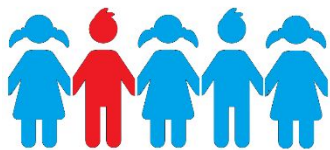




August 12, 2021



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

- Just over 1 in 3 households in Austin
- Nearly 1 in 3 households in Humboldt Park
- Nearly 1 in 2 households in West Englewood

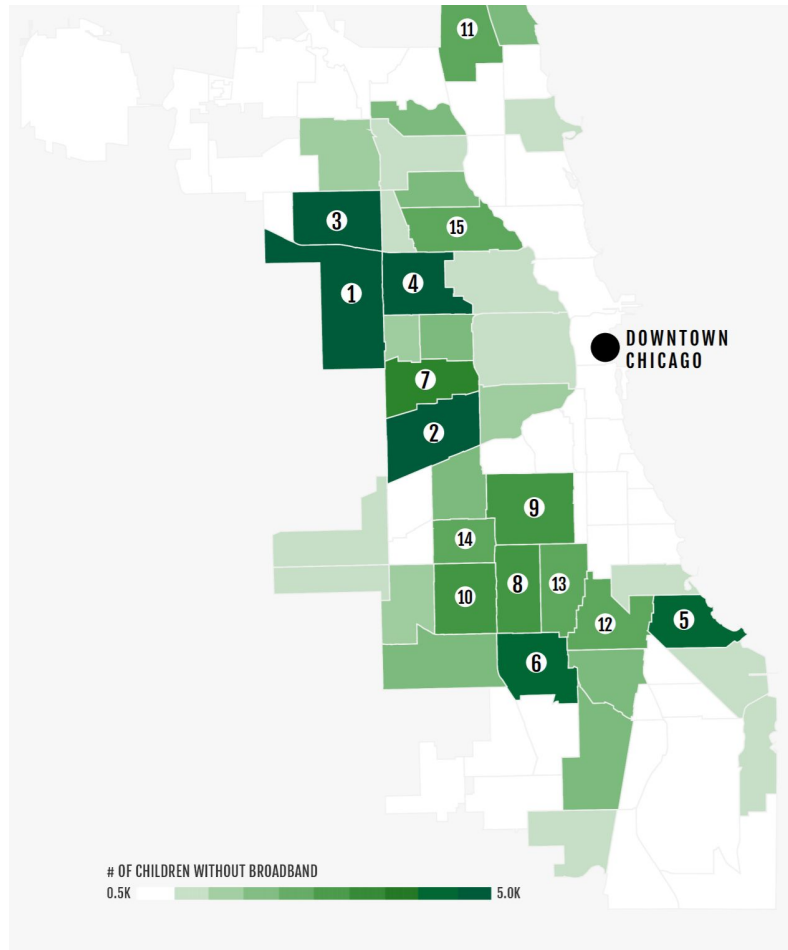
The immediate COVID need for internet access will help build permanent infrastructure to bridge the Digital Divide

- 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

The highest concentration of students without access to broadband are predominately on the South & West sides



of Students

15 Most Affected Community Areas

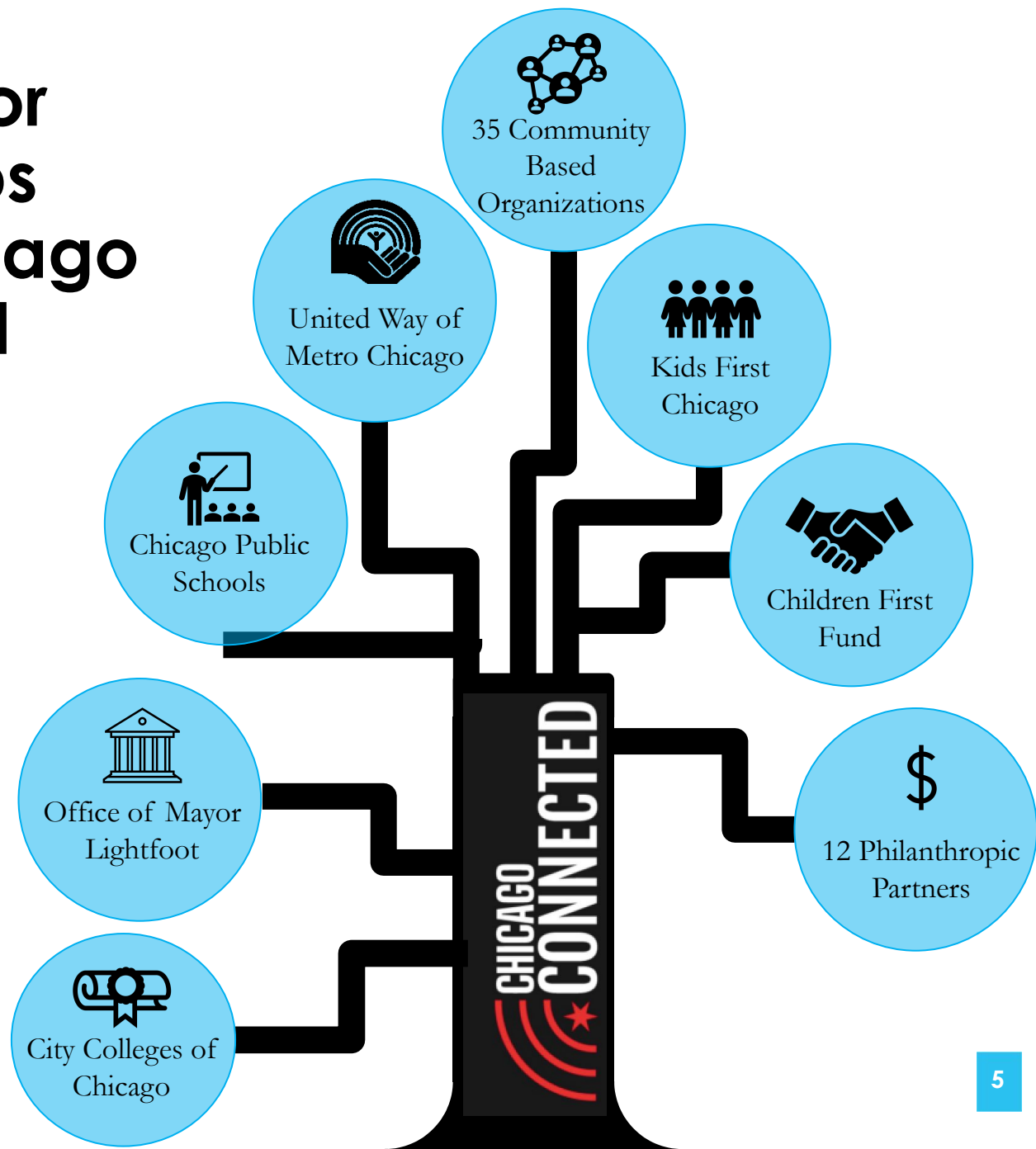
1. AUSTIN	WEST SIDE	7,801
2. SOUTH LAWNSDALE	WEST SIDE	6,624
3. BELMONT CRAGIN	NORTH/NORTHWEST SIDE	5,218
4. HUMBOLDT PARK	WEST SIDE	5,195
5. SOUTH SHORE	SOUTH SIDE	3,994
6. AUBURN GRESHAM	FAR SOUTHWEST SIDE	3,744
7. NORTH LAWNSDALE	WEST SIDE	3,550
8. WEST ENGLEWOOD	SOUTHWEST SIDE	3,089
9. NEW CITY	SOUTHWEST SIDE	2,992
10. CHICAGO LAWN	SOUTHWEST SIDE	2,769
11. WEST RIDGE	FAR NORTH SIDE	2,609
12. GREATER GRAND CROSSING	SOUTH SIDE	2,539
13. ENGLEWOOD	SOUTHWEST SIDE	2,392
14. GAGE PARK	SOUTHWEST SIDE	2,366
15. LOGAN SQUARE	NORTH/NORTHWEST SIDE	2,327



- **One of the largest and longest city-run internet accessibility program in the country (100,000+ students)***
 - Focus on high-speed, fixed-line, household internet access (wireline ensures reliability, consistency of speed, and can most quickly connect Chicagoans)
 - Includes a WiFi “hotspot” component focused on students in temporary living situations and the small percentage of homes where wired-service cannot be used
- **Student household eligibility based on six equity factors, including:**
 - ***Economic circumstances*** indicating that the cost of internet will likely be a challenge (e.g., Medicaid, eligibility for free meals, homelessness, UIC’s Community Hardship Index)
 - ***Student-level factors*** indicating students who are most likely to be disadvantaged academically (Diverse Learning, English Language Learning)



Cross-sector partnerships make Chicago Connected possible



Government and industry cannot have a high-tech, low-carbon economy without broadband

- Governments that recognize the opportunities broadband offers for addressing a range of socio-economic goals are making the expansion of affordable, reliable broadband access a key priority, with positive economic results
- Industry must recognize that Smart Grid benefits are predicated on one critical element - the intelligence supplied by millions of electricity consumers, distributors, and producers networked to each other by universally deployed and robust broadband access to the Internet
- With vision, effective policy choices, cross-sectoral partnerships, and targeted investment, we can turn an unprecedented global challenge into a remarkable opportunity to reshape our economy into one that is sustainable—in other words greener, more prosperous, and more equitable