



SAN FRANCISCO TECHCONNECT

Universal, Affordable Wireless Broadband Internet Access for San Francisco

"TechConnect will bring the universal, affordable wireless broadband internet access that San Franciscans need to compete and succeed in the global economy of the 21st Century."

*San Francisco Mayor
Gavin Newsom*

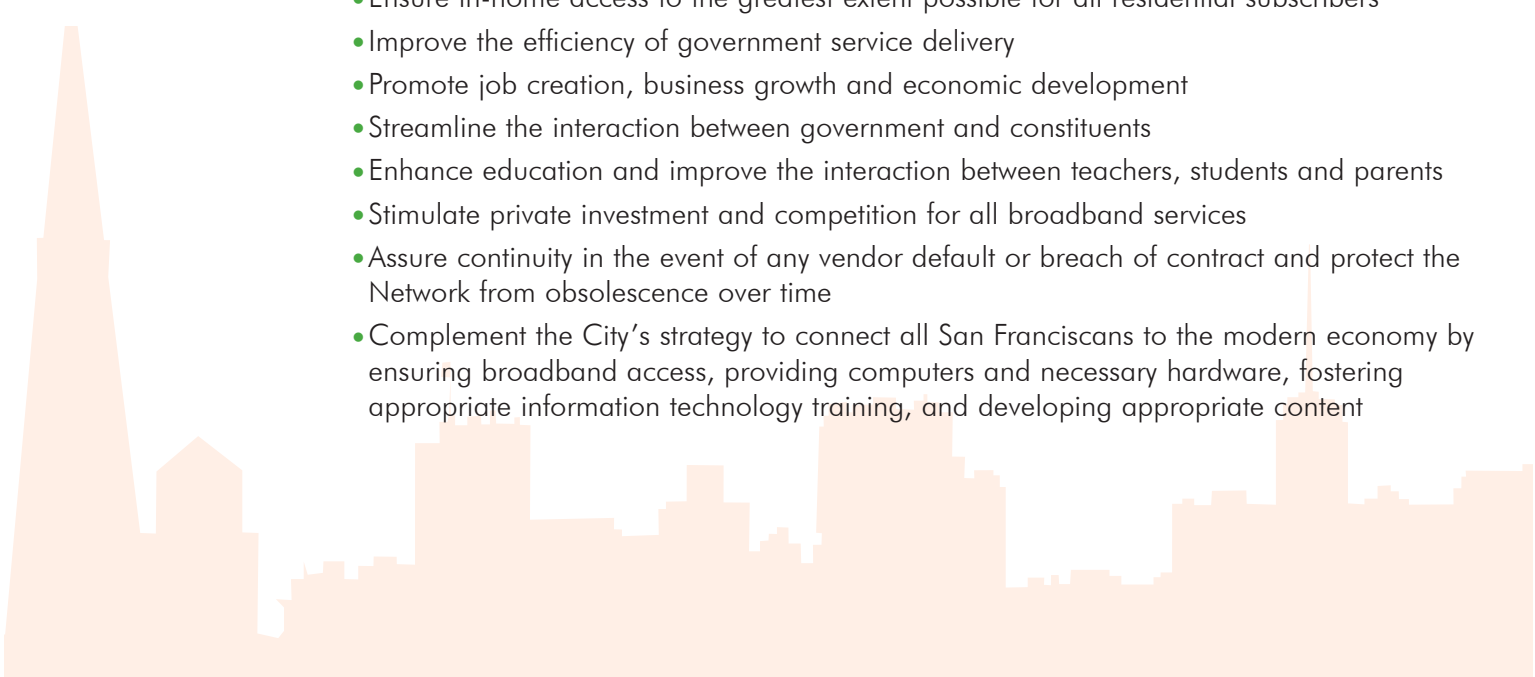
San Francisco TechConnect is a new City-wide initiative for universal, affordable, wireless broadband access. As the United States lags behind other nations in equipping our citizens to compete in the global economy, San Francisco is stepping forward to bring universal, affordable wireless broadband access to all our residents and businesses. Following the model of "Project Connect," *TechConnect* will connect all San Franciscans to the social, educational, informational and economic opportunities they need to succeed in the increasingly competitive local, national and international economies of the 21st Century.

Recent studies show that California households with annual income of more than \$75,000 are six times more likely to have broadband connectivity than households with annual incomes of less than \$15,000. Developments in the telecommunications industry could stifle healthy marketplace competition and result in a handful of corporations with control over broadband access and services at consumers' expense. Now more than ever, cities must take the lead in providing access to "digital opportunities" - connecting people with broadband access at home and work and promoting access to affordable computer hardware, training, and on-line content.

TechConnect's leadership will come from the Mayor's Office and the Department of Telecommunications and Information Services, with assistance from the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission.

THE CITY HAS IDENTIFIED THE FOLLOWING CRITICAL GOALS FOR THE *TECHCONNECT* INITIATIVE:

- Ensure universal, affordable wireless broadband access for all San Franciscans, including low-income and disadvantaged residents
- Ensure in-home access to the greatest extent possible for all residential subscribers
- Improve the efficiency of government service delivery
- Promote job creation, business growth and economic development
- Streamline the interaction between government and constituents
- Enhance education and improve the interaction between teachers, students and parents
- Stimulate private investment and competition for all broadband services
- Assure continuity in the event of any vendor default or breach of contract and protect the Network from obsolescence over time
- Complement the City's strategy to connect all San Franciscans to the modern economy by ensuring broadband access, providing computers and necessary hardware, fostering appropriate information technology training, and developing appropriate content



NEXT STEPS:

This summer the City launched the *TechConnect* initiative by issuing a Request for Information and Comment that invites this country's brightest minds - from the public, private and non-profit sectors - to give us their best ideas for how we can achieve our goals of a universal wireless broadband network in a way that is cost-effective for the City and affordable for our residents and businesses.

These comments will help the City determine the most prudent path towards universal, affordable wireless broadband access. *TechConnect* is also planning to move forward with plans to promote affordable hardware, quality training programs, and appropriate on-line content to make sure that all San Franciscans can use their broadband access to the fullest.

HOW MUCH IS THIS GOING TO COST THE CITY?

The City is making no financial commitments at this stage in the process. Based on the responses to the Request for Information and Comment, the City will explore the most cost-effective ways to ensure universal, affordable wireless broadband access and meet *TechConnect's* goals.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Please contact San Francisco *TechConnect* Information Line: (415) 554-5008

Email: techconnect@sfgov.org

On the Web: www.sfgov.org/techconnect

To receive a copy of the San Francisco *TechConnect* Request for Information and Comment, please visit www.sfgov.org/techconnect

BROADBAND FACTS

Since 2000, the United States has dropped from 3rd to 16th among nations worldwide in per capita broadband access, far behind many Asian and European nations. (http://www.freepress.net/docs/broadband_report.pdf)

Recent studies show 86 percent of U.S. households with incomes of more than \$75,000 have Internet access, but the share is 38 percent for those with household incomes of less than \$30,000.

(<http://www.stanford.edu/group/siqss/itandsociety/v01i05/v01i05a02.pdf>)

Recent studies show that California households with annual income of more than \$75,000 are six times more likely to have broadband connectivity than households with annual incomes of less than \$15,000.

(http://cjitc.ucsc.edu/docs/r_digitaldivide9.pdf)

U.S. consumers pay 10 to 25 times more than broadband users in Japan for equivalent service. (http://www.freepress.net/docs/broadband_report.pdf)

