

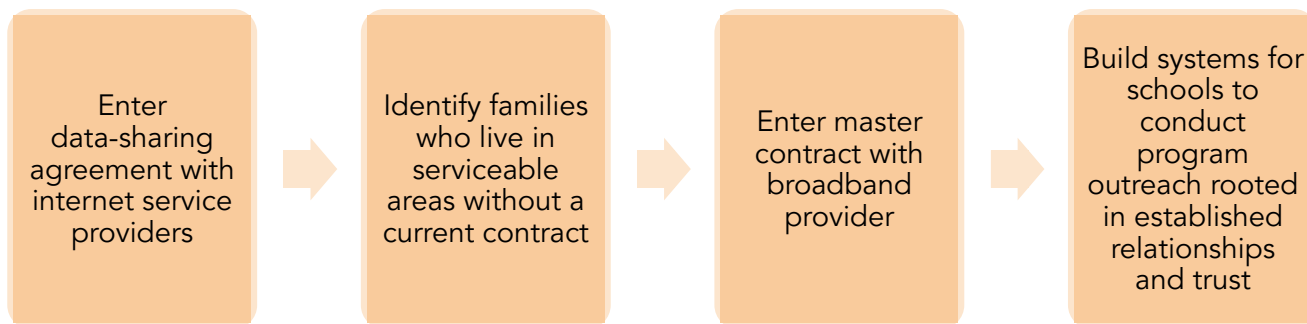
Students Connected

A Model Program Providing Broadband Internet Service to LA Families

The Partnership is sponsoring home internet service for hundreds of families in Watts, South LA and Boyle Heights. In January 2021 we negotiated with an internet service provider to provide quality broadband service (50 Mbps download, 5 Mbps upload) at no cost to families. We're aiming to narrow the digital divide for LAs' highest-need schools by removing the access barriers to quality home internet service.

<p style="text-align: center;">19</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Partnership schools participating in the program in Watts, Boyle Heights, and South LA</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">400+</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>families participating in the pilot program</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;">96%</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>of modems activated within the first week of being mailed to families</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">92%</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>of families surveyed said they are satisfied with the quality of their new connection</i></p>

If we learned anything in education in 2020, it is that access to high-quality internet is essential. School districts across the nation stepped up with emergency measures to provide students internet for distance learning. But reliable home broadband has remained stubbornly difficult to access and afford for far too many families. Families experiencing poverty face many [barriers to accessing high-quality internet service](#), including cost, information and availability. Recognizing this, and learning from the success of sponsored service programs in Chicago and elsewhere, we launched a pilot program to sponsor internet for families in our network in January 2021.



The *Students Connected* program, from inception to implementation, serves as a model for removing barriers that families face in accessing affordable high-quality internet. By taking on the responsibility of the fiscal sponsor, the Partnership has removed many of the challenges that impede families from getting access to broadband, including the cost, information, navigation and risk barriers. As LA Unified and other districts seek connectivity solutions for their students, the Students Connected program can be a model for replication, but also for broader learning on how to connect underserved families to internet and other services.