



## SAN JOSE, CALIF., TO USE CRYPTOCURRENCY TO HELP RESIDENTS PAY FOR INTERNET

San Jose, Calif., has **launched** an initiative that will pilot the use of cryptocurrency to help residents pay for Internet over the course of six months.

For this initiative, HNT cryptocurrency tokens will be mined through Helium Hotspot devices in partnership with the California Emerging Technology Fund and Helium. The tokens will be turned into prepaid cash cards to help approximately 1,300 low-income residents pay their Internet costs for one year.

Twenty Helium-compatible hot spots will be deployed and installed over the pilot period. The devices mine the currency with limited environmental impact, needing only the energy of an LED light bulb. In addition, the devices will contribute to the Internet of Things infrastructure, offering improved air quality monitoring, fire detection and other climate-related opportunities to the city.

San Jose is no stranger to the use of civic tech approaches in the service of fostering digital equity, with recent developments such as a **digital platform** to connect residents with mental health resources and **expanding** the city's Digital Inclusion Fund.

Those interested in hosting a Helium hot spot in the city can fill out an **online form**. *(Julia Edinger)*

## AT&T PLANS TO DELIVER HIGH-SPEED FIBER BROADBAND TO VANDERBURGH COUNTY, IND.

Vanderburgh County, Ind., has **announced** a \$39 million project with AT&T that aims to bring high-speed fiber broadband to more than 20,000 households and businesses. According to the announcement, about one-third of the people in unincorporated Vanderburgh County do not presently have dependable broadband access.

The project depends on both funding approval by the county and the signing of a final contract between the two parties. When approved, the county is expected to invest \$9.9 million and AT&T would invest \$29.7 million. The network is projected to be completed roughly two years following the final agreement.

This is not AT&T's first investment in Indiana; between 2018-2020, the company has invested over a billion dollars towards improving connectivity in the state. In addition to helping residents and business owners, that investment has helped improve communications through the **FirstNet network**. *(Julia Edinger)*

### Zack Quaintance

Associate editor for *Government Technology* magazine

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### Julia Edinger

Julia Edinger is a staff writer for Government Technology. She has a bachelor's degree in English from the University of Toledo and has since worked in publishing and media. She's currently located in Southern California.

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