

Workforce and Economic Development Outcome Area Working Group  
Meeting Transcript  
May 17, 2023

Good afternoon and welcome to the third outcome area working group meeting for workforce and economic development. A few housekeeping items before we begin this meeting is being recorded. and we will post the recording of this meeting the slides and transcripts to the broadband for all portal. We have a few additional options for those that are looking for them. We both have close captioning available, and that'll be on the bottom toolbar. We will be in implementing and using chat. So please one of the first apps is to put your name any pronouns in your organization and title where you're joining us from. So we could all say hello to each other. And finally, we are using reactions in the raise your hand feature. You can see right here on the screen, the reactions is on the lower toolbar little smiley face. So when we get to the community discussion, we'd love for you to raise your hands and join the conversation. Finally, we do have ASL interpretation. If you cannot see them currently please look at the top right where it has view and select gallery. Here's today's agenda. We'll start with an overview of key takeaways from the first 2 meetings held in February and March. We'll then hear from a panel of subject matter. Experts who will address the unique barriers faced by the covered populations. They serve what their organizations are doing to address these barriers, and what solutions they have seen as effective. Then we'll proceed to the interactive discussion about the lived experiences of those impacted by the digital divide and include discussion with you all and wrap up with calls to action and next steps. So next slide, I'm going to hand it off to Rida Fayyaz who's a graduate student assistance from Berkeley Goldman School public policy to provide us a brief synopsis of the last 2 meetings. Hi everyone, so we'll go through our takeaways from the February meeting first, which reward around digital barriers discussion. The first barrier in some rural and urban areas is that of broadband infrastructure which leads to people who live there, not having affordability to affordability or many choices to choose from. Secondly, barriers related to language and culture were also brought up as a key issue for language. In particular, there's a need for training and apprenticeship programs to be available in multiple languages so as to empower under sub communities that exists within this covered population. Similarly, on the culture, better aspect, having community champions from within these communities within our cover covered populations is essential to encourage participation and retention and programs designed to address digital equity. Next, the need for cross agency and cross organization. Coordination is important, so that organizations can build upon each other's programs and have the maximum impact, and also are able to identify any gaps. Lastly, with regard to pathway programs and vocational trainings, it is really important to double down on our efforts to connect trainees with industry and encourage industry participation overall. So in the March meeting the following challenges and solutions were brought up, firstly, the need for workforce development apprenticeship programs to be available in multiple languages is really key, so that we are inclusive of all communities once again across

entity, partnership was reiterated in this meeting. Thirdly, the role of education and entities was emphasized, as they are already engaged with many of our overerved populations, and are well trusted parts of the community, so investing them and supporting such organizations can help us meet our digital equity and workforce development goals. Our last 2 points here are related to the need to go, to need to meet communities where they are and to do long term community work through community champions to transform their identities in terms of helping people feel more comfortable in engaging with technology. Awesome. Thank you so much for the review and reminders, and setting us forward on the next steps and congratulations, and appreciate all your help getting through the graduate student assistance and helping us with all the state digital equity work. So next we will move on to hearing from our subject matter experts and sharing what digital equity programs. They're currently working on well in their communities. And why and what's missing. And so we'll start with Leo Sosa, founder and CEO of dev mission. All appreciate the opportunity to be here today. I'm a little bit under the weather. So hopefully I will now be able to, in case I chucked. Just give me a minute to grab some water. As I mentioned. My name is Leonardo Sosa, I started their mission 6 and a half years ago to close 2 gaps within digital inclusion, or brought an adoption of digital equity to call it one cap is the high school students are not being exposed to STEM cells in the San Francisco area, and on top of that we have the diversity cap, but to take in the street. So my organization that we need to address that with our register pre-apprenticeship program, we starve as young adults ages 16 to 24, with a register apprenticeship bootcamp style training where these young people come for 12 weeks they learn different competencies from internal things. It's essentials programming skills and critical career skills along so the program runs For 12 weeks. We serve young people from the bay area beyond, and as they come into the program. They go into multiple competencies from IT essentials, programming and career skills. Once they graduate from the program, they receive a stipend, they receive a laptop, and they get a mentor, but that training is typically what we call the re-entry part to become an apprentice within the it essentials. As I mentioned, the only register pre apprenticeship program in the San Francisco area, and if I'm not mistaken with the second register pre apprenticeship program in the entire state of California to the division of apprenticeship standards. Great accomplishment for doing that since I started his work 6 and a half years ago. So you're probably wondering how we're close in this digital divide and inclusion. What these young people they graduated from a program, become part of our employment career pathways model. I'll be doing this work for 25 years, and even Scott here on this call. So the initial of digital connectors and the community technology associate. When I was working with one economy corporation. So I took that idea and better within my organization and now we're offering digital literacy training in 7 affordable housing communities in San Francisco, where we have technicians that are pursuing careers in the tech industry providing free tech support, providing digital skills training distributing computers we have an event where we provide computers to affordable housing communities and these young people graduated from the pre-apprenticeship program are earning workplace, learning

handsome experience and also they're getting the Google income TI a plus certification so we're not only going to close the diversity gap at the tech industry, but we also closing this huge digital divide in San Francisco. I was part of the in an essential program, and the access program so to me is very important. The young people in communities of color continue to receive their resources that we have available and very excited to announce that this summer we're launching 3 pre-apprenticeship programs in San Francisco, one in partnership with Goodwill, Sf or bay area. Another one with San Francisco City College at the mission campus, our own very registered pre-apprenticeship program, and we are also launching our first satellite program in the city of East Oakland, so very excited to see how this program continues to go, as we close the digitally divide. Together with young people that are becoming the next pipeline for the tech industry, but most importantly, they're the technology ambassadors. They continue to help low-income families get access to broadband, get access to computers and relevant content. So that's how we're closing this digital divide with my organization. Well, that is a lot of really great information, and I love the mission. I love what you're sharing. So thank you so much, and I think one of the things that gives me is that it's really it's we're going beyond expanding programs, and it's really about building and creating that pipeline of enabling folks to be in, not just the broadband sector, but tech careers. And I think that's really valuable, as someone who comes from a rural region. It is one of the things that we talked about, and as a past economic development director talking about how we can encourage and build that pipeline of being tech career driven too. But out here in the in the in the rural Central Sierra, so really important work really appreciate your workforce development and expanding opportunities and representation. So thank you very much. Thank you, Leo. Next is Laura, who's the Vice President of External Affairs for Bitwise. Hi! Everyone good to see you, and thanks, Leo, for that awesome introduction, and also all of the great work that you're leading over there. It's so needed. So I am the head of external affairs for a Bitwise Industries for those who may not be aware that we are a technology company that is based and headquartered in Fresno, California, Since 2013 we have been building technology economies and underestimated cities. We really believe that the elements that make up a wise lines of business are the necessary elements of increasing digital equity and communities across the country. So I'm going to very quickly walk you through that. I actually come from doing work in the civil rights space, and I always like to go back to 2013 when the conversation we were having was much more anchored in. How do we create more folks that are skilled in STEM occupations and part of what we saw since then is that we did really great work in training people into STEM careers, but a lot of them couldn't stay home because the rest of the elements needed for them to actually leverage those skills, to promote economic development, to strengthen their communities weren't in place. And so I think that now we obviously have a lot more learning under our belt on what are those elements? And I think this conversation obviously being backed with some of the dollars that are going to come to help us do that more effectively is kind of where I want to anchor us as we think about what we have built in Fresno, and now in 10 cities across the country. So our

work starts with technology solutions. We are building technology solutions across our community, but in particular with anchor institutions. So a lot of our clients are actually schools, their libraries, their local government, their local nonprofits and it is in those places that we are helping to strengthen digital infrastructure. So whether it is working with that local school district to develop better platform that is able to engage students more meaningfully, more inclusively, or it's working with micro and small businesses to help figure out what kind of platforms they need to manage their finances more effectively, or reach constituents and clients more effectively what is unique is how we source that technology. So we are a registered apprenticeship program with the Department of Labor and we pull folks from our communities, a lot of them people that are outside of traditional paths into the workforce. So, in fact, of the over 10,000 folks that we've trained, many of them, the majority of them are over 24 years old. They have not been in traditional pathways into the workforce and they are participating in pre apprenticeship programs like the one that Leo is running, and others which Bitwise, also used to run in the central valley for a little bit. So those folks that single mom that could not find the information on that school website is the mom that is working with the school district to think about what that solution looks like long term. So we feel very strongly, and we see it over and over again that the product itself becomes a solution that creates more inclusion that encourages more participation, that is able to reach the community more meaningfully because the people behind it are the people from those communities that understand and have been in many case shut out of technology, are the ones that are solving for it. The third piece of what we do, which is super important to think. You know how we anchor digital equity in our community is community building. So we revitalize like downtown spaces to house that ecosystem in Fresno. Many of our buildings have sat empty for many years in our downtown. We turn them into these castles. beautiful, vibrant spaces that create curiosity out technology in our communities and in those spaces we have low cost co-work options around \$29 a month in some of our central value locations because we want to make sure that those entrepreneurs, the at the apprentices, other tech entrepreneurs in the community can find themselves in a space where they can run into the next big idea. Where in the coffee shop, you know, they can come up with the next big idea with their fellow technologies. You're not going to run into that in in the central valley like you would in San Francisco, perhaps. and so that is very important to anchor it. But within that ecosystem we also are very focused on entrepreneurship, development and digital literacy. So even to do the first 2 pieces and the Bitwise apprenticeship, program one key distinction is while we do hire a lot of the folks we really are envisioning that our apprentices are going to be the next. It leads at the school district or the next. It leads at the local Government agency to get to that point we have to increase demand for their skills and talents locally and so digital literacy program is very important to that. Our entrepreneurship programs also help make sure that there are other technology companies that are sprouting in the communities around them, so that they, too, can become the next spaces for them to go and work and so what those look like Bitwise has a venture capital arm where we're able to do some small seed funding to support tech entrepreneurship or our digital

empowerment programs with the city of Fresno where we're doing it skills development for micro and small business owners. So together, all of those pieces in place help ensure that there is both workforce development, but that there is demand for that workforce long term, so that folks can stay and simultaneously put those talents in favor of developing more inclusive technology that is able to pull everyone in so again, very grateful to be a part of this conversation, and look forward to engaging with questions and fellow panelists. No, Thank you, Laura. Thank you so much for joining and sharing. I think we think that I mean broadly digital inequities, right? Create despair outcomes in both the education and the career outcomes. So really, the impact we're having is there's economic development like you're having economic development under serve communities or historically underserved communities, and we're all building towards digital equity and inclusion. That's equitable of opportunities and prosperity, regardless of geography, right? And so that's I think one of the things that's been really outstanding and impressive to watch with Bitwise and seeing what training and tools and both in those tools, how they empower opportunities and create increased outcomes. So really excited and enjoyed our visit to Bitwise back when you hosted the Feds in the States. So very thank you much, Laura, and look forward to having to join the conversation. Some more. Next we'll invite Caitlin Blockus who's the project manager from Valley Vision. Thank you, Cole, and thank you everyone for having us here today. My name is Caitlin Blockus, and I am a Project Manager at Valley Vision, and for folks who haven't heard of us before. We are a civic leadership organization, and nonprofit based in Sacramento. But we serve the 9 county capital region, which is a fairly geographically diverse area which encompasses both urban, agricultural, and rural ecosystems and we have a variety of digital inclusion and also workforce initiatives, so I will try not to talk your ear off too much about it, but most notably one being our the broadband consortium, the connected capital area broadband consortium that valley vision manages is a part of this project. We work with different local cities and counties to incentivize broadband adoption. We also work with internet service providers to expand broadband infrastructure within these counties. So that is one component of our work. Another is the capital region coalition for digital inclusion which started out of a report done by the brick. The Brookings Institute in 2019, which compared Sacramento to other middleweight regions in the country. This includes cities like Miami, Phoenix, Arizona, Riverside, California, and it found that Sacramento was really sort of behind some of these other middleweight cities in regards to our digital skills and digital literacy, and as a result of that report, our coalition was born, you know, in combination working with our local library system, funding from our the local workforce boards and other local partners. So that coalition does a variety of activities, including convening these partners and really creating a group for folks to come together sharing resources and being able to support the community in a variety of ways. One of the projects that the coalition has worked on is launching the capital region digital inclusion portal. which we which serves the region as a sort of kind of one stop shop asset mapping tool for individuals, community members, anyone to be able to connect to a variety of digital inclusion, resources. But we're really excited to have this portal because it gives that

access directly to the community. Anybody can go online and search for what they need whether that's a computer for your child for school affordable broadband connection, a variety of things, and so that's another project that we offer in addition to our work through the consortium, through the coalition. We've also partnered with bite back, which has a digital navigator program that they have launched in Sacramento by back, originally started in Washington, DC. And Baltimore, Maryland, and has a variety of different workforce development and also digital inclusion programs. So we're really excited to partner with them and their digital navigator program. In addition to that we, as coming out of the coalition, but also focusing on digital navigators have received a grant in partnership with Sacramento State University through the NTIA connecting minority communities pilot program, which will essentially take Sacramento State students and deploy them as digital navigators into the area of Lemon Hill, which is the most impoverished community in Sacramento County. So those are a variety of our projects. I could probably talk here yourself a bit more about that, but I'm sure we'll dive into it later in this panel. So thank you. No, thank you, Caitlin, and thank you for sharing so much. And I we've seen you and television show up to a lot of regional events and get to hear about all the impact and work that your Valley Vision is doing and I think it's really important to note kind of what resonates when we here of television's work is kind of the cycle that your work and workforce and that kind of development and digital equity has, where how digital literacy and skills, training or lack there of impact, regional workforce and economies, and then that by the work that Valley Doesn't does to work with partners. To take action increases both digital inclusion, but then it also through economic development, improves the local economy. Right? So we're empowering one another, and I think that's reall cool and thank you for sharing. Thank you, Caitlin, Look forward to having to continue to join this conversation next. We'd like to invite Sean Wilcock, who's the VP of Business Development at Imperial Valley Economic Resource center. Thank you, Cole, and thank you for having us here today before I before I get into you know what our challenges are. I'd like to kind of geographically help you guys understand where we are in the State of California. So we're the only county in the state of California that borders another country in another state. So we're all the way down on the Mexican border. We're in the corner with Mexico and Arizona, and with that comes very unique challenges and also opportunities. It is even as far as workforce that crosses over from Mexico and presents a platform for additional competition between us, Mexico and Arizona. So it's a constant battle for us to stay relevant. I will say with all confidence, the other counties may challenge this statement, but I will say that we have more projects to the state of California than any other county we're sitting on right now, we're facilitating about \$40 billion worth of projects, and many of you may or may not have heard of Lithium Valley, but that's really only about 25 of what we're working on currently. But our county is about the same size of San Diego, so geographically we're large we're very rural. We only have 187,000 people and a lot of our industry is agriculture, seasonal agriculture, energy, production, we export a lot of power to other counties and other states, because of our geothermal resource that we have here, which that also is connected with the lithium extraction industry that you maybe may

have heard of. But you know these facilities are in very rural areas, and they're not necessarily close to population. So what that creates is a scenario where you know we have these underserved businesses and these underserved popular residential populations a few miles away and so whether the population is like it or not, industry is really what's a driver of the last mile and middle mile connectivity. So one of the challenges that we've had is we've identified industry needs and we've identified that the existing facilities that we have around the salt and see that will be adopting lithium extraction activities. Today they're suffering with connection speeds. They're comparative to DSL so you've got several \$100 million facilities that have very deficient broadband connectivity. Then you have future developments that are permitting in the area that represent about \$10 to \$12 billion worth of investment that will be there for the next 30 years. So when we go to the ISPs and we say, look what better customers could you possibly want than ones that are making such huge investments and ones that are going to be there for such a long period of time, but because of it all the groundwork that I kind of described about our rural nature, our underserved nature. By the way, we're 85% Hispanic population. So you have a lot of under unrepresented folks here as well as the businesses. and we when we put all this in front of the ISPs, It's difficult to get them on board and invest in anything to solve the problem. So that is our that our big challenge is getting ISPs to come forward make investments, we're we kind of consider it ourselves as a third tier county where you know it's hard to get the ISPs to care about us, because they don't see the ROI on their investment, but we continue to stay involved by being a part of state run programs like get connected California, and in our work with the Affordable Connectivity Program. By the way, we're the highest adoption. We have the highest adoption rate in the state. So 68% of our population are eligible for ACP and of that 68% we've had 77% adoption. No we leave the state, and number 2 is current county, with 54% adoption. So we you know, we really excel in getting, you know, folks signed up for that program. But you know we have 3 programs within our office, the southern border broadband consortium that advocates for broadband needs in San Diego and Imperial county, and then the Imperial Valley Business Resource Center, who continues to survey needs for the business community and workforce needs. And then the organization that I work for which is the parent organization computer via economic development corporation, which continues to map out the needs of industry. And so, during the pandemic we found ourselves in a pretty unique situation. We were the distribution company for our county, and so we found ourselves in a position to be engaging in dialogue with a whole different population of our county than we had before; and so as we were distributing PPE, we were talking to residents that we weren't able to before, and we were talking to business owners. We needed that PPE and we were able to assess. You know, kind of what their broadband issues were and then we're also working we continue to have round table meetings periodically with ISPs industry and continue to forward that information on to our state partners. One of the things the other challenge, with the amount of projects that we have coming into our into our county is that we don't have all these big industrial projects in Lithium Valley. I want you to say again, 77% of eligible households are

enrolled and ACP, the Affordable Connectivity Program and Imperial, it's like you said it's sounding 77% that's like more than clapping. That's just it's amazing, so I think one of the things, and why I wanted to interrupt you is before you went further, is kind of how right, like, what lessons learned can we learn from you to share with the rest of the state about what tactics you're using, or what Imperial is using to get that a much adoption into affordable connectivity program. I think it's worthwhile to talk about. Yeah, sure. I mean so we have a lot of connectivity with our regional partners and our state life partners, our transportation commission, our office of education, the county, the libraries, the schools you name it and we're able to leverage those assets to get the word out on these programs. We had sign up events in some of our underserved communities. and Palatka and Heber and El Centro call Mexico, and we went out there. Our staff went out there on the you know Saturdays, and we, you know, helped line up lines of people that were coming to get signed up for the ACP program. But you know, the funny thing happened we were up in California at a library and they said, we got internet and we go up there. We set up our sign up a bit, and they're using a cell phone hotspot for Internet at a library, you know and that's just you know that's just find that ironic and in kind of insufficient. But you know, I would say, adding to our challenges back to the pro the projects that we have a workforce crisis on our hands. We don't have enough people to go to work, which is, you know a good thing, but you know we're creating tens of thousands of jobs, and in one or 2 industries, and we don't have the educational curriculum delivery here in a pearl valley. So we're relying on a lot of distance learning. How do people do distance learning when they don't have connectivity? So that's one of the big challenges that we have. Lots of great strategies, ideas, and advice and again, 77% of enrolled households are all that are eligible in Imperial County are part of affordable connectivity program. So bravo! Again, it just shows that kind of collective action for entities that are promoting ACP in your partnership. It really does raise awareness, and then adding, in those actual onsite enrollment events it speaks volumes to why they're 77, and I hope it's a model that we can continue to all collectively work towards. So again, thank you so much, Shawn, and thank you for adding into this conversation. Finally, we're going to have Michael Younger, who's the VP of Workforce Strategy and Innovation at Calbright College. Yeah, thank you so much and it was just incredible to hear from my fellow panelists here, representing, you know, areas with the greatest amount of need across the across the State, and very much change agents across the board, so grateful for their comments. My name is Michael Younger. I'm VP of Workforce Strategy and Innovation at Calbright College. Calbright is a part of California as the nation's largest community college system right? And we were created in 2018, and acted into state law in 2019, as essentially a statewide workforce development catalyst to support economically stranded but working age Californians ages 25 and older. That's a target population that, as we all know, is, you know, under resourced in terms of those being at the at the margins of the you know economic environment, and we also know that they're not well researched as well and in terms of higher education, individuals that lack a degree that fall into this target population. Haven't had in large numbers entities to be able to



support them from a higher education perspective, considering the weight that they're caring, as well as being caregivers, parents, and having other responsibilities outside of just pursuing higher education. So at Calbright we're fully online. We are competency based model so it's not just an online provider. We start with the online infrastructure at the forefront of how we build and we build, based on economic community equity and looking at the human centered approach. Right, we're flexible, we're accessible again. We have a statewide reach so unlike some of our sister institutions, we're able to be additive to the overall California Community College system, because some of our sister institutions are more regionally focused. We're statewide so we add capacity to the overall California Community College system. And so for those that you know, have you know, you know, challenges commuting and can't attend a class in a traditional working traditional classroom environment. Calbright has been a solution for them, right? So our programs are focused on emerging careers growing sectors. We talked a little bit, and you've heard a little bit about that from our partner. Actually at Bitwise and, Lawrence, I spoke about all the great work they're doing, but our programs are situated in like it support salesforce administration but we have a growing portfolio also in terms of graphic design, animation, user experience and interface as well. And you know, really our strong focus on workforce development. And so they're preparing graduates to in a growing field that really stretch across multiple sectors in the in the economy. And so a part of our kind of secret sauce is that we're providing devices to our students outside of it. Just being a free program we're providing devices to the extent, folks don't have devices, hotspots, and others being able to provide that but do we noted from our Co Panelists in terms of also ISPs, need to be involved in terms of being able to help address the need for access to mobile towers and others. And so we aren't, really taking classroom content and trying to mold it into an environment of online. We're actually building our infrastructure designing from an online mindset from the start. So we've, you know, done the research, and know about the in demand skills. We're partnering, collaborating with a lot of labor market entities to be able to have a pulse on industry, and where it's growing. And we're really creating a solution to meet people where they are right, bringing them into this flexibility flexibly paste environment as well. So 9 out of 10 Calbright students actually credit the colleges kind of student centered approach, and a competency base model as why they've been rolled in Calbright. And so we're again, we're serving across the state. But 90% of our, you know, 2,500 students now just short of 2,500 students are 25 years and older, double the community college system rate and not only that, they are 70, 80 indigenous people of color, we have 21% African, American, 36% Hispanic, 22% identify as Asian and Pacific Islander, but 34% are parents. Right? And that's triple. The community college rate in the State of California. So you know, higher education again doesn't do the best serve in these populations and so you know, our position is that it's a shared challenge right with entities You've heard here, and our other sister institutions to be able to address this population and serve them well. And so we present a unique capacity to be able to do that. But we also very much know that there are limitations to what a higher education can provide. And that's why community based organizations, workforce intermediaries

partnerships are very important for a Calbright to ensure that beyond the learning journey there's also work based learning opportunities. And so the one that I would, you know, call out, is our partnership with Bitwise right? We are standing up a 3, and then a formal registered apprenticeship program where the pre apprenticeship starts at Calbright. Right? That's 6 to 12 month journey in terms of both enrolling, matriculating through your studies at Calbright and our competency based education model connecting to a registered apprenticeship program at Bitwise as a direct pipeline into an industry experience paired with a senior developer giving individuals an opportunity to have work, experience right away and gives them that best foot forward as they enter that long term full time job market significant. We just launched a cohort in Oakland, and we'll be expanding to Central Valley and others with our partners, and Bitwise, and so we're excited about this. It's a first of its kind for the unique setup of this model for the state, and we're excited to expand this model as we move forward, but it's understanding the core competencies and understanding your limitations. And why you really need to, you know, involve others at the workforce and economic development table in a way that strengthens the ecosystem right and brings more voices and core attributes to the table. So we're excited to be a catalyst. In this effort we're excited to be able to ensure that we prepare individuals that have been historically underserved with opportunities for higher education, because they too can achieve and be successful in the workforce. I think it's really important to reiterate like how your programs are specifically designed for workforce for Internet for text-based jobs. It's just it fits. So in line with everything that we've been talking about. And it's really exciting for the opportunity for you to share, and for all of us to kind of hear more about Calbright and pursue the opportunity of color right, and bringing it to more programs across the State and more partnerships so really excited to have calibrate, join. And at this point I actually I'm hoping to have Deputy Director Scott Adams is the Deputy Director of office of Broadband and Digital Literacy to join in and share a couple thoughts. Scott. Well, thanks to the presenters and the panelists like just such great work doing. And we know that there are many other folks in this space that are doing this great work, and it's from all corners of the state and all of the communities. And that's really the focus of digital equity and the broken for all program here. I think what I just continue to be presence by is how you know the current state of digital inequity creates disparate outcomes, and in so many different ways, in terms of attainment, of education, of career and life outcomes. And then you know the important work that we're all doing in, particularly these folks that we heard from, you know, acknowledged that there's the broadband adoption piece that leads to digital inclusion, and then it's. It's through like a digital equity environment that we all, you know hope to capitalize on these really once in a 100 year investments that have come to the state to create you know, digital opportunity, and in digital thriving that's regardless of place or income, or ethnicity, or ableness, and so just thoroughly inspired by the work that you are all doing and sharing with us and really the focus is, making sure that they we learn from what you all are doing. I mean so many different examples from Leo and in San Francisco, and, you know, running programs to increase representation of underrepresented, you know,

populations in and in the in the tech industry. I mean, we need to have the workers of the next economy, you know, be diverse and dispersed and representative of this vibrant state that we all live in and in Caitlin the work that you all are doing you know, with Valley Vision I mean just proactively taking collective action to, you know, identify a need, and then, you know, work together to really set the region on a path forward to future success aside from you know, all the different projects that you have in, imperial county it's just a really great example that cold set is like the affordable connectivity. You've got people signing people up, you know on mobile phones powered by hotspots, and here it's 77 so there's some really good best practices there and you know, obviously bit why that the work that you're doing is just amazing. Michael. I think the thing that was really interesting about the work that Calbright's doing is how your population, the student population base, really kind of maps out, you know, for the covered populations that the digital equity plan is, you know, intended to direct investments towards, and you know you mentioned those like tailoring, the education, so that it's flexible, based on the individual constraints of those population and building in the infrastructure to support that like really laudable. It's free to empower opportunity but acknowledging that you need to provide that hardware and that connectivity in order to do that. So again, just humbled and grateful for being able to hear and learn from you all about some of these, you know related examples that we want to make sure that these investments that infrastructure dollars that come to build the infrastructure or leverage to create opportunity for covering populations, but that we don't stop it. Just digital literacy for folks, and we don't stop at digital equity meeting you're connected and you have a device, but it's that digital success where you know folks can share in that prosperity. So again, thank you very much, really looking forward to the rest of the conversation. Thank you, Deputy Director Adams, for joining and sharing, and now I'd like to bring the slides back up and again express my appreciation for all those that presented this morning or this afternoon really appreciate all of the great information that you've shared, and really now, hoping that both the panelists, and all those that are in attendance will now join us in a community discussion. We're really helping for conversation on the experiences of those impacted by digital divide and really understand your experience and understand your successes. Understand your organization's programs, and really share Information related to these 3 questions. We don't have to cover these one by one. If you have interest to share information on the actions your organization are taking. If you want to share about any programs or share about what you think is missing or what we needed. This is the time we can take comments or conversation, both by chat. But really this is an opportunity to call to raise your hand. There you go. Raise your hand, using the reactions feature, and we'll unmute you and offer you the up time, opportunity to join the conversation. I really look forward to it, and I already see hands right, so we'll just jump right in and Lisa, I'm going to go ahead and you can unmute. Hi I'm Anisa Abeytia, I'm the Senior Digital Inclusion Program Lead for the International Rescue Committee in San Diego. So our digital inclusion program is about 3 years old, but really 2 years old. We run a workforce cohorts for refugee populations and I really interested to hear what other people's

experiences are as well. But we really focus on basic skills because we're serving populations that have just arrived or they may have been here for decades but they really were never connected to technology digital literacy. We also work with American small business owners. So a really wide range of communities that kind of were left behind. We provide free chrome books, MacBooks and laptops. We haven't been successful in ACP because it takes so long, and we don't have the staff capacity to offer that we purchased our own hotspots for our cohorts. And right now we're getting ready to do a study to evaluate how our workforce cohorts. our functioning, our organization has other, you know, small business and entry into the workforce programs. We really are the first place that our clients enter our pipeline. so we try to offer things that aren't offered by other organizations, because most of our clients don't, have access because of language, or because of immigration status. They don't have legal status yet. Thank you, Anisa, for sharing both some of the struggles of your program, but also some of the successes, and also sharing the folks that you do work with, and it Deputy Director Adams, you have anything to share. Well, I just wanted to say, thank you, Anisa, for bringing us back to the kind of where we kicked off the first workforce on economic development. The digital equity working group meeting is we heard from the folks from the National Digital Skills Coalition that provided some information about research. They did really wanted to acknowledge what you were saying is that for many of the cover populations that there is a need for just the basic digital skills, and so not to like, jump over that. And to say that you know both basic digital skills intermediate and then advance are going to be required for all of California's residents to fully succeed in and thrive so really appreciate the role that that your organization is playing there, and I think, bringing in the the small businesses is really critical, and one of the things that Rita or graduate student, you know, I think, she pointed out that it was like in both of the previous meetings, that in order for you know, our digital equity, workforce, and economic development efforts to be truly successful that building and the capability to do training and apprenticeship programs that are in language that can cater to the diversity of our population is something that's really critical. So I just wanted to thank you for being a voice for those folks that you're working with. So Scott, and thank you, Anisa. Next we will past the mic to Jenifer Jayme. Hi, thanks for first of all organizing this, so I represent an organization called Empower. We're a national nonprofit that's focused on forging pathways to tech careers for people from under-served communities and the underrepresented populations very similar to the work, that CALBR does and Bitwise does and love to partner with you guys. Actually, we're in both Northern California and Southern California. And what we focus on is we do 16 to 20 week trainings for people to earn credentials in. There come tea. It's plus come to a plus cyber security and cloud, and we focus specifically on young adults, ages 18 to 26, and veterans and military connected individuals. So we include reservists national guard and spouses in our programs, always focusing on people that are either unemployed or end with. So all of our Chinese are low income. and with that lens we actually end up getting over 80, our people of color. and that just background to sort of tell you about our work. But what I wanted to raise is the tremendous opportunity there is right now to engage all

of us that are doing these workforce training programs in and getting our trainees working as digital navigators to provide the basic navigation and the basic skill and leverage all of the investment that the State of California is making an apprenticeship to do that. And there's a there's a couple of different models. But one model I wanted to show that we're doing in a couple of other market is, we have a community help desk which is staffed by graduates of our programs, working in apprenticeships that provides free technical support and digital navigation services to the local community. And it's a platform that is we, we don't have to do it just by ourselves. We can partner with many other organizations, and really capitalize on the funding that the State of California is putting into apprenticeships as well as the funding that's going that's coming from NTIA to really sort of be a tide that, with all ships and whatever we can do to sort of share our talent and share our employer partners, and just collaborate on things. We're very, very interested in just being a good ecosystem player. Thank you so much, Jennifer and I think it's. I think we think it's a really a great model to share and to acknowledge that DVIA digital navigation programs can be unique and very tailored to each region, and meaning that there is no one model but that they could be a peer-to-peer model. They could be like a neighbor to neighbor model, which we heard in our digital literacy and inclusion workshops. Or it can be an organization to peer model. So I really love the information you're sharing about different digital navigation programs. And I commend you for all the work that you're doing. Yeah, I think I was thinking the same thing. I just wanted to say that in the in the digital literacy and inclusion working group that we had slightly earlier that folks were again saying that that peer-to-peer and neighborhood neighbor model for digital navigation was something that they encourage. And Jennifer, what I think I heard you said, which is even slightly different. Is that the apprenticeship trainees they like as they're matriculating and getting there that part of how they can pay it forward is to then be digital navigators for those who come behind them. And really it seems like a forward thinking approach. And so thanks for sharing that. Okay? And it's important to that, too, in terms of imparting those basic digital skills and the digital navigation services is, it's people that came from that community. and they look like them, and sort of know the struggles that they've been through. and the and just another. What we need is platform for all of us to collaborate and bring our assets to the table, you know. So more than just these working groups, like platforms, that kind of navigate people to all of the things that we're all doing Well I know there's that, not the conversation is going to continue but I think you've really primed up one of the important falls to action that you'll hear about is we're developing an asset inventory of organizations and programs and funding streams that are already kind of working in this space is part of our the digital. I believe we have to turn into that NTIA And so we've created a digital equity ecosystem mapping tool for like all of these great organizations that are here today to fill it out and like, put their information together, and ideally like beyond informing the digital equity plan. We'd like to see that, you know, create you know, some kind of digital visualization or resource pages by state, by region, by community of, like all the folks that are working in this space, to be able to benefit from, and to enable that cross collaboration that you're talking about. Thank you, Scott. Thank

you. Jennifer. And now we will ask Leonardo Sosa. Yeah, thank you really quick. I appreciate the opportunity as well. I share a little bit about the pre-apprenticeship program that we're also building this 5 plan for young people in the tech industry just want to give you some stats, and I want to answer the first question. Since to start the program, 500 young people have applied to a program. 300 Haven't enrolled in the program. We have a 90% graduation rate, and that's of yesterday over 250 of them are working in jobs in the tech industry and 50 of our world computer science major through San Francisco to University and city college and extensions. You see Davis and others, so that is really a model that we're able to implement to really close this stage of the by to young people, because some of these young people don't have access to the innovate. Some of them have qualified to become part of a secret program. But one of the most exciting things that I want to share with you today is what actions we have been taking to create ecosystems within affordable housing communities. When I came to this country I used to live in affordable housing communities. If you're from San Francisco there was a hard community called Twin Towers in the Visitation Valley area. I grew up in those buildings, and that's the reason why I'm so passionate to always help affordable housing communities most recently in the Babio Harness Point area, we put together a program called Techpoint, and this was a coalition and collaboration between Google Org. San Francisco Mayor socket. So how's in your development? Monkey Brains in my organization? And we decided to take action by going out into the community and I'm. In the community. Trust me when I say that there's a lot of CEOs and the directors that are sitting in the office. and I'm in the grinch. I'm going to change this with all my staff, with my team members making decisions on the ground, because that's how we create this opportunity to close this 3 to the buy So we were out there to develop a blueprint, and we identified that this community needed to have access to computers, access to adoption and access to relevant content. Well, those 3 came to a close back in 2018 we reach out to google.org and the city of San Francisco who has access to fiber. We were able to implement fiber in this community for over 250 housing units on the west side, and over 300 units on the east side, so that community right now has 3 fiver. Then we decided to build an infrastructure for a tech. and we build our steam hub. We also offer K to 12 steam opportunities. We also have a digital music lab. We do steam days and all these different, really cool things. And now we have built a steam hub in the community with the full blown computer lab where families, youth and kids, the young adults can come and learn the technology skills. But then, along the way we started, really identifying, how do we train all this community how to use broadband, how to get access to computers and to wrap that up. If you have to really understand that you cannot be working in Silo and I want to reinforce that in San Francisco Bay area in the State of California. If you want to work in silo because you have \$50 million in your budget, by all means make that happen. But if you don't want to work as a style or have a collective impact approach that's how we become successful, and we have seen that because we now have access to those opportunities, we even got subsidized employment dollars when they may, your office to the or if they program. Now we have young people earning a living to give back to the community where they

live. and on top of that now we have tech companies coming to provide volunteer opportunities, go responsibility, approach to help this low income. Families understand how to use technology. And right now we're working with Verizon at T. Comcast monkey brains and the ACP program to really provide more options for low-income families to get access to the internet. Why do I do that? Because I believe the Internet should be a public utility. It should not cost for anybody to pay \$30 to \$50 to \$150 to get access to the internet. We need to change that. Thank you for your expansion and in sharing of information about your programs, but also really reminding us that it takes a community takes partnership, and it's going to be our collective work together to really bridge this digital divide and work towards our state digital equity plan. So thank you again. Leo and Renee, go ahead. You can now unmute. Thank you. I really appreciate the collaboration and partnerships that are being profiled on this webinar today. I just wanted to share that in our region, Valley Vision has also helped facilitate partnerships between the workforce development boards and system and digital skills. Digital equity and part of how that works well, for one thing, they helped provide some funding to the coalition. When, in the midst of the pandemic there was a real need to invigorate it and expand it throughout the region and helped us bring the portal online. So, speaking directly to what International Rescue Committee brought up the. We have a large number of refugees in our community Afghan refugees, and so the portal can be translated into Spanish or Posh to you can pick a language at the at the top of the portal, which allows it to be approachable to folks in those 2 languages which are which there's a high percentage of community members in our area. And then, in addition, our America's job centers really are the first point of entry for a lot of folks when they come into the country, or if they're falling on hard times. And so we've worked with them across the 9 county region to adopt north star digital literacy as a as a digital literacy assessment that they will do when folks come in. They've also built in a device distribution, and some of their supportive services offerings So just again emphasizing, using existing partnerships that are out there where community members are already going to access safety net resources and rating those together, we found that to be really effective. Thank you. Thank you for sharing again so much about kind of partnership and collaboration really appreciate your comment. So before we move on. I'm going to pause to make sure they're are not any other hands, or any other comments or ideas or programs. This is, Laura. I wanted to make one comment just also to recognize, because I know that we have some folks in the room that many folks in the room. But I do want to call out some that I see before I do that one of the pieces that I see a lot of energy around is what structures exist to support the partnership and stakeholder engagement. Right? So in some of the more established communities I you know I've heard some of the partners here talk about the importance of digital equity, coalitions. and coming together to really leverage all of the resources that exist. But we tend to see those in more of the urban areas. And so I'm really excited, because I think we have some folks on the call from or said and actually launched their digital equity coalition about a week and a half ago. So that's super exciting Bitwise is really excited to be a part of that. I wanted to call that out, because I think often we assume that those

coalitions are in place, and I think that they are going to be instrumental to these efforts, really having a place for the community organizations to come together and talk about the different resources that they each have around digital literacy, workforce, development, right? And what's going to work for their community, and what all of that should look like. But that's not universally understood. That kind of level of coming together and having a structure that is supported and has a community buy in, is very difficult to put together in the not urban areas. And so I want to call that out and say, I know is here on the call, which is one of the members of the reset coalition so really exciting to see that energy kind of sparking up, and how that is going to be necessary infrastructure, as well to drive more resources for that work to happen locally. If I may, at Cal State University, one thing that I'm coming across, and I'm not sure that I hear us talk about it as much as we talk about. Some of the technical elements is the simplicity of being able to apply for jobs. And what is the role in kind of this body? Right? Of people who don't know how to use Adobe? And these are some very basic skills. But it's not right. It doesn't really lead to a certification. So a lot of people aren't really thinking about Can a person use a mouse versus the touch pad. So some of these elements really impact workforce development. How many applications can you actually send out? And so I just wanted to kind of bring that into this space to top, you know, or even just to mention, that there are some very basic level skills that may or may not be addressed. And if so, where, where can we maybe share some of these resources? No, that's great, and I think one of the things that was before we moved on. Is really it right? Number Question number 3, which is what's missing, what programs are needed. So thank you for sharing that. Earlier that one of the first the kind of sense of speakers that they appeared in multiple of the working groups that we're having on the digital Equity plan was the National Digital Skills Coalition, and they reported out on their findings about how essentially, you know, digital skills are required for any kind of job that is out there, and that there's kind of 3 buckets. There's the basic, There's the intermediate and the advanced skills. And so thank you for pointing out that there are some pieces like you said about related to applying for jobs and working on an adobe and things like that. It's a good opportunity here to talk about the kind, of cross-pollinated process. We have with the digital equity planning process. Because we've established these working groups to really bring the subject matter experts together around the very specific policy outcomes that we're hoping that the digital equity plan and the capacity grants will empower. We're also in the middle of we just completed our tenth of 20 regional in person workshops. And so what a lot of people have brought up! And those were up in Eureka, for instance, the week before last there was a community center that was training youth to, you know, put together their resumes and apply for jobs. And then we're finding out that these were folks who were putting together resumes on mobile phones, and then, when they were printing them out, they were. The formatting was wrong, and that so they were automatically being disadvantaged when they were applying for jobs. You know one small thing that's kind of related to that. But some of the suggestions that have come out of the workshops as strategies to empower outcomes in both education and workforce development was like embedding digital literacy and



digital skills, training and all levels of schools from like K to 12 to community colleges, to the CSU and in in the UC system. And so that is something that's being discussed in kind of the different cross-cutting things that I'm glad you brought it into this space, because that will more than likely be you know a recommendation that ends up in the in the draft digital equity plan. Thank you, Scott. Thank you for sharing more. Claudia. Yes, hi, everybody. Good afternoon. Everyone for this space and for this important conversation one of the things that we take technology for granted, right like we are very quick to pick up our phone and we have access to the internet. And we know how to navigate and search for a wi-fi, and if that one doesn't work we're going to click on to another one, I just wanted to share that there's still a lot of communities where we don't have that capability. We were just in those Buenos Aires and we rented out their Lux and Miller building to do some COVID relief funds for primary farm workers \$600. So we had a jam-packed house. This is us trying to get some Wi-fi and some reception, as we uploaded their IDs or their pay stubs. We literally had a step outside of the building to get more roaming. So it dawned on me, you know we're not there yet. We still have a long way to go when it comes to connecting folks to technology. especially the Latino community, right like we would want them just to take their phone and click on this link. And then do your application because it's not that difficult. But we don't have that capacity. So I will continue to advocate for training opportunities for Latino Spanish speaking only community residents to really help empower them and to help get connected and to help them navigate even their own phone their computer at home and, you know, really have these infrastructures where we don't, we don't have to be stepping outside of the building, and like doing this antenna thing that we did when we were young, and we had to move antennas on our TVs, you remember, you remember. So thank you for that. And we do look forward to some of those grants that are going to be released to help us be able to do that. Thank you so much for bringing up the issue of access, because we know that you know the states program for all program is really based on access. Affordability and adoption are critical for digital equity. And we're both sensitive and empathetic to those places where access is not yet possible, or it's constrained. And so one of the things wanted to share is that the state has invested about 6 and a half \$1 billion that are under the broadband for all umbrella so currently in the process of constructing and developing like open access and a mile network along the State highway system in all corners of the state to empower incumbents, new entrants, cities, counties, schools, libraries. really anyone to build further out into the rural areas or in those, historically, you know, underserved urban communities to create the access that you're talking about. So the state Middle Mile program is working concurrently with another, you know, almost \$3 billion at the Public Utilities Commission That is providing grants to those last mile providers or other entities to incent getting out connectivity to those areas, so want to make sure that we acknowledged that we heard what you said, and we know that for many communities we can't have a conversation about digital equity without addressing the access issue, and to also say that part of what we're doing here is. you know, because we're developing a digital equity plan for the digital equity capacity dollars. We're limited in the eligible uses on what we could

potentially use those capacity grants for in terms of like broadband adoption programs or digital navigation programs. You know, digital literacy training workforce programs. So this is a vast broadband for all program that has multiple pieces, and we're we thank you for bringing the voices of those communities that were access is still a challenge. And you know we're collectively working on that piece as well. One of the things that I can note is that and when it's related to those panels highway 152 goes right through the middle of those funnels and middle mile broadband initiative the network goes right down highway, 152 through the middle of those funnels so that is proposed within the network. I was just going to pile on to the theme. That's kind of emerging around basic digital skills and underscore that it's really a continuum. You know the folks who workforce programs like us, and you know, bit wise and caliber are looking to engage you know, to become part of the workforce. First they need to build their confidence with digital skills and just to get to the point where they're ready to sign up for one of our programs. They need to begin to build that. It's not just the digital skills. It's the confidence and being able to envision themselves as being successful in the workforce. So it's a continuum, and it's so important that the organizations that are doing the device distribution. Those that are doing the basic skills and those of us that are doing the workforce, upskilling are talking to each other and sort of sharing our audiences, so that we are connecting the pipeline and creating a more diverse workforce overall. Does that make sense? Loved Jennifer's second comments because this confidence builder especially for the demographics that we all have the opportunity to support a confidence is a big it's a kind of deciding factor right whether folks see themselves in in terms of these equitable opportunities, job opportunities. And so, part of you know, our job at Calbright is not to just skill technically, but to up skill and promote. You know our students in in a way that allows them to see themselves in a successful career that will bring along, not just themselves, but their entire, their entire family right? And so that's really a core part of our counselors that are on board it, to provide those full kind of wrap around services, and it us connecting them to other public services that would help strengthen their experience at Calbright as well. That's vitally important. Now, I'd also like to call a little bit of attention to doing that work, plus also advocating for public sector careers right? And so we're working with a core partner and next Gen. policy, a big advocate in terms of equitable placed opportunities. We're working with them to stand up opportunity to really ensure that folks are prepared for public service careers as well right in in terms of having the full kind of protections, presentation, and others that that provides them a great opportunity on day one. And so whether that be by apprenticeships which we're pursuing, as well from a public sector standpoint, but also full time placement, so we're excited about that work, but I just wanted to second the comments about the confidence building a piece for all the players that are in the ecosystem knowing that it starts there also addressing, you know, some historical trauma that these communities have experience as well. Those are very important attributes that that really come along with the individual and so making sure that we have systems that incorporate those elements. Michael, thank you so much for not only sharing a comment, but building on comments and listening to the those that are

sharing before us to really kind of have this conversational piece, and thank you so much everyone for joining this community discussion. There is a lot of great information and really great conversation. But now we're going to pivot to the next slide, just really next steps with this outcome area working group is to really we're going to integrate the input that you've all shared, both from our out. Compare working groups, the regional workshops, the public survey and DEEM tool which we're going to cover shortly. We then connect a gap in analysis, and then develop recommendations for inclusion in the state digital equity plan. So I'm going to jump to the next slide with Maile from broadband equity partnership to really share and share some exciting news about both the digital equity ecosystem mapping tool and a digital Equity Survey. Thanks so much, Cole. Hi. Everyone. My name is Maile Martinez and I am with the broadband equity partnership, and I'm here to talk to you about 2 tools that we are using to catalog and capture the amazing work that's happening across the state to drive digital equity and inclusion. As I mentioned, I wanted to be talking about 2 tools today. The first is called the Digital Equity Ecosystem Mapping tool or DEEM tool. This tool is live, as you can see, on this slide, and I encourage you to utilize the QR code or the link on the slide to take a look at it today. This the audience for this tool is really a lot of the folks who are on this call. It's organizations, agencies. schools, libraries, and others that are driving digital equity and inclusion through unique programs. So we're trying to capture and catalog that work that's happening across the state we're trying to identify the programs that are being offered where they're being offered, and to whom and that will also help us to identify what's missing in each region. This is also going to help to identify barriers to achieving digital equity in every county across the state. So this tool, which again, the intended audience, is organizations and agencies it's called the DEEM tool. It's live now, and I encourage you to use the QR code or the link on the slide here, or we will be in the chat just a moment to check it out. This tool's been live for a little while now, and so far we have 163 responses. So we're tracking this closely. We know there's a tremendous amount of amazing work that's going on in this space across the state and with 160 responses. We're really not capturing it yet. You can also see on the right hand side of this slide there is a heat map of the State of California. Dark green counties, our counties, where we've had 11 or more respondents so far, and the red and orange counties are those we've had 0 or one respondent. So we're really looking for help in getting the word out about this survey. If you're on this call, we'd love to have you fill it out and also help us spread the word so we can get better representation from across every single county in the state so the call to action here is to please complete the DEEM tool couple of things I neglected to mention about it. It only takes about 10 minutes. It's available in English and Spanish. It's online and if you only have a couple of minutes to spend on it, even that is really helpful to just get the crucial information about your organization and the work that you're doing. So we really appreciate. You can 10 minutes if you can spare it, or one to 2, if that's all you've got. There's some resources on the slide. So just a couple of other things on this slide. Here we have a toolkit that can help you promote this resource to your networks and communities. So after you've completed the survey, you can open up the toolkit and

easily send an email to send it out to your networks. There's also a link on this slide to get to the Spanish version, if that's relevant for the communities that you serve. And then, finally, we also have a unique team tool for Internet service providers. So for the ISPs in your community we'd love to have you promote this tool to them as well. So we can capture the digital equity work that they are driving as well. So here I think it was mentioned like creating a platform where we can kind of catalog all of the work that folks are doing, and create an opportunity for folks to see what's going on. Ideally, that's how we're tracking responses to the digital equity ecosystem mapping tool, and that's one of the outputs that we're hoping to get to. And so you know, Michael Jennifer, Leo Kaitlyn Rene, you know, Laurie all of you folks who have these excellent and wonderful programs we would love to know capture those in the DEEM tool. Both the shape, the digital equity plan. You guys are examples of folks on this call, but others, and we're issuing the call to action across the state. We want to get as comprehensive as a scan as possible. You know we're California. We're very ambitious and not just get the workforce and economic development folks, but the education folks, the digital that we see inclusion, the health navigators that are really interested in moving in this space and capture that. So I know you're all busy folks, and we've asked a lot of your time in these meetings and in these workshops. But this is an important thing, that if you haven't, if you can fill it out, we really hope you do it. Thanks, Scott. So I was just talking about the DEEM tool, which again the audience, for that is, organizations and agencies. We are also very excited, because tomorrow we are going to be launching another tool, the digital equity online survey. This is a public tool, and it's open to and the audience is really households. So anyone in the State of California who uses the internet or wants to use the internet should can and should fill out this survey. As I said, it's going live tomorrow. So this is really a preview. The digital equity online circuit survey is mobile, friendly, so it can be done on a mobile phone. It's available in 14 languages, and for each of those languages we have built in audio functionality. So that means that people with low vision people with limited English or literacy in any of those 14 languages can access the tool and hear recordings of the question so that they can participate in it. It captures information about internet access affordability and internet adoption for residents in California households. And again, we could really use your help getting it out to the communities where you live at work, and the constituents that you reach, because we want to get a very comprehensive picture of folks experience with Robin and digital access across the state. Yeah. And I would just add my line that I part of a call to action here is that with the information we we'd like to get as many responses as possible. We're doing a phone survey, and that's going to be really scientific. But working through, you know, partners like you all through your networks, to your appliance, to your customers, to your constituents, really hoping to get the the voice of the residents in here, and not just identify the barriers but the needs. And there's some cool functionality in this survey as well. I did it on my mobile phone. It took me about 8 minutes, and I know Claudia was talking about the folks in most bottoms that didn't have the online connectivity. Like I said, it is accessible via mobile phone. And we do have an actually a speed test built into this. So to the extent you can encourage folks

you're working with to, you know. Do that. It's an open source speed test where folks get, you know, kicked over to another area, test their speeds and then enter them. And it's a lot of good, you know, regional and local data. It'll be hopeful for this thing to have the aggregated information. But it's, you know, information that once we test and verify it, we'll, you know, be willing to share some of that out with the regional local folks to help inform You know the digital equity, efforts and regions and areas as well. And I just saw a question in the chat about sharing out this information over email following this call. Yes, absolutely. You'll have access to all the links that you've seen on your screen, and we want to facilitate your both taking of these surveys and promotion of them to your community. So that is coming over email. With this, I think we'll go to a very quick demonstration of each of these tools. So we'll start with the Dean tool and this, again, is the tool that targets, organizations and agencies looking for them to share the share information about the programs and services that you offer when it comes to digital equity and inclusion and those that you could offer one thing. I just want to highlight about this. If you scroll up to the top quickly. There, this is where in the upper right hand corner you can easily switch from English to Spanish. So this still is available online in 2 languages and again, it takes about 10 min to fill out, and if you spend, if you only have time for the first page. This is extremely helpful for us, but we encourage you to do the whole thing and help us spread the word about this tool to other agencies and organizations across the state. and then I think we can quickly move to the other tool, which is again, this is a preview. So this public survey, which takes about 10 min, it's going to go live tomorrow. and as you can see in the upper hand corner you can choose from 14 languages. And one of the really great things about this tool is that, in addition to the written instructions and questions in those 14 languages. There's also audio. Thank you. The user can select the play button. And here an audio recording of the questions and answer options, whether on their mobile phone or on their laptop or desktop. So again, we'll be sharing via email as a follow up all the links resources that link to the toolkits to promote these tools and we really appreciate your help, both in taking the surveys and promoting them. And I'd also like to open the floor. I saw in the chat that there's some folks who have already participated, and have been spreading the word, which we of course very much appreciate, and we'd love to hear your feedback about your experience with the DEEM tool so far with that's the only one that's live. We'll be asking for your feedback on the public survey when it goes live, too. So anything to share about your experience using the DEEM tool? I thought it was great that it took me longer than 10 minutes, because we offer multiple services, and I ended up. There were a couple of places where we pick too many boxes, and it was we ended up entering the same information. So that was the only if it's some way to shortcut that that would be helpful. But otherwise it was really simple, straightforward, easy to use, and a nice interface I have a question about the survey. So, as I mentioned before, this is Anisa from IRC in San Diego we have different departments that that offer different types of services, and some of them don't overlap. Would it be useful for each department, even though it's the same organization. Maile I think, and correct me if I'm wrong, I know Rich as on the voices feeling heard today, the there's a pre read on the

broadband for all portal Anisa for organizations like yours that might have multiple entities or multiple programs. And I believe you can just you could pre print that out and kind of you know assign one person to kind of, you know, track everything down that you want to report out, and then submit it all as one and potentially link out to the programs. Rich? Did I get that right? Yes, thanks, Scott and Anisa, I just wanted to add, but if you produce annual reports that include information about your program. We've got an option for you to just upload those annual reports, and we can filter that information as well. so that would really help us. Whatever reports that you have just go ahead and share them with us. Well, we welcome any additional feedback or questions about both the DEEM tool and the digital equity online survey when it goes live. And we really appreciate your partnership and help and participating in them and getting the word out about them. So thank you. I'm wondering. Do we want to talk about one of the things that I believe you guys built into the to the latest iteration of the DEEM tool is like we heard at the top. I believe it was bit wise, they said. hey, we've got this great, you know, partner in Courtice salute that we're working with. There's also an ability for, like an umbrella organization or a larger organization to submit information on behalf of a partner organization. Is that correct? So if you are a larger organization and you work with smaller entities, you can actually fill out the DEEM tool on behalf of those smaller entities. We understand that small nonprofits sometimes don't have the bandwidth to do this, and so, if you can help with your partner entities that would be amazing. That would be super helpful. So just a reiteration of the next steps, and we have a upcoming state digital as we planning events, both virtual and in person. These are the next virtual of it, both statewide digital planning group meetings and the outcome pair of working group meetings in June and in July and October next slide. Additionally, these are in person events, and we've had about 8 to 9 that we've already done, and they've been across the state all the way up to Eureka, all the way down to San Diego we look forward to joining you in your region, and meeting you in person. They've been super fun, and, like I see in the conference, super excited about the collaboration. These are the been awesome and fun in that way. Reiteration of the calls to action really putting out the call to complete the digital equity ecosystem mapping tool. It sounds like a lot of you have super appreciative. Continue those for those that have not. They are both in the chat and on the portal brought in for all portal, and you'll receive information in a follow up email with links. When we do have the digital equity, public survey live tomorrow. Please fill it up yourself, share it with your friends, your family, your networks. We will send not only toolkits with social media, collateral, but also information for you to share out to your networks participate in the next outcome area working group. And please attend a planning workshop in the region we'd love to meet you in person. With that, here's some contact information. Thank you so much for joining us, for today's May outcome area working group meeting. The next workforce and economic Development Outcome meeting will be on June fourteenth at 2 to 3 Pm. Please stay involved in the process. You can visit us at the broadband for all portal to sign up for our email newsletter and thank you for your continued engagement. Lively participation today in

our outcome area working group, really appreciative and we look forward to you to joining more of our state's digital equity planning efforts. With that we will say Thank you