

Biden makes broadband funds available to San Diego communities

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Urban underserved communities, rural areas, and many Indian tribes still face a large gap in broadband access. [Vice President](#) Joe Biden announced, on Wednesday, August 18, the federal government added more grant funds for the slow growth communities.

San Diego has not readied its full set of communities with modern technology infrastructure and training. Residents unfamiliar with the contemporary technology trends in business, the workplace, and the home, are shut out from the communications and information.

Biden sent out the message on the ongoing overhaul to [the broadband system](#) the Obama Administration counts on for educating citizens on high-speed Internet usage. "In addition to bringing 21st century infrastructure to underserved communities and rural areas, these investments will begin to harness the power of broadband to improve education, health care, and public safety," he said.

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack, calling broadband a "gateway" for rural America, said the federal government plans to start up new high-speed Internet systems at libraries, schools, and community centers.

The Recovery Act grants for 94 investments in 37 states total \$1.8 billion.

ZeroDivide receives \$686,157 for 15 of the 19 tribes in San Diego county to raise the broadband adoption rate that is far below the national 66 percent, at 17 percent, to 70 percent. The tribes also receive \$300,000 in matching funds for adoption and training programs for 8,900 residents on tribal areas and 2,000 on nearby areas. As part of the plan to increase jobs and lay a foundation for the future economy, residents can engage in digital literacy training and courses tailored to specific jobs.

The grant is the latest funding approved for San Diego. The National Telecommunications and Information Administration already approved \$7.2 million for the California Emerging Technology Fund and \$3.29 million for Level 3 EON, LLC.

With help from CETF, low income communities in the county and four other areas, are preparing to hook up 133,000 households. The non-for-profit organization is reaching out to the unemployed, rural residents, and the disabled.

Level 3 EON can now cross the border divide by building access points between San Diego and the U. S.-Mexico border.



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