

# Digital Equity Community of Practice Meeting

**January 30, 2026**



**Broadband for All**

# Housekeeping

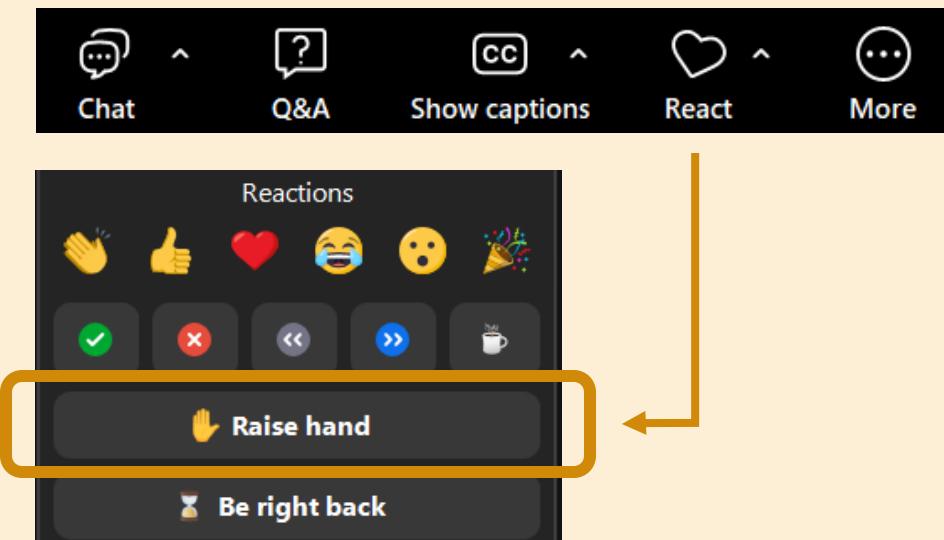
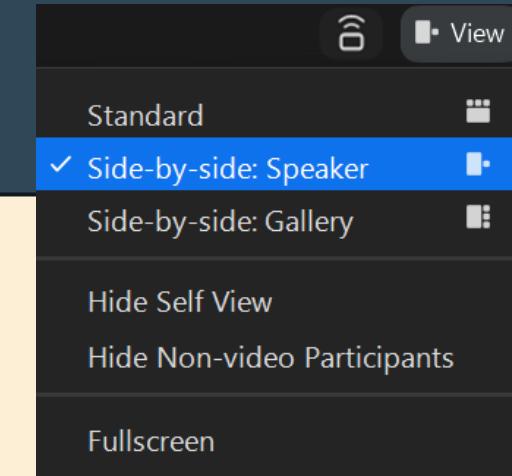
**Select Side-by-Side: Speaker Mode** for the best viewing experience when slides are shared and visibility of the ASL interpreters

**Closed Captions** English closed captions are available. Choose “CC Show Caption” on your toolbar

**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

*Meeting recording, minutes, transcript, and presentation slides will be available on Broadband for All Portal.*



# Community of Practice Purpose

The Digital Equity Community of Practice aims to foster **alignment, coordination, and collaboration** within the statewide digital equity ecosystem.

## Details:

- Monthly meetings
- Information sharing & best practices
- Guest speakers
- Subject matter & community expert panels
- Agendas driven by relevance and partner input

# Broadband for All Action Plan

## GOAL 1:

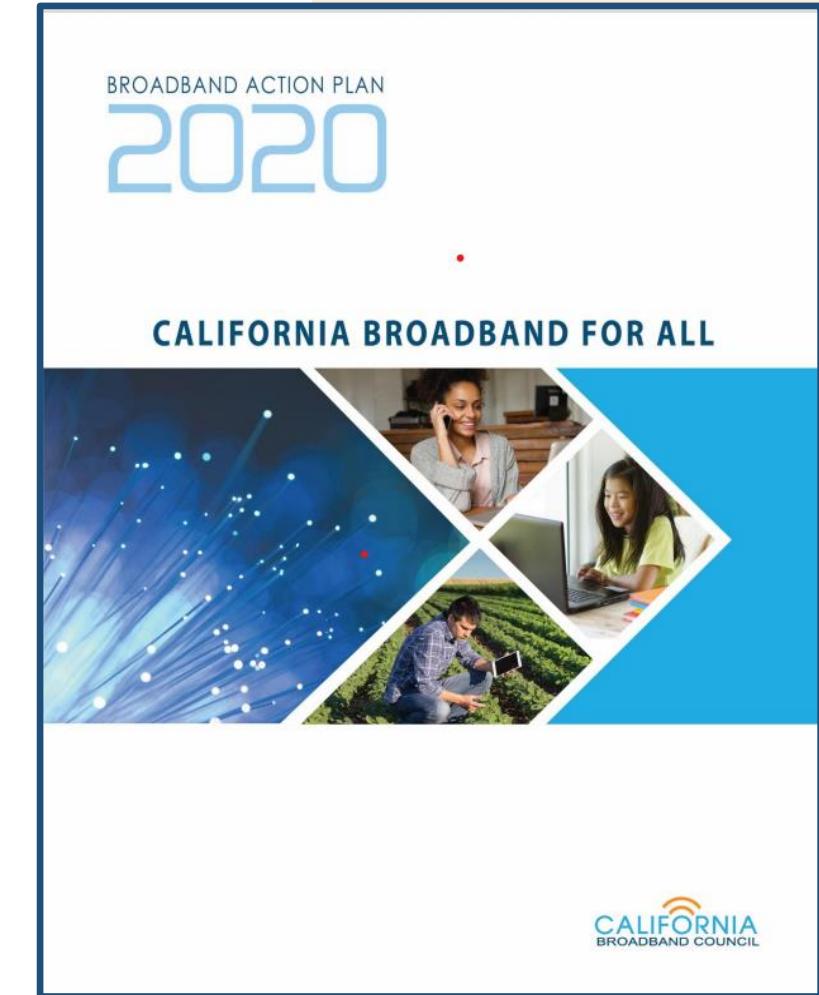
All Californians have high-performance broadband available at home, schools, libraries, and businesses.

## GOAL 2:

All Californians have access to affordable broadband and necessary devices.

## GOAL 3:

All Californians can access training and support to enable digital inclusion.



# Meeting Norms

- Only questions/comments on agenda items will be addressed.
- Chat will be monitored.
- Disruptive behaviors will not be tolerated.
- Individuals will be removed from the meeting.



# Agenda

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**Welcome**

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**Digital Equity Resource Survey Findings**

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**Guest Panel: Library Digital Inclusion Programs**

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**CA Lifeline Home Broadband Pilot Program**

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**Request for Innovative Ideas Update**

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**Upcoming Grant Opportunities**

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**Looking Ahead**

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# WELCOME

## Scott Adams

**DEPUTY DIRECTOR**

Office of Broadband and Digital Literacy  
California Department of Technology

# 2026 Look Ahead



**Engagement**  
(DE COP)



**Tools & Resources**  
(DE Resource  
Survey & Finder)



**Partnerships**  
(RFI<sup>2</sup>)

# National Digital Inclusion Alliance

## Acknowledgements

NDIA is a national non-profit advancing digital equity by connecting organizations, supporting community programming, providing research, and equipping policymakers. NDIA recognizes municipal, county, regional governments, and tribal entities that are paving the way and providing excellent models for digitally inclusive communities.

### ***Visionary Digital Inclusion Trailblazers:***

- City and County of San Francisco
- City of Fairfield
- City of Long Beach
- City of Oakland
- City of San Diego
- City of San Jose
- City of Vacaville
- County of Solano
- County of Los Angeles

### ***Digital Inclusion Trailblazers:***

- City of Palmdale
- Housing Authority of the City of LA

### ***Seven Star Communities:***

- Hoopa Valley Public Utilities District

# Verizon-Frontier Merger

On January 15, 2026, CPUC approved the merger of Verizon and Frontier along with three Public Benefits Agreements for Cal Advocates, the California Emerging Technology Fund (CETF), and the Communication Workers of America.

## Infrastructure Deployment

- Expand fiber service to 75,000 households
- Install 250 towers
- Buildout to 88 additional Frontier wire centers

## Affordability

- Verizon to promote LifeLine Broadband Pilot
- Verizon broadband plans free for low-income Californians

## Digital Inclusion

- \$50M for digital equity ecosystem and workforce training with CSUs
- \$500M spend commitment for diverse suppliers
- Create 600 new union jobs

# Questions



# DIGITAL EQUITY RESOURCE SURVEY FINDINGS

## Shawn Daugherty

**PRINCIPAL**

Broadband Equity Partnership

# Digital Equity Resource Survey

## Service Focus

Residents: **191**; Organization to Organization: **154**

## Overview

Responses	<b>191</b>
Presentations/Demos	<b>3</b>
Bulk Upload Requests	<b>24</b>
Bulk Uploads Received	<b>24</b>
Total Locations	<b>796</b>

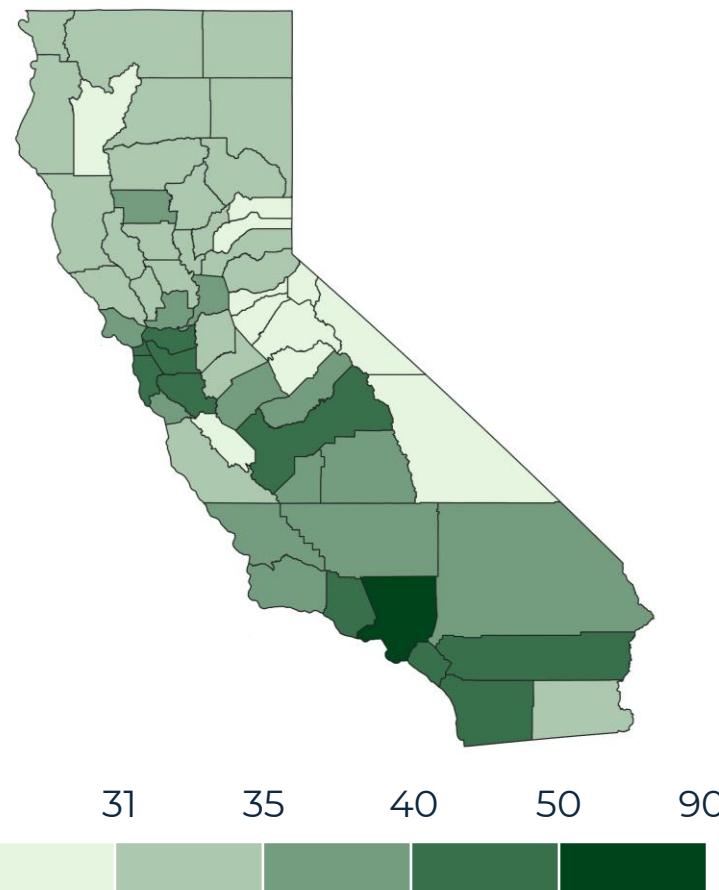
## By Org Type (Responses/Locations)

Libraries	<b>44</b>	<b>509</b>
CBO	<b>95</b>	<b>190</b>
Schools & Colleges	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>
Broadband Consortia	<b>8</b>	<b>10</b>
Other	<b>60</b>	<b>79</b>

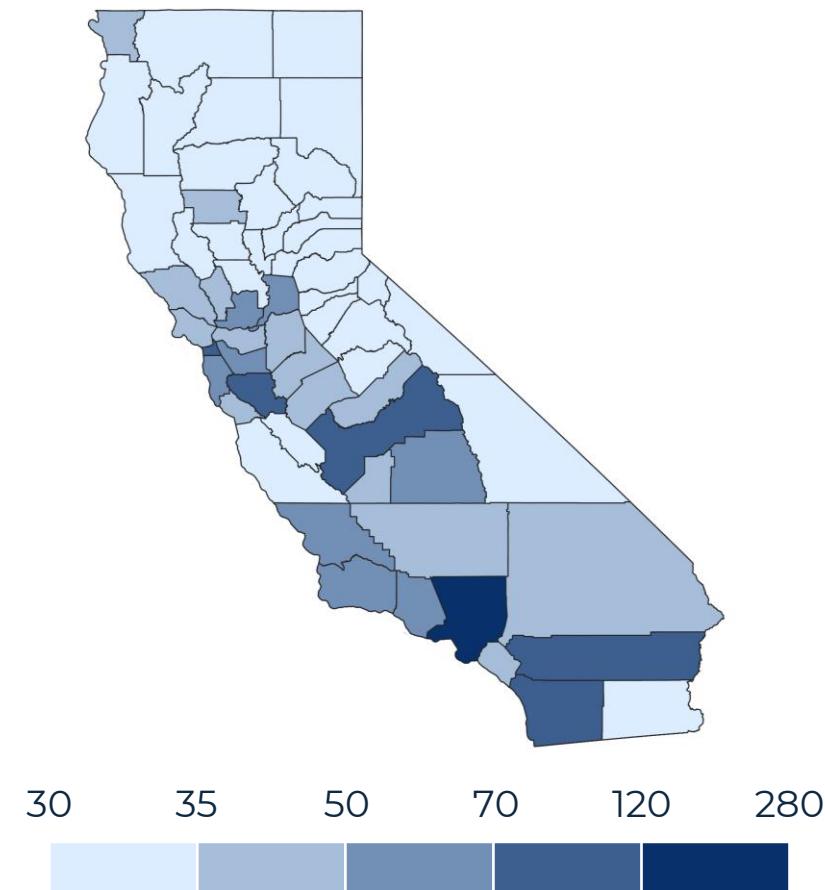
Responses as of 1/27/25

# Digital Equity Resource Survey

## Responses by County



# Locations by County



**Responses as of 1/27/26**

# Digital Equity Resource Finder

## Digital Equity Resource Finder

Welcome to the California Digital Equity Resource Finder –a tool designed to assist residents and organizations to find digital inclusion programs and services in their communities. The Resource Finder was updated in January 2026.

Use this tool to find resources like free/low-cost devices, public Wi-Fi, or digital skills training.

I am a...  I am located in...  I am seeking the following service...  

**Services that include (select all that apply)**

Computer centers  Digital navigation (in-person or virtual/call center)  Digital skills training  Free or low-cost devices

Free or low-cost hotspots  Low-cost internet enrollment assistance  Low-cost internet programs  Online educational resources

Public Wi-Fi  Technical support  Workforce development

Showing 873 results

Clear all

### ABLE Community Development Foundation

1963 Carlson Blvd, Richmond, CA, 94804

Digital skills training

<https://www.ablecommunitydf.org>

[Learn more](#)

### Acton & Agua Dulce Democratic Club

Virtual

Online educational resources

<https://www.actonaguadulcedemocraticclub.com/>

[Learn more](#)

### Advancing Modoc

701 N Main Street #D3, Alturas, CA, 96101

Digital skills training, Public Wi-Fi, Online educational resources, Workforce development

<https://advancingmodoc.org/>

[Learn more](#)

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I am a...  I am located in...  I am seeking the following service...  

**Support that includes (select all that apply)**

Collective action  Digital equity grant writing  Information sharing  Mutual aid (financial)

Organizational training  Partnership opportunities  Train-the-trainer programs  Other

Showing 806 results

Clear all

### ABLE Community Development Foundation

1963 Carlson Blvd, Richmond, CA, 94804

Partnership opportunities, Collective action, Information sharing

<https://www.ablecommunitydf.org>

[Learn more](#)

### Acton & Agua Dulce Democratic Club

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# Questions

# Guest Panel: Library Digital Inclusion Programs

**Amy Crow**

ASSISTANT REGIONAL  
ADMINISTRATOR

LA County Library

**Christopher Diaz**

LIBRARY MARKETING & COMMUNITY  
RELATIONS OFFICER

Solano County Library

**Fae Giffen**

PRINCIPAL LIBRARIAN,  
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Fresno County Library



**Broadband for All**



# CA LIFELINE HOME BROADBAND PILOT PROGRAM

**Loi Nguyen**

**PUBLIC UTILITIES REGULATORY ANALYST**

California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC)

# CA Lifeline Home Broadband Pilot Program

## Key Milestones

**January 23, 2026 – Published *Draft Resolution T-17903*:** <https://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/>

- Establishes a registration process for local agencies to join the Pilot program.
  - Public comments due by February 12, 2026
  - Reply comments due by February 17, 2026

**January 26, 2026 – Pilot Launch**

- California LifeLine service providers
- Service providers with Commission-issued Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) or Wireless ID Registration(WIR)

**February 26, 2026 – Commission Agenda Meeting**

- If approved, local agencies may participate in the Pilot as outlined in the resolution.

# CA Lifeline Home Broadband Pilot Program

**Participating Service Providers:** Advice Letters received: 13

- **Approved: 3**

- Comcast Phone of California
- Sierra Telephone Company
- Ducor Telephone Company

- **Pending Review: 10**

- Bright House Network
- Kerman Telephone Company
- Charter Fiberlink
- Pinnacles Telephone Company
- Calaveras Telephone Company
- Ranch WiFi
- Cal Ore
- Siskiyou Telephone Company
- Foresthill Telephone Company
- Time Warner Cable

## Consumers Resources

**February 2, 2026:** Approved home broadband service providers and their plans will be available.

- <https://www.californialifeline.com/en>

# Questions



# REQUEST FOR INNOVATIVE IDEAS UPDATE

**James Spencer**  
**BROADBAND ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGER**  
Office of Broadband and Digital Literacy  
California Department of Technology

# Request for Innovative Ideas (RFI<sup>2</sup>)



Promote/Track Low-Cost Offers/Subsidies/Streamline Enrollment



Digital Literacy Skills & Training Platform



Digital Navigation Training & Services



Devices & Statewide Device Ecosystem



Annual DE Survey



Online Educational & Workforce Development Resources



Collective Funding Action

# RFI<sup>2</sup> Update

- Launched January 5, 2026
- Request for Innovative Ideas Conference January 9, 2026
- Initial Close date January 23, 2026
- Extended to January 30, 2026

# RFI<sup>2</sup> Timeline

Action	Date and Time (PT)
<b>Phase 1</b>	
Release RFI <sup>2</sup>	January 5, 2026
RFI <sup>2</sup> Conference	January 9, 2026 at 10:00 AM (PT)
Last Day to submit questions	January 12, 2026 at 12:00 PM (PT)
Innovation Concept Papers (ICP) due	January 30, 2026 at 12:00 PM (PT)
Evaluations and, if necessary, confidential discussions	*February 2, 2026 – February 13, 2026 (estimated)
Notification of finalists	*February 17, 2026 (estimated)
Negotiate contract to perform Phase 2	*February 17, 2026 – March 16, 2026 (estimated)
<b>Phase 2 (Estimated)</b>	
Submit Phase 2 Final proposals	*March 23, 2026
Contract Award	*April 6, 2026 (estimated)

*\*Note: Tentative timeline subject to revision and change*



# UPCOMING GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

## Aracely Hernandez

**DIGITAL INCLUSION MANAGER**

Office of Broadband and Digital Literacy  
California Department of Technology

# CPUC CA Advanced Services Fund Programs

## CASF Broadband Consortia

**Deadline: February 20, 2026**

- *Eligible:* Broadband Consortia
- *Focus:* To facilitate and assist with CPUC grant applications to CASF Inf., FFA, etc.



## CASF Tribal Technical Assistance

**Deadline: April 1, 2026**

- *Eligible:* CA Tribes & Tribal Consortia
- *Funding:* Up to \$250K per Tribe per fiscal year
- *Focus:* Improve voice & broadband access and planning



## CASF Broadband Adoption Account

**Deadline: July 1, 2026**

- *Eligible:* Local gov, schools, libraries, nonprofits, CBOs
- *Funding:* \$100K–\$4M+ and 15% match
- *Focus:* Digital literacy & broadband access in community spaces



## CASF Broadband Public Housing Account

**Deadline: July 1, 2026**

- *Eligible:* Public & farmworker housing, mobile home parks, MDUs, tribal housing
- *Funding:* Up to 100% of wiring & network equipment
- *Focus:* Build or connect networks offering free broadband service



# Digital Divide Grant Program Round 3

The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) is accepting applications for its Digital Divide Grant Program, providing a total of \$200,000.

## **Eligibility:**

- Low-income rural or urban school
- Non-profit community-based organization (CBO) with a demonstrated record of work in addressing the digital divide. The CBO will partner with eligible public school or district to deploy the project.

**Funding:** One grant of up to \$100,000 for rural or urban schools and two grants of up to \$50,000 for CBO's.

## **Focus:**

- Student or community broadband connections
- Required hardware (laptop, notebook and/or hotspots)
- Curriculum focused on the use of technology
- Software to enable distance learning for students or for access to the local community.
- Training in the use of technology for distance learning, or for the benefit of the community

**Deadline:** February 12, 2026



# Reminder: NTIA Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program

- Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) will be launched in **Spring 2026**
- **\$500M in** estimated funding
- Infrastructure and adoption are allowable uses
- Grants/awards must follow the new federal rules
- A formal Tribal Consultation will be announced prior to the NOFO





# LOOKING AHEAD

## Anh Nguyen

**ENGAGEMENT & OPERATIONS MANAGER**

Office of Broadband and Digital Literacy  
California Department of Technology

# Community Feedback

## Digital Equity Topics

- **Affordability**, reliability, and sustainability of internet access
- **Devices**, sourcing, engaging with private industry
- **Digital literacy** trainings and curriculum for instructors and residents, smart phones
- Training and credentialing for **digital navigators**
- **Workforce** resources, certification, apprenticeships
- **Supportive services** for aging, re-entry, rural, Tribal, immigrant, and independent living communities
- **AI** literacy and adoption, safety, ethics, bias recognition

## Future Speakers

- Specific requests:
  - Governor Newsom
  - Sunne McPeak
  - Sabrina Ramonov
  - Mark Cuban
  - Valley Vision
  - Andrew Broderick
- Policymakers
- Regional planning orgs
- Labor, workforce, and standards enforcement representatives
- Academics

## Improvements & Comments

- Requests for actionable grants and funding information
- Accessibility needs: accurate captions and audio clarity
- Practical training for community advocates and service providers
- Continued interest in tools that support independent living and service delivery

# COP Future Meeting Dates

## Next Meeting

February 26, 2026  
10:30 AM - 12:00 PM

### *Guest Speakers:*

Sunne McPeak, President & CEO  
California Emerging Technology Fund (CETF)

Amy Gonzales, Ph.D.  
Associate Professor  
Department of Communication - UC Santa Barbara

## Upcoming 2026 Meeting Dates\*:

- Thursday, February 26
- Thursday, March 26
- Thursday, April 30
- Thursday, May 28
- Thursday, June 25
- Thursday, July 30
- Thursday, August 27
- Thursday, September 24
- Thursday, October 29
- Thursday, November 19
- Thursday, December 17

**\*Subject to Change**

# Questions

## **Upcoming Community of Practice Meeting**

Date: Thursday, February 26, 2026

Time: 11:00AM – 12:00 PM

### **Website:**

[BroadbandForAll.cdt.ca.gov](http://BroadbandForAll.cdt.ca.gov)

### **Contact:**

[broadbandforall@state.ca.gov](mailto:broadbandforall@state.ca.gov)

### **Sign up:**

Broadband for All Email Update

