

## **Riverside County, CA**

### Most Promising New Plan

RIVCOconnect is starting in the City of Riverside and surrounding communities with a goal of closing the digital divide countywide and within all 28 cities by providing computer equipment and improving digital literacy in underserved communities. RIVCOconnect plans to provide low or no-cost access to internet service for all residents throughout the county, and will provide the participants (families, students, elderly, veterans, and others) in the Digital Equity Program with computers. This will enable them to gain the freedom and knowledge found and utilized daily by the rest of our digitally connected community.



### Population targeted

The RIVCOconnect Digital Equity Program plans to provide a free refurbished PC with Windows 7 and Microsoft Office 2013 to those dependent on Riverside County programs, as well as to residents supported by non-government organizations who are focused on serving households with total family incomes under \$50,000.

### Planned metrics

RIVCOconnect will track the program's progress within their open data initiative where data sets from all programs will be placed and updated electronically. Their open data platform will have dashboards to measure trends in programs, income levels, employment status and the number of people trained in our Digital Equity program.

### City's role

The County of Riverside in collaboration with all 28 cities within the county, two councils of government and participating local tribal communities have adopted a common resolution in support of the county's broadband master plan and the creation of RIVCOconnect initiative (<https://data.countyofriverside.us/Administrative-and-Fiscal-Services/Broadband-Master-Plan-Fo-r-Riverside-County/gyry-nit5>).

### Advice to other cities

Active outreach with local representatives from all cities, communities and tribal nations has resulted in the adoption of resolutions of support by all participants. Ongoing community outreach with in-person meetings occurring with community and social service providers, non-profit organizations, chambers of commerce and councils of governments have resulted in strong support and engagement throughout the county. Media outreach, web based surveys, and social media are also informing and engaging the residents of Riverside County of RIVCOconnect's gigabit fiber strategy and digital equity services.