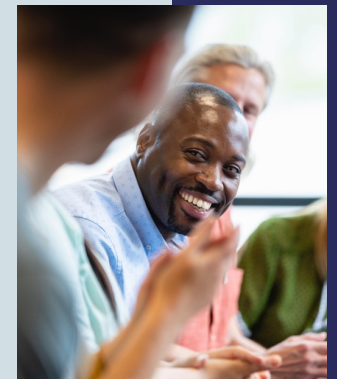February 16, 2023

Essential Services, Accessibility and Civic Engagement

Digital Equity Outcome Area Working Group
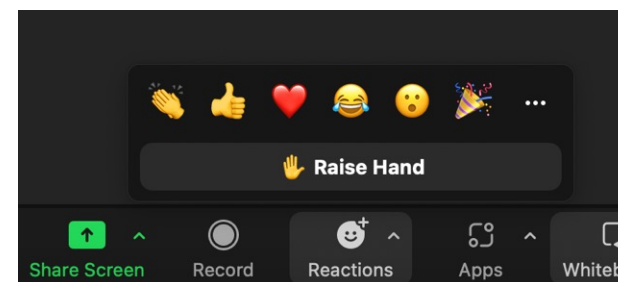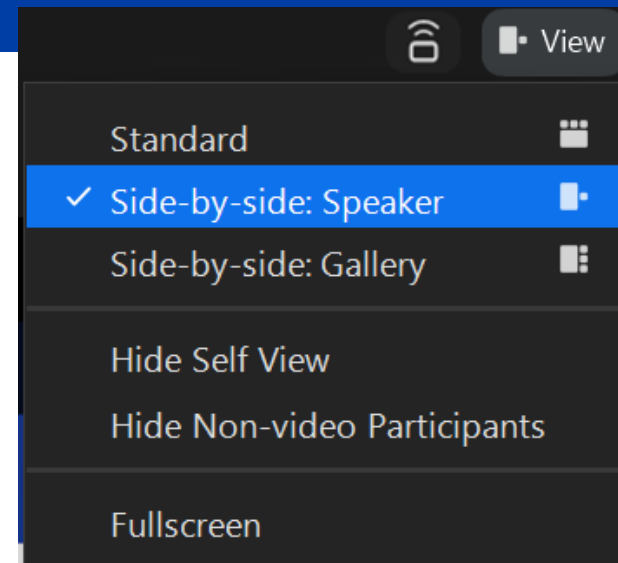
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Education Outcome Area Working Group
Housekeeping

1. **ASL Interpreters** are in the spotlight along with the speakers, please make sure to view in Side-by-Side: Speakers Mode when the presentation slides are shared.

2. **Closed Captions** English closed captions are available. Choose "CC closed caption" on your toolbar and select "show subtitle".

3. **Chat** We invite everyone to introduce themselves in the chat! Share your name, pronouns, organization/title, and where you are joining us from. You should also use the chat to drop questions for our speakers, our staff will be monitoring the chat.

4. **Reactions** Raise Hand features

AGENDA

- Introduction to the State Digital Equity Planning (SDEP) Process

- What is Digital Equity and Why is it Important?

- Community and Lived Experiences

- Calls to Action

- Next Steps and Close

Introduction to the State Digital Equity Planning (SDEP) Process

Scott Adams
Deputy Director of Broadband and Digital Literacy
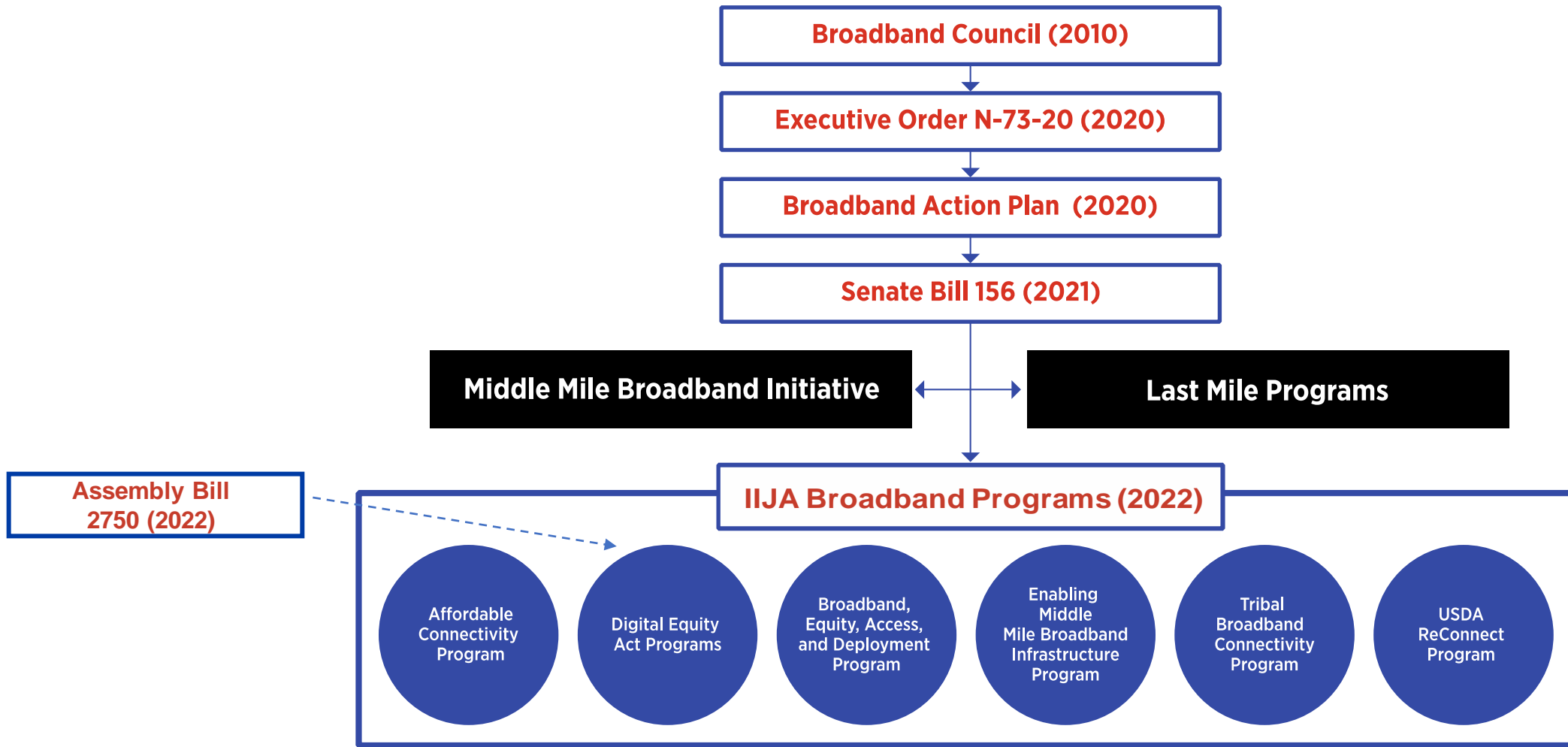**California Department of Technology**

Access

Affordability

Adoption

Digital Literacy & Inclusion

Broadband Council (2010)

Executive Order N-73-20 (2020)

Broadband Action Plan (2020)

Senate Bill 156 (2021)

Middle Mile Broadband Initiative

Last Mile Programs

Assembly Bill 2750 (2022)

IIJA Broadband Programs (2022)

Affordable Connectivity Program

Digital Equity Act Programs

Broadband, Equity, Access, and Deployment Program

Enabling Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure Program

Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program

USDA ReConnect Program

Planning Components

The State Digital Equity Planning (SDEP) process will consist of five components:

- Statewide Planning Group (SPG)
- Outcome Area Working Groups
- California Digital Equity Survey(s)
- Regional - Local Outreach Events
- Statewide Public Engagement

Six Outcome Area Working Groups

1 Education

2 Health

3 Digital Literacy and Inclusion

4 Essential Services, Accessibility and Civic Engagement

5 Workforce and Economic Development

6 Tribal Collaboration

OAWG STAFF
Scott Adams, Cole Przybyla, Laura Sasaki, Anh Nguyen
Contractors + Graduate Student Assistants

SDEP PLAN REQUIREMENTS

Covered Populations

The Digital Equity Act prioritizes investments for eight "Covered Populations"

1 **Individuals living in covered households** with an income at or below 150% Federal Poverty Level

2 **Aging individuals** (60+)

3 **Incarcerated individuals** other than individuals who are incarcerated in a Federal correctional facility

4 **Veterans**

5 **Individuals with disabilities**

6 **Individuals with language barriers** including individuals who Are English learners; and have low levels of literacy

7 **Members of a racial or ethnic minority group**

8 **Individuals who primarily reside in a rural area**

Working Group Objectives

Outcome Area Working Groups will convene subject matter experts and practitioners together to develop strategies that align with SDEP priorities, through the lens of the digital equity barriers of the eight covered populations.

Working Group objectives:

1. Develop a statewide stakeholder map for each outcome area
2. Conduct an asset inventory of programs, plans, and services for each outcome area
3. Promote and encourage participation in the statewide digital equity survey
4. Conduct gap analyses for each outcome area
5. Develop recommendations to CDT for inclusion in the SDEP

Definition

From the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA):

Digital Equity: The condition in which individuals and communities have the information technology capacity that is needed for full participation in the society and economy of the United States.

Digital Inclusion: The activities that are necessary to ensure that all individuals in the United States have access to, and the use of, affordable information and communication technologies, such as—

- Reliable fixed and wireless broadband internet service;

- Internet-enabled devices that meet the needs of the user; and

- Applications and online content designed to enable and encourage self-sufficiency, participation, and collaboration

What is Digital Equity? Why is it important?
Discussion

Prompts:

1. What does digital equity mean to you?

2. Why is digital equity important for the specific communities you serve, including covered populations?

Community and Lived Experiences

Essential Services, Accessibility and Civic Engagement

Prompts

1. What digital equity barriers do your organizations/ community members and/or those you serve experience? How do those barriers impact access to essential services, civic engagement, and accessibility?

2. What steps are you and/or your organizations taking to address digital equity barriers to increase access to essential services, increase civic engagement and address a variety of accessibility needs? Please share effective strategies or examples.

3. Please share any reflections you might have about our discussion today, topics we have not mentioned, or digital equity in general.

How to Take Action

Essential Services, Accessibility
and Civic Engagement

NEEDS ASSESSMENT:

Digital Equity Ecosystem Mapping (DEEM) Tool

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Digital Equity Ecosystem Mapping

Take Action: Use the DEEM tool

The Digital Equity Ecosystem Mapping tool tracks **all Digital Equity** programs and resources throughout California and will inform how grant resources may be distributed. The mapping tool will help identify:

- What programs are being offered, where they're being offered and to whom, and what is missing in each region.

- Barriers to achieving digital equity in every California county.

Timeline: Launch Q1 2023

Digital Equity Ecosystem Mapping

Who should participate in DEEM?

All entities, coalitions, practitioners, and funders with existing and planned programs and services that provide access to digital equity resources in communities throughout California.

NEEDS ASSESSMENT:

Digital
Equity Survey
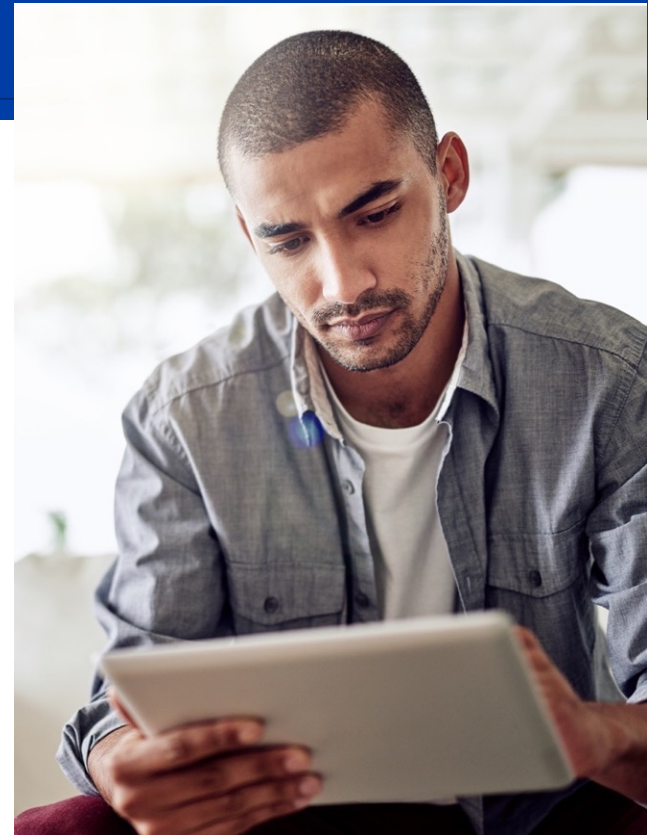
Digital Equity Public Survey

CDT will distribute a statewide **Digital Equity Public Survey** to residents of California as a civic engagement tool to identify barriers to digital equity, especially for Covered Populations.

The survey is intended to capture information about internet access, internet affordability, and internet adoption for residents in California households.

Timeline: Launch Q1 2023

Digital Equity Public Survey

Scope

Two versions of the survey will be shared in **all 58 counties** and will oversample for the **eight covered populations:**

- Online survey
- Phone survey

Other Ways to Get Involved

Members of the public interested in helping inform the State Digital Equity Plan can also:

1. Sign up for updates on the Broadband For All Portal (https://broadbandforall.cdt.ca.gov/state-digital-equity-plan/)

2. Attend a local event near you

3. Complete and share the Digital Equity Public Survey with your friends and family and your networks

Next Steps

Essential Services, Accessibility and Civic Engagement

Outcome Area Working Group
Next Steps

Next steps for Working Group will include:

1. Develop strategies that align with SDEP priorities

2. Conduct gap analysis

3. Conduct research, evaluate assets, and develop recommendations for CDT within their assigned Outcome Area for inclusion in the SDEP

Outcome Area Working Group
Future Meeting Topics

Upcoming OAWG Monthly Meetings Will Address:

- **March**: How does digital inequity create disparities when it comes to essential services, accessibility, and civic engagement?

- **May:** What digital equity programs are currently working well in your community? What's missing?

- **June:** Using the Public Survey and DEEM data to shape SDEP priorities.
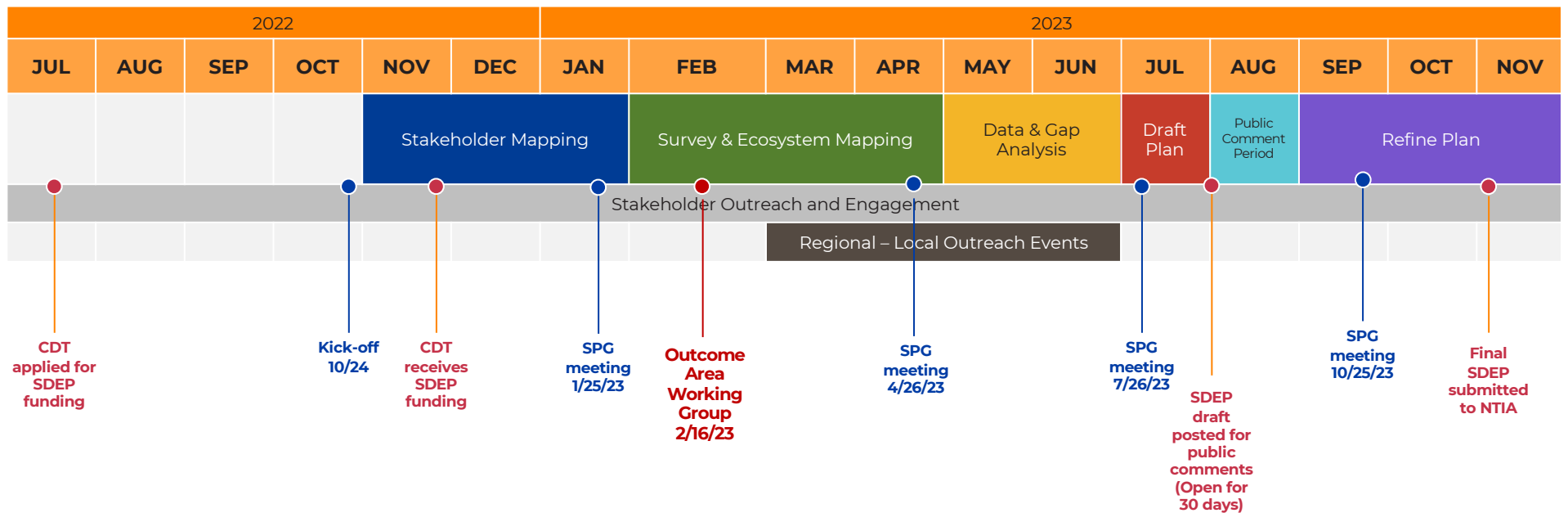
SDEP Timeline

California State Digital Equity Planning (SDEP) Timeline

Important milestones for State Digital Equity Planning:

2022						2023										
JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV

Stakeholder Mapping

Survey & Ecosystem Mapping

Data & Gap Analysis

Draft Plan

Public Comment Period

Refine Plan

Stakeholder Outreach and Engagement

Regional – Local Outreach Events

CDT applied for SDEP funding

Kick-off 10/24

CDT receives SDEP funding

SPG meeting 1/25/23

Outcome Area Working Group 2/16/23

SPG meeting 4/26/23

SPG meeting 7/26/23

SDEP draft posted for public comments (Open for 30 days)

SPG meeting 10/25/23

Final SDEP submitted to NTIA

Contact Us

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Thank You

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