

Digital Equity Community of Practice Meeting

January 30, 2026



Broadband for All

Housekeeping

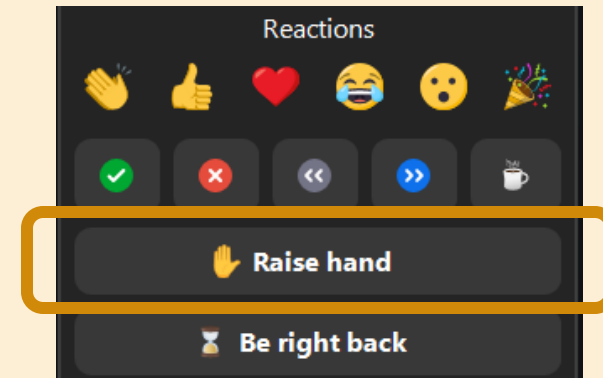
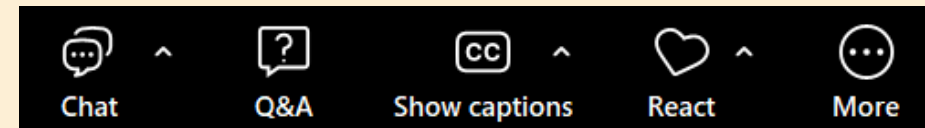
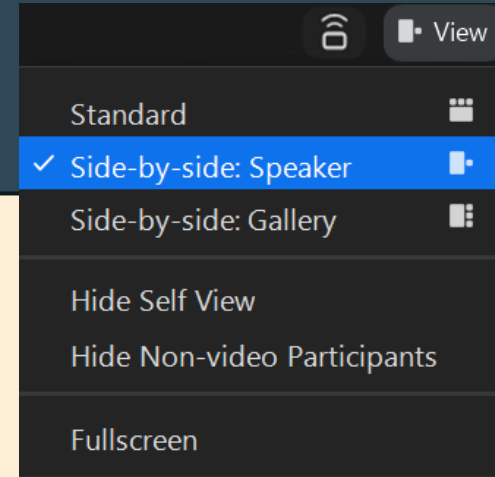
Select Side-by-Side: Speaker Mode for the best viewing experience when slides are shared and visibility of the ASL interpreters

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:

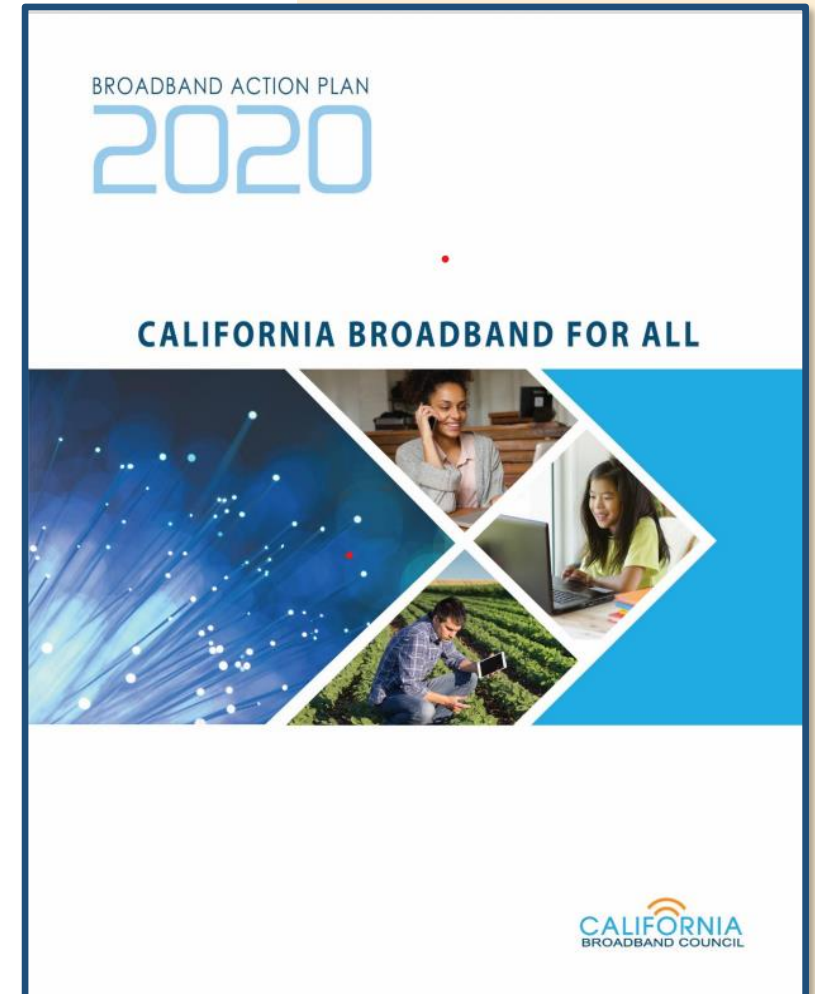
All Californians have high-performance broadband available at home, schools, libraries, and businesses.

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

Welcome

Digital Equity Resource Survey Findings

Guest Panel: Library Digital Inclusion Programs

CA Lifeline Home Broadband Pilot Program

Request for Innovative Ideas Update

Upcoming Grant Opportunities

Looking Ahead



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
(RFI²)**

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	191
Presentations/Demos	3
Bulk Upload Requests	24
Bulk Uploads Received	24
Total Locations	796

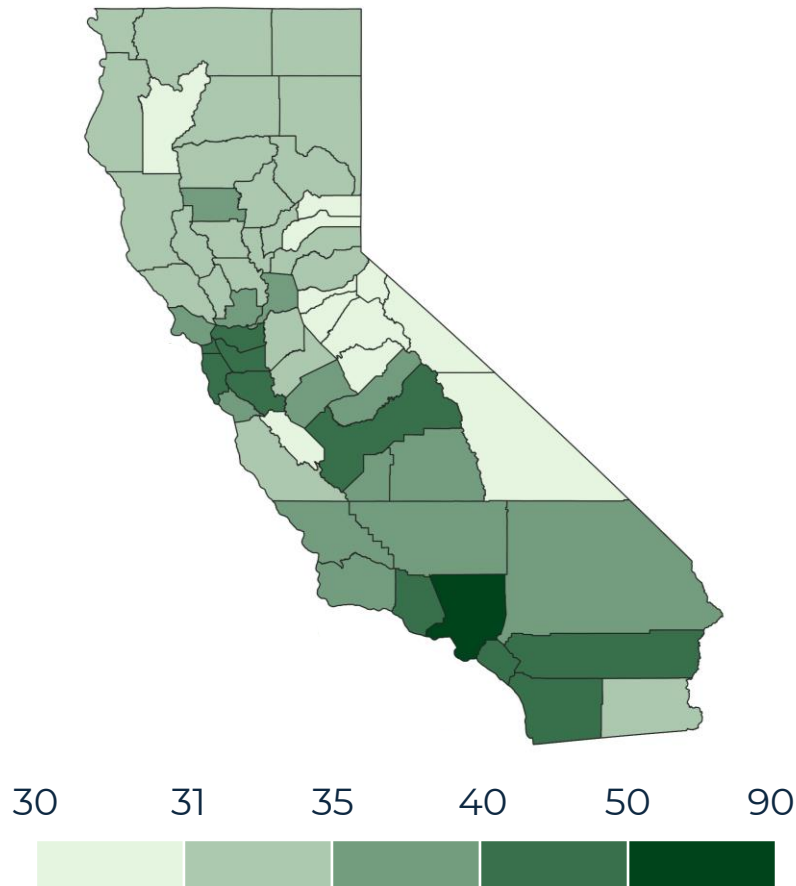
By Org Type (Responses/Locations)

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

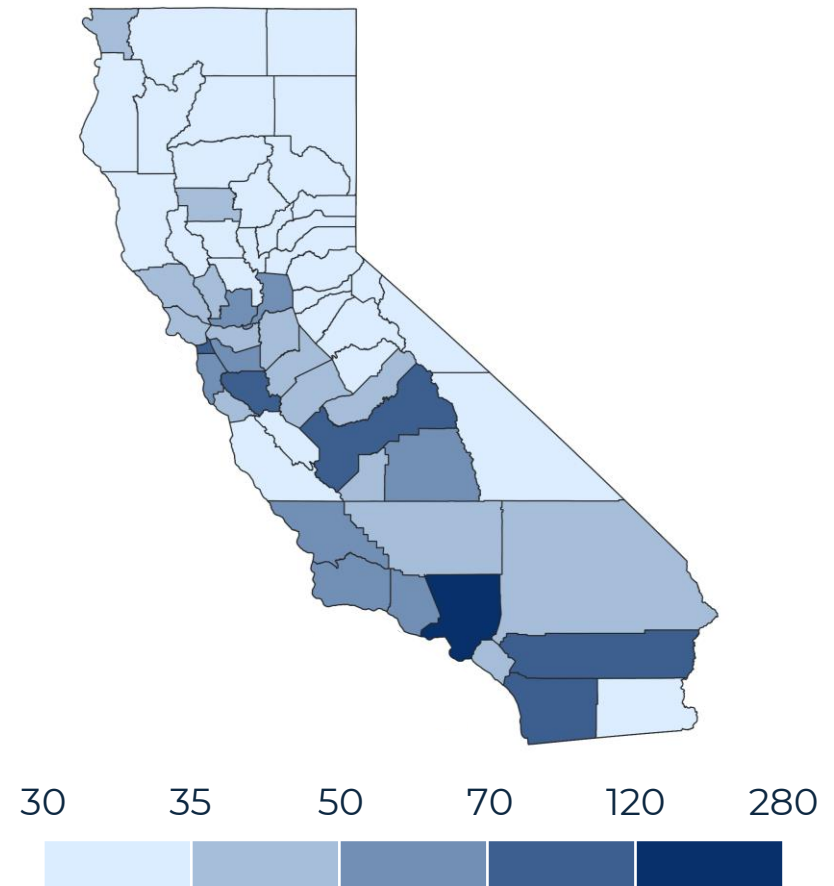
Responses as of 1/27/25

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...

Resident Any county Search

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

Digital Equity Resource Finder

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

Organization Any county Search

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

Virtual

Collective action, Information sharing

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Advancing Modoc

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Organizational training, Partnership opportunities, Collective action, Information sharing

<https://advancingmodoc.org/>

Learn more

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
- Ducor Telephone Company
- Sierra Telephone Company

- **Pending Review: 10**

- Bright House Network
- Charter Fiberlink
- Calaveras Telephone Company
- Cal Ore
- Foresthill Telephone Company
- Kerman Telephone Company
- Pinnacles Telephone Company
- Ranch WiFi
- Siskiyou 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 (RFI²)



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

RFI² Update

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

RFI² Timeline

Action	Date and Time (PT)
Phase 1	
Release RFI ²	January 5, 2026
RFI ² 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)
Phase 2 (Estimated)	
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

Contact:

broadbandforall@state.ca.gov

Sign up:

Broadband for All Email Update



Broadband for All

