

## Effort begins to get low-income families in Oakland connected to high-speed Internet

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OAKLAND -- Making high-speed Internet available to low-income households is the aim of a citywide effort that launches Thursday, officials announced.

The Get Connected Oakland! initiative has scheduled its official launch Thursday at 10 a.m. at the Oakland Housing Authority, 935 Union St. Mayor Jean Quan, Alameda County District Attorney Nancy O'Malley and Noel Gallo, president of the Oakland Unified School District, are expected to attend.

This year, 30 percent of all Californians, 51 percent of low-income households, half of Latino families and 45 percent of people with disabilities are not connected to the Internet with broadband, according to the California Emerging Technology Fund.

That means more than 10 million Californians are without any home high-speed Internet access, widely recognized as a tool for adults to find jobs and for students to research school work.

Get Oakland Connected! will be working with the Oakland Public Library and other local education organizations.

The West Oakland organization collects used computers, refurbishes them and donates them, according to Quan's office.



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