

Community Broadband Program Pilot



25% Households in the City without any form of internet

1 / 3 Syracuse city school kids lack high speed internet at home

#33 Worst connected city in the US for broadband access

DIGITAL DIVIDE

In Syracuse, the lack of reliable internet access **disproportionately impacts low income families and communities of color.**

Digital equity is necessary for civic and cultural participation, employment, lifelong learning and access to essential services including healthcare. It is about opportunity for all.

The Community Broadband Program provides **affordable, high speed internet** for underserved families in Syracuse, using Federal ARPA funds.

Benefits

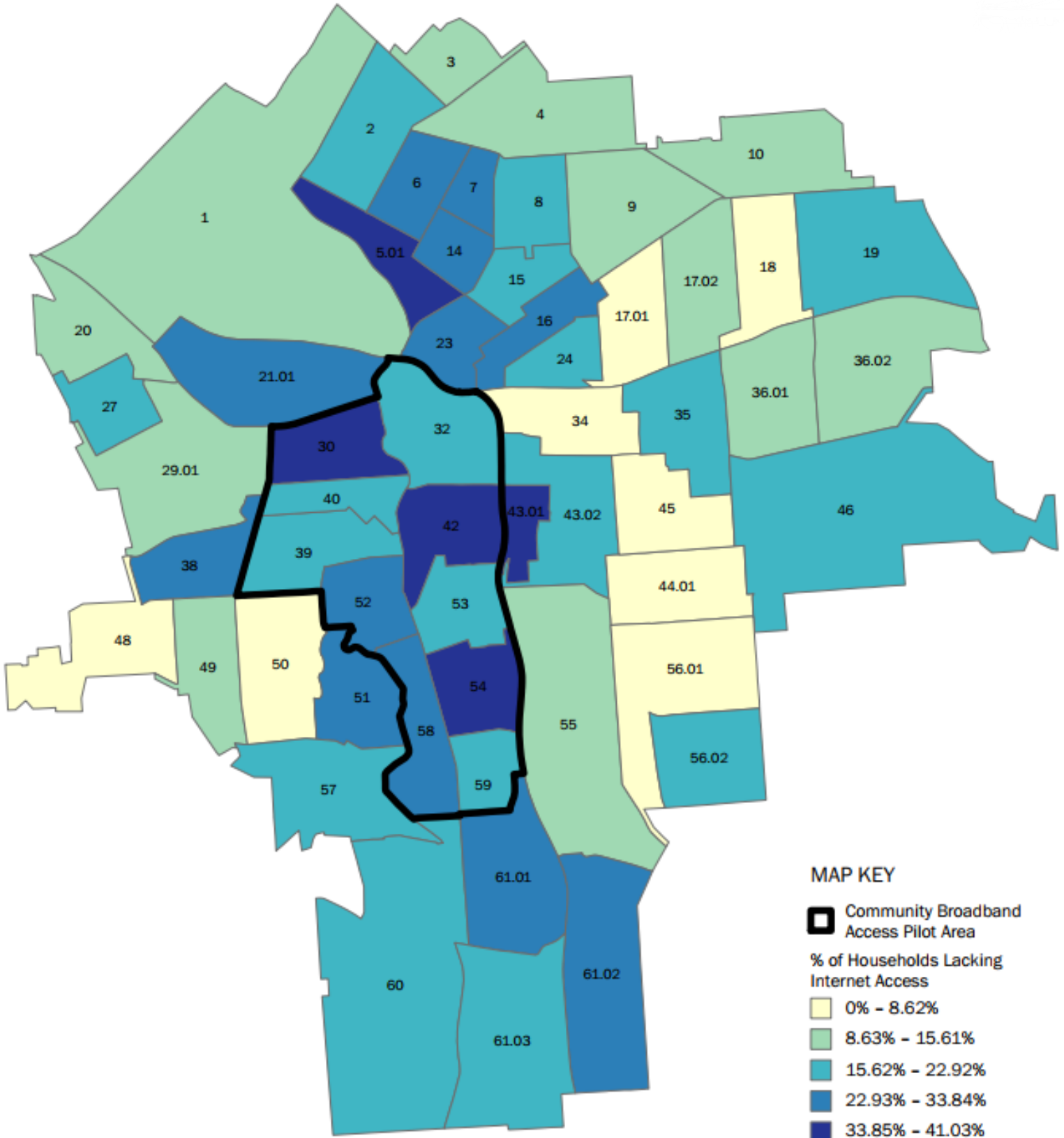
- Serve 2,500 families, targeting Near Westside, Southwest, & Brighton neighborhoods
- Household cost \$0/mo out-of-pocket, leveraging additional Federal Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) subsidy
- High speed connectivity that meets Federal requirements
- 24 x 7 customer support for reliable service
- Fixed wireless network deployment faster than wireline – service expected to be available within 60-90 days of contract start
- Establishes network infrastructure for municipal uses

Contract

- Competitive RFP process in Fall of 2022 - selected Community Broadband Networks as provider (dba CBN-Syracuse LLC)
- 3 year contract includes network design, installation, operations maintenance, and managed internet service/customer support
- Implementation cost is \$1,862,906, with an option for the City to provide an additional subsidy for internet service if needed[†]
- Network performance and customer satisfaction will be measured throughout the pilot. A business plan will be developed by Dec 2024 to scale/sustain the Community Broadband Program if pilot performance is positive

[†] If Congress fails to provide additional funds for the ACP, the Federal subsidy may end in 2024. This contract option allows the City use ARPA funds to partially subsidize Community Broadband Program subscribers for the remainder of the 3 year pilot period.

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Households Lacking Internet Access by Census Tract