

## **Broadband USA Applications Database**

**Applicant Name:** San Diego County Office of Education

**Project Title:** CloudConnect

**Project Type:** Sustainable Adoption

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### **Executive Summary**

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Broadband Internet has forever changed the face of education, economic development, public health and safety, government, communication, and society in general. Unfortunately, not all individuals or families are able to access or reap the benefits of broadband Internet. The San Diego County Office of Education (SDCOE) recognizes the critical nature of broadband Internet and has crafted a unique strategy to dramatically improve access, support, and training to underserved and vulnerable areas while simultaneously generating a broad sweeping demand for broadband.

SDCOE's CloudConnect is a dynamic project designed to increase broadband access to underserved communities and amplify Internet usage through a customized Cloud Computing infrastructure and a series of structured and sustainable methods that position the school at the center of the community.

This innovative design constructs an environment in which learning is no longer limited by the length of the school day or year. CloudConnect empowers students, teachers, administrators, parents, and other users to connect to a 24/7 digital environment complete with the resources they need to thrive in the 21st century global society. This project provides education and community members a virtually infinite list of new opportunities including, but not limited to: virtual learning environments, online curriculum, Advanced Placement (AP) courses, online training, community forums, and technical/career training.

Lack of ubiquitous access has created an equity issue in our communities. Individuals and specific populations are able to learn, achieve, and communicate at a much faster rate simply because of their connection and support related to online resources. This equity issue is significant and is growing at an alarming rate. In fact, it is escalating with the relentless pace of technology.

We are proactively addressing this equity issue and the growing need for broadband resources. The SDCOE and partners are committed to growing and adapting our organization and strategic alliances to meet the emerging needs. The CloudConnect project provides comprehensive access and support for rich learning opportunities. Program objectives include: providing relevant online learning applications for learners, supplying a web-based infrastructure to support all learners, offering structured coaching and support for education leaders, developing a robust awareness campaign to support and propagate broadband benefits, providing rich educational content, expanding broadband adoption, narrowing the achievement gap, and bolstering the economy by creating new jobs now and in the future.

We believe this project will introduce, provide access, and support our underserved, vulnerable, and simply disconnected populations. Specifically, these populations are poised to benefit the most from the CloudConnect project. As a result of the CloudConnect program we anticipate a significant rise in usage and demand for broadband Internet through access, awareness, support, training, curriculum, and resources.

These outcomes will be enabled by a combination of the technical infrastructure based on Cloud Computing along with a strategic awareness campaign and comprehensive professional development. The awareness campaign, specifically targeting vulnerable populations, is designed to address, inform, and mobilize individuals as to the importance of broadband. The marketing and awareness campaign is designed to empower communities by distributing broadband information through multiple mediums, hosting community events, and physically training stakeholders how to use broadband to improve their lives.

Although the CloudConnect project may appear ambitious, the San Diego County Office of Education has a long and successful track record providing technological support for school districts and other community organizations. Experience with Enterprise Architecture, administration of large-scale technical projects, and the management team's expertise places the SDCOE in a prime position to effectively scale and support the CloudConnect project.

The total cost of implementation of our CloudConnect project is \$9,278,360.00. Of this amount, \$1,703,714.00 has already been committed by the SDCOE through in-kind contributions because we believe this work is critical to moving our country forward. Furthermore, we believe wholeheartedly that this project aligns with the mission and vision of the American Recovery and Investment Act.