

PALM BEACH COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
WORKSHOP SUMMARY

Meeting Date: May 25, 2021

Department: Information Systems Services
Submitted by: Information Systems Services
Submitted for: Information Systems Services

I. EXECUTIVE BRIEF

Title: Palm Beach County's Broadband Digital Inclusion Initiatives

Summary: Staff from the Information Systems Services Department (ISS), will provide an update to the County's Broadband Initiatives. Included in the presentation from ISS will be an overview of the County network, as well as, past, current and planned future efforts to address "The Digital Divide." Countywide (DB)

Background and Policy Issues: Established in 2006, through an inter-local agreement approved by the Board of County Commissioners, the Palm Beach County Broadband Coalition (Coalition) was created to leverage technology in the development of a digital inclusion program. The vision for the program was a countywide wireless network that would benefit to Palm Beach County citizens, governments, education institutions, health care agencies, business and visitors. It was thought to have important applications in the realms of public safety, economic development, education, and the bridging of "The Digital Divide." Since the establishment of the Coalition, some progress was made through implementation of pilot programs and the establishment of many inter-local agreements. The onset pandemic last year highlighted remaining digital divides for school aged students, while simultaneously CARES funding provided a potential source to address those underserved in Palm Beach County. ISS will provide an update on key metrics achieved with the CARES funding as well suggest next steps possible with ARPA funding.

Attachments:

- 1. Presentation

Recommended by:		<u>5/18/21</u>
	Department Director	Date
Approved by:		<u>5/18/21</u>
	Deputy County Administrator	Date

II. FISCAL IMPACT ANALYSIS

A. Five Year Summary of Fiscal Impact

Fiscal Years	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2025</u>
Capital Expenditures	\$0	0	0	0	0
Operating Costs	\$0	0	0	0	0
External Revenues	0	0	0	0	0
Program Inc (County)	0	0	0	0	0
In-Kind Match (County)	0	0	0	0	0
NET FISCAL IMPACT	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>
# Additional FTE Positions (Cumulative)	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

Is Item Included in Current Budget Yes No

Does this item include the use of federal funds? Yes No

Budget Account Number: Fund Dept Unit Object

B. Recommended Sources of Funds / Summary of Fiscal Impact

There is no direct fiscal impact associated with this update

C. Department Fiscal Review: *[Signature]*

III. REVIEW COMMENTS

A. OFMB Fiscal and/or Contract Development & Control Comments:

<u><i>[Signature]</i></u> OFMB <i>[Signature]</i> MG 5/19/21	<u><i>[Signature]</i></u> Contract Administration
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B. Legal Sufficiency:

[Signature]
for D. Behar 5/19/2021
Assistant County Attorney

C: Other Department Review:

Department Director

THIS SUMMARY IS NOT TO BE USED AS A BASIS FOR PAYMENT.

Palm Beach County's Broadband Digital Inclusion Initiatives



May 2021
*Information Systems
Services*





Purpose

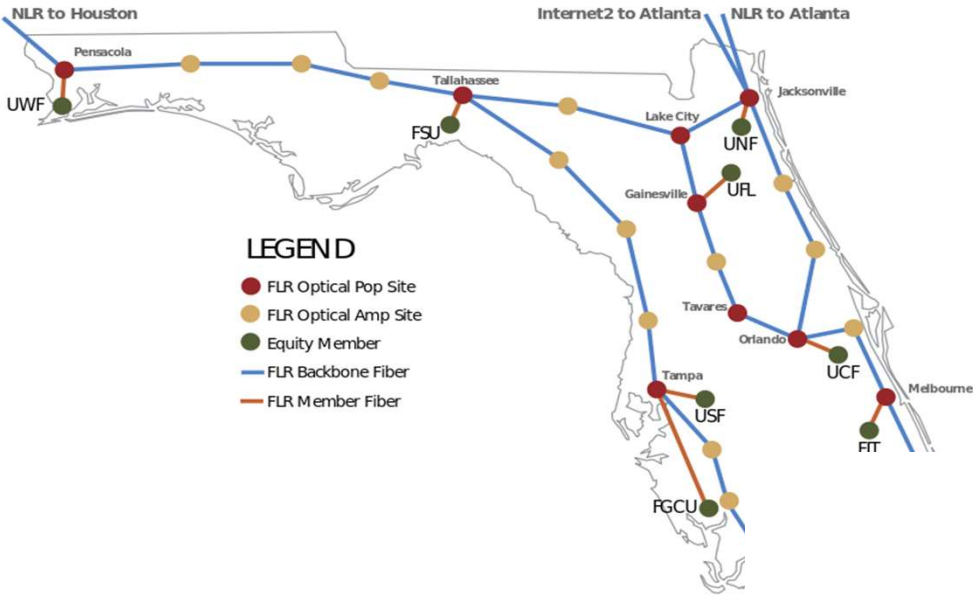
- PBC Network Overview
- Initial Digital Inclusion Initiative
- Current Digital Inclusion Initiative
- Next Steps



The PBC Network

- **>1000 miles** of fiber-optic cable
- **489** connected facilities
- Available bandwidth capacity for transporting data, voice, video, and images
- Skilled staff providing 24x7 coverage
- Secure, survivable, and highly redundant
- Supports the entire County government and over 40 external agencies

Access to the Internet via FLR



Initial Digital Inclusion Initiative



Palm Beach County Broadband Coalition



Palm Beach County
Education Commission, Inc.

- Six member agencies
- Created via Interlocal agreement in 2006
- Leverage technology for the group and the community
- Digital inclusion program to provide computers and internet access from home





Collaborative Digital Inclusion Projects

Where we started

• Pilot Projects

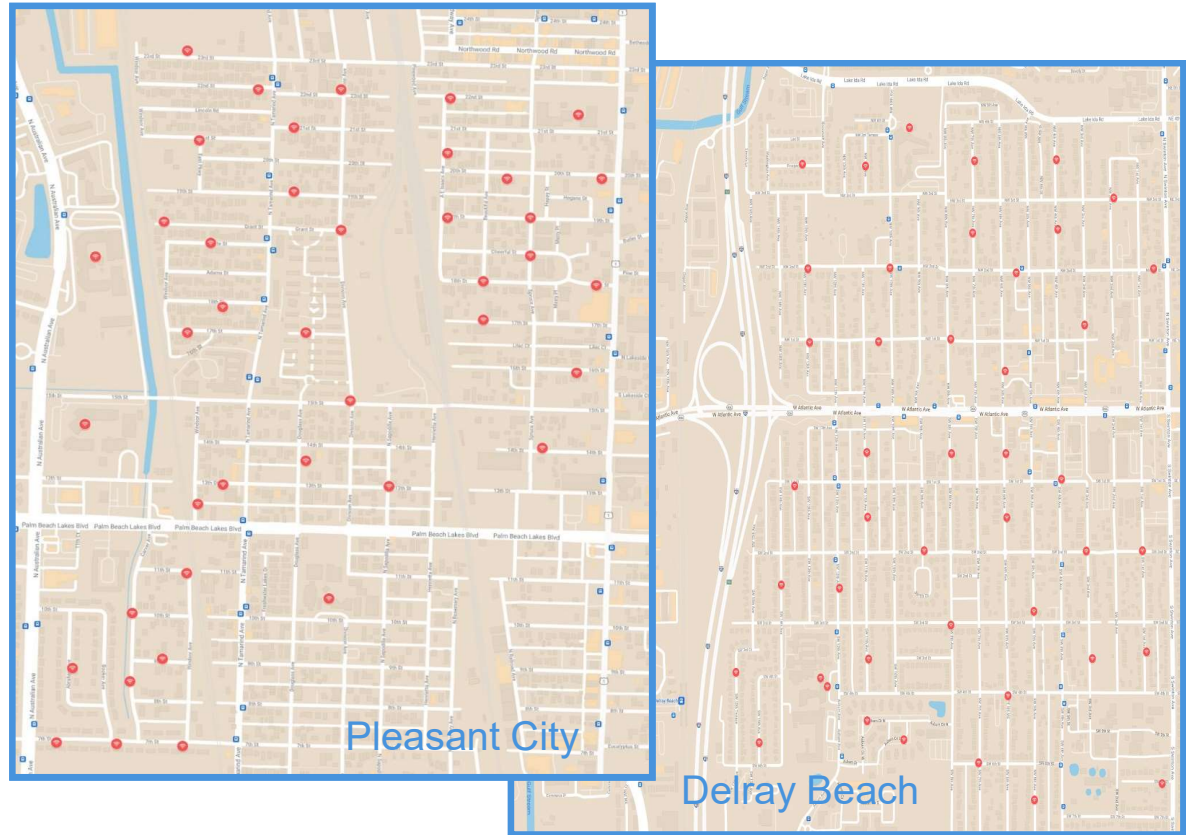
• West Palm (Pleasant City)

- 3 Root Radios
- 40 Neighborhood Radios
- 1.25 Sq Miles
- 904 Students

• Delray Beach (East of I95)

- 4 Root Radios
- 41 Neighborhood Radios
- 1.5 Sq Miles
- 995 Students

• Community Partners





The Steps on the Path to Digital Inclusion

Coalition created and Implementation of Pleasant City Pilot Program

2006

2008-2011

Economic Downturn

With the improvement in the economy partners came forward to implement a 2nd Pilot Program in Delray Beach

2012

2013-2019

With no new coalition partner identified projects, the County continued to invest in underlying necessary infrastructure

COVID highlighted those students without access to adequate high-speed internet connections

2020



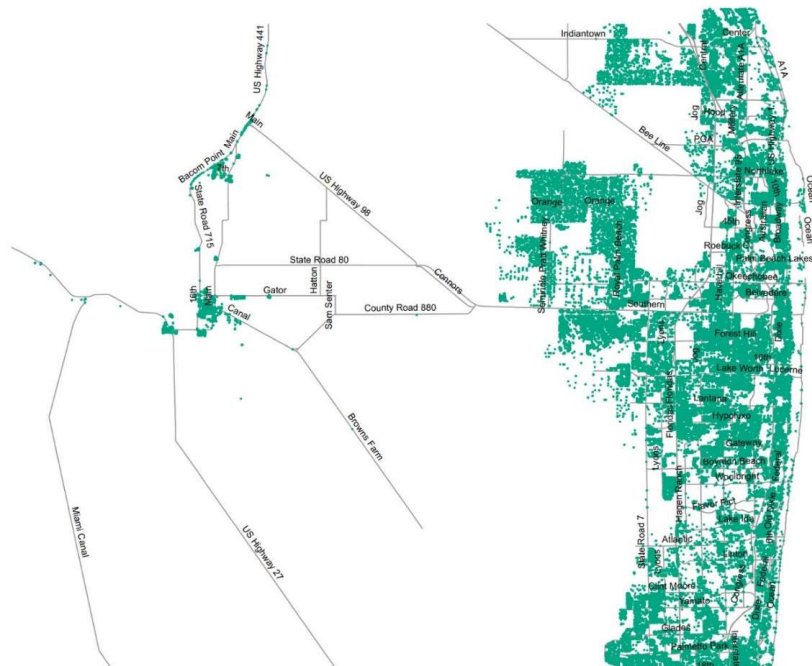
Current Digital Inclusion Initiative



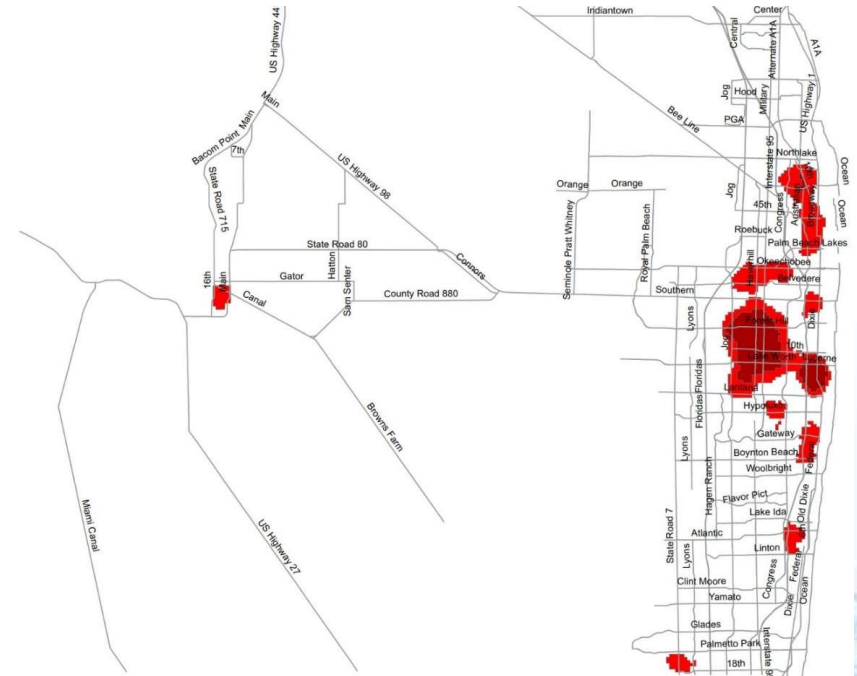


What The Data Told Us

Free and Reduced Lunch Students



Highest Concentration of Need



Creating A Wi-Fi Mesh



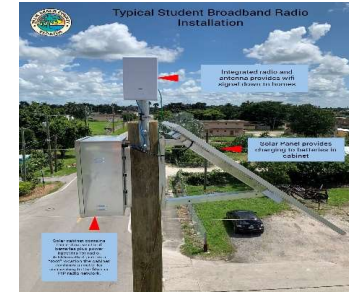
Lay Fiber Optic Cable



Connect Fiber to Root Radios



Root Radios Connect to Neighborhood Radios



Root & Neighborhood Radios Create Wifi Mesh



Wifi Extenders Access Wifi Mesh Signal



Home Gains Broadband Access





CARES Funding

Where we started

• Pilot Projects

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• 8 Community Partners

What we are Accomplishing (CARES)

- **25,000 students** dark red on heat map
- **3000 radios** covering **50 square miles**
- **>400 Miles fiber installed**
- **98 schools** part of the County network.
- **17 County Libraries**
- **10 Boys and Girls Clubs**
- **15 Community partners**
- Increased capacity/ coverage on County owned infrastructures.
- **Funding \$15.75 Million**

Approximately \$40

Next Steps





ARPA Funding

Where we started

•Pilot Projects

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What we are Accomplishing (CARES)

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- **>400 Miles fiber installed**
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- **17 County Libraries**
- **10 Boys and Girls Clubs**
- **14 Community partners.**
- Increased capacity/ coverage on County owned infrastructures.
- Funding \$15.75 Million**

Future Goals (ARPA)

- Extend network infrastructure to the areas as identified by the heat maps
- Connect 47 additional schools to the network
- Continue working with the Community Partners
- Increase coverage capability to 450 square miles with the capability of supporting approximately 11000 radios
- Install an additional 600 miles of fiber optics
- Estimate Cost of ~ \$40 Million

Thank You

