



COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

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PRESS RELEASE

Date: April 26, 2022

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BROADBAND EXPANSION UNDERWAY

The County of Santa Cruz is pleased to announce that high-speed, affordable internet access has been expanded to 1,200 households through a partnership between the County's Information Services Department and the Cruzio Internet.

Through a \$500,000 Broadband Grant program approved by the Board of Supervisors, seven sites have been completed or are under construction, assuring that affordable high-speed Internet service is expanded to economically disadvantaged neighborhoods near six school sites in the Pajaro Valley Unified and Live Oak Unified school districts, as well as farmworker families at the Jardines Del Valle Farmworker Family Housing Community.

The County's grant awardee, Cruzio Internet, worked through partnerships with Pajaro Valley Unified School District and Live Oak Unified School District to complete broadband expansion at the following schools:

- Calabasas Elementary
- Alianza Charter
- Lakeview Middle
- Green Acres School
- Boys and Girls Club at Shoreline Middle School
- Live Oak Elementary

In addition, Cruzio is partnering with MedPen Housing to connect the Jardines Del Valle site in Watsonville. Through matching grant-funding provided by the Cruzio/Equal Access Santa Cruz County, high-speed wireless Internet service will be provided free to all 21 homes in Jardines Del Valle for free, with no term limit.

A total of 20 sites will be funded through the program. In the coming months, County ISD and Cruzio will continue bringing more sites online throughout Santa Cruz County. The project is expected to be complete in early 2023.

Families with students may inquire about Equal Access Santa Cruz County availability through their local school district.