State Digital Equity Plan & Digital Equity Capacity Grant Program
Stakeholder Briefing
March 28, 2025
11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Meeting Minutes and Transcript

The State Digital Equity Plan (SDEP) and Digital Equity Capacity Grant (DECG) Program Stakeholder Briefing met virtually on Friday, March 28, 2025, at 2:00 p.m. Engagement and Operations Manager Anh Nguyen welcomed attendees and instructed them to introduce themselves in the Zoom Chatbox with their name, job title, and affiliated organization.

Housekeeping

Engagement and Operations Manager Anh Nguyen reviewed a few housekeeping items for attendees to participate in the conversation and have the best participation experience throughout the meeting. ASL interpreters were available throughout the meeting. Closed captioning was provided as an option for attendees throughout the meeting.

Agenda

Ms. Anh Nguyen briefly provided an overview of the SDEP & DECG Program Stakeholder Briefing agenda. Deputy Director Scott Adams will share welcome remarks and highlight key milestones of the SDEP and DE Capacity Grant Program thus far. Principal of Broadband Equity Partnership, Shawn Daugherty will present on SDEP & Capacity Grant Program Design & Federal Expectations. Principal of Broadband Equity Partnership Alex Banh will discuss Modifications to the CalDEP Guidelines/Public Comment. And Broadband Administrative Manager James will discuss the CalDEP Technical Assistance Program. Finishing the meeting with the next steps will be presented by Engagement and Operations Manager Anh Nguyen.

Agenda Item 1 – Welcome & Recap

Deputy Director Scott Adams of the California Department of Technology (CDT) Office of Broadband & Digital Literacy welcomed attendees. He first provided a recap of past SDEP and DE Capacity Grant Program milestones since receiving the Planning Grant in 2022. Mr. Adams then closed out his portion of the presentation with an overview of the metrics of engagement that informed the California Digital Equity Program (CalDEP) design, including 8 SDEP

Implementation and Digital Equity Capacity Grant Program Stakeholder Briefings, 2 Surveys and Questionnaires, 124 Market Research Meetings, and 22 Presentations at Stakeholders' Convenings, Conferences, and Summits.

Discussion

No attendees came off of mute to ask questions, and there were no questions from the Q&A Box.

Agenda Item 2 – SDEP & Capacity Grant Program Design & Federal Expectations

Ms. Shawn Daugherty, Principal of Broadband Equity Partnership, began her presentation with the Focus of the State Digital Equity Plan, recapping the 8 covered populations, 7 key SDEP activities, and the 6 outcome areas. Ms. Daughtery then provided an overview of the SDEP and Capacity Grant Program purpose and principles, including the NTIA's Capacity Grant overarching goal and the SDEP goals and state policy outcomes that will be advanced through the California Digital Equity Program (CalDEP). Ms. Daugherty also provided the State's Digital Equity Capacity Grant Centralized Services and Inclusion Efforts with examples quoted from the SDEP. Ms. Shawn Daugherty concluded her presentation with reviewing the two funding tracks for CalDEP as well as highlighting some allowable uses of CalDEP.

Discussion

Access & Deployment Advisor Maria Kelly moderated the Discussion sessions, starting with those with their hands raised on Zoom, and then those received via the Q&A and Chat box. The presenters proceeded to address questions.

There were many questions that came in through the Q&A and Chat box, but no attendees came off of mute to ask questions.

Agenda Item 3 – Modifications to Subgrant Program Guidelines/Public Comment

Mr. Alex Banh, Principal of Broadband Equity Partnership, began his presentation by going into detail regarding overall themes for Grant Administration and Eligibility, Program Details, and Allowable Costs. For each main theme, Mr. Banh shared a detailed description as well as the status of the modifications to the CalDEP Grant Guidelines by indicating whether the modifications were changed due to public comments or guidance from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA).

Discussion

Access & Deployment Advisor Maria Kelly moderated the Discussion sessions, starting with those with their hands raised on Zoom, and then those received via the Q&A and Chat box. The presenters proceeded to address questions.

There were many questions that came in through the Q&A and Chat box, and two meeting attendees raised their hands and came off mute to ask questions:
- William Cooper, The Becoming Project INC.
- Shelby Arthur, Broadband Consortium of the Pacific Coast

Agenda Item 4 – CalDEP Technical Assistance Program

Mr. James Spencer, Broadband Administrative Manager at CDT's Office of Broadband and Digital Literacy, provided further information regarding the Digital Equity Capacity Subgrant / CalDEP Technical Assistance Program. He shared the program components being developed to support digital equity capacity subgrant applicants. These program components include written resources, webinars and video content, partnership coordination, office hours, and Q&A cycles. Mr. Spencer then provided a brief overview of the CalDEP Landing Page and Partnership Coordination Resource for CalDEP Page, each has screenshots, QR codes, and an overview of the content found on the pages. Lastly, Mr. James Spencer gave a live demo of the CalDEP Landing Page and Partnership Coordination Resource on the Broadband for All Portal, as well as giving a live demo of the google sheet that will house the information. The Partnership Coordination Resource is a tool that applicants may use to identify other organizations they might wish to partner with on an application. Mr. Spencer also noted that this is completely optional and submitting this information will not affect your chances for application submissions. He highlighted that the form should only be completed by eligible entities that are seeking to be leads or partner with leads on CalDEP application.

Discussion

Access & Deployment Advisor Maria Kelly moderated the Discussion sessions, starting with those with their hands raised on Zoom, and then those received via the Q&A and Chat box. The presenters proceeded to address questions.

There were many questions that came in through the Q&A and Chat box, but no attendees came off of mute to ask questions.

Agenda Item 5 – Timeline & Next Steps

Anh Nguyen, Engagement and Operations Manager at CDT's Office of Broadband and Digital Literacy, began her presentation by providing

stakeholder engagement next steps, which includes public meetings such as the California Broadband Council and Middle-Mile Advisory Committee, stakeholder briefings and webinars, Statewide Implementation Group (SIG), Outcome Area Communities of Practice, Broadband for All Portal, as well as Broadband for All email updates. Ms. Nguyen also shared a few highlights of submissions from stakeholders that were included in the Broadband for All Monthly Email Update and made a Call for Community Spotlight submissions from stakeholders. Ms. Nguyen concluded her presentation with a tentative timeline that included key dates for NTIA State DECG Administration, Stakeholder Engagement, Post-Award NTIA State DECG Requirements, CalDEP Application & Award Process, and CalDEP Technical Assistance.

Discussion

Access & Deployment Advisor Maria Kelly moderated the Discussion sessions, starting with those with their hands raised on Zoom, and then those received via the Q&A and Chat box. The presenters proceeded to address questions.

There were many questions that came in through the Q&A and Chat box, but no attendees came off of mute to ask questions.

Deputy Director Scott Adams thanked attendees and presenters for joining the briefing meeting. The meeting adjourned at 1:09 p.m.

(The recording and presentation slides from the meeting will be posted on the Broadband for All portal.)

Transcript

Good morning, everyone! Let's wait a second for folks to join from the waiting room, and we'll start shortly. Okay, looks like we got a critical mass. Let's begin. Good morning and welcome to the March 28th Stakeholder Briefing. Also, the California Digital Equity Program (CalDEP) Request for Applications Launch Webinar. On behalf of the State of California and the Office of Broadband and Digital Literacy and the Department of Technology, we thank you for being here. We will begin the meeting shortly. Please use the chat box to share your name, job, title, and affiliated organization as more folks are coming in. Before we begin a few housekeeping items. Next slide, please. This meeting is being recorded. We will be posting the recording of this meeting, the slides and transcripts to the Broadband for All portal. A team member will post the link in the chat. Presenters, please cue Amanda to advance your slides. Viewers, please select side by side speaker mode for the best viewing experience when slides are shared and visibility of our ASL interpreters. Closed captioning is

available. Please select CC or closed caption on the bottom toolbar and select show subtitle. For Q&A, please note that there is time allocated at the end of each agenda item for questions. Please use the Q&A box to type in your questions related to that portion of the agenda while presenter is presenting. OBDL's Access and Deployment Advisor, Maria Kelly, will facilitate the Q&A. Please use the raise your hand button or icon on Zoom, or star 9, if you're calling in by phone, our team will elevate you and request that you come off mute or video. Feel free to turn on your mic and turn on your video at that time. Just a note, we will temporarily turn off the chat while the presenters are speaking, so that no questions are lost in the chat. Chat will be available when prompted. So, let's get started. First, I would like to introduce OBDL Deputy Director Scott Adams.

Thank you, Anh! And thank you everybody! As Anh said, my name is Scott Adams. I am the Deputy Director of the Office in Broadband and Digital Literacy. We're very pleased to have you join us for this March Stakeholder Briefing in the California Digital Equity Program Launch Webinar. We specifically appreciate your partnership and input in designing this critical program to support the implementation of the State Digital Equity Plan and thank you for helping us achieve this important milestone of launching the Request for Application period. Next slide, please. So, today's meeting is going to be slightly different than our other briefings because we're in an open solicitation process. Our agenda is going to cover the following grant guidelines and requests for applications Technical Assistance. We'll do a live demo of the CalDEP web pages and application portal, and we'll go over the timeline in the closing portion. We request that after each agenda item that you ask questions related to the content discussed. We'll endeavor to answer your questions as best we can. We're only going to answer question on these topics, and we'll respond to or answer questions on specific scenarios or application concepts. There will be time also to answer general questions at the end of the webinar.
Next slide, please. So, to provide context, I think we all know that the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act created 3 funding pools for digital equity, the State Digital Equity planning grant, the Capacity Grant and the Competitive Grants. The Digital Equity Planning grant was for states to develop their State Digital Equity Plan. The Capacity Grant provided funding to states to implement the Digital Equity Plan. And we want to make sure we center this conversation because we know there are some folks who may be new to the conversation. Next slide, please. So, we did want to recap our journey and highlight some specific milestones. 2022 was the application period where we received the planning grant. 2023 was largely when, you know, we had an extensive statewide effort to plan and develop this State Digital Equity Plan that included 20 regional workshops and consultations and a number of surveys and other things. In the second quarter of 2024, the State Digital Equity Capacity Grant application was submitted to the NTIA. Really, between the second quarter of

2024, and the 1st quarter of 2025, we embarked on a fairly extensive effort on SDEP Implementation, but also designing the structure of the Capacity Grant in CalDEP program. We will note that in that time period, we did receive an award of 70.2 million for the Digital Equity Capacity Grant, the performance period of which began on December 1st of last year. And then this week, part of the reason why we're all here on the subject of this webinar is really to celebrate and announce the launch of the Digital Equity Program, which is the sub grant program. Next slide, please. We did want to highlight that the Capacity Grant Program and structure really derived from the planning process and was included in the digital equity plan and further, refined with your input, and that's really the NTIA is providing the funding to implement the plan. The Department of Technology is the grant recipient and administrating entity. And we're dividing the funding into 3 different buckets: centralized services or tools and resources to support subgrantees to conduct activities in alignment with the Digital Equity Plan. Some targeted state agency decision efforts that would focus on specific covered populations and specific outcomes that we must deliver on as part of the digital equity plan and our expectations and commitments to the NTIA. And then the last bucket is where we're placing the largest pool of funding which is in the CalDEP program, which is the subgrants, the entities and coalitions to implement the digital equity plan regionally and locally and throughout the state, really focusing on digital navigation, digital literacy training amongst other things. Next slide. We did want to underscore, again, the metrics of engagement here is that this decision has not been made in a vacuum. In fact, we're very thankful to have your input and feedback along the way over the last 9 months, through our 9 Stakeholder Briefings, our 2 program design questionnaires, the over 100 market research meetings and listening sessions and the presentations and other convenings that we've attended. We also wanted to note that the Request for Application was put out for formal public comment, and we've endeavored where we could, to incorporate your feedback into the final RFA, while making sure we're focusing on our commitments and expectations to the NTIA and being consistent and staying within Federal and State guidelines. Next slide, please. So, there is one loop we wanted to close with you and highlight and it's relating to the program budget. The slide you see here represents the initial budget that we submitted to the NTIA in our application and this was really, you know, taking what we knew and knowing that in interactions with stakeholders that we would revise and refine the budget. I think what's important to note is that in the dialog box in the right-hand corner that represents the Federal not to exceed cost limits that are in the NOFO, and the costs are in the grant agreement. And so, there is 3% for administration of the grant, 5% for evaluation, 10% for subsidies that we're not directly funding, given the state of our size and then 20% to update and maintain the Digital Equity Plan which is going to be critical at this time, given that there's a new administration, and there may be some new guidance at the Federal level. We would want to note that even our initial budget endeavored

to, you know, while we kept the administration evaluation, you know, at the limit. We anticipated that we would use less on updating and maintaining the digital equity plan than the 20% allowed. If you go to the next slide, please. We wanted to share with you that after our market research and your input throughout the process, we have a revised budget. I think the important thing you can see is that the orange pie wedge there, we are... have increased the allocation we're going to be putting into the California Digital Equity Program to 50 million dollars of the total grant which equals 71% of the funding that we received. And you'll hear later on today, we found an additional...not found, but we added an additional 5 million that will go directly to the Track1 application pool. You'll see there is a 2-million-dollar allocation up at the top in the sort of dark blue. That's a limited state agency digital inclusion effort that we're considering. And then I think, more importantly, when you look at the green wedge which is centralized services, I believe, we've significantly reduced that from our initial projection and a lot of the funding that we put into Track 1 came from that. So that's really the update here. We can move on to the next slide. We know this is an important day. We've all been working to this point. We know there's a lot of excitement, a lot of questions. I'm happy to answer any before we move on to the next segment.

Thank you, Scott! Reiterating Anh's welcome and there will be plenty of opportunity to ask questions throughout. Happy to entertain a question on any of Scott's slides, and we can always ask them later as well. Scott, we don't have any initial questions in Q&A or chat, or any hands raised. So, I think we can move on while people think about what they might want to ask us after our next section

That's great!

Sorry, forgot to introduce you, Alex, and pass this off to Alex Banh from Broadband Equity Partnership.

Thanks, Maria! So, as Maria mentioned, I'm Alex with Broadband Equity Partnership. It's my pleasure to provide an overview of the California Digital Equity Program, or CalDEP, and provide some details on the grant guidelines and Request for Applications that was posted earlier this week, as Scott mentioned. Next slide, please. So, starting with some background and principles for the CalDEP program, this program is funded through the State Digital Equity Capacity Grant that was awarded to California from the NTIA, as Scott mentioned. And these grants are designed to help states implement their State Digital Equity Plans, or SDEP for short, through projects that will focus on serving the aid covered populations, produce long lasting and meaningful change, have measurable implementation strategies and incorporate ongoing stakeholder engagement for ongoing input and feedback. So, you know, with

that framing in mind, the CalDEP is designed to help advance goals 2 and 3 in the State Digital Equity Plan, as well as to help the State advance its policy outcomes. So, just taking a look at some of the goals within the SDEP, there are 3 overarching goals for digital equity in California. Goal 1 focuses on ensuring all Californians have high performance broadband available at home schools, libraries, and businesses. This goal and its corresponding objectives will be addressed through the continued build out of existing Broadband for All investments, as well as the Broadband Equity Access and Deployment, or BEAD funded projects that are, you know, administered by the CPUC. So, Goal 1 is not going to be a focus of the CalDEP. CalDEP is going to focus on investing Goal 2, which is all Californians having access to affordable broadband and necessary devices as well as Goal 3, all Californians having access to training and support to enable digital inclusion. Next slide, please. So, just wanted to share more about the areas of focus within California State Digital Equity Plan.

All state digital equity plans are required to focus on aid covered populations. This is something that is defined in the Digital Equity Act. So, these 8 covered populations are individuals living in covered households. So, these are individuals and households with incomes at or below 150% of the Federal poverty level, as well as aging individuals, incarcerated individuals, veterans, individuals with disabilities, individuals with language barriers, members of racial or ethnic minority groups and individuals who primarily reside in rural areas. So, the State Digital Equity Plan had to identify barriers to digital equity and establish baselines for, you know, where each of these 8 cover populations are related to different digital equity objectives and to address, you know, these barriers and help the state reach its goals. The SDEP defines 7 key activities. So, these activities include things like convenings, digital equity data and mapping and developing digital inclusion tools and best practices. And you know, the one highlighted here is it also included a development of Digital Equity Capacity Subgrant Program, which is what the CalDEP is. So, in addition to addressing these barriers and advancing the goals that we mentioned, these activities are also meant to improve outcomes in 6 different key areas. So, these are education, health, digital literacy and inclusion, essential services, accessibility and civic engagement workforce and economic development and tribal collaboration. So yeah, steps are meant to be a very holistic plan that combines both digital equity goals and outcomes in these broader areas. Next slide, please. So going into what the CalDEP is and what it's going to focus on. Obviously, it's going to help the state implement the statewide digital equity plan through funding different entities. You know, through these sub grants, funded entities will help address digital equity barriers at the local, regional and statewide level. These subgrants are going to help develop ecosystems and increase capacity as well as provide funding for digital inclusion activities from trusted messengers. This program is designed to allocate funding across every county in California, as well as encourage statewide innovation. Next slide, please. Here are some allowable uses. You'll find a lot more information on this in the RFA. And we also

have an additional Technical Assistance document that focuses on allowable uses, but at a high level. Allowable uses of the CalDEP are for entities to develop local digital equity plans, implement broadband adoption campaigns, digital navigation services, digital literacy and skills training targeted device distribution programs as well as workforce development training and apprenticeship programs. We do want to note that in the RFA there's also a Section 7.2 on different funding restrictions and included in these funding restrictions is a prohibition on construction and infrastructure projects that reflects. You know the point stated earlier about how Goal 1 and broadband availability. Projects are going to be addressed through existing Broadband for All, and BEAD funded projects. Next slide, please. So here are some of the eligible entities and eligibility requirements of the CalDEP. First off, all applicants and entities receiving funding, so both the lead applicant or the lead subgrantee, as well as any second tier subgrantee organizations need to belong to one of the federally defined eligible entity categories. So, these include, or these are number one, political subdivision agencies or instrumentalities of the State. Two: Indian tribes or native Hawaiian organizations. Three: foundations, corporations, institutions, or associations that are not for profit entities and not schools. Four: community anchor institutions. So, this category community anchor institutions, or CAIs for short, actually includes a number of different entity types. So, we would refer you to the RFA section 3, and definitions to see what different entities belong to the CAI category - so that's number 4. Number 5 are local educational agencies, and 6 are entities that carry out a workforce development program. So, in addition to these 6, folks can also apply as a partnership between any of these 6 entities, and we also wanted to call out that in California we know there are a number of regional broadband consortia that have done a lot of broadband and digital inclusion related work. Broadband consortia can be eligible for the CalDEP if they belong to one of these, you know, 7 eligible entity categories. In addition to belonging to one of these categories, entities must have an active UEI number, a Unique Entity Identification number from sam.gov, as well as EIN Employer Identification Number from the IRS and submit more than one letter of intent and letter of support. We'll be providing more information on letters of intended letter of support later in this presentation. Next slide, please. All right, so let's get into the funding tracks and the types of programs the CalDEP is designed to fund. So CalDEP consists of 2 different funding tracks to focus on ecosystem development at the regional, local or targeted statewide levels. So, Track 1 is focusing on regional and local ecosystem development. This track provides funding to entities for planning as well as capacity and includes a total funding pool of 43 million. So, Track 1 is going to provide subgrants to entities to develop and refine regional and local digital equity plans. And once these plans are in place, provide capacity to implement digital activities, either directly, you know, through that lead applicant or lead subgrantee themselves, or through second tier subgrants. In this track there is a formula allocation that is going to be provided to every county, geographic, boundary. And CDT will only

award one application per county funding allocation. So, really want to encourage one lead applicant per county, applying on behalf of a partnership of a variety of interested entities, who, you know, are either serve covered populations, or work on digital equity, to apply together for that one county boundary. Certainly, a lead applicant may also partner with entities across multiple counties to submit one regional application for multiple county funding allocations. So, if awarded, this one lead applicant organization would receive a subgrant to serve, you know, more than one county. And the lead applicant can also make second tier subgrants to other eligible entities to do more, perhaps community-based work or focus work, you know, throughout the county. So that's Track 1, you know, focus there is on regional and local ecosystems. Track 2, can we go back, please? Track 2 is focusing on targeted statewide ecosystem. So, Track 2 focuses on statewide ecosystem development as well as planning and innovation. And this track has a total funding pool of 7 million. So subgrants within this track are for entities to serve a specific outcome area, one of those 6 that we looked at earlier, or a specific cover population. And CDT plans to only award the highest scoring application for a given outcome area or cover population to ensure adequate distribution of funds across outcome areas and cover populations. Applicants within this track must include a plan to support, coordinate, or share best practices with track one subgrantees. So really the idea is as Track 2 subgrantees do this work at the statewide level, we want to ensure that the lessons learned, and the innovations are making an impact at the local and regional levels as well through coordination with Track 1 subgrantees. And finally, like Track 1, lead applicants in Track 2 can make a second tier subgrants to other eligible entities. Next slide, please. So here we just want to take a look at the formula that was used for those county allocations in Track 1, you know, as mentioned before, every county geographic boundary is receiving a formula allocation. You can read more about this in the RFA. But this formula used the formula within the Digital Equity Act as a starting point, the Digital Equity Act formula was used by NTIA to allocate funding for the planning the State digital equity planning grant as well as the State Digital Equity Capacity Grant to every single state in the nation. And this formula defined that 50% of State's allocation is going to be based on the size of their total population. 25% of their allocation is going to be based on the size of their total cover populations. And 25% is based on their comparative lack of broadband availability and adoption relative to other states. And in addition to those percentages, every State is insured a minimum allocation of 0 point 5% of the total funding pool. So, using that as a starting point, and you know, using the stakeholder engagement that was conducted, and the feedback that we received from the stakeholder engagement that was conducted last year, as Scott mentioned, through things like other briefings, the questionnaire that went out to stakeholders as well as the public comment process - we made some modifications to this formula to really fit the needs and the goals of the CalDEP program and address the requirements, you know, set

forth by the NTIA. So, the major change is, you know, based on this feedback and based on this look at NTIA alignment, we removed total population from the formula. So, 75% of a county's geographic boundary is going to be based on the size of their total covered populations. And that really reflects the focus of this program to serve the 8 covered populations. The rest of it is very similar. So, 25% of a county's allocation is going to be based on that county's comparative lack of broadband availability and adoption relative to other counties as geographic boundaries, and every county geographic boundaries ensured a minimum allocation of 0 point 5% of the total funding pool. As Scott mentioned, we released a draft of the Grant guidelines for public comment last year, and there was, you know, a preliminary version of allocations within that draft. We just want to point out that, given that, we were able to increase the total funding pool for Track 1 by 5 million overall, this represents a 13% increase for the entire Track 1 funding pool. And when you look at allocations at the county level, on average, this represents a 14% increase. And then for counties receiving the minimum allocation, they are going to receive a 25,000-increase compared to the preliminary allocations in the draft grant guidelines. Next slide, please? So yeah, we just want to you know, just take a second to showcase the CalDEP grant guidelines and Request for Applications and all the associated materials, the Technical Assistance materials, the supplemental materials, the application package materials that have now been added to the Broadband for All portal. So, you know, you can please visit this portal. You can go to this QR code. We'll also post the link later to review all these materials. We have an open application period that has now started. The period started on Wednesday, March 26th and it's going to go all the way to May 30th. So, May 30th, before midnight is going to be the deadline for submitting your applications really want to encourage folks to, you know, fully review all the grant guidelines, the RFA and all the associated materials on the Broadband for All portal. And you know, if you have any additional questions please feel to reach out. We're going to talk more about Technical Assistance later, and once you're ready to submit your application, make sure you use the online application portal to do the submission. We want to stress that only applications submitted via the online portal will be accepted. So, you know, no email submissions, no mail submissions, has to be through the online application portal. Next slide, please. So, when you review the grant guidelines and the RFA, you'll see that it's broken down into 12 sections. There's a section for program background, one on goals of the program one on all the definitions. There's a section on eligible eligibility for applicants as well as eligible use of funds and the program requirements; there's a section on who this benefits. Section 7 is for allocation and award formula. So, this is where you're going to find the county allocations as well as the Track 2 allocation and some more information on the funding restrictions in section 7.2. Section 8 is the all the information on the application requirements and the submission information and process. Section 9 is about the review process and the selection and selection details and

information. Section 10 is information on post award expectations for applicants that are awarded and selected to be subgrantees. And then section 11 provides more information on our application, question and answer process as well as our Technical Assistance process, and my colleagues will provide more information on that later in this presentation. Finally, section 12 is the schedule of activities. Want to also note here that we have a section 13 for Addenda. Right now, this section is empty, but if there are any material changes that need to be made to the RFA all those changes will be posted here. Next slide, please. Alright so, just wanted to highlight the main components of the application package. You know. Please refer to the RFA and the application portal for the full list of requirements, but you know these are just a sample of some of the main documents and pieces of information that will need to be submitted. So, first, we have the application form right. This is like the overall structure of your application - this is the main application form, with all the narrative questions, all the required information fields that you'll need to submit, and all the questions in this application form are included in the RFA in Section 8. And we also produced an application guidance workbook, which is an Excel-based workbook that provides all the questions as well as some additional guidance, for you know, what a model application would look like to respond to that question and provide some space for drafting your response to each question. Again, want to stress that the application guidance workbook is meant for drafting and reference purposes only. The final application must be submitted through the application portal. So, this is the application portal is going to contain an online form where you'll see every single question you know, from the RFA and from the guidance workbook in that form. Next, we have evidence certifying eligible entity status. So, as mentioned earlier, there are a number of federally defined categories that applicants must belong to in order to be eligible for funding, and we are requiring applicants to submit documentation, to show that they belong to that eligible entity category. So, these documents could include an organization's 501(c)(3)designation, their, you know, organization charter, their, you know, city or county charter, etc. We produced a list of example documents certifying eligible entity status in the Technical Assistance page for some additional examples for each one of those federally defined categories. So, this will also need to be uploaded to the portal. Next, we have a budget form. This is an excel based template for detailing all budget information. This will be downloaded as part of the application package from the portal and must be completed and uploaded as part of your application in the application portal.

Same thing with the partnership form. This is another excel based template for detailing out all the information on each partner or supportive stakeholder in the application, you know, will also be part of the download that you make from the CalDEP portal and completed and uploaded as part of your application in the application portal. Every application is required to submit

more than one letter of intent or letter of support. So, letters of intent are letters from partners to express their intent to participate in or collaborate on or contribute to the activities in the application, and letters of support are letters coming from stakeholders to more express general support and endorsement for the application. Either way, more than one letter is required as part of your application and must be uploaded as well to the application portal. Want to note here that as part of the Technical Assistance page, we do have word-based templates to provide examples and some structure, for, you know, a sample letter of intent and letter of support. Finally, there are a couple of standard Federal financial assistance forms and documentation that need to be submitted. The first one is the CD511 - this is certification regarding lobbying. This is required for all applicants. Next, we have the standard form LLL, and this is disclosure of lobbying activities. This is only required if you meet certain requirements, so please take a look at, you know, when you would need to fill it, fill out and submit a standard form LLL, there's some more information on the RFA as well as within the CD511 to guide you on that. So, if the standard form LLL belongs or applies to you, please make sure you complete and upload that as part of your application.

And finally, you can upload a copy of your NICRA, your negotiated indirect cost rate agreement as part of your application. If you are budgeting for using a NICRA indirect rate in your budget form. If you don't have a NICRA, don't worry about this, you can take the de minimis indirect cost rate of 15% and modify total direct cost. More information on that, again, in the RFA. Next slide, please. All right, just want to end with a look at the review process and some of the minimum requirements and scoring process that will be applied to each track. So, for Track 1 right, first we have an administrative review step where we're going to look at every single application and ensure that that application contains all the required information and was submitted by the deadline. We're going to ensure that the lead applicant is a verified eligible entity with an active UEI number, and that more than one letter of intent or letter of support from partners or stakeholders within the geographic scope of the application was submitted. So, if multiple applicants pass the minimum requirement step and they are all applying to serve the same county, we are going to move to a technical review stage where applications are going to be scored according to these evaluation metrics, to pick the best application for that given county's funding allocation. So, these metrics start with a category that includes need, purpose, and benefits. This category is worth up to 30 points; this includes a look at the applications plan for reaching cover populations within that county or region. It's going to look at how that application prioritizes covered households and maximizes opportunities for intersectionality and the ability of that applicant and application to demonstrate support from regional or local digital equity ecosystems through letters of intent or letters of support. The next category is the strength of the applicant's organizational capacity. This category is also worth

up to 30 points. We're going to look at the lead applicants, experience with managing large initiatives, managing grants, or even making grants or subgrants, if those are proposed. We'll look at the applicant team's experience in serving cover populations within that county or multi-county region as well as the team's experience in Digital Equity or Digital Inclusion, planning or programming. And finally, we'll look at the robustness of the partnership strategy presented, including how diverse, and, you know, how much of a reach across the region or the county the partners or stakeholders included, have. Next, we'll look at the strength of the proposed timeline and budget. This category is also worth up to 30 points. We'll take a look at the soundness of the proposed activities. How realistic the timelines and milestones are, how feasible and efficient the budget is as well as the applications overall assess, you know, our assessment of the application's overall sustainability and likelihood of long-term impact. Finally, there's a category on application administration. This is worth up to 10 points. We'll look at the thoroughness of the application as well as compliance with application. Instructions. Next slide, please.

So that was Track 1. Here's the process for scoring and review of Track 2. It's very similar, but some differences to reflect the more statewide and targeted outcome area and target population scope of Track 2. So, the first 2 steps of the minimum requirements are the same, you know, again, looking at completeness and submission by deadline as well as verification of eligible entity, and having an active UEI, but for the letters of intent letters of support for Track 2, we'll want to make sure that these letters, more than one letter submitted from partners or stakeholders from across the State.

After applications pass minimum requirements, it's going to move on to technical review where we're going to score them. According to these evaluation metrics, again, very similar, but just some slight differences reflecting the difference in scope. So, for need, purpose, and benefits some differences here are, we're going to look at justification for the applications proposed targeted statewide ecosystem. So, you know why that outcome area, or why that cover population would be better served in statewide ecosystems rather than regional or local ecosystems. We're also going to look at how well the application addresses Digital Equity needs and barriers for their specified cover, population or outcome area. The number of covered populations that will be proposed to be served as well as individuals that will benefit. How effectively this application advances the SDEP goals and objectives for the cover populations. How much it will benefit cover populations in diverse regions of the State and ability to demonstrate support from the Statewide Digital Equity ecosystem through the letters and center letter of support. For strength of applicants, organizational capacity, this is mostly the same again. But we do want to highlight that we'll be looking at the team's experience in serving covered populations in diverse regions of the State. As well as the robustness of the

partnership strategy presented, including diversity and statewide reach of partners, and the coordination plan with the Track 1 subgrantees at the regional local level. So, there's going to be a question, you know, asking Track 2 applicants to describe their plan for coordination, sharing best practices, etc., with Track 1 subgrantees. Strength of proposed timeline and budget again mostly the same. The only difference is for the sustainability and likelihood of long-term impact evaluation metric will be also looking at any innovation or innovative aspects of the application and the ability of that application to leverage additional funding. And then application administration is the same, you know, looking at their ownness of application and compliance with application instructions. Next slide, please. So, a quick or semi-quick overview of the entire RFA and the CalDEP program. again, please make sure you review the grant guidelines and the RFA online for full details and all the information for the program. I'll just close with a look at the schedule of activities coming up. So again, RFA, open March 26th, it's going to close May 30th at 11:59 pm Pacific. Between opening and close we're going to hold 2 office hours, one on April 16th at 2pm and one on May 7th at 2 pm. And then we've already begun collecting questions. If you have any additional questions, please make sure to submit it through the email that you'll find on the portal, and the deadline to submit questions is on May 9th at 5pm. And we'll provide some more information on the question and answer process a little bit later. So, once the RFA closes, we're expecting a about 2-and-a-half-month application review and selection process, so from June 2nd to August 15th. And once CDT makes its selections, these selections and recommendations for award need to be submitted to NTIA for final approval before we can actually make the awards, so planning to submit those on or before August 30th and that's it. Happy to take any questions

Thank you, Alex. We'll pause for just a moment so we can catch our breath - it's a lot of information. We have a lot of questions from the Q&A. Some of the general questions we'll take at the end. We'll try to cover the questions right now that are relevant to what the information that Alex presented. And initially, there were some just some reassurance questions. And I'm going to loop some of these together. The county allocation formulas are published in the RFA, correct?

Yes. Please refer to section 7 for those.

And the partnership coordination directions for nonprofit seeking partnerships is included where?

Can folks provide more information on what they're looking for? As far as partnership directions?

They're trying...the question was specifically related is, how do they find partners? Are we doing anything to support partnership development?

Yeah. I would suggest that we cover that topic in James' session where he goes over the Partnership Collaboration Resource. I think that addresses, in response to that question.

And definitions, there's a section for definitions. There's a question around, definitions for the covered populations in the RFA.

Yup that, those are all defined in section 3, and they are in alignment with the definitions in the NTIA materials, and NTIA guidance.

Thank you. And again, some of these are clarified in the RFA. And I'll just call some of them out here, even though we know that they're there clarifying that track, the difference between track one and track 2, some of the information you presented Alex does Track 1 serve all the covered populations and Track 2 is for specific populations.

Yeah. So, the biggest difference is track one is for regional and local ecosystems. We, there are a number of eligible uses and program requirements that I encourage folks to take a look at. But part of Track 1 is going to be a requirement to either develop or upgrade local or regional Digital Equity Plan that aligns with the requirements, you know, defined by NTIA and CDT to be in alignment with the SDEP and part of that requirement is to have a plan that will address, you know, the needs and barriers of cover populations throughout the county or region that folks are applying for. However, going beyond the plan and looking at implementation, we do have some language in Section 6 about how you know, as part of the planning process. If the lead subgrantee or the, you know, subgrantee team identifies certain cover populations within their county or their region that should be prioritized, based on level of need. Through implementation that could be proposed. But that should be, you know, noted in their plan for CDT review. And then Track 2 is focusing on targeted statewide ecosystem development and in track to lead applicants can propose serving one specific cover population or serving the needs of cover population statewide through one of the outcome areas.

And Alex just wanted to kind of underscore that distinction. So, Track 1 is really ecosystem planning plus capacity and making sure that lead entities get together a coalition of partners and are looking at a kind of a long-term holistic plan. Acknowledging that there's, you know, limited funding part of the planning process that we would expect is looking at sustainability and other sources of funding through either CPUC's adoption account or other, you know sources of federal or private sector, philanthropic funding locally. And then on Track 2 like

Alex said, you know, the specific, you know, innovations or programs for covered populations is one criteria with a strategy to coordinate with Track 1 Awardees. And then the outcome areas. Just want to be clear that in addition to addressing the individual Digital Equity barriers, our Digital Equity Plan has a requirement to demonstrate how over the life of the grant we've improved outcomes in Education or Healthcare Access or Digital Inclusion, Access to Essential Services, Tribal Collaboration. So, those are of specific focus, but would you know, on those outcome areas which should apply to covered populations.

Thank you, Scott. Another clarifying question in regard to the one application per county based on the allocation - does a tribal will, a tribal entity of providing an application be included as part of the county? Or is that a separate?

I think we might have to take that one back.

Okay.

Yeah, I think we'll need to provide, just yeah, try to understand the scenario and provide some guidance through Q&A.

Okay, thank you. Based on the rest of the questions, I'm still going through them again. We will sort these out by section, as some of the questions will be covered in future parts of these presentations. So, we'll continue tracking and sorting and swoop up the rest of them at the end. I am not seeing, there are a lot of questions, but I'm not seeing any additional questions, Alex, that are related to the section that you provided. So, I think that we can move on. And we'll keep tracking and catch up as we go. So next we will hand. I'll hand it off to James Spencer from the OBDL team.

Thanks, Maria.

Hi, and Happy Friday. Today, I'll provide updates on the CalDEP Technical Assistance Program. Next slide, please. So, at the last Digital Equity Stakeholder Briefing, we highlighted the launch of the CalDEP landing page and the CalDEP Partnership Coordination Resource. We are equally excited to announce that questions and that questions and answer cycles, office hour schedules, written resources, pre-recorded video content and other key Technical Assistance information are now available and can all be found by visiting the CalDEP landing page. Next slide, please. So, you can see this is the Partner Coordination Resource, and as we've previously communicated, the Partnership Coordinator Resource is a tool for lead entities to find potential partners and for small organizations to be found by lead organizations. Due to the nature of one-time funding and the short deadline, we're really encouraging entities that might

compete for the same geographical region to identify partnership opportunities using this tool. I'd also like to remind you that the forms could only be completed by eligible entities seeking to be leads or partner with leads on a CalDEP application. The Partnership Coordination Resource should not be used as a Listserv sign up for grant seeking. So, for all eligible, eligible entities that haven't already registered and utilized the coordination resource, participation is encouraged. I'd also like to note that we did receive a question relating to updating a submission. So, if you'd like to make revisions to previously submitted...to previous submissions, please feel free to email the CalDEP inbox using CalDEP, CALDEP@state.ca.gov with the subject line, Partnership Coordination Resource update. Next slide, please. And so, as I mentioned earlier, the office hours, dates, and times have been announced. So, April 16th and May 7th from 2 to 3pm Pacific time. Please make sure to mark your calendars, with links to register coming soon. So, like in these sessions, we cannot give advice or answer questions that are specific to individual applications, but to the extent possible, we will attempt to answer all questions. Office Hour sessions will be recorded, and all questions from the office hour sessions will be posted on the Q&A page. Next slide, please.

So, to help facilitate the Q&A process CDT developed a dedicated inbox to submit questions about the RFA and application process. Question and answers will be received and posted on a rolling basis with a final deadline to submit questions by May 9th at 5pm Pacific time. Questions must be sent by email to the CalDEP@state.ca.gov with subject line California Digital Equity Program RFA. So, and as a heads up, we cannot answer questions that are specific to individual applications are out of scope, inappropriate or irrelevant to the CalDEP program. However, we can answer questions that clarify the RFA or application process or address program design or general policy. Next slide.

So, CDT has developed a range of Technical Assistance Resources to support organizations preparing and submitting CalDEP applications. So here we have a list of key written resources to assist your application development. These can be found on the Technical Assistance Resources landing page. So please make sure to bookmark the page, and check back regularly, as additional resources will be added over time. So, as you can see, we have listed out the application guidance which we've discussed previously. We have the program, one pager, which is just basically a high-level summary with all the key information for CalDEP. We have an application checklist which is just a summary of all the components needed for a complete application. We have a list of example docs, so, on how you can certify your eligibility as a lead or second tier applicant. We do have the letter of intent and letter of support templates. We also have unallowable and allowable cost activities. So just a guidance document that really provides a little more detail on, you know, our allowable and unallowable costs. We, and similarly, we have a procuring goods and services document to assist with any procurement needs and give some guidance there. And then, finally, there's the covered, the county covered

populations, data which can help inform your and it inform your application and help with your outreach estimates. So, these resources can be downloaded individually and saved for quick reference. And I just want to note that the applications, application guidance document is also included in the application materials, zip file, which can be found and downloaded from the CalDEP Grant guidelines and Request for Applications webpage. Next slide, please. And so, CDT has created pre-recorded video content on specific topics related to the RFA and application process. There's a Budget Development video which walks through the process for completing the consolidated budget form which was previously mentioned. There are also Track 1 and Track 2 videos which detail key track selection and application development considerations. These videos are embedded on the Technical Assistance Resource webpage for easy access and reference. Next slide, please. And so, as Alex kind of went over before the schedule of activities, this one's more focused on our schedule of TA. So, we have key dates here, listed, the first one being March 26th, where we release the written resources to coincide with the Request for Application launch. Today, March 28th is the launch webinar, where we are sharing an overview of the Request for Application, grant management, system and application portal and Technical Assistance. We've also highlighted that on April 16th and May 7th from 2 to 3pm Pacific, we will hold live office hours for applicants to ask general questions that clarify that clarify the RFA. Or application process or address program, design or general policy. Lastly, May 9th is the final deadline to submit questions via the Q&A Process, with responses posted by May 16th. That's it for my update, and happy to open up for questions.

Thank you, James. Pause for just a moment. We didn't, I'm going through all the questions we're still catching up from some of the questions last time and I'm not seeing the questions. I'll ask you. I apologize. Can you answer our partners able to join more than one application? You covered the partnership of some of the partnership pieces, but can you touch on that, please?

Could you be more specific? Is that in relation to an application or the Partnership Coordination Resource?

I think, probably refer them to the Partnership Coordination Resource.

Got it. Can you repeat that question?

The question is, can partners join more than one application, and that's in the RFA. But they may want to just be also referred to the Partnership Coordination Resource.

Yeah, I would definitely refer to the Partnership Coordinator Resource on that. So, you can... we're not encouraging folks to submit more than one.

Obviously, if there's a revision that they can reach out and we can help them with that but that you know their registration should be inclusive of all of the tracks and counties and everything else that they wish to be included on And I think, Maria, we might want to bring Alex back just on this one. We acknowledge that it's a big state. There's a lot of complexity. And there's a lot of potential configurations. I think the thing that we really have to focus on is de-duplication and preventing overlap or double dipping. So, there could be a scenario where maybe one entity with the statewide breach is a potential partner in one or more than a handful of local regional track one applications and that would potentially be permissible, I think what people need to be mindful of is that for your auditing and our auditing purposes, and for the NTIA there needs to be strict you know, auditing and accountability to make sure that that phones aren't, you know, intermingled or double, dipped in certain areas and certain activities.

Alex, do you have anything to add on that?

No, I think you covered it, Scott, yeah. So, applicants can only serve as lead applicant for one application per track. But if you want to be a partner on multiple applications, you can just make sure you're aware of the Federal guidance and requirements, as Scott mentioned and there is, there is a field in the partnership form where all partners need to list. All the other applications that they're a part of to help us with the de-duplication process.

How often will we be updating the Partnership Coordination Resource, spreadsheet or organizations and entities to be adding their information?

So typically, we try to, once a registration is received. We do, do a de-duplication, and we review it for eligibility. But typically, we try to have a 24-to-48-hour turnaround on the registration from when it's, when the PCR is submitted to when it goes up, live, and when you can view, or when other entities can view, the registration.

And I would ask the team to drop the Partner Coordination Resource in the chat and in the Q&A. Because we have a lot of, I think questions that Ronaldo Gail asked the question, is there a list of registered partners? And so, this isn't a registration. This is just people kind of saying, this is what they're looking at, this is their intention. We want to provide as much support as we can to foster collaboration. So we would really encourage anyone seeking to be a lead whether it's on track one single county or multi-county application to enter their information in there, and we would also encourage you know, smaller nonprofits or other entities who would like to be partner on those to enter their information, so you folks can find and seek and find each other. Similarly, I think there's value for potentially Track 2 folks to do the same. I mean, we acknowledge that this is

a big state, a significant amount of funding, but it's not amount to cover everything. So, as we learned during the Digital Equity planning process. And as we noted in the Digital Equity Plan, and throughout this Coordination Partnership is important, to really achieve all we have to do with the significant but relatively limited resources we have.

Thank you, Scott. Again, there's a lot of questions and sorting through them, there are a lot of questions that I that I think at the beginning, we stated, we're not really going to be able to speak directly to different types of programs or projects. This really is an information webinar for the RFA. And we will keep confirming sort of that throughout. Would you like to add anything to that if you could, Scott? And we'll continue to try to answer the questions as we move through this presentation. Yeah, now, we've got an initial content. I think anything related to Technical Assistance, we can do that. Let's make sure as best we can, if answerable, we answer other questions at the end, and yeah, reiterate to folks that given, we're in an open solicitation process we will take, if there are any questions we weren't able to answer today, or we didn't get to we will fold those into our Q&A cycle, and if we can, we'll post written answers up on the Broadband for All portal. And some of the, and also to remind people some of the questions we will ask at the end. We will come back to your questions if they aren't sort of in the section. So, I see some people reposting their questions. We will capture some of those at the end of this webinar, and make sure we answer as many as possible. So, with that I do feel like looking through these, we have answered as much of the Technical Assistance questions, and we'll keep checking and make sure. But I think we're ready to move on and the next presenter will the be, and thank you, James and Scott and Alex. We'll pass it over to Anh for a live for a demonstration.

Thanks, Maria, and thanks to all the presenters before me, my portion specifically will be a live demonstration of all the CalDEP web features that we've mentioned so far. So, if you have been following us and you're asking, where can I find this? Hopefully, this portion would answer your questions, and I will also bring James back on to do a run through of the Application Portal. So, let's go to next slide alright. So just a quick outline overview summary. I will review the CalDEP Overview page which we have been referring to informally as the landing page. The QR Code you see on the bottom right will also leave you there. I'm happy to drop all this links in the chat in a little bit. Then I'll look at, we'll look at the CalDEP Grant Guidelines and Request for Applications, the RFA in both the PDF and HTML and where you can find that. Next is the link to CalDEP Technical Assistant Resources. All that James mentioned earlier can be found on this, on this page, the CalDEP Q&A, the Questions and Answers page, and then I'll close with the CalDEP Partnership Coordination Resource Page as well a preview of the Excel that, where we published the submitted information, and then, lastly, the CalDEP application portal. Yep. So next slide, please. Just a

quick pause before we drop the slide and go to our browser. When you are on the Application Portal, this is the screen you should be seeing again. The deadline is May 30th before midnight. That is the QR code to our Grant Application Portal. So just want to make sure if folks are re-listening to this after today, and in recording that it is very clear where they can find these pages. So, with that, let's drop our share screen of the PowerPoint, and let's take a look at the browser. Awesome. Thank you. Alright.

So, if you can follow along with me for just a second. All of our pages you'll see the structure is very similar. Related pages are the 6, 7 that I've been mentioning and talking through with the additional State Digital Equity Plan that Alex, James and Scott mentioned. On this page would appear on every page to outline what is available on this page. So, for example, for our CalDEP landing page, the Program Overview summarizes our CalDEP program, with 2 additional buttons for you to get to the RFA and the CalDEP application portal. Eligible on, also on this page, you'll see Eligible Applicants, Funding Tracks and description, Technical Assistant Resources which include the link to the TA page, the Q&A page and the Partnership Coordination Resource page, the Get Ready resources, which many of you may have seen from a previous Stakeholder Briefing, the Additional Resources, which again include our Digital Equity Plan and the previous Draft Guidelines that were out for public comment. Lastly, you can find our contact information here. I know, team member added to the chat, but CalDEP@state.ca.gov. Okay, so that is our landing page. If there's 1 page you want to bookmark and favorite this is it. It will allow you to get to every other page we'll mention shortly.

Let's now go to the RFA. The Request for Application site. Awesome. Alright. So, on this page again, related pages are the ones that we're looking at. They switch, depending on what page you are. But the order is the same. Here you'll find the read or print the California Digital Equity Program Grant guidelines and Request for Application clicking that will allow you to see the PDF version of the RFA, in which you can download scrolling down just a little bit, you'll be able to download the zip files that Alex mentioned earlier, including items listed right above 1 through 6. And then again, just to make sure you're not lost, this is where you submit your application once you're ready to submit it. Right below is alternative access, what we've done is making sure that the content of the RFA is available in HTML version. In using the Google translate on this page you can read this page in over a hundred languages. When you translate the page to that language, you can also print this page off the screen. So, let's try that really quickly. Let's click on print this page. You see a pop up, we're on Google Chrome, but it should work for any other browser, so you'll be able to see the RFA in this format to print in English or any other languages. Let's take a look at more settings. Really quick, Ana. If you're concerned about the text of on the screen wanting to look at it a lot bigger or smaller, or wanting to print 2 on a

page that's all can be done on the print settings. So, in scale, right now, it's custom at 75. Let's say you would like the texting be much bigger you can put 150 etc., right? So, the smaller number, the less pages you print, but just something to know in case you're interested in printing that in this format or another language.

Okay, let's cancel that real quick and just a quick note, too, on this page is a table of content, if you will. We anchor linked it, so that it's easy for you to navigate. So, let's click on 4, Eligible Applicants, should bring you directly to 4 and then say, you're interested in looking at 11 Application Questions and Technical Assistant, but also you down to 11. So, when you're here, it's pretty easy to navigate, so hopefully it directs you to the information you're looking for awesome. Let's go back up top. Oh, let's take a look at Allocation and Award Formula number 7. I know Alex mentioned that a couple of times. So, let's just highlight that, so folks know where to find that information. 7.1 Anticipated Award Amounts. If you scroll down just a little bit, Ana. There we go. This is the allocation by County. Just let scroll all the way down perfect, and then, so this is where you'll find the allocation. I know some of the questions previously asked that, awesome. Okay, let's go on to our next page. I believe it's the TA page. Okay, alright, thank you. So, documents for download, Alex mentioned it, James mentioned it, we linked individual file here for you to download and reference when you're preparing for the application. So, feel free to take a look and download as individual files. The pre-recorded videos are all listed here. Project Budget Development Video, Track 1 Selection and Application Development Considerations and Track 2 Section and Application Development. Program Q&A will go to that specific page, this one is just a highlight overview of what our Q&A period is, and how you can be involved in it. And for events, anytime we have CalDEP events, we'll make sure to update this page. The 3 that we have announced is one today, the 2 office hours, April 16th and May 7th 2 to 3pm. The link will be communicated and also linked here. All of our past event materials will be linked in our Past Events page and so make sure to check back here for this video, recording slides, etc. And then we mentioned a few times about the Partnership Coordination Resource. But I'll also spend a little bit on showing you that page as well. So, let's go to the Q&A page. Awesome.

So, when we are ready to publish your questions, you'll find it here. On this page is overview how to submit your questions and the Q&A itself. They are all the ones that we've heard from the last few Stakeholder Briefings. We tried to gather them, and have it posted here, and the team would continue to update it on an ongoing rolling basis, and we'll make sure to post all answers by May 16th. So please get all your questions in by May 9th. Perfect. Let's go now, the last page that I'll do a quick run through is the Partnership Coordination Resource page. Here you'll find the form itself, right? What this resource is meant to do, and the form include a place for you to include organization name, your

partnership reference as a Lead, Partner, or Both. Yep, and then track selection to do Track 1, Track 2 or both, and make sure, or do notice that, depending on which selection you choose, it would populate more fields for you to fill out. So yep, thanks for showing that. And please select which county your organization will serve either all 58 counties or select the ones that applies. Make sure that any field that has an asterisk is filled out, or else it can't be submitted. Those are required fields to submit. And please note that this information will be available for 120 days since we launched but definitely through the RFA Period, and the privacy information is listed on the bottom. So, make sure you click submit, and actually receive a green box, confirming that you have sent this information, you should get confirmation in your email. And that confirms that your input has been submitted. And as James mentioned before, we will update the information between 24 to 48 hours. Awesome.

Alright! Let's move on to the oh, sorry. Let's take a look at the spreadsheet, which you can find right there the 1st link on the Partnership Coordination Page. Thanks, Ana. Alright, so far, the last time we updated this page, was on Wednesday, we've been prepping for this webinar for you all. But as of Wednesday, these are the organizations who have submitted information, and we've listed them here. So, thank you so much for your interest and participation. We wanted to note that there's a way to filter it. I know sometimes folks may ask like, how do I take a look at this? We included a short instruction on here. So, in order to filter response, highlight row, 3, click on data and then select, create filter view. That allows you to filter out partnership preference and funding track and that you'll be able to find interest folks who may be interested, being a lead, a partner or both. So, hope that helps. Awesome. Alright. I will pivot to the Application Portal and bring James back on to help us look through these pages.

Thanks, Anh, and so as Anh kind of highlighted this page can be found through either the CalDEP Landing page, or and the grant guidelines and Requests for Application page. So, we have provided links there that will take you straight to this page. So as once you come to this page as you navigate down, you'll see we've provided some instructions. We encourage you to read them carefully before starting your application. And so, at the bottom there are, there's a link to our CalDEP email. So, if you do have questions, programmatic questions related to CalDEP, please feel free to use that link and shoot us your questions, if you do have Technical Assistance on the actual Application Portal, feel free to use Submittable's Resource Center or their customer support. So those are both linked at the bottom there. Let's get started. Let's click here to apply. And so the 1st screen you'll be brought to is a sign up or Login screen, where you have the option to sign up providing new information and signing up through the email address, that is your preferred, or you can use your Google or Facebook accounts if they already exist. So, assuming you've signed up and you have a name and a password, you will get to this next screen. And so, the 1st

section is the Applicant Summary. This is where we ask for you know, basic information such as, the Organization, Lead Organization Name, Lead Applicant Entity Type. So, as we kind of described earlier, the various different types of eligible entities. As you move further down, there is the upload box, so you will need to upload and attach your lead applicant status so certifying that you are a lead eligibility. There is a link down just below that to refer to the documents that would help certify your eligibility status. So, as we move as we navigate down the page, you'll also be asked to identify what type of organization you are, whether it be County Government, Municipal, Nonprofit, Broadband, Consortium, or Tribe or other. It is a required field, so make sure you select that. You will also be asked for your UEI and EIN numbers, so make sure to have those ready and those are required fields. So next is some more basic information, such as your Address, City, State, Zip Code, and then you will need to provide the name of the authorized representative for your lead organization. So, if that is not you, it's please make sure to add the name of the person that should be authorized to do it, and the person filling out this should be the authorized, should be authorized by the applicant organization to submit on behalf. So again, we ask for a name and email, a phone number and then below, that is identifying your status as a Women Business Enterprise, a Minority Business Enterprise, or a small business. If none of those apply, select N/A. And that is the completion of the 1st section. So, as we navigate down the page into the application narrative, the 1st section you come across is some more information on the difference in tracks with Track 1 being the regional and local ecosystem building and Track 2 being targeted statewide into systems. So, as you click those boxes for Track 1, you will notice that there's different options between Track 1 and Track 2. So, if you're Track 1, the opportunity to select either single county or multiple counties is available. And just know that if you are selecting multiple counties, we have increased the character limit for that, for the executive summary section, so you can provide more information. If we scroll back up and click on the Track 2, you'll notice that there are a different set of requirements, such as the title and executive summary, which are both same for both. Track 1 and Track 2 and then for Track 2, you'll need to describe that applicants, team experience and capacity.

Next, if you keep navigating down the list, we'll come to the Timelines and Objectives section. This is a functional section where you will be required to kind of provide your objectives, and then your objective details, and each of for each objective, you can go into column A, B and C and kind of describe each activities that go along with that objective, who those activities will be performed by and a timeline for those activities. So that is for each objective that you've identified within your work plan. And then, as you scroll down, there's the optional to add more objectives. So yeah, it's just kind of linked and changed. so just add as many as are as needed to complete the section. So, as we navigate further, we do request your proposed data collection strategy, and

then below, there is some more information as well as our link to the Section 5, Eligible Use of Funds and Program Requirements. So, from there you have now completed 2 of the 7 sections. Our next section is the partnership information. And this is where you will be, you will be asked to describe the partnership and engagement strategy. And so next, if you keep navigating down is where you'll upload your completed partnership form. Below that we have linked to the form, and we have more information provided on the CalDEP Grant guidelines in our update page. And so, if you look at the acceptable file types for these the upload boxes, it does reflect that this is an Excel style file that needs to be attached. And so, for each one of these boxes it does have different requirements, so make sure to follow the acceptable file documents, and anything that we have submitted or requested to be uploaded is already in that file form. Next on the list is where you will upload both your letters of intent and letters of support, and below we have links for the various templates, and then guidance that can be found on the CalDEP Technical Assistance Resources. If you keep navigating down the list, we are at the expected partners and second tier subgrantees. So, if you have identified those in your or in your application, that's great, and you can click, yes, and you can provide more information on them. But also clicking, no, is okay. So, with, yes, you expect to finalize your partner's second tier subgrantees after the application. With no, you're stating that your partners and subgrantees have already been identified and below that is your upload box. So, make sure to upload the verifying documents for each of your second tier subgrantees. Again, the list of documents is below the list for certifying eligible entities. So now you've completed 3 out of 7.

We're on the Budget Section. So, in this 1st box, obviously, this is, are the numbers or the threshold for the Track 2, it would reflect differently, if it's Track 1, we have left Track 2 clicked, so we can highlight a different section later on in the form. But essentially this is still a requirement. So, make sure that in your total funding requested, you know, if it's Track 1, that you are utilizing the correct county formula. And if you're doing multiple county applications that your total funding requested is inclusive of all of those amounts so below that you will be uploading your completed Budget Form. And again, we have a link to the Budget Form template, and additional guidance can be found on the Grant Guidelines and RFA page. If you continue scrolling further, we do ask if you do if you plan to budget for broadband subsidies or devices. If yes, a dropdown box will populate, or would not populate, will show up below, where you can identify your long-term impact and sustainability. If you collect no, or if you select no, it's not an option. So, we have now completed 4 out of 7 of the sections. So, for section 5. This is your disclosure of other sources of State and Federal funding. There's a strict requirement of supplanting. supplementing for supplanting. And so here we really want to make sure that you're disclosing all of your sources of funding. And so please make sure to fill this section out completely. That is it for section 5. Moving toward to Section 6, we are getting very close to the end. So

again, this track 6, track 6 is specific to the Track 2 section. So, if you were to select Track 1, you would not have this question. So, we have selected Track 2 for visualization purposes, and so you will see your option to either select a covered population which brings down a new drop down, dropdown box or your outcome area, which brings in a different selection. You are required to select at least one from either a covered population or an outcome area. And so below that we do ask that you provide a justification for why the above outcome area will be served effectively statewide rather than if you were to submit it under as a regional or local ecosystem. And so, if you continue to navigate below if you select either the covered population or outcome areas. You will get different views here. But it is essentially the same, and you will be required, requested to identify the total served in each one of those either covered populations or outcome areas. So, as we keep navigating further down, you will be required to describe your plan to develop the statewide ecosystem and improve outcomes for your target and improved outcomes for the target outcome area. So, as you keep scrolling down, this is the project description section. So here you will describe the activities that advance the SDEP goals and objectives defined in RFA, section 2. And so, if you look below, we have concluded a link to get more information on that, and to help inform your response. Further down the list, we ask that you describe how your application will address digital equity needs and barriers which are identified in the SDEP for that specific outcome area. We have provided a little bit more information below on what this question is requesting. And so, we have approved, okay, can you scroll? Got it. Okay, so if you keep going down, we are at the describe the applicant team strategy. So here we ask that you describe the regional local ecosystem alignment. And just your strategy for how you will align and so that is the final question for Section 6. And now we move forward to the standard Federal financial assistance forms and documentation.

So, the 1st is, as we mentioned earlier, is the CD 511, Certification regarding lobbying. You can find that file on the CalDEP landing page and the CalDEP Grant and guidelines and requests for application pages. Use the side navigation bars to go to your written resources, and that's where these can be found. Your standard form LLL Disclosure of lobbying. This is only applicable with certain circumstances, so make sure you complete your CD 511. And that will inform your standard form LLL. We also have more information on that, and where you can find further information on section 7.2 Funding Restrictions. Finally, we have the Negotiated Indirect Off Rate Agreement section or NICRA. So, this is where you will update. If you do have an approved NICRA agreement, you will update it here. And as Alex said, if you do not, that is okay as well, and you can utilize the de minimis rate. So finally, we are at the Attestation section. You're just essentially certifying that you are authorized to submit your application, your application is complete, and contains all required information, all information submitted with this application is true and correct and the lead

applicant organization agrees to comply with any resulting terms if it accepts. You will then enter your name to serve as your digital signature. And then, we have a statement here that you reached the end of the application. Make sure that you are, have saved the safe list and submittable.com email addresses to make sure that you can receive emails from them. And also want to point out that you can save your application as a draft at any point in time. But once you do click here to apply, it is final. And so, you will receive an email that does detail and provides a link that like confirms that you have submit, confirms your submission, but also provides a link if you would like to review your submission, however, you cannot make changes after it has been submitted. So please note that once you click here to apply, it is final and you will, your application is finalized, and you will not have the ability to change it after that. And that's it.

James, thank you so much. You and the team did such a great job putting this together. I'm wondering, we went through selecting the Track 2 branch, but could you demonstrate for folks, the majority of whom here, I think, are probably going to be interested in Track 1. Could you select, Track 1 branching, and show how there are some slight differences in how that application shows up?

Yeah, not a problem. And so, I think Ana's already scrolled back up. So, we have our Track 1 Regional and Local ecosystem selected. If you to scroll down and then select multiple counties, there you will see that the application title is still requested. And, as I said, the Executive Summary and the limit on the characters has increased. And so, we are requesting that you indicate the proposed activities for each county involved in the application. So that's the big difference between the Track 1 or between the single county and multiple counties on this and you will still be asked to describe the applicant teams experience and capacity. And then our timelines and objectives, is still similar. So, you would come down and you would still, you know, identify your objectives and then which activities follow or would help complete that objective the activities necessary, who will it be performed by and then the timeline. And so, as we keep scrolling down it's similar to as Track 2 where you have the opportunity to click yes, and you can add more objectives as necessary. So, if we keep scrolling further down, you can see that we still do ask for the team's proposed data collection and promotion strategy. And that's it for Section 2,

Thank you, James. We do, go ahead.

Oh, sorry. I just wanted to highlight that, so for that Section 6, it does open up if you scroll down. Yes, so now, if you are Track 1 you have the opportunity to select which counties you propose to serve.

And James, can you go to the Budget Section as well, which is slightly up above here. So just when you're putting in the budget numbers wanted to reiterate, because I know there's some questions there that the county boundary allocations are full and they're not separable. So, lead entities would enter the full amount for the allocation for the county or counties, if it's a multiple county application.

Yeah, thanks for pointing that out, Scott. So, I think that sufficiently covers our Track 1 and Track 2 application guidance. We can move forward to questions.

Thanks, James. There is a question about the how it works, and you may have covered it, but if you could, please retell us, how will the online application work? 1, Will it save the work before continuing to the next page or section? Are applicants able to proceed to different sections without finishing the previous section? Can they jump between the sections when they're completing their application in this system?

Yeah. So, once you're on that main page that we were scrolling through, it will automatically save as you input information. But we also do recommend hitting the save button every once in a while, and then there's nothing stopping you from navigating through different sections of the application. However, as you can see from the demonstration depending on what box you click or what section you click on and it, it will give you different options. So, we kind of don't recommend that you move through it in that format just so that you're not missing sections. But there's nothing holding you back from completing, you know, sections at different paces.

Thank you, James. I have a question. I'm trying to find I'm asking a question around certain definitions or certain information around devices specifically around, there's a couple of questions where people can find more information out about the definitions about devices.

So, I would refer them to the Allowable versus Unallowable Cost document and anything beyond that should be submitted in a question.

Perfect. Nope, thank you for that. I was over lumping RFA versus Allowable and Unallowable Costs, so very helpful to have that question answered for everybody. Any other specific questions. If people could raise their hands quickly for any questions about James, I feel like I've captured most of the questions. One person did have a question that it was very small, but I referred them and asked them to open up in their browser. It'd be easier to see it was a little bit small when we were presenting, but it the information is all on our portal. So, the other questions are fairly general. And again, though we'll answer these

at the very end, we'd like to keep moving. And so, our next presenter passes it over to Shawn Daugherty from the Broadband Equity Partnership.

Thanks, Maria. Thanks everybody. As mentioned, I'm Shawn Daugherty. I am also with Broadband Equity Partnership and colleagues with Alex Banh, who presented earlier. And you can move to the next slide, please. So, we're just going to spend a few minutes talking about timeline and kind of maybe recommended next steps, as you can see here, this is a timeline that, it starts actually with the Period of Performance for the Capacity Grant that we were awarded by the NTIA. So, the beginning of our Period of Performance was December 1st, 2024. We don't want to dismiss any of the work that was done prior to that. We're proud of all the stakeholder engagement and all of the work that went into that. But our period of performance did begin in June, I'm sorry on December 1st, 2024. Starting with line one, we continued to finalize the RFA and drafting the supplemental materials and continuing to hold Stakeholder Briefings on a monthly basis and engage the community here as part of the program design. Where we are is 2 days post RFA launch. So, we did go live on the 26th and for the next 2 months or so, the application period will be open. We've talked about the Technical Assistance that will be offered during that timeframe. Today's webinar, the office hours Q&A, the Partnership Form all the materials that are that are now live on the website from starting 2 days ago through May 30th the application portal will be open that James just spoke to and obviously stakeholder engagement is continuing through this period of time as well through those Office Hours, through those question and answers. So just really clearly noting that May 30th is the close of this RFA. Applications are due through the portal at 11:59pm Pacific time. After that period of time, we will then go into application, review, and selection, and as James I'm sorry, as Alex mentioned, there is an Administrative Review and a Technical Review, followed by Final Selection, where we will make recommended selections to the NTIA. We have a deadline with the NTIA of submitting those recommended awards by August 31st which happens to be a Sunday of Labor Day weekend. So, from that period of time on the NTIA Will review our recommended awards and contracting and negotiation will follow that. But after the close of the application period, we still intend to have ongoing stakeholder engagement. We still intend to work with this community, acknowledging that implementing the Capacity Grant is more just, you know the CalDEP subgrant program. It is engaging with community; it is promoting the work that you are all doing. So, we intend to continue to meet with everyone who's engaging here. Next slide, please. And so, these are just some of our recommended next steps. We encourage all of you to review the CalDEP web pages, the Technical Assistance Resources, all of which is on the Broadband for All portal. We ask you to thoroughly read the grant guidelines and the RFA and all of the supplemental material. Again, it's not required, but it is recommended or encouraged that you enter your information, your organization's information into the Partnership

Coordination Resource, and then also use that resource to identify other partners, organizations, or supporters you might want to partner with regardless if you're a Track 2, or a Track 1 applicant. I think this is also a great way of continuing to grow the Digital Equity community in California. And then, if you have any questions after reading the guidelines, after going through the RFA and all of the Technical Assistance questions, please submit those to CalDEP@state.ca.gov or attend our Office Hours as noted. The deadline for all question and answer is May 9th where we hope to have all questions answered and posted publicly by May 16th. So those are just kind of some recommended next steps of really reading the materials. If you have any questions preparing those for the Question and Answer in Office Hours. And with that I think we can go on to kind of the last section of questions

Thank you, Shawn. We do have some remaining questions that were not necessarily related, specifically to the program. So, we I'll start with those, and we will have our standard question regarding the Federal administration and funding, and that we are happy to touch on. Whether or not we'll receive funding or what the status is, and impacts.

Maria. Well, thanks, folks, I think there is a bucket of like 3 or 4 questions that are all related to that. And here's what we can say is, we have a contractual obligation and award from the NTIA on the Digital Equity Capacity Grant. We have received no new guidance from the NTIA. And we have, you know, began drawing down on those funds. So, at present it's a good indication that they continue to honor, their obligation of funding, and that's all we can say.

Thank you, Scott. We have a question. It's sort of a general question, a few questions regarding funding. If an agency has already been awarded digital literacy funding from the CPUC's CASF, are they eligible to apply as a lead or as a partner? And I think there's another question around sort of duplication, if they're it's similar, if they applied in a competitive grant, can they, you know, are they available, are able to apply for this Capacity Grant? So, there's a couple of questions about duplicative funding potentially.

Yeah, I'm wondering if the person could, is able to come on and maybe further verbalize that. Obviously, the answer that question would depend, and we may have to take that back and provide clarity in the Q&A. But if we could have a little more detail that would be helpful.

Looks like Leah Struck turned on the video and is willing to speak to that.

Yes, just basically that it's both state of California departments, but is that competing? Or is that double dipping or so California Department of Public Utilities, Digital Literacy, California Department of Technology, Digital Literacy.

Well, I'm wondering, who are you? What is your organization, and what is the grant you received?

Fresno, EOC

Okay.

And we got the CASF funding that is a continual funding that you can apply for twice a year. So, we just got awarded that. But we have a lot of experience with Digital Literacy.

What does EOC stand for? I'm sorry.

Fresno Economic Opportunities Commission

Oh, got it. Okay? I think. Let us circle back on that and we'll see if we can provide a written response to you on that. It may take some thinking through.

We'd be serving different people. I mean, we'd be doing the same thing. We wouldn't be counting both grants for serving the same people.

Well, I think that in the moment Alex, if you want to jump in here and provide some additional contacts, I think we want, we're hoping we can provide as much information as possible today. So, people can, you know, really get moving on that. But, Alex, do you want to jump in here?

Yeah. So, Leah, I would refer you to the RFA. Section 7.2. There is a prohibition on supplanting, so these awards must supplement and not supplant other Federal or State funds that have been made available to carry out digital equity activities, and then, in the application form itself, as James showed there is a section on disclosure of other sources of State or Federal funding, so you would have to provide disclosure of other sources of State or Federal funding, you know, related to these purposes that you've already applied for, or are in the process of applying for, or already received, share some details on that, and then, you know, provide a description on how this CalDEP application, you know, both meets the requirements of the program and supplements, and not supplies or duplicates the activities proposed or funded through, you know your other State or Federal sources. So, we just want to make sure that that prohibition is not violated, you know, through your application, because that is a

federal requirement on, you know, supplementing and not supplying existing funding sources.

There's a follow up question. A similar follow up question regarding CPUC funding, whether it's just creates a basic ineligibility. And I think you've answered that question, or we may have follow up. And again, please, people should feel free to, you know, submit your questions to our email address. If further clarification is needed. There's a question.

One thing on that the NTIA has encouraged both of us, and we're encouraging our partners to look at braided funding sources. And so I think you know, we're acknowledging, it's going to take more than what we have to get this done, and part of the guidance on the planning portion of this is going to be to identify other sources of funding either government granted private sector or philanthropic that can be used to sustain the efforts to be there. I think it's really just a matter of you know, staying true to the sections that Alex mentioned, that are in the RFA. And where there's any further need for clarification to submit those questions to us in writing, so that we can provide more specific detail if needed.

Thank you, Scott. And there we there, here's 1 of the questions that we're catching up on and I didn't catch this. It says it's anonymous. Not every nonprofit has a Federal or State audit, what can a 501C 3 do to meet this requirement? Is there a section that we can refer them to?

Wondering if potentially did we use a little more clarification on the question? Is the person who raised that able to raise their hand. And we can take you a video and audio mute and get a little more detail on that question.

Yeah, this was a submitted anonymous. So, if you are still here, and you asked this question, or if someone else would also like the answer to this question. If you could raise your hand and we can discuss it live.

In general, I would refer people to Section 10 Post Award Expectations. There's information on the audit requirements in there, and there's a bit of detail, so I would encourage folks to take a look at what those requirements are, and, you know, make their determination.

Thank you.

I think there's some, there's 1 more general question sort of coming up at the end again. Clarifications around Track 1 multiple county award and Track 2 statewide ecosystem that are covered in the RFA. But can we refer them to that section again, please.

Sorry, Maria. Which section was this?

There's a question that clarify, they're asking for general clarification, again, between Track 1 and Track 2 and the questions a little bit, it's 1's Track 1 multiple county award versus Track, 2 statewide ecosystems. And I think that's answered in the RFA. And maybe we can just help refer them to that section.

Yeah, there's a number of sections where we talk about the 2 tracks. I would take a look at Section 4, Eligible Applicants, and Section 5 Eligible Uses of Funds and Program Requirements to understand, you know the requirements and allowable uses for each thread.

Thank you. And Mike asked, if there's an update on the status of the California connect core which is mentioned in the Digital Equity plan, can we speak to that?

Thanks for the question. So, in the Digital Equity Plan, we had proposed a name for the sub grant program to be the California Connect for Digital equity subgrant program. During public comment, some folks had indicated a little bit of confusion about, you know, distinguishing California Connect Core versus the sub grant program. I think because of that, in addition to there's a lot of CCC's in California, we had referenced in previous Stakeholder Briefings that in order to provide clarity, that we were naming the subgrant program, the California Digital Equity Program. And so, aside from changing the name, the purpose intent is still the same, and that change will be reflected. Once we update the Digital Equity Plan.

Thank you.

If the anonymous person that just is, and I'm not sure if this is still the same person that's asking about this Track 1 Track 2 again. Clarifying that I'm going to read the question, but I hope that this person will come off and come off come on camera and ask this. Track 1 funding will a lead applicant for a single county basically be competing with an applicant who'd be applying for multiple counties that include County A. If CDT awards both applicants for the County A, are you going to request that the applicants adjusted budgets?

Alex or James, could you address that? I mean, we did contemplate that there maybe you could refer folks to this section and how we're going to address situations like that.

Yeah, there's language in in the RFA about overlapping counties. We're going to use the Track 1 evaluation metrics to pick the best application. For that

given county, and if that happens, you know, we do have language about, you know, modifying essentially modifying a Track 1 multi-county application to either remove that from their scope and undergoing an additional curing process to update their budget accordingly. But yeah, there is information in the RFA and Section 8 as well as section 9. Really, the idea is to pick one applicant to serve that county is a geographic boundary, and you know to be funded through that county allocation.

Thank you. And I'm finishing up a couple of online answers. And I think we're ready to move on and close out. Oh, sorry. Sorry, Scott, I was answering that one I was sending them to a reference. We can ask that one live. Please describe what will CalDEP awardee, reimbursement process. Will CalDEP be able to advance some funding for awardees?

Alex or James. You want to take that?

My audio was cracking. Can you repeat?

Yeah, and I was sending them to the resource page. But we have time, please describe will CalDEP awardee reimbursement. Please describe the CalDEP awardee, reimbursement process. Will CalDEP be able to advance some funding for awardees?

Okay, got it so the reimburse it, it will be based on a reimbursement process. And we will open it up quarterly. So, we will allow invoice submissions on a quarterly basis. However, due to the NTIA Program guidelines, we are unable to offer advanced payments.

And thank you. Arlene has her hand up, Arlene, if you would like to come off mute, and ask your question.

Hi! How quickly will you be able to when we advance the invoices quarterly. Will it take you a quarter or a month, two quarters to reimburse us. It's very difficult, as you all know, for nonprofits to advance themselves 30 to 50 to 100,000, based on the size of their awards, paying salaries, buying devices, etc. It puts a big burden, and unfortunately, our state legislature did not approve any advancements for nonprofits, even at a minimal amount of 25,000. So, the question is- how quickly, if we submit quarterly, how quickly can we anticipate the reimbursement process. In other words, will CalDEP commit?

Yeah, yeah, great question and completely sympathize, with, you know, the cash flow issues that affect nonprofit businesses. So, our plan is to process invoices received as soon as possible. Given that, you know, we do still have to review any type of backup documentation that's submitted with it and

compare it against the program planning but there are strict guidelines for the State on when we pay invoices and we will follow those as much as possible, or to the extent and so I mean long story short, 45 days.

Okay, I'm the person who asked the question about nonprofit, state or Federal audit. I'm sorry I didn't get my hand raised quickly. So, may I follow up? My understanding is that audits are required for organizations that have submitted grant reimbursements, award reimbursements at $750,000 or more. Again, for nonprofits. Small non-profits an audit can cost up to $15,000 for one year's audits. So, the question is, if a nonprofit that's been persistently active in the Digital Equity broadband space not have an audit, what will this do to their application, or what kind of exemptions do you provide?

So you are referring to the single Audit Act, which did have a threshold of 750K. For the new OMB guidance that has been increased to 1 million dollars of Federal funding per year. But that is not our requirement, that is a federal funding requirement. So, the single audit requirement is not something that we can waive or ignore. It's very much a Federal Government requirement that is tied into Federal funding.

So, if we do not have an audit and we're under a million dollars in any Federal grant recipients, that's okay. Any Federal grant award?

I can say that you are not subject to it. Yes.

Okay. And so do we have to prove that in the application is there a way of proving that this is really important for most of us nonprofits.

It's think describes one of the things that I would say is like, we had to shape the program to give us the best chance to implement the Digital Equity plan and deliver on our commitments to the NTIA. The model that we used is was done concurrently but separately to the NTIA competitive grant. And really you know the reason that we're you know, requiring a lead applicant to come in and identify partners is that we understand that there's going to need to be some capacity and capability for the lead applicant to be able to administer their rent and potentially provide subgrants out. So, one of the things that we really want to stress is that this program isn't designed to be exactly a program to provide direct grants to smaller CBOs that might have capacity. But we have developed it so that the lead applicant can develop a subgrantee process and flow funds to local community-based organizations that are most appropriate to do the work their plan outlines.

So, Scott, what I'm hearing, and please call me Arlene, we know each other. So, what I'm hearing is that somebody like the organization I represent

that's been provided 15,000 computers in the past 14 years that's still small has under a million dollar a year budget, does not have a state audit, your recommendation is, we find, another lead applicant?

I would, I would suggest is that, Arlene, that you enter your information into the Partner Collaboration Resources, and I know you're connected in your county. Put the feelers out and identify who is you know, planning to be the lead in that go in as a partner on that.

Okay, thank you very much for answering my questions.

We have one final question, William. Thank you for your patience. And this will be our final question before Scott wraps us up, for the day. Is there going to be application reviews before support, for before submitting?

William, do you? What would you like to come off mute and quickly clarify your question, and you'll be our wrap up question for today.

Good afternoon, everyone. I'm William Cooper, I'm the Executive Director at the Becoming Project here in Calipatria, California. We are one of those disinvested communities, we are around a bunch of townships that has no digital access. The question was about pre-submittal. So, once we, I would be a lead organization. But even if we had a partner organization once we fill out the application, is there a review process? Besides, what's on the website that tells us that this needs to be fleshed out. This is incorrect. The budget is not in the proper format, something like that.

I think that it the context we just provided to Arlene, Miss Krebs, would likely refer to your organization that the way that the Grant program is designed, it's not to directly provide, you know, specific grants to smaller organizations. But we would really encourage you to put your information in the Partner Collaboration Resource, and seek to identify, you know, the larger organization or organizations that are considering being a lead in your county, and then getting together with them to you know, come in as a partner on their grant, and then I would defer to James or Alex on the Resubmittal Review.

Thank you. That wraps up all our questions for this afternoon. Please remember to subscribe to our email. If you have any questions, make sure that you're subscribed, and if you have, and that we will also reminder that we'll post all these artifacts on the portal shortly. Scott, any closing remarks?

Yeah, Maria, just to follow up on Mr. Cooper's question. Unfortunately, we cannot provide pre-submittal review, but we do have 2 Office Hours where we encourage folks to come in you know, ask any additional questions, and we

have the Question-and-Answer period. So, if you have questions related to the program, please submit it through those Technical Assistance channels.

Well, I just want to extend, thanks to all of you. And thanks to our team who's worked so diligently to get to this point. We know that there's a lot of excitement, a lot of interest, about the program. We hope that you understand more about the details of the program, and we look forward to hearing from you and the Technical Assistance channels that we've developed. To provide clarity where you have more questions. And just again, thank you so much for your efforts and want to center this back on, you know we came together a couple of years ago under the auspices of closing the State digital divide. And we developed a plan and now we're one step closer to being able to disperse these funds out to help implement that plan. So have a wonderful day. Have a wonderful 3-day weekend and we'll see you later.