California Digital Equity Program (CalDEP) Office Hours

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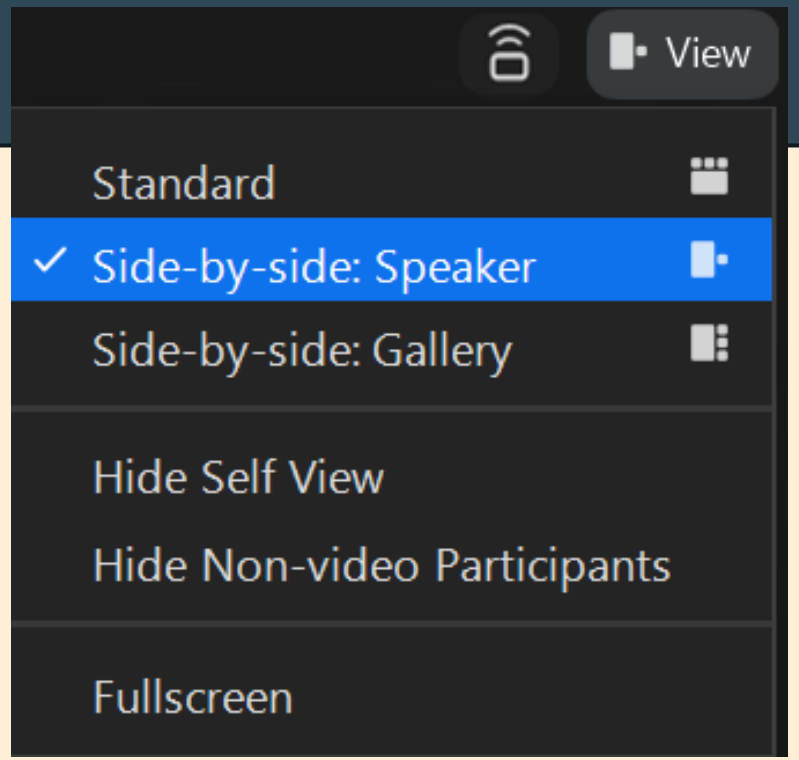
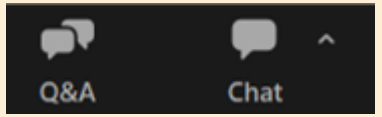
Housekeeping

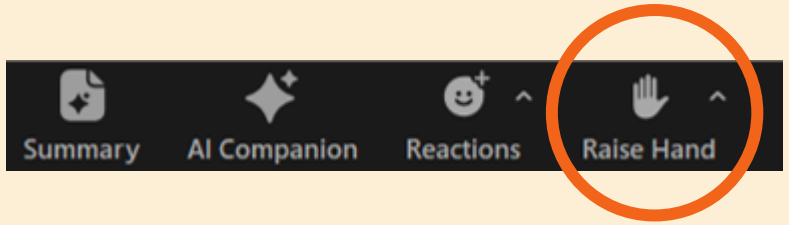
Select Side-by-Side: Speaker Mode for the best viewing experience when slides are shared

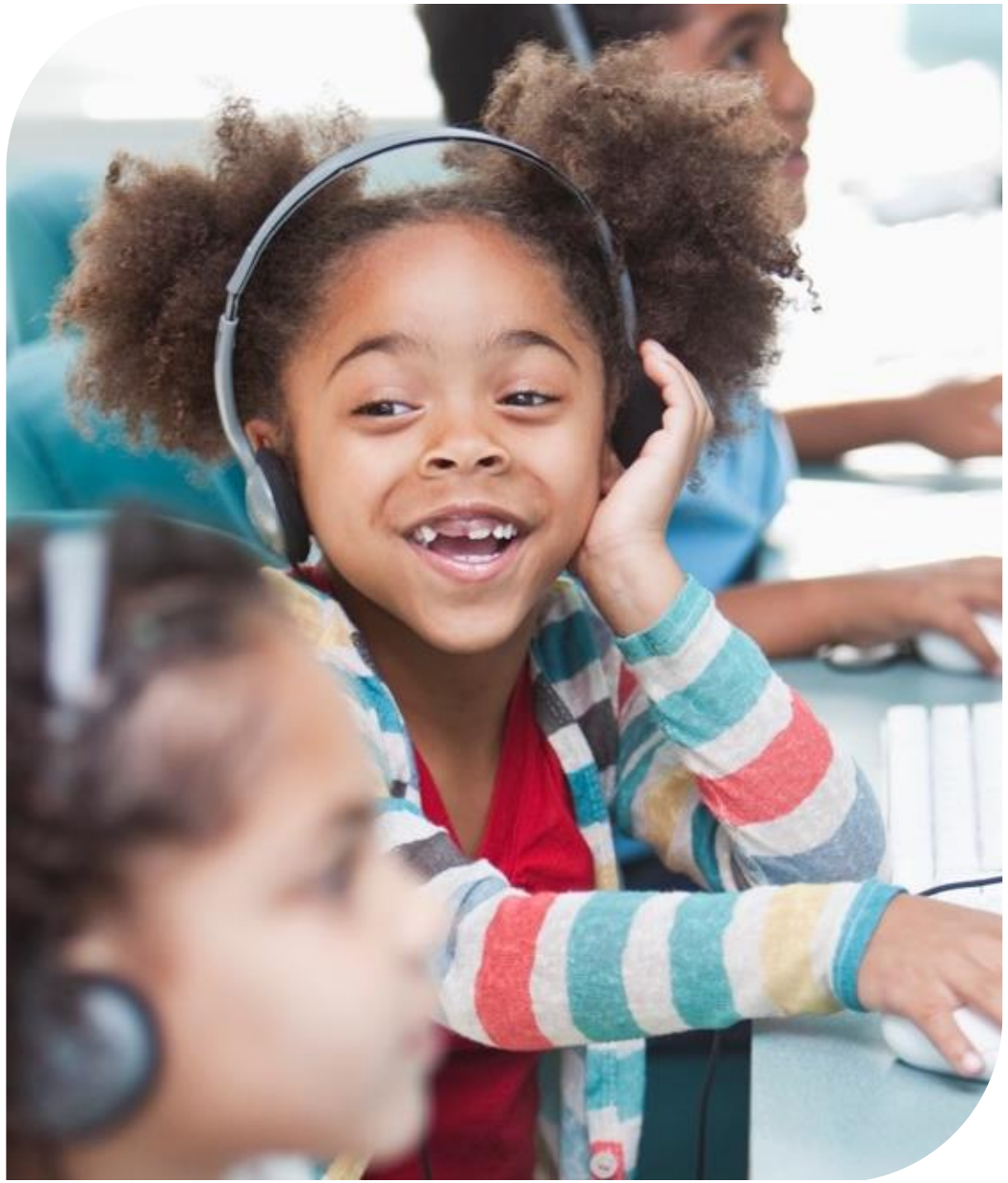
Q&A Box Discussion after each agenda item. Please add your questions in the Q&A Box

Reactions Raise Hand feature or *9 if you calling into Zoom by phone









Agenda

- Welcome & Office Hours Overview
- CalDEP Updates
- Question Period 1
- 5-minute Break
- Question Period 2
- Closing

Welcome & Office Hours Overview

James Spencer

BROADBAND ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGER

Office of Broadband and Digital Literacy
California Department of Technology

OFFICE HOURS OVERVIEW

Scope of Questions

1. Office Hours will allow potential applications to ask questions regarding the RFA process and timeline, guidelines, application components, and requirements.
2. OBDL cannot give advice or answer questions that are specific to individual applications.
3. OBDL will respond to questions with reference to existing materials, as applicable.
4. OBDL will record questions that cannot be answered live and respond via written Q&A, accessible via the Q&A webpage.

OFFICE HOURS OVERVIEW

CalDEP Application Period

Overview	Notes
• Two-month open application period • March 26 – May 30 • Online via the BB4All Portal	• Review the Grant Guidelines and RFA and all associated materials on the BB4All Portal. • Use the Application Portal to complete and submit your application. • Only applications submitted via the Application Portal will be accepted.

Deadline
May 30, 2025
11:59pm PDT

OFFICE HOURS OVERVIEW

Other Technical Assistance Resources

Written Resources

Written resources to assist in the application development process

Webinars & Video Content

Presentations on specific topics regarding the RFA and the application process

Partnership Coordination

Resource webpage for applicants to identify potential partners

Q&A Cycles / Page

A process to answer submitted questions

Office Hours

Opportunities to ask the CDT team generalized questions about the RFA and the application process

CalDEP Updates

Alex Banh

PRINCIPAL

Broadband Equity Partnership

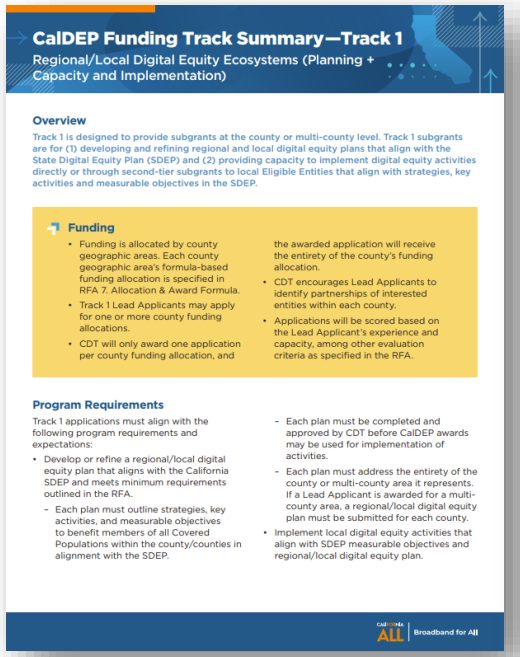
CALDEP UPDATES

New TA Resource

New Technical Assistance Resources Posted!

On the Technical Assistance Resources page, the following items were added to summarize key information from the RFA about each Funding Track:

- CalDEP Funding Track Summary – Track 1
- CalDEP Funding Track Summary – Track 2



CalDEP Funding Track Summary—Track 1

Regional/Local Digital Equity Ecosystems (Planning + Capacity and Implementation)

Overview

Track 1 is designed to provide subgrants at the county or multi-county level. Track 1 subgrants are for (1) developing and refining regional and local digital equity plans that align with the State Digital Equity Plan (SDEP) and (2) providing capacity to implement digital equity activities directly or through second-tier subgrants to local Eligible Entities that align with strategies, key activities and measurable objectives in the SDEP.

Funding

- Funding is allocated by county geographic areas. Each county geographic area's formula-based funding allocation is specified in RFA 7. Allocation & Award Formula.
- Track 1 Lead Applicants may apply for one or more county funding allocations.
- CDT will only award one application per county funding allocation, and the awarded application will receive the entirety of the county's funding allocation.
- CDT encourages Lead Applicants to identify partnerships of interested entities within each county.
- Applications will be scored based on the Lead Applicant's experience and capacity, among other evaluation criteria as specified in the RFA.

Program Requirements

Track 1 applications must align with the following program requirements and expectations:

- Develop or refine a regional/local digital equity plan that aligns with the California SDEP and meets minimum requirements outlined in the RFA.
  - Each plan must outline strategies, key activities, and measurable objectives to benefit members of all Covered Populations within the county/counties in alignment with the SDEP.
  - Each plan must be completed and approved by CDT before CalDEP awards may be used for implementation of activities.
  - Each plan must address the entirety of the county or multi-county area it represents. If a Lead Applicant is awarded for a multi-county area, a regional/local digital equity plan must be submitted for each county.
- Implement local digital equity activities that align with SDEP measurable objectives and regional/local digital equity plan.

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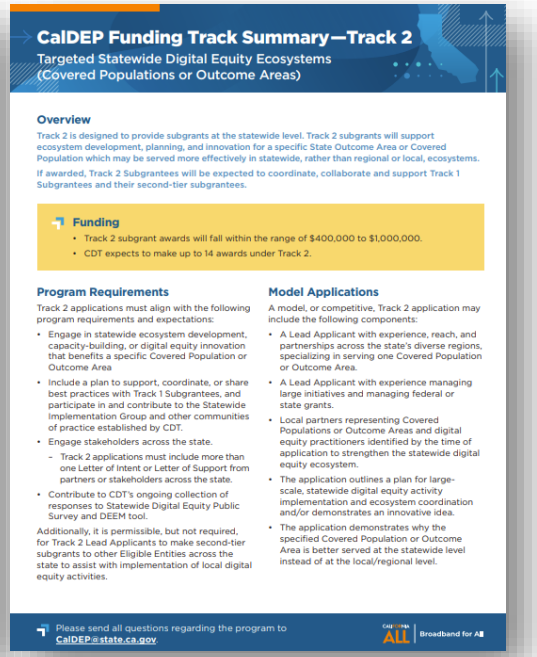

CalDEP Funding Track Summary—Track 2

Targeted Statewide Digital Equity Ecosystems (Covered Populations or Outcome Areas)

Overview

Track 2 is designed to provide subgrants at the statewide level. Track 2 subgrants will support ecosystem development, planning, and innovation for a specific State Outcome Area or Covered Population which may be served more effectively in statewide, rather than regional or local, ecosystems. If awarded, Track 2 Subgrantees will be expected to coordinate, collaborate and support Track 1 Subgrantees and their second-tier subgrantees.

Funding

- Track 2 subgrant awards will fall within the range of $400,000 to $1,000,000.
- CDT expects to make up to 14 awards under Track 2.

Program Requirements

Track 2 applications must align with the following program requirements and expectations:

- Engage in statewide ecosystem development, capacity-building, or digital equity innovation that benefits a specific Covered Population or Outcome Area.
- Include a plan to support, coordinate, or share best practices with Track 1 Subgrantees, and participate in and contribute to the Statewide Implementation Group and other communities of practice established by CDT.
- Engage stakeholders across the state.
  - Track 2 applications must include more than one Letter of Intent or Letter of Support from partners or stakeholders across the state.
- Contribute to CDT's ongoing collection of responses to Statewide Digital Equity Public Survey and DEEM tool.

Additionally, it is permissible, but not required, for Track 2 Lead Applicants to make second-tier subgrants to other Eligible Entities across the state to assist with implementation of local digital equity activities.

Model Applications

A model, or competitive, Track 2 application may include the following components:

- A Lead Applicant with experience, reach, and partnerships across the state's diverse regions, specializing in serving one Covered Population or Outcome Area.
- A Lead Applicant with experience managing large initiatives and managing federal or state grants.
- Local partners representing Covered Populations or Outcome Areas and digital equity practitioners identified by the time of application to strengthen the statewide digital equity ecosystem.
- The application outlines a plan for large-scale, statewide digital equity activity implementation and ecosystem coordination and/or demonstrates an innovative idea.
- The application demonstrates why the specified Covered Population or Outcome Area is better served at the statewide level instead of at the local/regional level.

Please send all questions regarding the program to CalDEP@state.ca.gov.

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DRAFT – For Internal Discussion Only

CALDEP UPDATES

5/6/25 Grant Guidelines and RFA Updates

Changes to RFA & RFA Materials are outlined below:

RFA, Section 9.2. Review Process

To be eligible for award, applications must:

- Score above zero points on Evaluation Metrics related to:
  - Need, Purpose and Benefits
  - Strength of Applicant's Organizational Capacity
- Receive a total score of at least 70 points.
  - Track 1 applications for counties receiving the minimum allocation ($215,000) must receive a score of at least 60 points

Find more information in the CalDEP Grant Guidelines and RFA.

Allowable / Unallowable Costs and Activities

Updates to *Supplies and Materials, Including Costs of Computing Devices*

- ***Allowable*** for costs of smartphones and cell phones for Subgrantee or Second-tier Subgrantee staff use.
- ***Unallowable*** for costs of smartphones and cell phones for participant take-home devices.

Find more information in the Allowable / Unallowable Costs and Activities document.

DRAFT – For Internal Discussion Only

QUESTIONS

Maria Kelly

ACCESS & DEPLOYMENT ADVISOR

Office of Broadband and Digital Literacy
California Department of Technology

QUESTIONS

FAQs from OH Registration and Q&A

[Q&A Section] 4. Eligible Applicants

Are organizations allowed to submit more than one application?

Organizations may be part of multiple applications as programmatic Partners. However, Organizations serving as Lead Applicants are allowed to submit only one (1) application per funding Track.

Note: a Lead Applicant for Track 1 may partner with entities across multiple counties (whether the counties are contiguous or non-contiguous) to submit one application for multiple county funding allocations.

What are the eligibility requirements for Lead Applicants and second-tier subgrantees?

Both Lead Applicants and second-tier subgrantees for CalDEP must be located and operate in the State of California, have an active Unique Entity ID (UEI) number assigned by SAM.gov and an Employer Identification Number (EIN) assigned by the Internal Revenue Service, and belong to one of the federally defined Eligible Entity categories.

Please refer to 4. Eligible Applicants in the RFA for more information on Subgrantee eligibility requirements

QUESTIONS

FAQs from OH Registration and Q&A

[Q&A Section] 4. Eligible Applicants

Do the roles of partners contributing Letters of Support and Letters of Intent need to be specified at the time the letters are submitted?
No. Per the RFA Section 4. Eligible Applicants Letters of Support (LOS) allow for stakeholders to express general support or endorsement for the application. A template can be found as part of Technical Assistance Resources here. (See a more detailed response on the Q&A page)

Is a for-profit organization delivering workforce development programs be eligible for CalDEP funding?
Yes. However, a for-profit workforce development program may be ineligible for CalDEP funding if it charges members of Covered Populations for services intended to be provided by the CalDEP award. Please see RFA Section 7.2 Funding Restrictions for more information. Please note this is not an exhaustive list and all applicants must align with eligibility requirements as detailed in RFA Section 4. Eligible Applicants.

QUESTIONS

FAQs from OH Registration and Q&A

[Q&A Section] 5. Eligible Use of Funds and Program Requirements (Track 1 & Track 2)

In the Application Portal, Track 2 applicants are asked to select whether their application is proposing to serve either a specific Covered Population or an Outcome Area. Can applicants propose to serve both a specific Covered Population and an Outcome Area?
No. As noted in the RFA Section 5. Eligible Use of Funds and Program Requirements, Track 2 is designed to fund subgrantees focusing on targeted ecosystem development or digital equity innovation for a specific Covered Population or Outcome Area. In the Application Portal, applicants must select the specific Covered Population or Outcome Area that their application will focus on.

[Q&A Section] 7. Allocation & Award Formula (Anticipated Award Amounts & Funding Restrictions)

For Track 2, is an applicant able to request more than $1 million in funding?
No. As noted in the RFA Section 7. Allocation & Award Formula, CDT expects to award Track 2 subgrants within the range of $400,000 to $1,000,000.

[Q&A Section] 10. Post-Award Expectations

How frequently will reimbursements be processed?
Subgrantees may submit reimbursement requests on a quarterly basis.

Questions

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Closing

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CLOSING

Q&A Process

1. The Q&A process allows potential applications to ask questions regarding the RFA process and timeline, guidelines, application components, and requirements.
2. OBDL cannot give advice or answer questions that are specific to individual applications.
3. OBDL will respond to questions with reference to existing materials, as applicable.
4. Answers will be posted on a rolling basis no later than May 16, 2025.

CLOSING

Summary of Resources

- CalDEP Overview
- CalDEP Grant Guidelines & Request for Application
- CalDEP Technical Assistance Resources
- CalDEP Questions and Answers
- CalDEP Partnership Coordination Resource
- CalDEP Application Portal

Scan here to access CalDEP Page

CLOSING

RFA Next Steps

- ❑ Review CalDEP webpages & TA resources on the BB4All portal
- ❑ Read the Grant Guidelines & RFA
- ❑ Enter info in Partnership Coordination Resource (optional)
- ❑ Review CalDEP Q&A Page
- ❑ Send all CalDEP questions to CalDEP@state.ca.gov by May 9 at 5:00 p.m. PDT

Submit Application by Deadline
May 30, 2025
11:59pm PDT

Contact

Sign up:
Broadband for All Email Update

Website:
BroadbandForAll.cdt.ca.gov/CalDEP

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