

- Viability, cost and approach to a larger implementation of digital equity programs within King County.

***Pilot Recommendation: Skyway***

Collaborate with Renton School District at Dimmitt Middle School, where 75 percent of the 964 students get reduced lunch prices, with their 1:1 laptop program. In ESJ and Best Start for Kids target areas, King County will provide high-speed cellular (known as LTE) wireless infrastructure "free" to kids that qualify for free and reduce lunch. The laptop program equips up to 301 students in 8<sup>th</sup> grade through high school graduation/12<sup>th</sup> grade.

- a. Program start date: June 2017
- b. Program end date: June 2019
- c. Estimated Cost
  - i. Equipment: Laptop & LTE equipment paid by school for each student
  - ii. Wireless Service: Provide student access to C3 network and I-Net wireless (cost: for 301 students at \$20.00 per month for 24 months) = \$144,480.00
  - iii. IT Support: KCIT operations support: (for 301 students at \$9 per month for 24 months) = \$65,016.00
- d. Duration: 2 years
  - i. At the end of two years, Renton School District takes over cost for wireless services and support. Refer to Attachment A: Renton School District Letter of Intent.
- e. Total King County investment: \$209,496.00

***Program Benefits***

1. Address inequities and broadband access for the Skyway community and for 301 8<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grade students at Dimmitt Middle School.
2. By implementing our program students will not be limited to just using the laptop at school via Wi-Fi but, have always-on accessibility to the Internet at home using C3 connection.
3. Use King County investment and partnership with C3 to help students.
4. Reduce wireless access and services costs for students and school district.
5. This effort aligns to target areas of Best Start for Kids and Equity & Social Justice initiatives.
6. School district will provide school performance data for students participating in our program.
7. Results of the initial implementation will provide operational insights, best practice scalability lessons.

## ***Other Potential Pilots***

### RENTON AND KENT SCHOOLS

- Both Kent and Renton School Districts qualify for the [Sprint 1 Million Project](http://goodworks.sprint.com/1millionproject/) (<http://goodworks.sprint.com/1millionproject/>), which provides cellular phones and data plans to qualifying students. This project starts during the 2017-2018 school year. King County can potentially use the C3 and I-Net network to provide Internet to students.

### WHITE CENTER

- Partner with Technology Access Foundation (TAF) #STEMbyTAF & Saghali Middle School. Provide C3 access to approximately 300 to 850 STEM students.
- Build King County fiber to commercial businesses in the White Center downtown area where fiber infrastructure is limited.
- Currently there is an I-Net connection at an unused King County Public Health facility. The County can provide I-Net services to new tenants of the facility to support future uses by King County Communities of Opportunity and Best Starts for Kids program participants.

### SEATAC

- Build fiber to the YMCA\_Matt Griffin location, and provide “free Internet access” to enable access for King County Community of Opportunity affiliated non-profit organizations and the YMCA computer center access for youth training and education.

*Note: the above pilot recommendations are documented as potential ventures. Further cost projections and community conversations are required to determine actual feasibility.*

## **Expansion & Sustainment**

We propose to create a technology infrastructure bank for program sustainment and future projects in underserved communities. A potential funding source is King County’s Best Start for Kids but further discussion is needed.

## **Next Steps**

- Develop and execute contractual agreements with partner(s) by April 30, 2017
- Develop implementation and support plan by May 30, 2017
- Initial rollout and testing by June 30, 2017
- Implement project(s) not later than December 31, 2017
- Provide Executive with status report and successes by February 28, 2018

**References:**

1. Pew Research Center – Home Broadband 2105
2. Washington State Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction – Free & Reduced Price Lunches

**Attachment:**

1. Attachment A: Renton School District Letter of Intent





## TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

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February 28, 2017

Darryl Hunt  
King County Department of Information Technology  
401 Fifth Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98104

Dear Darryl,

Thank you for inviting the Renton School District to participate in a pilot program using the Community Connectivity Consortium (C3) and I-Net fiber connections for the purpose of providing three-hundred (300) Dimmitt Middle School 8th grade students with access to Internet as part of our school district one-to-one laptop program planned for the 2017-2018 school year.

This letter of intent expresses our interest in continuing and finalizing our program participation with King County and our joint roles and responsibilities.

Again, thank you and we look forward to continued conversation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Seymour Hanfling".

Dr. Seymour Hanfling  
Chief Technology Officer  
Renton School District