

Fall Broadband for All Summit & State Digital Equity and BEAD Planning Kickoff

Monday October 24, 2022

Transcript

Good morning, and welcome to the Fall Broadband for All Summit and Digital Equity, and BEAD kickoff. A few housekeeping items before we begin. This summit is being recorded. A video of the summit, slides, and transcripts will be posted to the Broadband for All portal after the event. Today's summit will include three sessions, a panel with leaders driving the State's Broadband for All and Equity initiatives. Review and Progress Report on the State's Broadband for All program and initiatives, a kickoff session for the state's Digital Equity and BEAD planning processes. And finally, at 12:15PM, a number of partner entities will host breakout sessions on the digital equity outcome areas. Now, I am happy to introduce the moderator of our first panel. Joanne Hovis of the Broadband Equity Partnership. Joanne?

Thank you, Rachna, and Good morning, everyone. I am honored to be part of the Broadband for All team, and to have the opportunity to moderate this panel kicking off today's discussions. And if I can ask all the members of the panel to please turn on their video, and I thank them and welcome them to today's panel. We are going to start with a discussion of all of the panelists that you see on the screen now regarding the Broadband for All, and digital equity planning efforts that is kicking off today, and that will be such an important focus of the State and its many interested stakeholders and agencies over the course of the coming year. And for that reason particularly proud and delighted to have such a broad, expansive, and distinguished group of speakers for today's panel. Broadband for All, broadband generally, and digital equity really touches every element of life in California and throughout the United States, and it also touches every function of government, and for that reason all of the planning and the work that the State of California is doing, with its wide breath of stakeholders, is being done among partners and among agencies and in broad collaboration. So today I'm going to ask each of the speakers to speak for just a couple of minutes about how their agency or entity will be part of the States Broadband for All in digital equity efforts. And why this planning effort that begins now is so important for their entity and for its mission and its own efforts. We have a broad line of speakers today, and I will ask each one to speak in turn. But if we may, let's start with Director Liana Bailey-Crimmins of the California Department of Technology.

Thank you. Joanne. Well, first of all, I'd like to as the Director of the California Department of Technology and Chair of the California Broadband Council. I want to say how proud we are. I want to welcome all of you to this very important summit and planning kickoff event. Department of Technology has a broad responsibility over all aspects of technology across the State, including broadband. The California Broadband Council leads and coordinates to State's Broadband for All program and supporting initiatives with an overarching mission to close the State's digital divide. Over the past three years we've made monumental milestones. The first was in 2020, Governor Gavin Newsom issued the Broadband Executive Order, resulting in the State's first Broadband for All action plan, and in 2021 Governor Gavin Newsom and the Legislature funded \$6 billion in middle mile and last mile initiatives through a historic Senate Bill 156. As a result of this bill, CDT, Department of Technology, was also charged with overseeing the development of \$3.25 billion statewide open access middle mile. And this is a network that coordinates that middle mile backbone and also coordinates with the California Public Utilities Commission on the last-mile programs. And then fast forward we're in 2022, the Governor and the Legislature expanded our responsibilities and charge the Department of Technology with

seeking federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act broadband program funding to develop the State's first Digital Equity plan. Because of our partnership and collaboration with all of you, we will continue to take historic steps into delivering Broadband for All for all Californians.

Thank you, Director Bailey-Crimmins for that introduction. And now let me ask President Alice Reynolds, California Public Utilities Commission, to share the perspective of the CPUC.

Thank you very much. I am really pleased to be here, especially to share the virtual dias with all of our partners today. I think it really is a testament to how much co-operations and collaborations is going on currently in efforts to achieve the goal of Broadband for All. A little bit about the California Public Utilities Commission's role, We started as originally as a utility regulator regulating telephone services. So for many years we've been working on telephone service regulation. But of course, now the emphasis is on providing broadband services. A service, our access to the Internet, which has become really an essential service that we see is necessary for all Californians. And this is a joint effort as I said, and so I'll talk a little bit about the CPUC's program. We've been administering a suite of broadband grant programs to build last mile broadband infrastructure, to provide technical and financial assistance to local governments, to ensure affordability of broadband services and to invest in digital equity and adoption. As Director Bailey Crimmins has mentioned with SB 156 the State is now in a position to have historic unprecedented investments in a partnership with the Federal Government, which allows us to make plans for funding, developing comprehensive, lasting broadband infrastructure and really achieving our goals, abridging the digital divide. A couple of pieces of this puzzle that the PUC administers. We're working on, tackling the issues of identifying all the remaining unserved Californians in the State, and developing a roadmap to connect the remaining unserved households with last mile networks, of course, supporting the middle mile network that the State is developing. And we're supporting local governments also, as they really embark on this new task of developing, designing, financing and building their own broadband networks. We're also developing grant programs to fund future proof and affordable last-mile networks. We're working on digital literacy training programs and call centers to assist in the individuals who are enrolling in the ACP. As well as a new digital navigator program throughout the State through our broadband adoption account. And then finally, we're working on funding to serve low-income communities such as public housing, mobile home parks and farm worker housing to provide, not just high quality service, but free service to these low-income individuals. And then, just this year the CPUC was designated as the States administering agency for the Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment program, BEAD, which will be talking about a lot today, to bring hundreds of millions of dollars to California to expand Broadband for All schools of connecting unserved and underserved communities and anchor institutions. So, as part of this effort, the CPUC will develop be developing a five year action plan in close coordination with California Department of Technology. And we'll be working on that to set us up to be in a good place to qualify for federal funding, and next steps of the BEAD program. So I am really excited. I'm excited to be here. I'm excited for the work to come. And looking forward to working on this, really, what is a multi-agency, all of government approach. Thank you very much.

Thank you. President Reynolds. And let me now ask the Secretary Amy Tong of the Government Operations Agency to share her perspective.

Thank you, Joanne. Good morning everyone, Thrilled to be here, and part of this esteem panel. I am the former director of the Department of Technology, until literally beginning of this year. And I'm thrilled that the Director Bailey-Crimmins, is continue taking the helm of that department and continue this great work working in partnership with the President Reynolds, and many that

you're going to hear from later on. I currently oversee the California Government Operations Agency, where Department of Technology is part of our portfolio. But more importantly, we have a responsibility of the state equity effort, and you're gonna to hear from my colleague, State Chief Equity Officer Pam Chueh, who is going to be introducing herself a little bit. I would just say that the lens we're looking into definitely is what President Reynolds said. There are many, many partners in this effort. If nothing else, Government Operations agency would like to serve as a facilitator. And just kind of, you know, making sure we hear from everybody. We go out to the community. We hear from different department, whether the Department is federal, state or local, everybody have, you know, processes and needs, and we want to be the facilitator to look for opportunities where streamlined approach or optimization of various processes can be taking place. That's number one, number two. Speaking on the equity part of it, digital equity is a huge passion of mine. And that it's also another reason that even though I have moved beyond department of technology, I am very much immersed in this topic of broadband and digital equity. My view is this: We can get the engineering. We can get the connectivity there, but by the end of the day, it's about connecting to someone's home. And it's the individuals at their household have the ability, the equipment, the access, the digital literacy, the affordability of the connection to be able to utilize the service. And that's the ultimate goal is that we want to make sure nobody is left behind in terms of their access to the high speed Internet and the various services that make possible by connectivity. Thank you for having me.

Thank you. Secretary Tong. Chief Deputy Secretary Superintendent Mary Nicely of the Department of Education.

Good morning, everyone, and thanks so much for having CDE join you all today. It was wonderful to work with many of my fellow panelists over the pandemic, and as the Chief Deputy at CDE, I also oversee the information and technology branch of working on modernization and interoperability. And so this, I'm just thrilled to be able to be part of this conversation as a programmer and technologist myself, with this esteemed panel. So you know, over the past two years. If there are any silver lines we can take away, it is that this decades long digital divide has taken a priority statewide, and those students and families who have never been able to participate fully in their ability to learn from home and services will see a line at the end of this tunnel. So I'm just grateful that that this digital equity plan is moving forward and as you know, State Superintendent has been member of the Broadband Council, and over the years he has worked with them other Council members, and state agencies to close the States digital divide. But none more so than during the pandemic and led by Superintendent Thurmond. Within days of school buildings closing, I was tasked to connect six million students to assist them in learning and CDE played a major role in ensuring that teachers and students were empowered. But none of this would have been possible without our partners at the California Department of Technology, the CPUC, CDTF, the State libraries, the legislature, the Governor, industry, and philanthropy. So we're just grateful to be, you know, in this conversation, and being able to continue the work with these partners to ensure that the education continue on for vulnerable populations extends beyond the classroom and into the home, so that we close the digital divide, which will impact opportunity gaps for vulnerable populations. This includes digital literacy and training for families and teachers that we continue to work on. Promoting the Federal programs that are available and many of the things that Alice discussed that I know CPUC is taking a leadership on, and I think, I'm not sure if we've ever worked as close as we did, and I know Rob Osbourn and all of the team at CPUC were just amazing partners to have in this. And Amy and Liana helping not only with the digital divide, but also the security of our schools. And continued work on as we faced this growing broadband and the security issues that that brings with it. Not only for student privacy, but also for cybersecurity. So we're excited to be playing a key role in developing the States digital equity plan and this would be with some

a few people at the department that will be part of the zoom breakout this afternoon. So we're really looking forward to working with you all and continuing these conversations. So thank you so much for having me, joining me today, to represent the Department of Education.

Thank you, Chief Deputy Nicely for that actually quite amazing illustration of the breadth of collaboration that already exists across the State. On the same topic, and some of the same themes let me invite and welcome Tribal Affairs Secretary Christina Snider of the Governor's Office to speak.

Great. Thank you so much. Good morning everyone and thank you for inviting me here today. My name is Christina Snider, and I'm a member of the Dry Creek Rancheria Band of Pomo Indians and the Tribal Affairs Secretary for Governor Gavin Newsom. And I lead the newly established Governor's Office of Tribal Affairs. The Governor's Office of Tribal Affairs informs the work of the Administration by coordinating and facilitating government to government communication and consultation with the 109 tribal governments in California, Each of which have diverse needs and priorities, and many of which are situated in historically underserved areas in terms of broadband and infrastructure. For example, just last week I was in the farthest northeast corner of the State, consulting with the tribal government who had just gotten satellite Internet a few days before, and so was unsure that they would be able to provide a zoom link for others to participate in our meeting. And this is two and a half years post Covid lockdown. So you can imagine how challenging pre, during and post covid tribal government, administration and government to government communication might be for similarly situated tribes. And we're seeing this kind of all over the State, where there's a lot of tribes who, prior to Covid didn't have a lot of resources and access. During Covid didn't actually get connected to a lot of those resources. And are still kind of struggling to catch up because they're kind of so remotely located. Because of these unique challenges, the office of tribal affairs is also a member of the California Broadband Council on the States Broadband for All efforts. The administration and the State's Broadband for All program is committed to collaborating with tribal nations to address connectivity and digital equity needs and tribal lands in Indian country. This has been a foundation of Broadband for All. It was included in kind of the initial executive order that was the charge for the Broadband Council to work on its plan for digital equity. We worked closely with the broadband council to establish last year's California tribal broadband connectivity partnership summit, and the tribal Broadband for All roundtable in May of 2022. We're also working closely with CDT, CPUC, and other State agencies over the next year, and beyond, to ensure that the State's Broadband for All program, and the States Digital Equity Plan are closely aligned, sensitive to, and developed in collaboration and partnership with tribal nations to address their digital equity needs. Thank you.

Thank you, Secretary Snider and let me now introduce Chief Equity Officer Pam Chueh.

Thank you so much, Joanne. Good morning, everyone. It's fantastic to be here with my esteemed colleagues on this panel. I was just appointed by the governor to this new role that was created two months ago, and although I'm new to the role it's really exciting for me this morning to be part of this conversation, because most recently I was running a nonprofit serving Sacramento and the sixth grader counties around it, seeing the other end of it, serving families with families, families with children with disabilities, who throughout the pandemic, had to rely on the broadband and access. So I'm excited to be here with everyone, to be able to work towards that. My role as appointed by the Governor, is to establish an equity framework and leading to a diverse workforce, and therefore accessible and equitable services. Thank you.

Thank you Chief Equity Officer Chueh. And finally, our last panelist on this really remarkable and distinguished panel is a digital equity Director Angela Thi Bennett of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration of the US Department of Commerce. So our only Speaker from the Federal Government to share with us the perspectives of NTIA, which is overseeing and administering the Broadband Digital Equity and BEAD planning efforts by the States as part of a collaboration between State and Federal Government.

Thanks a lot, Joanne, and good morning everyone. I am so excited to join the great State of California, and its Digital Equity and BEAD kickoff, and thrilled to be serving on this panel of notable and dynamic women who are leading in this broadband space. We know that representation matters. So President Biden made a commitment that every household in America would be connected to affordable, reliable high speed Internet. And Congress on a bipartisan basis, under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, commonly known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. So you'll either see IJA. Or BIL. And then we commonly refer to it as the Internet for All initiative. Congress charged NTIA with \$48 billion of critical funding to support States, other political subdivisions, and tribal nations to close the digital divide and address the systemic inequities for our covered populations and other marginalized and vulnerable groups. Under this funding states are required through BEAD and Digital Equity to coordinate their programs, to ensure that while we're focused on the technical aspects of broadband, we don't lose sight of our true purpose, and that is the people. Because this Amy had also referenced, and we connect one hundred of the people, and we don't improve their quality of life. Then what have we really achieved? And so our role in the Federal Government is part of this whole nation approach to closing the digital divide, and so we're the Federal side of the funding . But we do have a commitment to furthering engagement, and so we do have representatives which we call the State Federal program officers. We have one assigned for every single state, so that people have access to us to help support closing the digital divide. Later on today you will meet the California team who's committed to working with each of you, in close collaboration, so that this once in a generation investment can help us all achieve our shared goals for digital equity. Thank you.

Thank you so much, Director Bennett. And I now have the pleasure of getting to ask some questions. But we're a rather large panel. So we're going to call this something of a lightning round. And maybe starting with you, Director Bennett, with the perspective from Washington, and some of what I think is on the table before us. As the State of California, like all the States enters into this very intensive engagement, and outreach and planning cycle is who should be at the table? And how can we make sure that all of those folks are there with us who are the critical stakeholders who necessarily must be part of this process. And I wonder if I can ask you to share your perspective from Washington, and then I'll ask each of the panelists to share the perspective of their agency or entity as we go through this broad, collaborative interagency efforts in coming months.

So under the Digital Equity Act we have eight covered populations. That's low income, low literacy, older Americans, veterans, disabilities, rural, incarcerated, and our ethnic and racial minorities. under the BEAD program. What's defined as covered populations are underrepresented communities. And so, both programs require that there's a robust local engagement with a variety of stakeholders at you know our State level with our State agencies, our regional local levels, and then representatives and individuals who represent and serve our covered populations. So the State is not only, you know, required to invite various stakeholders to the planning table, but also to go to the table of those most impacted to listen, learn, and co-create solutions that truly meet the needs of those covered, those that are most impacted by the digital divide.

Thank you. And if I may just directing the same question at the other members of the panel, and maybe working in reverse order this time. Chief Equity officer Chueh would you maybe be shared perspective from the standpoint of the States equity efforts about who should be consulted be part of the efforts of the coming year.

I think, you know, being new to this and not quite sure who who's involved and who's at the table at this point for certain? Certainly, from what the most recent experience I had working, I think, with families around the State that are taking caring for children and young adults, and even adults with disabilities. And many of those that I worked with were in both rural and urban areas, and monolingual families, certainly would like to see them at the table.

Thank you, Chief equity officer Chueh and I that's just a critically important insight, I think, and also hopefully, an indication of how powerful broadband and equitable access to broadband could be in the lives of many households who are caring for people with disabilities, or with young children or other kinds of challenges. Secretary Snider, at the perspective from the Governor's office of tribal affairs with regard to who should be at the table, and how we can make sure that they are reached.

Well, my answer will probably be obvious given my role. But I think definitely, the 109 federally recognized tribes that we have an affirmative consultation obligation with. But I think most particularly, I think the point about meeting people where they're at is what's so critical here is that, like I mentioned with the tribe I met with last week, I had never even talked to them before Covid challenging to be able to connect with them and to be able to figure out how to connect with them. So, I think, making sure that we're getting out into community and places that have never had adequate service have never had adequate connection, and making sure that we're fully understanding their needs. And for example, just in the lens of you know the charge with equity, and if there's larger elder populations, larger veterans, populations, larger populations in need of telehealth, there might be different needs for different communities that tribes have ultimate jurisdiction and regulatory authority over. So it's just very important to make sure that we're understanding the different nuances and different opportunities.

Thank you, Secretary Snider. And I think the illustration of the importance of engagement and outreach that is not only digital in an era when we know that lots of folks do not have that benefit. Very well taken point. Let me ask now Chief Deputy Superintendent Nicely for the perspective from the Department of Education, and obviously. An entity that has been so deeply involved in broadband access and digital equity considerations for a long time, and with a particularly unique portfolio of obligations.

Thank you so much. So with this plan, you know education doesn't end in the classroom and home circumstances impact a student's ability to learn. You know more than ever we've seen that with the need to access different services. And now we're dealing with some mental health. So the digital equity, you know, for us really means that our students can continue educational activities at home. Many of them had connectivity had hotspots. They've lost those now. They've gone back to the schools. We have to get their connectivity to their homes permanently. And so they can extend their learning from the platform, and then we also have to have families and access to vital services that support their students' ability to learn. We need to do this plan work for some connectivity flowing like electricity. I don't think we can look at anything less than that. And to think of families that just cannot and have not been able to connect. And so educationally for us, digital equity is for everyone, but it's got to be for the families and the students we have. We can't stop there.

Thank you. An incredibly compelling point! And Secretary Tong, your perspective.

Yeah, and I'll just pile on to everyone have said. Probably, you know, without being repetitive of, you know, saying echo everybody already mentioned. I think the other angle that we're going to be focusing more on reaching out to the community organizations. Because of many of our residents, you know, through their connected, you know, connectivity in this case is, you know, where they access information, you know, through churches and the CBOs are out there. They have that level of trust, and that's something that we really should leverage more and in cooperation with these community organizations to not only getting the word out on what program is available, but and also helping folks to sign up for those program. And then, more importantly, for those that are not aware of those programs yet, because they don't have access to Internet or email to become aware of this. Literally walking door by door. You know, knocking that you know neighborhood to neighborhood to make sure the information itself. I feel like that type of a grassroots approach is very, very important to you know not only hear from them what is the real need. You know how to best them, but also making sure they have the information as this effort of closing the digital divide continues.

Thank you, Secretary Tong. And let me now ask President Reynolds from the unique perspective of the California Public Utilities Commission to share your thoughts on who should be at the table, and how we can make sure they are there.

Thank you. And, yeah, trying going last, trying not to repeat what others have said, but I do agree that we need to take a big tent approach. This is really about, you know, our group of stakeholders being as broad as possible. I think, you know, I was struck by Secretary Snider's comment that really the way I see it is, it's not a one size fits all approach. That we need to meet people where they are. This is a big and diverse state, and the needs of individuals of communities in accessing digital literacy, are broad and diverse as well. So this really is about reaching out, as Secretary Tong said, On you know, community basis, really knowing what the needs are of different communities and importantly working with community based organizations. The State has some capacity, but we've also been supporting local governments and community-based organizations who really know their communities best. And then, just to emphasize tribal nations. The work that is being done, and you know, direct communications with tribal nations to understand their needs as well is very, very important. And the other thing to mention is in our State partnerships. It's also important to recognize all the State entities who are involved here. We've been working with the Department of Housing and Community Development, who has their finger on the pulse for public housing, and knows the needs of individuals living in public housing. And so having that collaboration with HCD has been very important for us to make sure that our programs are designed in a way that we're really maximize the impact on folks in community housing. So I think you know that's an example of what it means to really look broadly and to make sure that we're addressing every single individual, literally in the state, through you know our network of interactions with local governments and community based organizations and tribal nations. And so this is a very, very broad effort. Thank you.

Thank you. President Reynolds. And last, coming back to where we started Director Bailey Crimmins of CDT.

Well, thank you going last, if it does afford me at least to build off the success that everyone else had talked about, the different programs that are very important. So I look at have an inclusive table in threefold. Connectivity, being from the Department of Technology, making sure

that we are working with the Internet service providers that are going to be able to provide that connectivity to those residents. I think it's very important to have their perspective. Also look at it from an Affordability perspective, making sure that we have people at the table that can design programs to make sure that once we do provide connectivity that people can afford the services that are actually, you know, are on operations. And then from a programmatic perspective, looking at it from, you know, health care, education, you know the local government services. Most of everything that we do nowadays is online. We kind of laugh at you know what a check is, I think even most of us do most of our banking online. And so, what are those programs that are most necessary? And making sure that that table is inclusive of everyone that would be impacted. Just as a sobering statistic over two million Californians do not have access to Internet today. And so that tells you that when you look at this panel, who's sitting around the table needs to be able to be reflective of those individuals.

Thank you, Director Bailey Crimmins. Let me ask you all now to comment on another element, I think of what is contemplated by all of the efforts around Broadband for All, and digital equity, which is the particular ways that broadband enables the State itself to support the community and to support the residents of California. And I wonder if you could share your thoughts about how universal broadband and universally affordable and truly accessible broadband which is digital equity, would support the mission of your agencies and the ways in which you are able to serve and support the Californians who are served by your agencies. And how government services generally in terms of what you do would be changed by a more equitable broadband environment. And let me ask, perhaps I would start by asking Chief Deputy Superintendent Nicely to share her thoughts on this. I think she's already started. The ways in which broadband and digital equity are important to the mission of the Department of Education and all of its stakeholders.

Thanks, Joanne. You know today is a, it's an interesting day to be having this talk about this, because this is the day that we're coming out nationally with assessment. And, the thing that we did find was that our students, with no connectivity very low connectivity, probably fared the least. How should I say the opportunity gaps for students nationwide that were not connected, and that connectivity could have had to do with distance learning, but it also had to do again with the equity around services and family. We know now more than ever how incredibly important that connection to being able to. I think we have the State libraries doing tutoring. They have an online tutoring system that's going from ten to ten. We have mental health services and counseling that people. We can find food with apps, Because we need to know the food insecurity. If our kids are hungry, they're not going to learn if our kids have mental health issues, they're not going to learn. So digital equity is just at the heart of access to services for our students and our families. And, and that's how we see it as we look to transform education over the next few years and recover from these past two years of learning. We're not gonna say learning loss, but we're really looking to the future for learning recovery. And so that's how we foresee the importance of getting our kids and their families connected, but also secured and protected as well. So it's a big thing that I'm excited to work with this coalition to make sure that all happens for our kids.

Thank you very much. Perfectly said of I think of illustrations of the stakes and the criticality of digital equity. And let me ask Secretary Tong to share her thoughts on this.

I would just probably add a little bit to the fact that, as I mentioned the agency I'm with, the Government Operation, is really finding ways to continue to support the 150 plus departments in the State of California, and look for means and delivery method on how they best to deliver public services to our residents, and that is, it's important to hear from our residents directly

what is best, you know, most helpful to them in terms of a meeting their services where they really need, and easier way to access to it. And I think the role that we see what digital equity will bring is that to design such delivery method and such a supportive program by engaging a two way dialogue and constantly to check and verify are we meeting the mission that we are set up to do? Are we meeting this objective? And if not, you know, what can we do to continue to tune it. I think that level of interaction itself requires constant dialogue and constant check in, so that it's only available, or make it possible if we have good way of connecting with folks whether digitally or you know go to business sites. If they don't have a digital access at the moment. I think that's the big tent, I believe President Reynolds was mentioning that this digital equity topic. It's to me is transformational, right? It's how do we interact? And what type of infrastructure that we set up? And what type of interaction that we are set up, which would have impact generations to come. And that's why I think this is a very large topic with multi facet to it. And, I'm just thrilled that we have this many folks engaged in it, and many partnering department working towards it.

Yeah, Thank you. Absolutely. And Director Bailey-Crimmins, let me ask you to comment on that also given you the mission and the portfolio of your agency.

Thank you, Joanne. So at the Department of Technology, what we say is that you know we have a mission, but we actually serve 188 missions, so 150 state departments, and we also have about forty local departments to stand on our shoulders to deliver public services to their constituents. And in addition, we have the office of broadband and digital literacy. So one of the comments I saw in the chat is, it's important to provide the connectivity, and, you know, provide the equity. But it's also important to provide skills, live skills. People know how to be safe when they're on the Internet. And be able to have a leverage the tool that we are going to be able to be able to provide to them. So, in addition to provide the connectivity, one of our key missions is also the digital literacy. Then through the California Broadband Council, our job through many of the initiatives, both short term and long-term initiatives, is to provide oversight and delivery of key programs that are going to make a difference across the lives of Californians. So we get to coordinate and get to have our thinkers in a lot of different aspects of broadband, which allows it to be extremely worthwhile. And from a historical perspective, I worked at youth authority, and I've seen how digital equity has made the difference from an incarcerated youth and gave them a second opportunity through a digital high school, through be able to get certifications. It made the basically the difference between them getting incarcerated again as an adult and potentially making a life changing career opportunity for them that they would not have had without digital equity and a digital service. So it does really make a difference in the lives of individuals. Sometimes we look at the big picture, but when you really look at it person by person, it really can make it. It deals with not just the digital divide, but really the life divide.

Thank you, Director Bailey-Crimmins. A very compelling example. And I'd like to ask the Director Bennett of NTIA to share her thoughts on that as well. If incarcerated individuals are actually one of the covered populations anticipated by the Federal legislation that creates the digital equity funding framework that some of this planning is happen in the context of, and that is a part of the larger California Broadband for All efforts. Director Bennett, can you maybe, share your thoughts? And how the Federal Government is thinking about this particular set of issues of broadband as a tool digital equity as a tool for government supporting residents and the citizens of the community.

I think what we're really talking about here is impact. You know. How can we ensure that the funding that we have all been entrusted with are equitably distributed to those most impacted. And you know, I'll also give another instance with our incarcerated individuals. And we're facing

a labor shortage, and there will be a tremendous amount of really good jobs created as a result of all of this, you know, broadband funding to close the digital divide and let's not forget the other Federal funding from our other sister agencies. You know we have Department of Energy. You know, \$19 billion in funding around weatherization programs. We have department of transportation, you know, \$550 billion. So as I'm sitting here listening, and already seeing that California are already, you know, collaborating, you know, with these agencies, you know, you think about all the different jobs, and being intentional with our educational partners and ensuring that these apprenticeship programs are going into our correctional institutions pre-released. And so you have two tiers right? Want to make sure that every single person who is released have the basic digital literacy skills that they need to just even function in society. Because I hear stories. And I have family members who, you know, have been justice impacted, and when they're released, technology changes so quickly. You know the challenge of just having an email and being able to apply online or navigate, you know, to get from one place or another is a challenge. And so you have the basic digital literacy. But then, you know, it challenges to question the possibilities and to dream. What could we really, you know, be innovative and look at? Well, let's bring in some apprenticeship programs into the correctional institutions, and actually get them placed in a job prior to release, so that we're increasing the opportunities for success, and then bringing our housing partners because they will, you know, need housing, you know, bring in our you know, health and human services. And how do we think about this holistically, so that we're truly meeting the needs of the people where they're at, and really equipping them with those skills and those resources and their tools on their journey to, you know, be able to fully participate, you know, in society. And so just challenge us to look at, you know, and that's part of the what I'm hearing also, which I'm so excited to hear is that we've changed our mindset in our approach to engaging with communities, because so often we are so used to people doing to us, and we are never part of a solution. And here we're actually going to be a part of the solution, because we know our experiences better than anyone else, and we are those experts that can, you know, from our communities, you know, give those solutions and be able to be part of this real opportunity to have this transformative change.

Thank you so much Director Bennett. I want to ask the three members of the panel that I haven't had a chance to ask the follow up question, and we are almost out of time so truly going into the lightning round. President Reynolds and Secretary Snider and Equity Officer Chueh, I wonder if you could just give us very quick reflections and thoughts on the importance of digital equity for government provision of services to the public. And, let me ask you to start a President Reynolds, with apologies upfront for making this an accelerated process.

Sure, I'll be quick, and I think my answer is similar to Secretary Tong's answer in that, you know, we are providing services to improve access to government services. Essentially, our mission is about providing safe, affordable, reliable utility service. But one way to think about it is the groups that we're trying to reach here are historically disenfranchised. Those groups that have been left behind in the digital divide. And so those groups at the same time, since they're left behind in the digital divide, they have reduced access to government services overall. We do webinars. We collect information electronically; we rely on emails and website access. And so when you don't have that access it's harder to get to our programs, and it's harder to get to all of government services and so thinking about these populations, it's low-income households. It's aging populations. It's incarcerated individuals which we've talked about, a little bit, veterans, individuals with disabilities, individuals with language barriers, tribal nations, racial and ethnic minorities. And then also rural inhabitants, where it's harder to get the infrastructure in place, it's more expensive to pay for operations and maintenance in those areas. So it's really a broad group of individuals we're trying to reach, but thinking about all of them and getting access to

Internet, high-speed Internet services, is something that will bring them along and allow everyone in California to be able to access government services equally. Thank you.

Thank you. And Secretary Snider, over to you.

Thank you. I think just as a baseline, everything we do that touches on tribal is consultation and communication informed. And so I think people don't quite realize that we're not driving policy. It's the tribes themselves, and that policy, and that engagement is only as good as our tools of communication and participation. And so as we have better access, better equity, and better tools for participation and communication, we can create programs that are more or better informed and more reflective of the diverse needs.

Thank you, Secretary Snider. And Chief Equity Officer Chueh, you have the last word.

I get to have the last word. I would just say very briefly that you know I think everyone has been on point. I'm grateful to hear about the digital literacy, and to what President, I think, Joanne, what you mentioned in the beginning is that this really does touch every facet of our lives, and, you know, my charge is to work with all of our Government partners, in increasing access to equitable services. And to me, as Secretary Tong and I have talked about, that is the A in D. E. I. A. Diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility. So, as I work with all of my colleagues here, especially within the GovOps agency, that is the focus and the lens that we would have, is bring the A to the DEIA to bring accessibility in all of these areas.

Thank you for that perfect summation, much appreciated. And let me say to all of you, thank you. It's been my honor to moderate this panel and thank you for the insight and the idea sharing. And let me now hand it back over to Rachna for the next set of items on the agenda. Thank you all.

Thank you, Joanne, and thank you to all the panelists. It's now time for our first break. We will reconvene at 10:00 AM For the next session. Thank you.

Welcome back to the Fall Broadband for All Summit Digital Equity and BEAD Kickoff. We are now starting session number two: the Broadband for All Panel. A video of this summit, slides and transcript will be posted to the Broadband for All portal. If you have questions during this presentation we have enabled the Q&A feature, and we will try to get to your questions following the presentations. A reminder to presenters to please cue our slide facilitator Ana, to advance your slides. We do have a full agenda, and we respectfully ask panelists to keep to their allotted time frames, and that attendees adhere to the Q&A function for questions. And with these housekeeping items complete, I'd like to begin session number two. I'm pleased to introduce Scott Adams, Deputy Director Office of Broadband and Digital Literacy at the California Department of Technology.

Thank you, Rachna. And good morning everybody. It's so great to be with you all today and present on the State's efforts on Broadband for All. Next slide, please. Well, it's all of us who have experienced over the last year, and our opening panelists have demonstrated. California's ability to access and use broadband is the difference between being able to fully engage in life and being cut off. Next slide. Wanted to go back, because we all learned, Covid in the pandemic, really amplified and in exacerbated the inequities of the digital divide. Here in California, 83% of Californians have access to broadband. While only 52% of Californians have modern speeds of 100 Megabits per second. 51% of rural households have no network offering of 100 megabits per second, and 28% of tribal lands lacks level of this service. Additionally,

millions of California lack the services, devices, and the skills necessary to access the essential services and realize other social and economic benefits. Next slide. So the state's Broadband for All program really is designed to address four main things, and that's access to infrastructure and reliable service, affordability, adoption of services, and then digital literacy and inclusion. Next slide, please. So Broadband for All as you heard is the States overarching response to closing the digital divide and fostering digital equity throughout the State. That work really began in 2010, with the work of the Broadband Council and its members. It was further informed by the Governor's executive order in 2020 , and the development of the broadband action plan in 2020. In 2021, we saw Senate Bill 156 that really, you know, outlined and funded the Middle Mile Broadband initiative in the Last Mile programs administered by the Public Utilities Commission. And this year, as you've heard the IJA broadband programs, California is fully leveraging those to support them to Broadband for All. Next slide, please.

So as Director Bailey-Crimmins had noted the Department of Technology's role in all of this is, you know, we do have a significant responsibility over technology in this state, and now increasingly over broadband. Next slide. And the Office of Broadband and Digital Literacy really has five main responsibilities, and that's to manage the statewide ecosystem dedicated to closing the digital divide, to coordinate the efforts of the Broadband Council, to really track the implementation of the Governor's executive order and the Broadband for All action plan now to oversee the development of the state-wide, open access, middle mile network, and over the next year to develop this state's Digital Equity plan. Next slide. Really wanted to underscore the multi-agency collaboration that's going on in California and really clarified for folks that the California Broadband Council consists of nine state agencies. Excuse me. The California Emerging Technology Fund and members of the State Senate and Assembly respectively. Next slide. The Executive order that I mentioned was really the impetus that focused the broadband council's work, and ordered the development of the State's broadband action plan. Next slide. The Broadband for All Action Plan was put together in just four months during the pandemic, with input and collaboration of over 700 entities and stakeholders and was aligned around three main goals. And that's that all Californians have high performance broadband available at homes, schools, libraries, and businesses. That all Californians have access to affordable broadband and necessary devices. And, the third is that all Californians can access training and support to enable digital inclusion. Next slide. real briefly wanted to just touch on the highlights Broadband Council members and other state agencies have been working very just gently over the last couple of years, and it made some significant progress. On Action Item Number five. The California Transportation Agency and Caltrans have made great progress, improving broadband project, permitting processes and accommodations policies. The Department of Technologies worked with the number of state agencies to enhance permitting at all levels, including developing a local permitting playbook and establishing agreements with state resource agencies to streamline permitting processes. We have been able to significantly leverage the contracting procurement vehicles to support the middle mile, which you'll hear about later. The Department of Aging has done a great deal to identify the needs of seniors have developed three programs and partnerships to address those. On Action Item number sixteen. We've really leaned in collectively, as a state with our local partners to promote both connectivity program and available low cost offers, and, you know, instituted a framework and structure for state agencies and ISP collaboration. We've established a very large 2,000 entities plus digital inclusion stakeholder network developed the Broadband for All portal and this year surveyed state agencies to incorporate broadband into their strategic plans. And that concludes my update back to you, Rachna.

Thank you, Deputy Director Adams. Now I would like to introduce Mark Monroe, Deputy Director of the Middle Mile Broadband Initiative at the California Department of Technology.

I'm Mark Monroe with the CDT. I'm gonna provide a bit of an update here and to outline of the Middle Mile broadband initiative that Deputy Director Adams just noted. We want to go on to the next slide. I hope a lot of us are aware. In the 2021 budget act, \$6 billion was provided for broadband statewide. \$3.25 billion was provided for the Middle Mile Broadband initiative, as well as \$2.75 billion appropriated to CPUC for last mile efforts. These are going to the next slide. SB 156 was the enabling legislation that really laid out how these funds are to be spent and divided. And with regards to the Middle Mile Broadband initiative, CDT was assigned the role of overseeing the program. And Department of Finance manages the aspects of these funds, Federal ARPA funds. The Department of Finance is really doing the budget oversight and the Federal reporting on these. SB156 also provided for a third party administrator, and we've contracted with Golden State net to do that, to really manage the development of the network. They are a subsidiary of CENIC, and have the experience actually operating a network. Then we have, also assigned the Public Utilities Commission of identifying where the role of identifying where the network needed to be. This is really targeted towards unserved and underserved communities. And so the Public Utilities Commission has done that. And then, the major role here then, goes to Caltrans to actually build it. Now we're leveraging the fact that Caltrans owns the highway system that connects or gets to or most of the way to most of these unserved and underserved communities that Caltrans has the experience in designing, doing the permitting as well as overseeing construction of these. Next up next slide.

In terms of the Middle Mile Advisory Committee, we kind of put together three really important guiding principles. The first being that Middle Mile, the MMBI network, needs to be affordable, open access, and something that that really is going to connect the communities throughout the state. Secondly, we want to make sure that we that we build a network as a expeditiously as possible. And so we understand there's a certain amount of existing infrastructure that already exists. It might be accessed, but we also wanted to construct a large portion of it as well. So really, going through a process that we'll talk through a little more here in terms of optimizing what we build, what we lease, and determining kind of when, what's the best timing is for both of those. And then the third one really is focusing on the where the unserved and underserved communities are, and really providing those are serving those communities with the network. Next slide. So, to that end, we have developed a 10,000 mile statewide network that follows 10,000 of the 15,000 state highway miles, so pretty large in this. You can see the map there. It's available on our website, the Middle Mile broadband initiative website. You can go in there and kind of zoom in on these maps. But, the key thing, as I mentioned is, these are Federal funds, and so, all of them have to be under contract by December 2024, and construction and construction has to be done by December of 2026. So very tight timeframe for a public works project of this this magnitude. Next slide. So this year so far, since SB156 was passed, we have worked with Golden State Net and the Public Utilities Commission to develop the 10,000 mile network map that I just referenced. Golden State Net has developed a preliminary map of the infrastructure, that of existing infrastructure that we might be able to lease through in feasible rights of use. We have, we're in the process of, we've already done signed procurement contracts for fiber, and related materials to mitigate against supply chain shortages that might happen in the future. We have gone through a an extensive streamlining process relative to permitting. We're working with the other State interest entities. We have last November announced that eighteen initial digs, or I'm sorry we're in a progress on the initial eighteen projects we announced last year last November. As well as a number of dig, smart opportunities. These are where Caltrans is already going to be in the ground doing transportation projects. And we're looking for opportunities where it's feasible and cost effective to add fiber, or at least conduit to the network. And then we've recently released a solicitation for IRU leases for join, build, and purchase opportunities, and for co-location. And these are all,

you know. Again, trying to look at the various ways that using existing infrastructure or other partners for maximizing and optimizing the network as we move forward here. Next Slide. All right. And so what I really want to highlight the groundbreaking that occurred a few weeks ago. Secretary Tong, and I and Directors Bailey-Crimmins and Tovarás joined the Senator Jones and Assembly Member Wood, as well as Antonio Villaraigosa and a number of community representatives in San Diego County for pulling for the first 500 feet of the 10,000 mile network. This is actual fiber that's in the ground. This, again, is one of those dig smart opportunities I referenced. This is an eighteen-mile transportation project where Caltrans is going in and adding conduit and fiber as part of the project. So, we're definitely moving in the direction and starting construction as soon as we can with this. Next slide. Looking ahead, here we are working with the Federal lands agencies to secure access to the land and the network that goes through the Federal lands. We are also in the process of going out to for construction bids on 6,800 miles of the network. Some of these contracts have already gone out to bid in the remainder. We expect to go out in October next mixture of roughly a dozen or about fifteen, I think different projects broken up throughout the State. We have a construction bids for these construction contracts, as well as the leasing and joint build contract, are all due in December. And with all of that, those bit of that and bit information coming in December that'll allow us to make key decisions regarding the network come January 2023. Next slide. Here's a timeline that we present. Hope everybody's aware that Middle Mile Advisory committee meets for the last year, or since SB156 was signed, has been meeting on a monthly basis. About the third Friday of every month is when we meet. This is the timeline that we present at the Advisory Committee meetings, and you can see where we're at there in terms of in orange at the bottom, that both the construction and the leasing contract bids going out. Those will come. We'll get those back in December, and this reflects we can see there kind of a light yellow line, and I guess, a beige line underneath the years. There we can see Caltrans, and it started their preconstruction process that includes the permitting we talked about as well as the design work. And we can see that as a Caltrans completes that pre-construction work, they'll be able to move on into construction, which has to be done there as you see by 2026. next slide. With that I will turn it back to you.

Thank you so much. Deputy Director. Next we have Rob Osborn, Director of the Communications Division at the California Public Utilities Commission.

Good morning. I'm Robert Osborn, and Director of the Communications Division. My division oversees the State six public purpose programs, California Lifeline, Deaf and Disabled, telecommunications program, California Teleconnect, the two California High cost funds and the California Advanced Services Fund which has been subsidizing broadband deployment, the last mile to unserved areas. Next slide, please. With the passage of Senate Bill 156 and AB 164. The Commission worked closely with the California Department of Technology, Caltrans and the Golden State Network to begin planning the state's first public open access, Middle Mile network. This included identifying existing middle mile infrastructure in areas with no known middle mile infrastructure that is open access with sufficient capacity and at affordable rate, among other things. One initial anchor-build middle mile map which you see here on the left was based on unserved last mile location throughout the State, and their proximity to public rights of way. Commission opened two rounds of public comment over ninety days on the proposed anchor build and incorporated those public comments into the map that public comment map, along with the various analytical criteria that's required under setup under 156 are available, as Mark Monroe said on the Department of Technology is Broadband for All website. And I encourage you all to explore the map and become familiar with where the middle mile build is planned. Next slide, please. One of the big changes with Senate Bill 156 how we're approaching last mile funding. The CPUC has been funding broadband deployment through the California

Advance Services Fund since the program's inception in 2007. Over time, we've added other components to the broadband deployment with broadband adoption, consortium, public housing, mine extension, and tribal technical assistance. Our approach to the California Event Services for an infrastructure Grant program has been centered on a single delivery model, create program rules, publish a map, and have provider submit applications. The provider gets a grant, builds the network and owns the end to end service. One of the big challenges has been the focus on the end-to-end provider-based delivery model is shown in this slide. The bottom model five, the full private broadband model. For areas that don't pencil out, however, it's necessary to consider other models, and this line, which is prepared by US Ignite, captures the other models as well, so model one at the top. The full municipal model is a fully public model. This has been done successfully in some cities, but it's by no means the only option. In between models two through four are variations of public private partnerships. Public-private partnerships can reduce the equity risk by taking on some of the ownership such as in the City of Fullerton, which partnered with Sci-fi networks. The City of Fullerton's fiber offers to service providers over the same fiber line to the home, a link to the US. Ignite slide which is created in this diagram is included below. So the CPUC engaged with Cost Quest Associates to estimate the investment required to bring broadband to all areas in California that are lacking service. By looking at how the costs vary by density, housing density and location density per square mile, we can see that there is an inverse relationship between density which is locations per square mile and investment. The figure below is derived from the investment calculations in the unserved areas of California. This illustrates the important properties of network investment. First, as the density falls, the high density of the far left and as you out to the right, the location per square mile decreases. As the density falls, the number of locations grow at a constant rate, the cumulative location count flattens and of locations begins to go very slowly. So, in other words, most locations in California are in dense areas, but as we move out of the dense areas we gain fewer and fewer locations. The densest blocks have the lowest investment per location served. Investment rises at a slow but consistent rate as density falls. So at some point the orange curve starts to flatten, and as a result the investment per unit rises significantly, the flat investment curve shifting to a high growth rate is what gives the blue line, which is hockey stick shape. So all this is to say that we are mindful of the cost per location. So we will paying attention to this as we will get application for last mile. Next slide, please.

So, as I mentioned earlier, the Commission is expanding its approach in how we fund and deploy broadband going beyond just a pure private model. One of the programs I'll touch upon in a moment is dedicated to providing funding to local governments to assist with their broadband planning and the Federal funding account addresses the next step. So we're providing funding to local governments to do planning and then following that, they have the ability to apply for last mile funding, and that's called the Federal Funding Account that addresses the next step. So the Federal Funding Account was created for just that last mile. To better understand the needs of local governments, we surveyed counties and cities on various topics, and this graph shows both an awareness and an interest among about three-quarters of the 115 respondents and participating in the Federal Funding Account Program, and I'll touch upon that in a moment. Next slide please. So this slide captures the various last mile and technical assistance programs underway at the Commission. First in the far left, upper, far left, we have the local agency technical assistance. This program has \$50 million available. The grants are available to local agencies and tribes. Funding can be used for public entity or consultant cost to create joint powers authorities and for cost to prepare or deploy broadband infrastructure, including environmental permitting, engineering, and design activities. And the key point here is that we are now accepting applications. The bottom left, we have the Federal Funding Account. There is two billion available for this program. Grants are available to Internet Service Providers, local agencies and tribes. The money can be used for last mile broadband

deployment. These funds must be encumbered by the 2025 Federal deadline, and spent 2027, more on this in a moment. Next in the upper right. We have the Loan Loss Reserve fund, and this is something new that really is intended to help as I said earlier, expand the models beyond just the fully private model. So the Loan Loss Reserve Fund supports the development of broadband networks by creating a form of credit enhancement, which is like a type of insurance that helps lenders control for risk that loans will not be repaid. This new funding will provide collateral to local governments and nonprofits for bond financing. Finally, at the bottom right, we have the California Advanced Services Fund. This program has been in operation for quite a while. Thanks to new legislation, there is now up to \$150 million available per year. This is available to Internet Service Providers, local agencies and tribes for broadband deployment, as well as for broadband adoption, public housing, regional consortium, and infrastructure. Next slide, please. So just in summary of the things that have been completed recently. The Local Agency Technical Assistance program rules and initial awards. We've already made a number of awards, and I'll touch upon \$150 million in a moment. We've made updates to the California Advanced Services Fund program on adoption consortium, public housing, and we've also updated the Federal funding. We've created the Federal Funding Account rule, things that are in progress. We are receiving comment on the Loan Loss Reserve program.

We're in the process of developing the priority areas for the Federal funding account. The California Advanced Services Fund infrastructure grant account rules are being updated, and that will be published shortly for comment. I believe that's already out for comment. Excuse me. And then, finally, the Broadband Equity Access and Deployment program development, I'll provide on this in a later session today. In terms of the focus, we will be adopting final rules and issues awards for the Loan Loss Reserve program in 2023, issuing the Federal Funding Account awards and issue CASF infrastructure grant awards, as well as implementing the Broadband Equity Access and Deployment program. Next slide, please. So just digging in a little more to the Local Agency Technical Assistance. As I said, we adopted the program roles earlier this year. We've received seventy one applications since August, first requesting more than \$30 million of the total \$50 million available. Key point here is that the application window is still open, it's on a rolling basis. So if you're interested, please visit the CPUC's website and learn more about how to apply. For the California Advance Services Fund program. We've made a number of awards on the public housing and adoption account during the application cycle that open on July first, we received applications for nineteen project for a total of almost \$1.4 million. For the adoption account cycle, we received applications for 99 projects, with a total of \$28.5 million, which exceeds the total allocation which is available. And then for the consortium application, we received 15 applications. Next slide, please. So in terms of the next steps, we'll be adopting program rules for the Loan Loss Reserve program and opening the first application cycle. Federal funding account will be finalizing the priority areas and opening the application cycle and then broadband equity, access and deployment. And we'll continue the development of the five-year Action plan, and then and final proposals. And that concludes my presentation. Thank you.

Thank you, Director Osborn. Next, please welcome Sunne McPeak, President and CEO of the California Emerging Technology Fund.

Thank you. It is a pleasure to be able to join my State and Federal colleagues. CETF is a member of the California Broadband Council, under the leadership of Director Bailey-Crimmins. And I have a number of colleagues from CETF with me today, including the Vice Chair of our Board of Directors, Renee Martinez, who is also President Emeritus of Los Angeles City College, and our treasurer, CFO Rich Mada, who is a retired executive from AT&T. As you've heard today from all of our State leaders, we have an imperative to achieve digital equity, and

we've been talking about sort of the deployment side and the infrastructure, as Secretary Tong said, that's necessary, but not sufficient. We need to get everybody connected, and so I'm about to talk about the adoption side in a very high level qualitative goal since we are talking about ubiquitous deployment and universal adoption. And so moving on to the next slide. Let's talk about what we mean by adoption. I also want to just acknowledge that while this is a definition from the National Digital Inclusion Alliance, that broadband adoption is daily access to the Internet at speeds quality, capacity necessary to accomplish our daily tasks, things that we do every day with the necessary digital skills to participate online, be able to navigate the Internet and have a device that is appropriate for the individual, for the household, for the family that is secure with a convenient network. So that's broadband adoption. What I'm going to share with you today is informed by experience of over fifteen years of all of our colleagues that are in this summit. Including the 15 regional Broadband Consortia, are funded by, and the California Public Utilities Commission through the California Advanced Services Fund, as you'd heard Rob talked about. The Metropolitan Planning organizations, particularly San Diego Association of Government, Southern California Association of Governments that together under the umbrella of Southern California Transformation represents 216 local governments and 60% of the State's population. We have the local Government Associations: California State Association of Counties, Rural County representatives of California and the League of California cities, Cal cities, representing the 58 counties, 482 two cities all involved, and then a very extensive network of over a hundred community based organizations that have been on the ground in the communities, the original digital navigators who are informing the work we're sharing today. On the next slide you will see that we talk about the challenges to broadband adoption in three barriers, and I should acknowledge this is from research that Dr. John Horgan did in 2013. It's cost, relevance, and digital literacy. So just to think about those three barriers, cost means not only the cost of the Internet service itself to connect at home, but also the cost of an appropriate computing device. Relevance means, how do we do outreach in language and in culture that will tell all of us who are digitally disadvantaged, why we need to be online and how to get online. And those are best done by trusted messengers who know their community as a Director Bennett talked about, including everybody, is really the watch for today. And then digital literacy, having the skills to be able to navigate the Internet, to improve our lives daily basically to save time and money, which is what technology does, that's a part of adoption. So digital literacy is a part of these three prongs for adoption. Going to the next slide.

What we want to talk about is that we also partner with the private sector with the Internet Service Providers. Here's an example of the companies who have their own affordable offers and are also participating in the Affordable Connectivity Program, I'll talk about in just a moment. I want to add that at the urging of NTIA that we're also reaching out to smaller Internet Service Providers and helping them become a part of the offering of affordable home Internet service and participating in the Affordable Connectivity Program. Next slide, please. So the Federal Communications Commission offers the Affordable Connectivity Program. Congress appropriated \$14.2 billion for ACP: It's an excellent benefit. We are all working together in California to ensure that we can get California's fair share for our digitally disadvantaged residents. ACP has a \$30 dollar per month subsidy toward home Internet service for eligible households. It's \$75 for households on qualifying tribal lands, and ACP also offers a discount of up to \$100 for the purchase of a device, a laptop, desktop, a tablet from participating providers. Going on to the next slide. You can see that actually, it is really important and relatively easy to be able to inform people who are eligible for ACP if they're on an existing program that is automatic eligibility. So, we've listed those that include Medical, Medicaid nationally, CalFresh, the Pell Grants, National school lunch program. All of those are excellent examples of. If we have households enrolled in those programs. Those are excellent examples of households enrolled in those programs, they qualify for ACP. Like as well on the qualifying tribal lands.

There are tribal assistance programs that qualify the residents for ACP. Of the \$75 per month per household. Moving on to the next slide. What we've also done is work with investor own utilities. These are the power companies who work with their own set of low-income households through CARES program. Collectively the four largest highest used have now made contacts 1.96 million contacts of their CARES customers to inform them that they are eligible for the Affordable Connectivity Program. The Department of Health Care Services is now in the process of distributing information to the eight million households in California who are on Medical, Medicaid nationally, and letting them know that they are eligible for ACP. A number of State agencies under the leadership of the California Department of Technology, the Department of Education, the State Library have been promoting a local efforts to enroll people in the Affordable Connectivity Program. To date under the banner of Get Connected California collectively with all of the partners that I mentioned, we've done 50 such enrollment events in August, and then, just as past Saturday and Sunday to enroll literally over 1,000 individuals in ACP. The State agencies, and I see ISPs are now meeting monthly under the leadership of Scott Adams and CDT, and we are mobilizing to do more events in the future. What I want to underscore is that as much work as we've already done, as much as we have been involved in outreach, I think we've gotten marching orders from our state agencies and NTIA today that our job is to expand even farther into the community, including more people at the table in the communities where they live. And all of the folks that I mentioned actually serve the eight covered populations. So to the next slide we'll talk about. Drum role that we want to announce because of everybody's efforts. We had a huge barrier breakthrough in the last week of crossing over to having enrolled more than 1.7 million households in the Affordable Connectivity Program. And you can look at that information that's updated Statewide for enrollment on a weekly basis. And then, when we get from the Federal Communications Commission information on about a monthly basis for zip codes, and on a quarterly basis for counties, the ACP enrollment tracker on the CDT website Broadband for All is updated. But this is a huge accomplishment. California has the most residents enrolled in ACP of any State in the nation. And that leads us to our next steps on the next slide, which is, , we want to share with you these tools. The California Emerging Technology Fund working with the California Department of Technology, Everyone On and CSU Chico as not only in develop the ACP enrollment tracker, which is listed, but there is the Affordable Connectivity Program that you can read about and affordable services. As Deputy Superintendent Mary Nicely said, "Digital equity is at the heart of all services and given how much is online today, we absolutely need to empower people with the tools of technology, getting everyone online in order to allow them to be able to participate even in the democracy, let alone access public services." And to the next slide, we have as our next steps. We collectively want to work with all of our State agencies, every public agency, every school district, every county office of education, every higher education institution to inform those who are eligible for ACP. We need to mobilize and get that word out. We are going to continue to organize and support ACP enrollment events under the wisdom of Deputy Director Adams, who said, let's try, let's get experiences, let's do this as a pilot. As I said, we've now run 50 such in-person enrollment events, which will help inform application to the Federal Communication Commission for more outreach around ACP. We want to continue to promote all of this activity as we do the digital equity planning, and all of that will again roll into recommendations for the Digital Equity Plan and the Broadband Equity Access Deployment (BEAD) plan for capacity grants in the future from the Federal Government. I think this in the next slide concludes my remarks. So thank you very much.

Thank you. Thank you all for such wonderful overviews of these critical programs. We've received a few questions during your presentations, and while we will not have time to answer all of them today, I'd like to share a few. For Deputy Director Monroe. How will Middle Mile

coverage work in rural and ultra-rural areas, and especially in areas where terrain is rough, why only use fiber?

Yeah. So first of all I think the arc of funding that we're using is intended for, it favors fiber, but I think in terms of the throughput and what we're looking for the middle mile, and to serve all of the communities, we design a network that is fiber based. And when it gets out to those communities that will serve various technologies at the other end.

Thank you. This is for the panel: Despite the many Last Mile Broadband initiative funding opportunities, are there any funding gaps expected which philanthropic entities or financial institutions could supplement. In what areas might those funding gaps be? That is, infrastructure build out, broadband implementation, device access. Any member of the panel wish to answer that?

I'll take a first attempt at that and definitely welcome- I know Ms. McPeak and others may have answers. California is a big state geographically and in population. While there's a lot of resources that are being thrown at this effort, there's much room at the table for other partners to help and support the efforts as our opening panel indicated. So I would suggest that, you know the next panel we're going to talk about the digital equity planning process and the BEAD planning process that we would welcome philanthropic and other entities to the table as we collectively look at what the gaps are, and look at the funding and identify opportunities to enroll their support.

And I would add, I'm very pleased to hear the concept of financial institutions. One of our partners is the California Reinvestment Coalition. That is, an advocate for financial institutions to look at opportunities for Community Reinvestment Act Credit. In August, the California Reinvestment Coalition, with the three regulatory entities for financial institutions, did a roundtable with the California Department of Technology, GoBiz, the California Department of Education and CETF to inform financial institutions about what the State is doing. I think they were very excited to learn that they could possibly get CRA credit for helping on funding and financing on deployment, but also helping on the adoption side. So we're going to continue that conversation. I'm looking to see if we can get some assistance from financial institutions to help on the devices as an example to take advantage of the ACP credit.

Thank you. For Director Osborn. Does the CPUC see require local last mile projects, for example, local governments to actively outreach to and engage with health, for example, hospitals and clinics and public housing when planning?

Sorry, can you repeat the question I was just unmuting while you were talking?

Does the CPUC see require local last mile projects, for example, local governments to actively outreach to and engage with health, for example, hospitals and clinics and public housing when planning?

The idea behind the Local Agency Technical Assistance is really to encourage a comprehensive approach to solving the digital divide in a holistic way. So engaging local anchor institutions is absolutely critical. In the case of the California Advanced Services Fund, we've awarded extra points for applications that have brought into the fold the local anchor institutions, the hospitals, schools, libraries, the fire departments, the police departments. So that is definitely a high priority.

Thank you

For President Mc. McPeak. Any word on the ACP Outreach Grant program.

Well, we are waiting for the FCC to actually announce the grants for ACP promotion. And when I say we, the state agencies. All of the partners that I referenced. The FCC has announced two releases. One is for Broadband at Home through the US Department of Housing Urban Development and another is for digital navigator pilot projects. We do expect then, of the 85 million remaining that will be available nationwide that as soon as we get word, and that they've opened up the grant announcement, a notice of funding opportunity that will then, immediately mobilize and reach out. We have a number of partners who want to be a party to that, and I think the State agencies are also planning to be able to apply for what might be even a set aside for the States.

Thank you. How do all four of these programs relate to one another? How can they create a whole greater than the sum of their parts.

I'm going to take a stab at this. All of these programs are complementary. The action plan sets forth the series of improvements on policy planning processes, stakeholder engagement, identifying the funding. The billions of dollars invested in the middle mile were to address missing Middle mile infrastructure to offset cost models for ISPs to deploy last mile service to allow for new entrants to deploy and create choice and hopefully address affordability. I think the last mile programs through the CPUC are intended to really work in concert with the middle miles, so it's the middle miles being built, enabling those ISPs new entrants or other eligible entities to develop their last mile solutions, and on and on certain areas to connect to the Middle Mile and provision service. And then on the adoption and affordability side, that is always gonna be an issue. And so, not just for areas that get new construction, a new service provision, but still in the State of California, where folks have access to broadband service, but potentially, make home, economic choices or other choices. Given the ubiquity of mobile phones, the work of broadband adoption needs to continue to go forward. So the efforts that the State and all of the local and regional and nonprofit partners are doing are all critically important, and it goes back to what we said at the very beginning that Broadband for All is about access to about affordability. It's about adoption and digital literacy and inclusion.

I might add that I think, at the regional and local level. So the Regional Broadband Consortia, counties and cities, who are deep into pursuing digital equity know that they have to marry the deployment and the adoption. I mean, notably, the County of Los Angeles, under the leadership of that Board of Supervisors and Internal Services Director, Selwyn Hollins, that's exactly what they've done in Los Angeles. That's exactly what Riverside County is now doing. I mentioned SANDAG and SCAG. They have both the deployment and the adoption. We work closely with the City of San Jose that has been in the forefront of all of this work around digital inclusion, leading to digital equity as the outcome. They have both the deployment and the adoption piece. In California, I think we are very, very fortunate that we've got a very significant investment of the \$6 billion. That's unique among States that, you know, California has put down a huge investment in addition to what the Federal Government is providing. And then the California Advanced Services Fund has those accounts that Rob mentioned. There is the account for regional consortia to keep that leadership which is region wide, but they touch all the local governments and interact with the [sic] and the CalCities. There is also the adoption account, which is a huge asset to help us leverage what we ultimately can access through IJJA or the bipartisan infrastructure law, funding through NTIA and the public housing account. So I think, as I look to the CPUC, you heard President Reynolds. We work closely with Commissioner [sic]

who is lead on CPUC on the Broadband Council. Those resources of both deployment and adoption to be provided for on the ground implementation for both things at the same time is essential. Lastly, as we're working with the Internet Service Providers, particularly through the request for qualification for perspective partnership processes the MPOs in San Joaquin Valley have done. We're asking the ISPs to think about how you're going to couple what you're doing on adoption as you're building infrastructure. So, if we keep both things in mind, I think that's the best way that we're going to ultimately get them to complement one another and get people online, which is the key to digital equity.

That's all the time we have for the Q&A session, thank you to all our presenters. We will now head to our break, the next session will begin at 11:00 AM. Thank you.

Welcome back to the Fall Broadband for All Summit Digital Equity and BEAD Kickoff. We are now starting session number three, the Digital Equity and BEAD panel. A video of this summit, slides, and transcript will be posted to the Broadband for All portal. If you have any questions during this presentation, we've enabled the Q&A feature, and we will try to get to your question following the presentation. A reminder to presenters to please queue our slide facilitator Ana, to advance your slides. We do have a full agenda today, and we respectfully ask panelists to keep to their allotted timeframes, and that attendees adhere to the Q&A function for questions. And with these housekeeping items complete, I'd like to begin session number three. I'm pleased to introduce Scott Adams, Deputy Director Office of Broadband and Digital Literacy at the California Department of Technology.

Thank you, Rachna, and thank you everybody for staying with us I know this is a long summit, but it's filled with information that's critical to all of us collaborating and coordinating over the next year. I want to advance the next slide, please. As you know, was discussed in the opening panel, both Broadband for All is a collaboration between the Federal, the State, and the local regional partners both, you know, government entities, nonprofit and private sector. You know, we're really excited to welcome to the expanded, extended California family, the NTIA California program officer team. If we could drop the slide, I'd please like to introduce Marina MacLatchie and Gladys Palpallatoc.

Morning. Thank you, Scott.

Hey, Marina, just real quick, if you and your peers could, you know, in 20 or 30 seconds, just share what your roles are going to be, and how you're going to be supporting the state and the local entities on the Digital Equity and BEAD planning processes.

Absolutely. Thanks so much, Scott, so Gladys and I are California State leads. We will be covering the State of California, supporting the digital equity planning process, as well as the implementation of the Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment program, or BEAD. We will be working incredibly closely with both the Department of Technology and CPUC to ensure the successful implementation of those programs. We are also here to do outreach around the State of California. So for anyone that's interested in reaching out, our emails are on the previous slide, please feel free to reach out to us. I'm going to turn it over to Andrew, who can introduce he and Vanessa's role, who are also part of our greater California team.

Great, thank you, Marina and thank you, Scott and the State team. My name is Andrew Orosco Jr., I'm joined here with my colleague Vanessa Cresci. We are Broadband Program Specialists for the Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program, so we're both located in California, and so our

role will be primarily coordination, and playing a conduit, if you will, between the CPUC, the CDT and the 109 tribal nations within the State of California.

Well, thank you very much, NTIA team, and I know folks are gonna recognize the familiar faces. So, Marina and Gladys and Susan Walters, and Andrew and Vanessa, we're so excited to be working with you particularly, you know, given how critical it is for tribal collaboration with the state, and want to thank you guys for agreeing to host the breakout session on Tribal collaboration later on today. So, thank you. Can we go bring the slides back up, please? Great.

So, just wanted to come back [to this], I think, you know, folks in the pre-registration questions had asked, "How are all of these things connected?" Well, you know, Broadband for All as we've indicated, has been evolving over the last many years in California, but specifically over the last two years, and we're really excited that 2022 brings the IIJA funding total of \$65 billion to support broadband deployment and adoption and promote digital equity in states. The two we're going to talk about today, are the BEAD program, really the biggest pool, \$42 billion, and then the Digital Equity Planning Capacity and Competitive Grants, again, which represent a significant source of funding that California can bring back to the State to advance the ends of Broadband for All.

Next slides? Real quick, folks had asked what the roles and responsibilities were. Thank you to the Governor and the legislature- recent legislation AB 2750 designated the Department of Technology as the administering entity for the Digital Equity planning program, the CPUC as President Reynolds said earlier, will be the administering entity for the Broadband Equity Access and Deployment program, both planning processes will be coordinated, and there will be extensive, statewide, local engagement and input. And what we really want to underscore is that when these plans are completed they'll be integrated together, and we'll unlock hundreds of millions of additional dollars to achieve Broadband For All. Next slide, please.

As far as the funding process approach, the State is receiving a planning Grant from the NTIA to develop the plan. Once we receive the award, we will have one year to complete the plan. In terms of the size of the state geographically, and the population, we fully intend to take the entire 52 week year to implement the planning process, and the process is really going to focus on [the way] digital equity outcomes align with the State's other priorities. Next slide, please. We wanted to emphasize, and can't emphasize enough, that this really is all about Equity and the Digital Equity Act, which was in the IIJA, prioritizes investments for eight covered populations, and these covered populations were mentioned earlier, we want to go over them again. It's individuals living in covered households at income levels at or below 150% of the poverty level, aging individuals, incarcerated individuals, veterans, individuals with disabilities, individuals with language barriers, members of a racial or ethnic minority group, and individuals who reside in rural areas. Next slide please. As far as the plan requirements, there's actually fifteen requirements. Five of those are included in the IIJA. There are an additional ten requirements that are included in the in NTIA's notice of funding opportunity, which the state responded to receive the planning grant. And I'm not going to go over all of these with you today, but we are going to share these slides with all of you, and post them on the portal so that information will be available.

Next slide, please. So, as far as the planning process, it's gonna consist of five components. There will be a Statewide Planning Group, several outcome area working groups, a California Digital Equity Survey, actually surveys, local and regional outreach events, and then ongoing State wide public engagement, and that will be through summits like these, through electronic communication...and most of this is going to be driven through the Broadband for All portal.

next slide, please. So as far as the Statewide Planning Group, that is really gonna function as an advisory body to the Department of Technology and provide input on planning activity on the final components of the digital equity plan. It will consist of representatives from broadband council member entities and be expanded to include statewide agencies, and departments or other entities that have a connection to the covered populations, or subject matter expertise related to the outcome areas that the plan is going to focus on. All of these meetings will be publicly noticed and open to the public, and you're encouraged to attend those. Next slide, please. So, the working groups that we will establish, their goal is going to be to develop strategies that align with other state priorities. Currently, we're anticipating, there's going to be 6 working groups, one on education outcomes, one on health outcomes, one on digital literacy and inclusion that's gonna really focus on broadband literacy and adoption, devices, digital navigation, et cetera, and digital literacy training. The next one will be on civic engagement, essential services and accessibility, we'll have an economic and workforce development working group and a working group specifically for tribal and state coordination.

The objectives of the working groups will be to develop the statewide stakeholder map, to compile an asset inventory of existing plans, programs, and resources. And even do a gap analysis, and then provide recommendations to CDT for potential inclusion into the digital equity plan. Next slide, please. A critical component of the planning process is going to be surveys. This all needs to be data driven. So there will be a statewide digital equity survey. We intend to, you know, gather information in all 58 counties, oversampling the covered populations, and conducting the survey, you know, over phone interviews, online forms and in person. Additionally, we'll be developing a digital equity ecosystem mapping tool that will help...really do a statewide inventory of current plans, programs, and resources. So, at the State, at the local, at the regional level, but also surveying philanthropic and in private sector programs as well. Next slide.

So, a lot of folks had asked about local and regional engagement. This is where, you know, CDT and CPUC intend to host 20 local and regional engagement events throughout the State. In the ten different, twenty different census regions. And the focus there is to really gather and convene local and regional stakeholders and residents where they live to really, engage in conversation through their input, get their lived experience on how the work that we are going to be - the plans we'll be putting together will address their specific and unique needs. Next slide, please. I know folks were asking about timeline- this is still evolving, but [here is] a preliminary timeline, just to give you a sense of what the process is gonna look like. So, the first point on the timeline is July 11th, which is when the Department of Technology applied for digital equity funding. You'll see today, the 24th, is the kickoff event. We expect to receive the planning grant sometime in the next 30 days. You know, sometime between December and June is when we'll be conducting the local outreach events, the first Statewide Planning Group meeting will be on January 25th, and then the Survey development, and you know, being out in the field, and the analysis will occur between January and March of next year. You'll see another planning group meeting, what we really want to draw your attention to is that there will be a public comment period that you know a draft plan will be proposed. It will be put up for public comment, and then, those public comments will be considered and factored into the final plan that is ultimately delivered to the NTIA. And then, once that plan is delivered to the NTIA and approved, the State will be eligible to receive its statutory allocation of digital equity capacity grants. And so, I believe that concludes my presentation, Rachna. And... oh, nope, I'm sorry. Thank you so much. This is the most important slide! We know all of you have taken time out, we know all of you are, in many ways the subject matter experts in your own areas with the public, the covered populations, and also, just from a local and regional perspective. So, we really would like to, partner and align with you on your efforts, and collectively develop these plans over the next

year. So want to draw your attention, on the Broadband for All portal, we did create a form for those individuals and organizations to fill out their information and really tell us how you would like to participate in the process. And, like I said, just thank you for your time, and I'm gonna hand it back over to Rachna.

Thank you, Deputy Director Adams. Next is Rob Osborn, Director of the Communications Division at the California Public Utilities Commission.

Thank you. As...there we go...as CPUC President Alice Reynolds said earlier, the Covid pandemic ended the debate about whether broadband is a necessity. We have collectively, both at the State level and the Federal level, learned about the limits of broadband mapping at the census block, and we're now under, *well* underway to collect, validate and map broadband deployment at a more granular level. In fact, it's a massive transition to go from census-block based mapping to location-based mapping and the approach...the approach is being adopted at both the FCC and the CPUC. [They] rely on an exoskeleton called the broadband serviceable location fabric. Know it's a mouthful, basically it's a fabric of all known locations where broadband services either exists, or where it's needed, and the BEAD program will rely on a more... this more granular location-based broadband mapping, instead of what we use we've used until now, which is based on the census block.

So, while the BEAD program is intended to fund last mile broadband deployments, states that have excess funds made use the BEAD funds for other activities, including workforce development. Given the large number of unserved locations in California, we don't foresee having excess funds, but activities such as workforce development as well as digital equity, are required by the NTIA for the BEAD program, and we're working with NTIA on implementing this. Next slide, please. So, just working from the left, the CPUC submitted the Letter of Intent on July 1st for the BEAD program, and on August 12th, we submitted the Initial Planning Funds application which allows up to \$5 million for each State. And I'll talk more about that in a bit. After submitting the application, there were several rounds of updates based on the NTIA's feedback, and as of September 1st, the application move to a formal review. So we continue to collaborate with the Department of Technology on Digital Equity Outreach planning as Deputy Director Adams indicated earlier, in the local and regional engagement activities that we have planned. We've begun drafting a scope of work for the Five-year Action Plan activities as well as beginning analysis on the FCC's serviceable location and fabric (what I talked about earlier, the exoskeleton) which we downloaded from the FCC site and plan of providing feedback to the FCC through a bulk fabric challenge. Next slide, please. So, here's some more information on the Initial Planning Funds that I mentioned earlier. Again, this is the \$5 million that's available to each state entity. So, of the \$5 million we requested, there's a number of sub-activities that are planned to be included in that. So, first off is the creation of the Five Year Action Plan, which is, due 270 days after the planning funds are received. We're expecting to get those funds in the next, I don't know, a couple of weeks, hopefully. The creation of the BEAD Initial Proposal, which is due 180 days after the BEAD allocation is announced, we expect the BEAD allocation to be announced sometime after May of next year. So we have some time between now and then to work on the Five Year Action Plan and start putting together the proposed program rules for the BEAD last mile funding program. We'll also plan to fund the creation of the BEAD Final Proposal, which is due 365 days after the initial proposal was approved. In addition to that, planning and conducting statewide outreach, as mentioned earlier by Deputy Director Adams, in coordination with CDT, staffing to support the BEAD planning and last model Grant program, and also workforce-related planning in coordination with the Department of Technology, Industry, Labor and Education. We've had some initial meetings with the California Workforce Development Board, the Fiber Optic Association and other entities as well.

Next slide, please. So for next steps, NTIA Initial Planning Funds expected between Mid-October, which we are already past Mid-October, sometime before or early December. For Outreach activities, we will be soliciting public feedback on the Five-year Action Plan in coordination with the Department of Technology on the outreach and, as I stated earlier, the Five-year Action Plan is due 270 days from the Initial Planning Funds award. We expect the FCC Broadband map to be available in May of next year, and this will be the basis for the BEAD allocation, which, as I said earlier, is this location based mapping rather than census block based mapping. And that concludes my slides. Thank you.

Thank you, Director Osborn and Deputy Director Adams. We've received some questions during your presentations, and while we may not have time to answer all of them today. Here are a few questions I'd like to share: how will the SPG members be identified or chosen?

Thank you for the question. As we've indicated in the slide presentation, the statewide planning group will consist of representatives of member entities of the California Broadband Council, and then looking at the eight covered populations, identifying either State agencies or outside entities that have specific expertise interacting with and providing services to the eight covered populations, or particular subject matter expertise related to the 6 outcome areas that the state's going to focus on.

Thank you. Many cities already have broadband service availability included in our GIS systems. Could this parcel level data be useful in the BEAD program?

Yes. And in fact, as I mentioned earlier, the census block-based mapping, unfortunately hides some areas that do not have access. What LA county supervisor, Holly Mitchell, refers to as the not so much underserved, but just "hardly reached," I think, is what she calls it. So, there are, in fact, areas that do not have access, do not have, a, you know, service coming into their home, that are in areas that appear to be covered, or served. So, with the location-based mapping. You know, the idea here is to, identify those areas and provide solutions to connect all those households.

Thank you, Director Osborn. A year from now, won't most of the current broadband funding we spent, or its spending directed? Shouldn't we pause that spending until the equity plan is final?

Yeah, if I understand the question correctly, so through Senate Bill 156, that funding that was allocated in 2021 was from a separate pool of funding. It was mostly ARPA dollars, or capital project fund dollars to address needs that were, you know, outlined in the action plan, and also, you know, kind of directed from the executive order. So, those are moving forward. The planning process that we are undergoing over the next year is to.... really requirements by statute, for the State, to be able to capitalize on the additional funding available through the BEAD and the Digital Equity Act dollars, and that those plans are required in order to leverage those funds. And so, I think two can be done in a concurrent process. Rob, do you have any comments on that?

Yeah, this sort of builds on the discussion in the previous session, about how, with broadband you have two sides of the coin, one is deployment, and one is adoption, and when you break down adoption you have issues, such as affordability, digital literacy, access to devices, all that ties into equity just as much as broadband deployment does. On the deployment side, we have a pretty good idea of the areas that need broadband, the issue now is about getting more granular- where exactly does it need to go? So to that end, and as Scott indicated, the funding

requirements mean we have to start now. We need to start funding broadband deployment. But at the same time, as we're developing the equity plan, figuring out which areas need funding for the other side of the coin, the adoption side, and how do we fund those other activities?

Thank you. Will the SPG also be the planning group for the BEAD plan, or will there be a separate public process?

I think the way we're looking at this, is that a lot of the work that's done under the banner of the Digital Equity Planning, that you know.... the NTIA has a great saying that "BEAD without equity is bad," and so given, you know, both the digital equity and the BEAD plan are intended to be done together, and that the digital equity plan is going to be a part of the BEAD plan at the end of the day... part of what the CDT is doing in its collaboration with PUC is making sure that any activities that are conducted as part of the BEAD or the digital equity planning process have sensitivity to any of the specific needs or, you know, for information or engagement that could support the BEAD process. Rob, do you have anything to add?

Yes, I think it's exactly right, Scott, the Planning Group complements all the outreach activities that we'll be doing so, the key here is that we need to have as much input as possible. So, it won't be limited to just the Planning Group. It will be all the outreach that we're doing all the engagement across the twenty areas, twenty regions, and incorporating that into the BEAD plan.

Thank you. How can we learn more about events in our community about this planning process? How can we be helpful in ensuring that this equity plan reflects the priorities of our community?

That's a fantastic question. And I would say that the only limits to you know the voices of local participation is the participation itself. So, I would very much encourage everyone to go to the planning process intake form on the Broadband for All portal, and indicate where and how you would like to participate. We're at the beginning of the process, and you know, are building in the ability to adapt, and be nimble. So, we also want to hear your suggestions and feedback on how we can greater address the needs of local entities beyond what we've already proposed. So, we just really want this to be co-created and bidirectional in both conversation and process. So that what we come up with that at the end of the year is really a, you know a Digital Equity Plan for all of California.

Thank you. Deputy Director Adams. Just a reminder to the audience that you can post your questions in the Q&A feature. Please feel free to post more questions as you like. For Director Osborn and Deputy Director Adams: what steps will the State be taking under BEAD and NTIA funding to deploy broadband and adoption programs to multi-family affordable housing, not just public housing?

That is an excellent point, and it's something that we've tried to address through the California Advanced Services Fund Public Housing Program, and we will also be doing through BEAD, in first of all, identifying where the need is. Oftentimes when in the past, we've shown broadband availability at the census block, the multifamily housing units are not shown individually or in terms of issues of inside wiring. You know, sometimes communities have a broadband provider already set up, but it's not, doesn't provide serve speeds. So, those are challenges will be working to overcome, but with regard to program rules for BEAD, as we scope in the BEAD program into a proceeding so that we can create rules for the program for administering the funds, um, we will definitely want to hear from entities and from the public about how to require

public housing or multiple dwelling units in the program, and how to address that through subsidies.

Thank you. How do stakeholders join the outcome area working group? Specifically asking from a nonprofit perspective?

Great question, again, and we welcome participation in the outcome area working groups. I would again direct you know, any entities from the nonprofit community, the philanthropic, the private sector, please, you know California is a big state- as we look to organize these groups, want to refer you to the form on the Broadband for All portal, and just, you know, fill that out and let us know which working groups you're interested in participating in.

We are already doing a lot of digital inclusion work in our city: device programs, digital literacy, training, infrastructure, planning... will these planning processes help create more resources for us to expand those efforts?

Yes, I believe so. Again, the what the planning process over the next year, I think first and foremost- kudos to you and your community for all the great work that you're already doing. We would encourage you to, you know, when we get the ecosystem mapping tool together, to put all the good work that you're doing in so that that can be included in the California ecosystem asset inventory map. One of the things that we want this process to unearth is what are the unique and effective programs and efforts that are being implemented locally that could be shared and scaled and potentially implemented in other communities across the State. So, I would just say, number one we want to learn from you, and we want to share your experiences with others, and in terms of the funding. Yes, it is the intent as Robin said earlier, that the digital equity capacity grants, and potentially after that, the competitive grants will be available to support these local efforts. I think, you know the part of what, I'm just going to be cautious about this... what we also look to unearth is the availability of a service and some of the other challenges. There will be some type of a prioritization process that's outlined, and you know, based on community need.

Thank you. How will we be able to provide comments on the draft Digital Equity Plan when it is released?

Go ahead. That's yours Scott.

Well, we will...you know, it's our intention that in collaboration with all of you in the many different levels, that when we get to the point that there is a draft digital equity plan, that that will more than likely be posted on the Broadband for All portal. We have created a State Digital Equity Planning Page and related pages. And that will be posted for 30 days. So we would welcome additional public comment on the final draft. And then, to you know, consider all of those when making the final draft and submitting it to the NTIA.

Does the State expect to make subgrants available to local governments to execute on infrastructure and digital adoption activities? When do they anticipate these would become available?

I wonder if we can clarify that the question available to local governments? Rob, is this a BEAD or an existing...?

I was going to say, so as I was talking in the last session about the Local Agency Technical Assistance, we currently have applications, we're accepting applications for that, and that's available to local governments and tribes for broadband planning, which we consider the first necessary step before you go to deployment. So, please follow up with... you can go to the CPUC website and learn more about the Local Agency Technical Assistance Grant program there. Following that, we'll be opening up a window for applications for the last mile funding for broadband, and that will be made available to local governments as well as internet service providers and tribes to deploy last mile infrastructure. So, those are both through the PUC. And then Scott, I don't know if on the digital equity side... I don't know if there's any plans for sub-grants there.

In terms of subgrants, the outcome of the Digital Equity Planning process will be to outline the needs, identify existing programs to address *gaps* in digital equity in the six different outcome areas. And we're cautious to pre-bake any solutions or ideas into the process before all of us are able to get together and develop those. But we, you know... I think it's, it's reasonable to expect that one of the outcomes of the digital equity plan would be...and it's also a requirement is that, after getting together and identifying the needs, and learning that these are programs that we intend to fund, and that when the State receives its allocation of capacity grants that there will be some type of subgrant program that would ...you know, support other entities in getting funds to help implement the plan.

If I could just add one more thing on the BEAD, we have not created the program rules for BEAD sub-grants. But, when we're doing that, we scope that into a proceeding, we'll be opening that up for public comment and input so parties can, indicate an interest in having the BEAD funds be available to local governments.

Thank you. Is the State going to invest in pre-capacity development for tribes and communities to help get them to the stage creating a local broadband plan and applying for broadband resources? Is at an earlier stage than the technology assistance grants at CPUC?

Yeah. So, we've had open for a while what we call "Tribal Technical Assistance," which is provided through the California Advanced Services Fund program, and we are accepting applications right now for that. And that was designed specifically to provide funds to tribes for capacity building in terms of broadband planning, and then that would ideally lead to a broadband application for last-mile funding.

Will the CPUC be asking sister state departments for data or locations on where potential anchor institutions exist, and cross-referencing those buildings with where there is little or no connectivity? For example asking the California Department of Health for the locations of all health facilities in the state, including hospitals, clinics and skilled nursing facilities, and asking the Department of Housing and Community Development for public housing locations?

Yes, so we actually have been mapping public health locations for quite a while on the California interactive broadband map, and we will continue to do that. For Housing and Community Development- that's something we can add to the community anchor institution layer. So, we have a number of layers available in the interactive map. One of those is called "anchor institutions," and you'll have schools, libraries, public safety...those sorts of nodes, as well as the known broadband information that we have for those locations. So yes, we have been doing it, and yes, we can expand it to include public housing.

Yeah, and I would also add that there's a lot of complementary efforts going on in the State on this, particularly, I would direct folks – PUC, the Department of Technology and Caltrans have been working with the Department of General Services to identify through the State Property index and a number of State properties for broadband deployment purposes. But as part of that effort, we're adding new layers into that, that can be leveraged to support CPUC's efforts.

Will there be funding available for researchers that can help analyze implementation and adoption?

I don't know, Scott, do you... is that for your area?

Yeah, it's a good question, I'd like to hear more about, particularly...you know, whoever asked the question would love to have you send our staff a note, and hear what you're thinking about.

Have you seen any issues with the FCC Broadband fabric at this point? Do you expect to file a bulk challenge?

So we are working through the bulk challenge process right now. It's quite labor intensive. I don't have any results to share at this moment, but we will be sharing those and posting those on ... either making them available publicly through the FCC or sharing a summary analysis on the CPUC's website.

2024 for BEAD subgrants is a long way away. Will local jurisdictions applications be disadvantaged by immediate interim efforts to provide last mile infrastructure at lower speed than BEAD will require, but greater than the FCC broadband definition, for example, greater than 25/3 but less than a hundred symmetrical?

We're encouraging applicants to apply to deploy at least a hundred down. So 25/3 is really an eligibility determination, it's not a deployment requirement, the deployment requirement is much higher. So to that end, I don't see that necessarily being a problem, but just to add that the BEAD program first of all, will be available, you know, to similar entities, as the Federal funding account, the BEAD will require 25% match. So I would encourage any entity or organization interested in applying for funding to first look into the Federal Funding account- that money will be available prior to BEAD, so in terms of sequencing I would follow the Federal funding account, and then, when BEAD becomes available, apply for BEAD.

I have heard about open access networks being considered by such entities as the Golden State Connect Authority- can you explain what the differences compared to a public private partnership? And is there a preference that California is leaning toward?

That's a big question, Rob, I'll take the first part. So, more broadly as part of SB156, there's the statewide open access middle mile open access network that CDT is charged with developing along the State highway system. That network as Deputy Director Monroe had talked about, is really being designed to increase the ability of a number of entities to, you know, either offset their cost or make it easier to connect, get backhaul, get signal to provision last mile service to residents. And so, you know, to that extent, yes, the State is very committed to open access on the, on the middle mile, and the open access middle network will be made available to current ISPs, new entrants and other eligible entities to participate on that. Rob, I'm gonna hand the question over to you to answer the next question, or the next part of it.

Yes, so the Golden State connect authority....you know they, drew a lot of inspiration from an organization or a company called Utopia in Utah, which deploys both middle mile and last mile infrastructure that is open access. I think there is some similarity.... It's a slide I showed in the previous session, showing the different deployment models, just to recap there were five models. The very bottom was the full, privately owned, privately operated network, at the very top the full public, and in between you had essentially public-private partnership variations depending on who owns what, and who pays for what. I think very similar to what Utopia is doing in Utah would be what the city of Fullerton did in California, where they have sort of a combination of public private ownership. But the end user has a choice of last mile, or not last mile, but really Internet service providers over the same fiber. So you could choose, almost like how we used to do a telephone service, you could choose a long-distance company using the same line. The idea here is you could choose an Internet service provider using the same line. What that really means is that you have a service-based competition model instead of a facility based competition model. So the barriers to entry are a lot lower if you don't have to install brand new fiber for each company, which to me is really, it's a way to generate more competition without having that barrier means you're probably going to get lower prices, but that that hopefully answers the question.

Thank you, Director Osborn. One final question: will there be a subsequent event like this one to receive updates from all the stakeholders involved?

Yes, there certainly will. And, in terms of sorry to be short, I know it's been a long morning. There will be more events like this, as you can see through the timeline that that we ensured in the slides. One of the big challenges that we are discussing with the Public Utilities commission, and other statewide entities is, there is such a tremendous need, out of a necessity to coordinate and collaborate with entities across the State on, you know, both digital equity, BEAD, but the existing programs that are going on with the middle Mile and the last mile that we're funded by SB156. And what we're trying to do is be as efficient is as possible and as inclusive as possible without the fatiguing folks for, you know, stakeholder engagement. So, we're gonna be looking at that. And ultimately know that that we intend to do, if not quarterly, at least a couple of these big virtual events a year over the next year or so.

Thank you so much. Deputy Director Adams and Director Osborn, and to the audience. Thank you all for your very wonderful questions. We enjoyed this summit today. We have now come to the end of session number three, and we'll be concluding our summit shortly. A video of this summit slides, and transcripts will be posted to the Broadband for All portal. But first some announcements about the optional, six breakout sessions, starting at 12:15PM. We encourage you to attend one of these six sessions with a focus on the six outcome areas for covered populations. It's important for us to collaboratively brainstorm ideas around digital equity. We hope to obtain valuable feedback from participants to develop a collaborative vision for digital equity in California. To participate in one of these six breakout sessions, in the chat feature click on the zoom link of your choice of breakout session. Zoom links have also been emailed to all attendees. Complete the registration information, and you will be directed to the zoom presentation for your breakout session where a facilitator from one of the State agencies will be presenting. Please log on to the zoom breakout sessions by 12:15PM. Thank you, everyone for being a part of the Broadband for All summit! The summit is now closed.