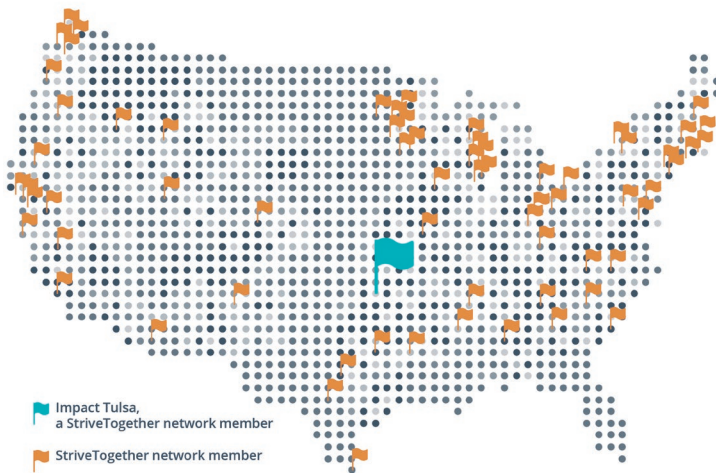


How Civic Infrastructure Supports Digital Equity

Long before the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, more than 15 million public school students lacked internet access at home which prevented their ability to complete homework. This homework gap disproportionately affected Black, Indigenous and Latine families. The shift to virtual classrooms during the pandemic widened the digital divide and limited learning opportunities for millions.

The StriveTogether Cradle to Career Network had long recognized digital access inequities and pivoted quickly during the pandemic to bridge the digital divide.

A CLOSER LOOK: Tulsa, Oklahoma



StriveTogether network member, ImpactTulsa, partnered with the City of Tulsa and Tulsa public schools to bridge the digital divide at the onset of the pandemic. They created an Internet Access Task Force comprised of institutional leaders, experts and parents to identify solutions that could be scaled across the community.

They used neighborhood-level data to prioritize focus areas. They engaged community members, school staff and internet service providers to co-develop solutions. This led to a multi-million-dollar CARES Act award to

address digital equity access gaps and shifted resources to:

- Increase internet connectivity for public housing residents at all Tulsa Housing Authority communities
- Provide high-speed internet coverage for households that did not have an internet subscription or had significantly lost income due to COVID-19
- Deploy a team of internet access navigators to help families and student connect to the internet and online learning systems
- Create, translate and distribute information about free community hot spots for internet access

STRIVETOGETHER: WHO WE ARE

StriveTogether is a national network of nearly 70 communities across 28 states and Washington, DC, working to build a future where a child's potential is not dictated by race, ethnicity, zip code or circumstance. The StriveTogether Cradle to Career Network impacts the lives of more than 11 million youth — including more than 7 million children of color. For more information about StriveTogether, visit strivetogether.org.