RAPID: Responding to COVID-19 using High-speed Mesh Wireless Community Internet (Award #2030490)

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High percentage of urban low-income neighborhoods in the US lack high-speed Internet

During the COVID-19 crisis, lack of access leads to increased inequity

Baltimore City, MD

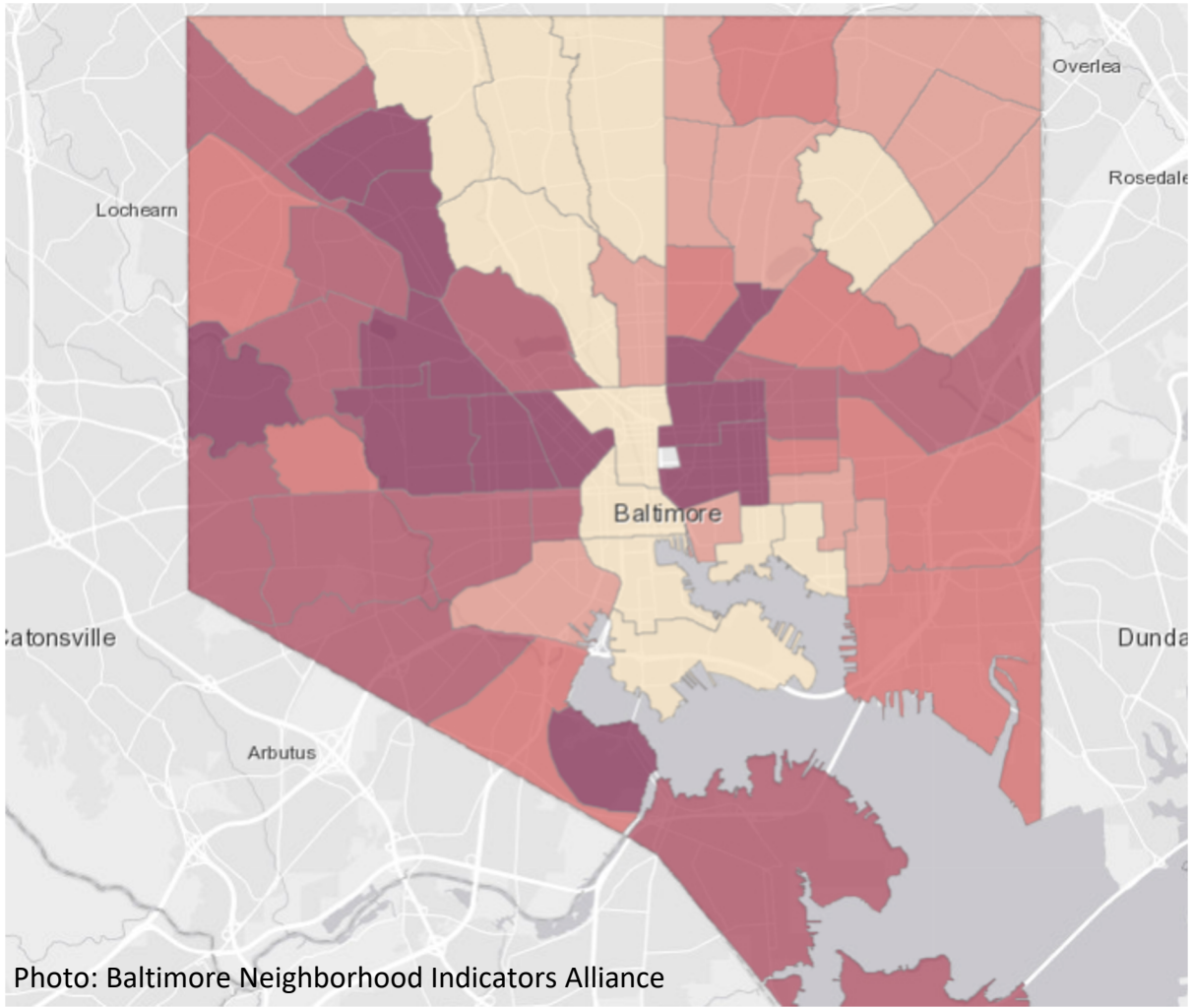

Photo: Baltimore Neighborhood Indicators Alliance

- Establish an effective and efficient community-based approach to setting up free high-speed Internet access in an urban setting

- Investigate how to provide both *technical* infrastructure and *social* support in meaningfully using it

A. Securing backbone Internet Source(s)

B. Setting up high-capacity sector antennas on buildings with line-of-sight to neighborhoods being served

Photo: Project Waves

google.com/maps/d/u/0/viewer?ll=39.27545495704498%2C-76.58413414944701&z=13&mid=1CTBJxl4f8Xgf6qaAL3KLfq_ufRqYZC6d

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Waves Heat Map 2.0

455 views

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Sectors

- John Ruhrah Sector
- Exelon Sector Station
- BioPark Sector Station
- Lakeland Sector
- ... 190 more

John Ruhrah Heat Map

- Polygon 9
- Polygon 35
- Polygon 36
- Polygon 37
- ... 302 more

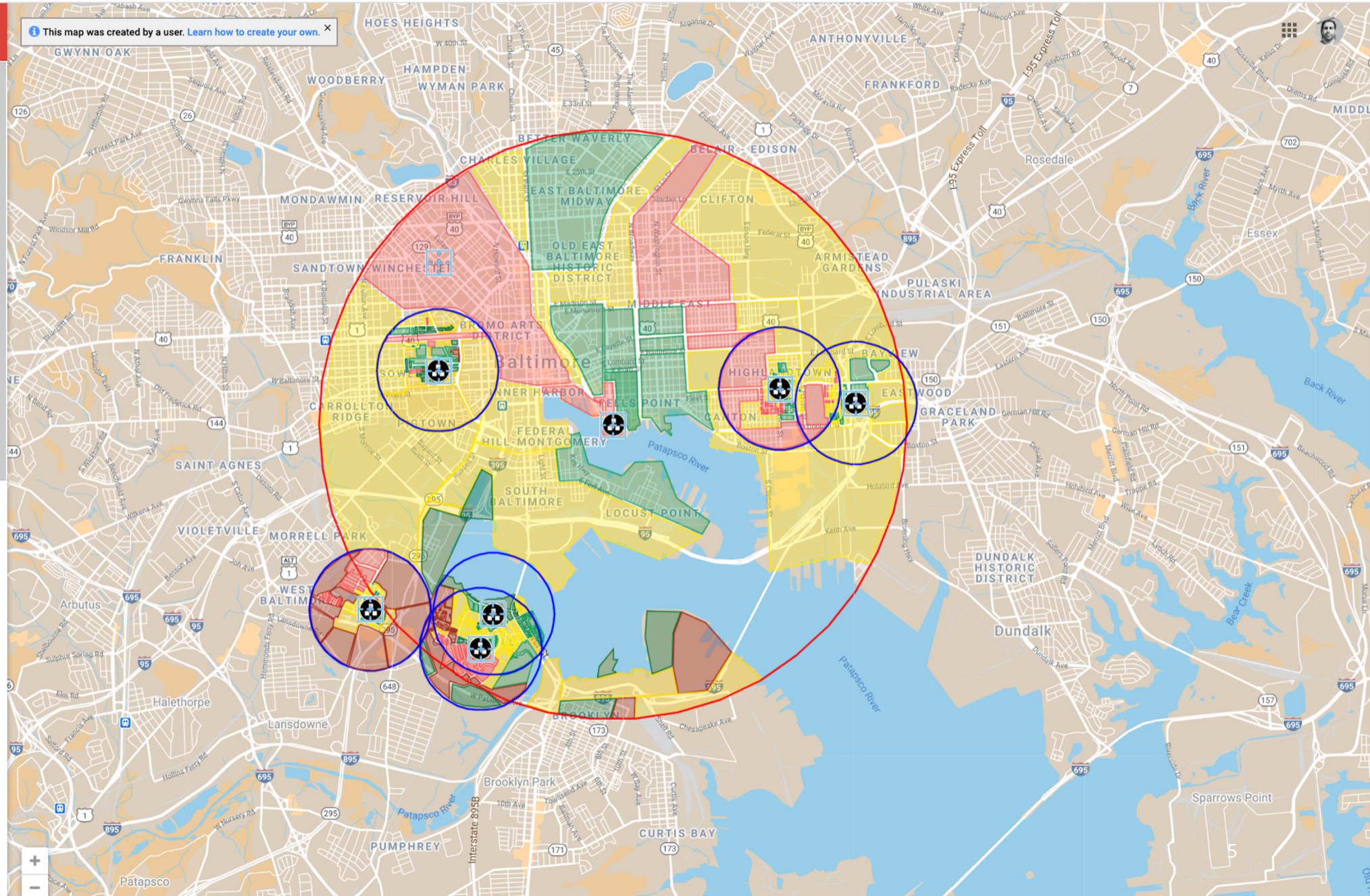
Enoch Pratt Library Heat Map

- Polygon 1
- Polygon 2
- Polygon 3
- Polygon 4
- ... 129 more

circle.kml

- Circle
- center point

This map was created by a user. Learn how to create your own.



C. Setting up relay sectors on community-based high geographic points to receive and amplify signal

D. Configuring household connections and setting up community WIFI hotspots

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- Working with community partners to create trust
- Continuously building on outreach and engagement efforts

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Project Waves Playlist

Project Waves provides free or pay-what-you-can access to community internet. Their goal is to provide accessible, safe, and reliable internet to households in Baltimore City.

Internet access is a human right, but we recognize the Internet can also be difficult to navigate even once you are connected. With this in mind, Digital Harbor Foundation has collaborated with Project Waves and University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC) to curate tools designed to help you have the best and most productive Internet experience possible. These resources cover:

- Computer Science
- Digital Communication

bilingual interviews and surveys with participants receiving connectivity

"[Internet connectivity] is a necessity ….everybody needs it …. everybody should have it."

"COVID is stagnating life as we know it … and having this Internet, it's allowing life to go on!"

"It's a blessing for people that just need to be able to function with Internet in their day-to-day life."

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Thank you!

UMBC
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