

Covington Connect Digital Equity Initiative

Providing Equal Access to the Internet & Technology

Access to reliable high-speed Internet service, digital devices, and digital literacy is necessary to succeed in today's information-driven, global economy.

THE NEED FOR HIGH-SPEED INTERNET ACCESS

Census data from 2019 estimated that only 66.5% of Covington residents had a desktop or laptop and 60.9% had a broadband subscription. An additional 13.7% had a cellular data plan with no other type of Internet subscription. In 2020, over 40% of Covington Independent Public Schools students lacked regular Internet access, instead relying on cellular phones.

**source: Source: 2018 ACS: 1-Year Estimates*

INTERNET ACCESS CREATES OPPORTUNITY

Having reliable Internet access at home provides the necessary tools to perform basic tasks many of us often take for granted, such as:



Distance Learning



Working from Home



Telehealth



Job Search and Application



**Online Shopping/
Price Comparison**



Social Connections



Banking and Financial Health

THREE-PRONGED APPROACH TO ACHIEVING DIGITAL EQUITY

1 Provide easy access to High-speed Internet connectivity

2 Access to affordable devices such as computers/tablets to connect

3 Information readily available for education and training to use the devices and connectivity

SOLVING FOR DIGITAL EQUITY

As students were sent home for distance learning, medical appointments transitioned to telehealth, and workers went remote in March 2020, the disparities in connectivity and devices quickly emerged as flagrant issues of equity, inclusion, and achievement. The City of Covington jumped into action and kicked off the Covington Connect project to reduce a barrier to education and economic prosperity by providing access to free public Wi-Fi with the Public Private Partnership between altafiber, the City of Covington, Housing Authority of Covington, Covington Independent Public Schools and Comp-U-Dopt.

altafiber



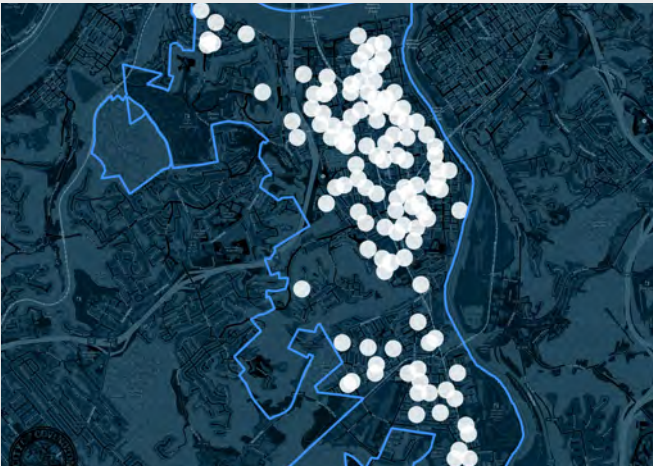
HOUSING
AUTHORITY
OF COVINGTON



Compudopt

Technology Solution: altafiber Intelligent Wi-Fi + Laptops + Tech Support

WI-FI ACCESS AREAS IN COVINGTON



Wi-Fi usage as of January 2023



Neighborhoods
27,976 Registrations
247,648 Sessions



Housing Authority
7,338 Registrations
605,113 Sessions



Downtown
21,345 Registrations
146,786 Sessions



Total
56,660 Registrations
1,379,042 Sessions

For the most recent analytics visit: data.covingtonky.gov/Dashboards/CovConnect

Covington Connect deployed a high-speed Intelligent Wi-Fi network through Covington's neighborhoods, public housing, and business districts, expanding fiber into Covington's underserved neighborhoods with 124 access points installed on 122 properties, and also distributed over 1,000 computer devices. The Housing Authority of Covington (HAC) worked to install intelligent Wi-Fi in two public housing communities (Latoria Terrace and City Heights) for 605 family units and more than 400 CIPS students. As an element of Covington Connect, altafiber extended fiber availability to 2,100 new addresses.

This transformative project earned the 2022 Smart 50 Award, an award in partnership with Smart Cities Connect and Smart Cities Connect Foundation that annually recognizes global smart cities projects, honoring the most innovative and influential work.



To learn more visit: unicity.altafiber.com or
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