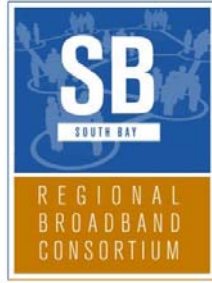**SOUTH BAY REGIONAL BROADBAND CONSORTIUM**

Quarter 2, 2015 Progress Report

During Q2 2015, the South Bay Regional Broadband Consortium, under the leadership of Manchester Community Technologies, focused on the final deployment of the community WiFi networks and hotspots. The SBRBC also engaged in other broadband-centric activities relative to CASF and to closing the digital divide in Los Angeles County. The South Bay sub-region's primary purpose for the extension was to secure the WiFi networks & hotspots as well as to compile data necessary to complete the LACRBC White Paper; which report outlines and analyses over 5000 collective surveys conducted during the original term of the grant (January 2, 2012 – December 31, 2014).

Community WiFi Networks

As part of the deployment aspect of the grant, the SBRBC sought to provide community WiFi networks and hotspots in each Los Angeles sub-region. After certain challenges prevented full implementation in the San Fernando and San Gabriel Valley sub-regions, MCT focused on the priority areas identified by statewide Regional Consortia and was able to implement community WiFi networks (and hotspots) within the Gateway Cities, Central West and South Bay sub-regions.

The networks are 'sponsored' by local businesses by sharing a small portion of their Internet connection to help create a mesh network along the boulevard in their communities. SBRBC collaborated with local stakeholders to not only encourage broadband adoption, but also to provide an online portal, both public and private, that allows end-users the opportunity to become digitally literate by learning about technology at their own pace via the website. Moreover, the economic advantages offered to business supporters include a private network offering small business applications and technology information as well as banner advertising and business profiles. We promote the "Buy Local" mantra to encourage end-users to support the businesses that support their community.

One of the SBRBC's more exciting collaborations was realized this quarter by partnering with the Crenshaw Chamber of Commerce to initiate the Crenshaw Community WiFi Network slated to be over 3 linear miles. This multi-organizational collaboration is organized around the Metro Transit Authority's implementation of the Crenshaw-LAX rail and the promotion of their "Eat, Shop, Play" campaign. The leaders within this 3-in-1 network include the Crenshaw Chamber of Commerce, the Leimert Park Village Crenshaw Corridor Business Improvement District, the Empowerment Congress West Area Neighborhood Development Council, the Los Angeles Urban League and

West Angeles Community Development Corporation among many other organizations, community stakeholders and business leaders. Another significant collaboration is with the Inglewood Chapter of The Links Incorporated to increase the number of hotspots in underserved communities within many of the South Bay cities. MCT's collaboration with the Urban Design Center also produced the Central Avenue Historical District and JDWatts Connects Community WiFi Network(s) as part of its planning and economic development of these communities.

WiFi Hotspots
Sponsored hotspots are sprinkled throughout LA County in open spaces including parks, community centers, faith-based organizations, non-profit organizations and historical landmarks in Pacoima, Altadena, Huntington Park, Boyle Heights, Inglewood, San Pedro, Hollywood, South Bay and Greater Los Angeles. The largest percentage of networks and hotspots were implemented within the Central-West Sub-region.

White Paper Report
The White Paper report consists of the findings, more here more here

In Summary
Over the 3-year grant term, the SBRBC completed its deliverables and accomplished each of its outputs to include **15** community WiFi networks with coverage from ¼ mile to 1 square miles, enabling over **100,000** *community based* unique end-users the opportunity to connect to the Internet. (Network connections are throttled down in order to protect against abuse while maintaining and/or exceeding the CPUC standard with average speeds of **4.5** up and **2.5** down); establish collaborations resulting in **45** hotspot locations; installed WiFi coverage and/or Internet connectivity at **three** senior housing locations (Osage Senior Villas, Hyde Park Assisted Living and Hoover Senior Apartments).

Conclusion
The South Bay Regional Broadband Consortium appreciates the opportunity to be a part of California's goal to achieve 98% access and 80% adoption by 2017, as well as continue to adhere to the MCT slogan of *"Empowering communities with sustainable technologies that enhance the quality of life and equality of information access."*