

Digital Equity Community of Practice Meeting

February 26, 2026



Broadband for All

Housekeeping

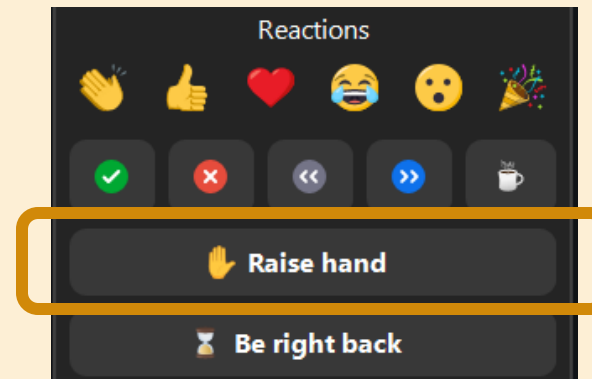
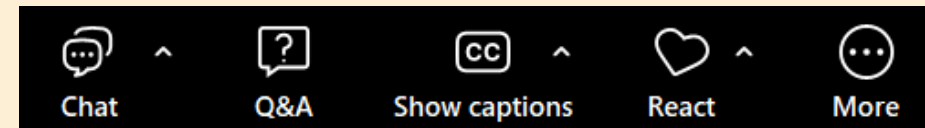
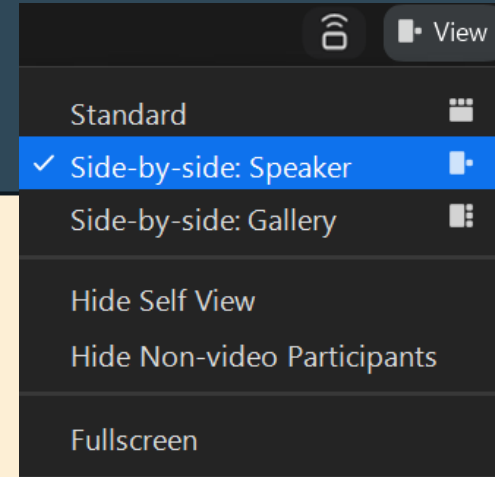
Select Side-by-Side: Speaker Mode for the best viewing experience when slides are shared and visibility of the ASL interpreters

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.





WELCOME

Scott Adams

DEPUTY DIRECTOR

Office of Broadband and Digital Literacy
California Department of Technology

Broadband for All Action Plan

GOAL 1:

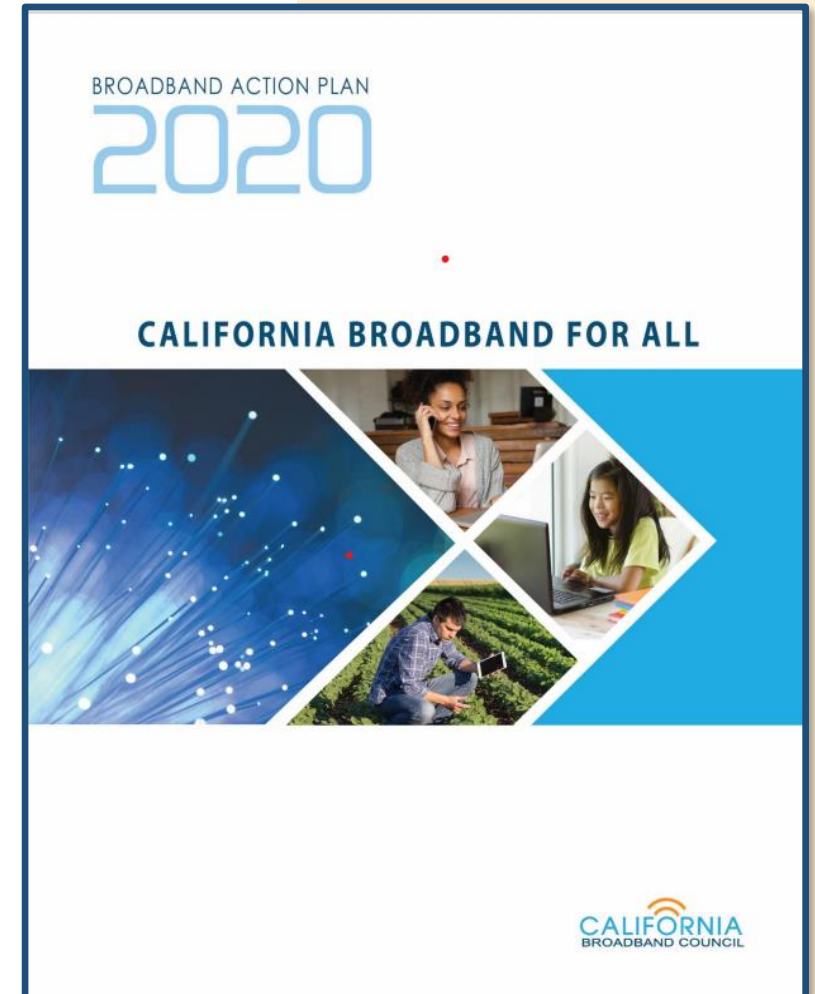
All Californians have high-performance broadband available at home, schools, libraries, and businesses.

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



Update: CA Lifeline Home Broadband Pilot Program

Speaker: Importance of Large Device Ownership

Demo: Digital Equity Resource Finder

Update: BB4All SDEP Request for Innovative Ideas

Update: Upcoming Grant Opportunities

Speaker: Verizon/Frontier Merger Public Benefit Agreement

Looking Ahead



UPDATE: CA LIFELINE HOME BROADBAND PILOT PROGRAM

Loi Nguyen

REGULATORY ANALYST

California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC)

CA Lifeline Home Broadband Pilot Program

February 26, 2026 –Commission Agenda Meeting

- **Draft Resolution T-17903** - Establishes a registration process for local agencies to join the Pilot program.

Participating Service Providers: Advice Letters received: 16

- **Approved: 15**

- Bright House Network
- Calaveras Telephone Co.
- Cal Ore Telephone Co.
- Comcast Phone of California
- Charter Fiberlink
- Ducor Telephone Company
- Foresthill Telephone Co.
- Kerman Telephone Co.
- Pinnacles Telephone Co.
- Ponderosa Telephone Co.
- Ranch WiFi
- Sierra Telephone Co.
- Siskiyou Telephone Co
- Time Warner Cable
- Volcano Telephone Co.

- **Pending Review: 1**

- Cal.Net, Inc.

CA Lifeline Home Broadband Pilot Program

Questions:

- “Are there any additional financial assistance options available for installation fees, routers, etc.?”
- “How long does it take a service provider to get approved after submitting their advice letter?”
- “How long will it take for pending ISPs’ advice letters to be approved?”
- “Is this the correct page to find participating broadband providers and eligible plans? I only see "Cell Phone Service" and "Home Phone Service":
https://www.californialifeline.com/en/provider_search.”
- “Sounds like the database is the same as Lifeline for phone, if I'm understanding. Are there different applications for phone and internet, or is there just a single customer application for both?”

Questions



Broadband for All

The Device Gap

Why Large-Screen Device Ownership
Matters for Digital Equity

Amy Gonzales

Associate Professor

Department of Communication

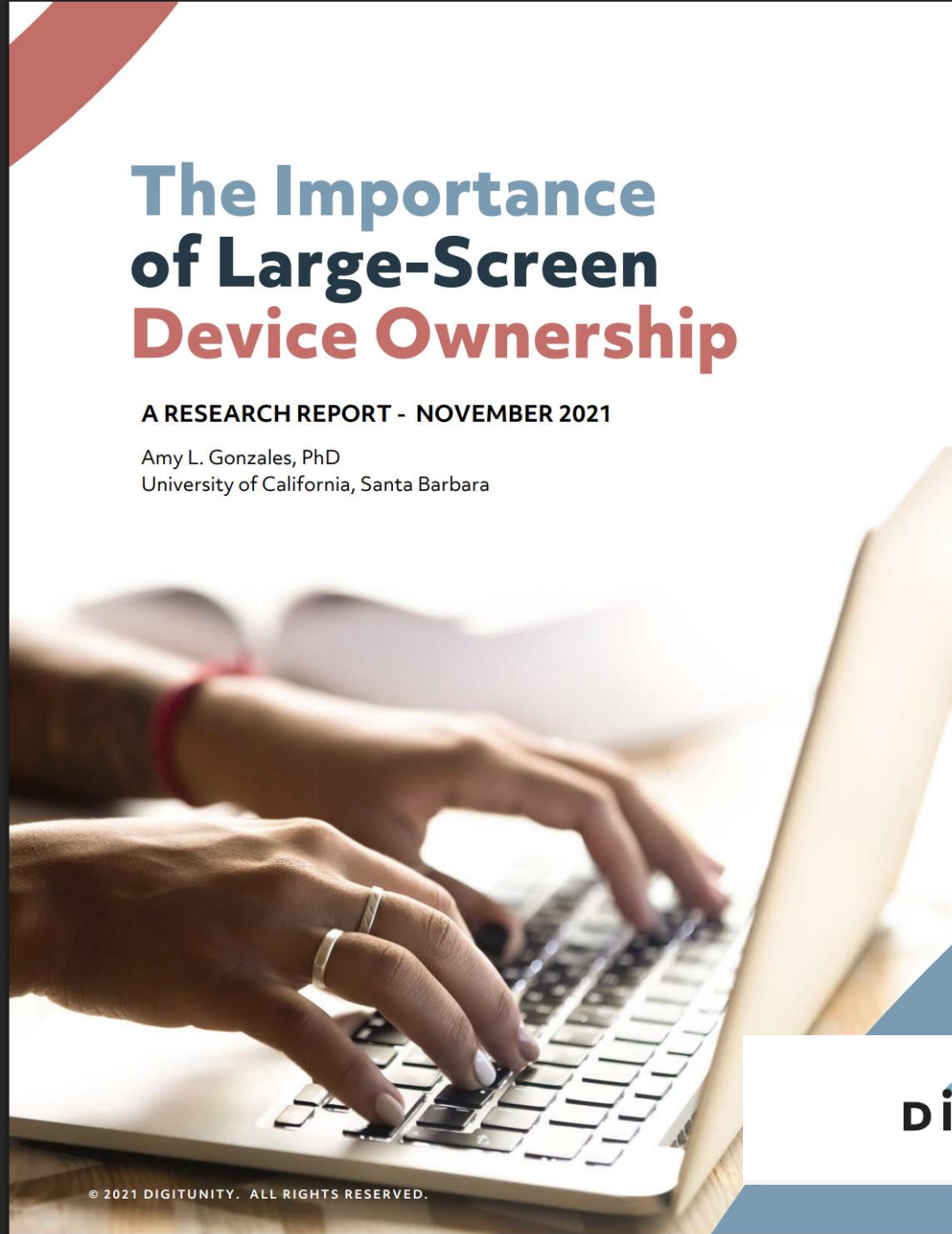
UCSB



The Importance of Large-Screen Device Ownership

A RESEARCH REPORT - NOVEMBER 2021

Amy L. Gonzales, PhD
University of California, Santa Barbara



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<https://digitunity.org/research-reports/>

Historically Device Sensitive Groups



Students

- Students with access to personal computing devices consistently demonstrate improved academic performance across all education levels.
- Device access is crucial for developing strong digital literacy skills.



People with Disabilities & Chronic Illness

- Those with disabilities have historically been less likely to own devices, yet benefit greatly including:
 - including:
 - having greater doctor-patient communication,
 - improved health outcomes,
 - essential access to information and support.



Housing Insecure Individuals

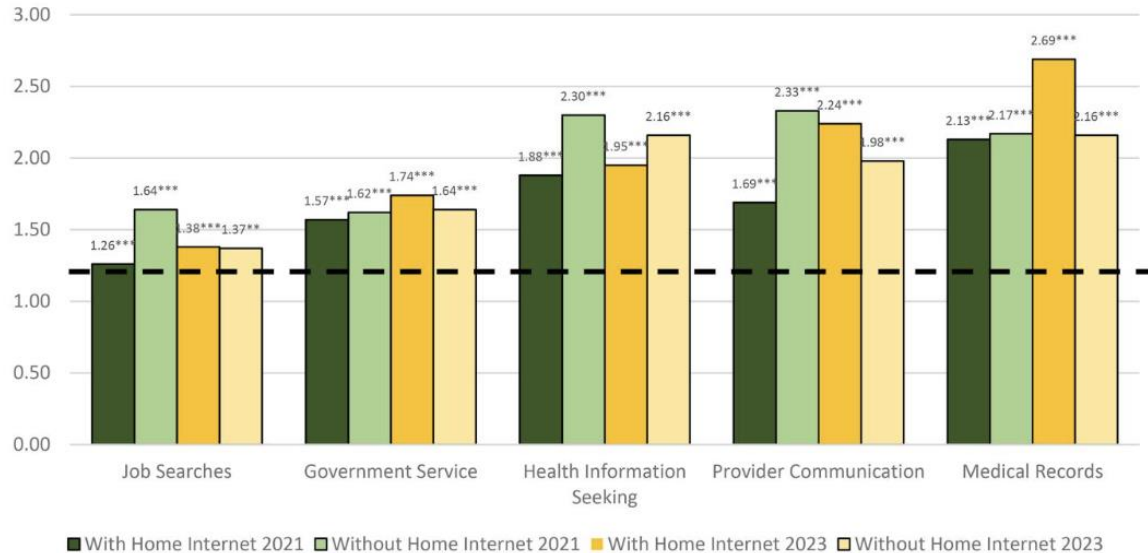
- Remote communication is essential for:
 - community resources,
 - contacting loved ones,
 - job searches,
 - healthcare.

Computer Ownership is More Important for Internet Benefits than Benefits than In-Home Internet Service

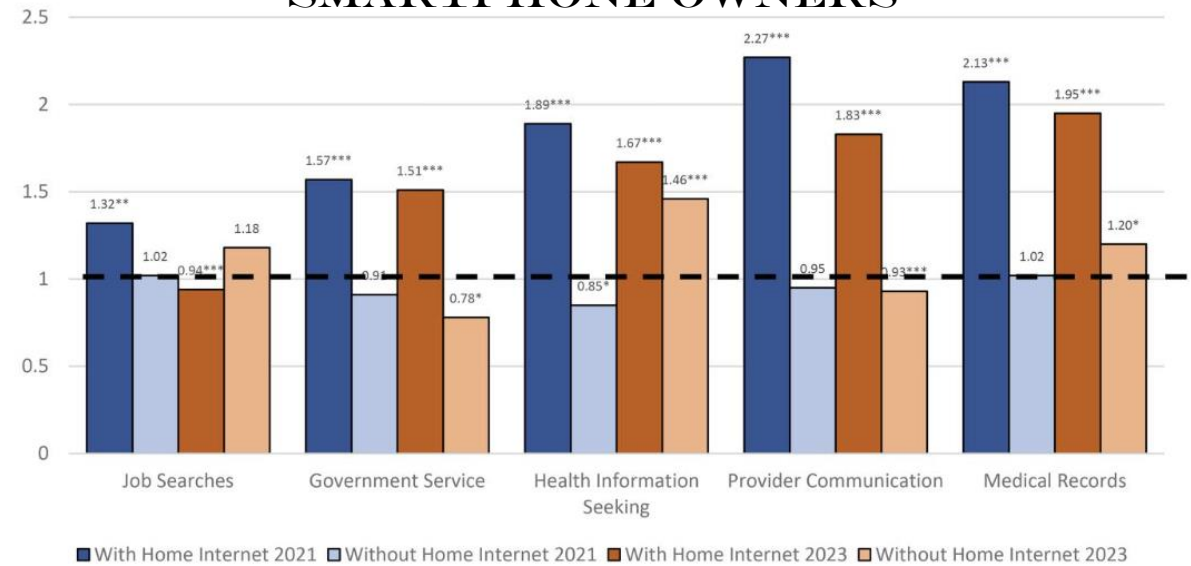
Computer Use: The Strongest Predictor
Laptop/desktop computer use was a stronger predictor of beneficial internet use than smartphone access or in-home internet service alone.

Device Quality Matters
The quality and reliability of computing devices explain additional variance in beneficial internet use, indicating that not all devices are created equal in enabling digital engagement.

COMPUTER OWNERS



SMARTPHONE OWNERS



Smartphones Aren't Enough



Skill Development

Mobile-only users have more limited computing experiences, experiences, which limits digital skills, especially for critical life critical life activities like work and school.



Mobile-Only Limitations

Being low-income, a person of color, and having less education education are all associated with mobile-only internet use, use, reflecting persistent digital inequalities

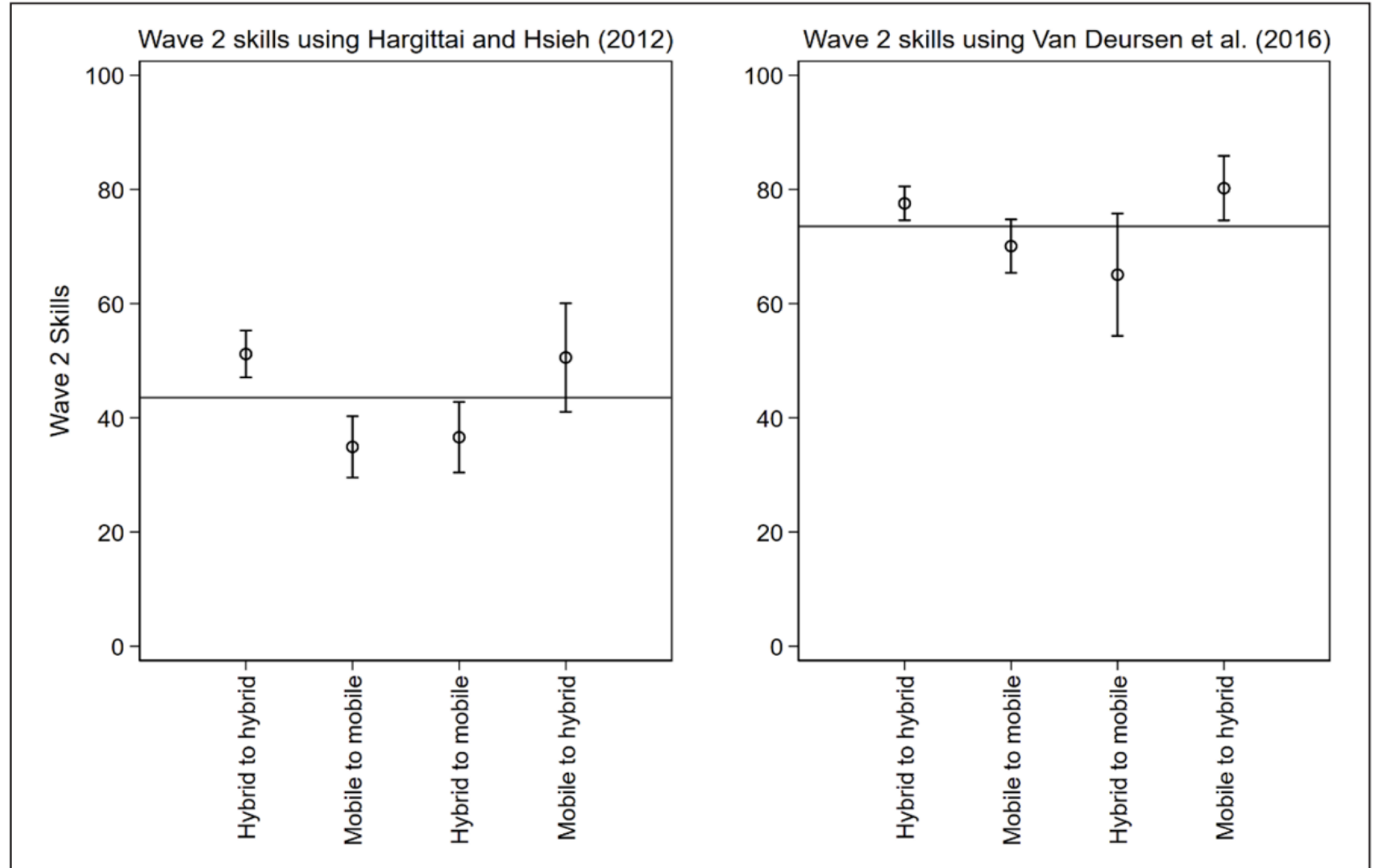
For better and for worse: A panel survey of how mobile-only and hybrid Internet use affects digital skills over time

Teresa Correa ^{id}
Universidad Diego Portales, Chile

Sebastián Valenzuela ^{id}
Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, Chile

Isabel Pavez ^{id}
Universidad de Los Andes, Chile

THE “DESKILLING” OF COMPUTER LOSS



Recommendations to Close the Gap

1

Increase Ownership

Ensure each individual in a household can access a laptop or desktop as needed for work and school. Sharing devices undermines use.

2

Ensure Quality

Protect against creating a second-class digital citizen. Affordable devices must be reliable and provide a range of services.

3

Prepare for Disruption

Maintain redundancies in services and internet and devices to fail.

4

Pair with Training

Support computer owners with digital skills training, especially for families with children.

5

Protect Public Spaces

Ensure libraries and public terminals are plentiful and well-staffed for those unable to get reliable in-home computers.

Thank you!

gonzales@ucsb.edu



Questions



Broadband for All



DEMO: DIGITAL EQUITY RESOURCE FINDER

Shawn Daugherty

PRINCIPAL

Broadband Equity Partnership

Digital Equity Resource Finder (DERF)

Goal: Enhance the Digital Equity Resource Finder with accurate & up-to-date resources

Process: Survey launched November 2025

Response: 188 organizations; 809 resource locations

Engagement: Stakeholder briefings, user-testing, bulk data uploads

Result: Expanded DERF to include new and updated resources

The screenshot displays the Digital Equity Resource Finder (DERF) website. At the top, there is a dark blue header with the text "Digital Equity Resource Finder" and a language dropdown menu set to "English". Below the header, a welcome message states: "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." A secondary message reads: "Use this tool to find resources like free/low-cost devices, public Wi-Fi, or digital skills training."

The main content area features a search filter section with the following options:

- I am...**: Radio buttons for "A Resident" (selected) and "An Organization".
- Location**: A dropdown menu with "Any county" selected.
- Service type**: A dropdown menu with "All services" selected.
- Service delivery**: A dropdown menu with "Either Virtual or In-Person" selected.
- Open Search**: A search input field with a magnifying glass icon.
- View**: Radio buttons for "Map view" and "Table view" (selected).

Below the filters, it indicates "Showing 809 results serving All Counties" and "Sort results by A-Z". The results are displayed in a grid of nine cards, each representing a resource location:

- ABLE Community Development Foundation**: 7811 Dalewoods Way, Sacramento, CA 95828. <https://ablecommunitydf.org>. [Learn more](#)
- Acton & Agua Dulce Democratic Club**: Virtual. <https://actonaguadulcedemocraticclub.com/democracy-in-action>. [Learn more](#)
- Advancing Modoc**: Virtual. <https://advancingmodoc.org/>. [Learn more](#)
- Alameda County Library**: Virtual. <https://aclibrary.org/eilibrary>. [Learn more](#)
- Alameda County Library - Albany Library**: 1247 Marin Ave. Albany, CA 94706. <https://aclibrary.org>. [Learn more](#)
- Alameda County Library - Castro Valley Library**: 3600 Norbridge Ave. Castro Valley, CA 94546. <https://aclibrary.org>. [Learn more](#)
- Alameda County Library - Centerville Library**: 3801 Nicolet Ave. Fremont, CA 94536. <https://aclibrary.org>. [Learn more](#)
- Alameda County Library - Cherryland Community Center Library**: 278 Hampton Road, Hayward, CA 94541. <https://aclibrary.org>. [Learn more](#)
- Alameda County Library - Dublin Library**: 200 Civic Plaza, Dublin, CA 94568. <https://aclibrary.org>. [Learn more](#)

Demo: Digital Equity Resource Finder

I am... **A Resident** An Organization

Location: Alameda County

Service type: All services

Service delivery: In-Person

Open Search: Search

View: **Map view** Table view

I am... **A Resident** An Organization

Location: Fresno County

Service type: All services

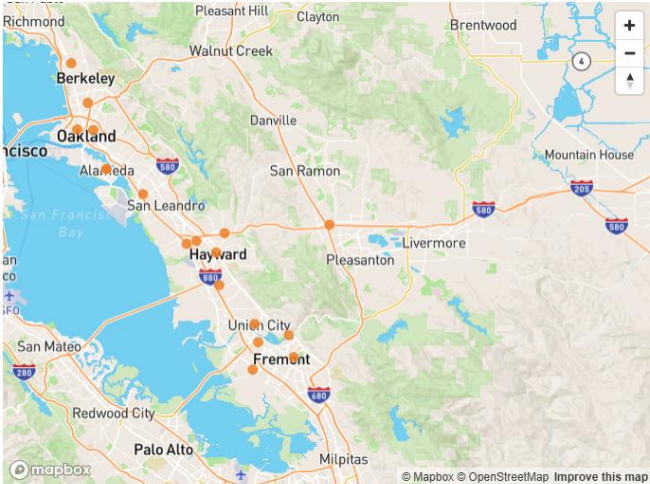
Service delivery: Either Virtual or In-Person

Open Search: Search

View: Map view **Table view**

Showing 19 results serving Alameda County available in-person

Sort results by: A-Z



Alameda County Library - Albany Library
1247 Marin Ave, Albany, CA, 94706
<https://aclibrary.org>
Learn more

Alameda County Library - Castro Valley Library
3600 Norbridge Ave, Castro

Zoom to this resource

Showing 82 results serving Fresno County

Sort results by: A-Z

Binational of Central California
3302 N Blackstone Ave, Suite 221, Fresno, CA, 93726
<https://binationalca.org/>
Learn more

Community Media Access Collaborative
1555 Van Ness Ave, Suite 201, Fresno, CA, 93721
<https://cmac.tv>
Learn more

Education and Leadership Foundation
1308 E Olive Avenue, Fresno, CA, 93728
<https://elfus.org>
Learn more

Familias Empoderadas del Valle Central
2901 N 3rd St, Fresno, CA, 93703
<https://famiiasempoderadas.org>
Learn more

Fresno County Public Library - Auberry Library
33049 Auberry Road, Auberry, CA, 93602
<https://fresnolibrary.org/index.html>
Learn more

Fresno County Public Library - Bear Mountain Library
30733 E Kings Canyon Road, Yokuts Valley, CA, 93675
<https://fresnolibrary.org/index.html>
Learn more

Recent Tester Feedback

Changes Made

Mapping function

Consolidated to one card per location

Option to change number of cards shown per page

Validate and fix URLs

Fix filter bugs and applied fuzzy search logic to keyword search

A-Z or Proximity Search

Option to Update Resource

Added in-person vs virtual search filter

Digital Equity Resource Finder

How Can You Help?

- Confirm your organization's data
 - Direct to service URL vs. generic URL
 - Personal vs. generic contact information
 - Geographic identification linking services to locations for in-person
 - Any other changes
- Submit form to update data, if necessary



Questions



Broadband for All



UPDATE: REQUEST FOR INNOVATIVE IDEAS

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 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*



UPDATE: 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 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



NTIA Reminder

Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program (TCBP)

- NOFO will be launched in Spring
- \$500M in estimated funding
- NTIA anticipates focus of the new program will be on projects that complement BEAD infrastructure to ensure that BEAD investment is maximized.

[TCBP FAQs 112125](#)



Questions



Broadband for All



SPEAKER: VERIZON/FRONTIER MERGER PUBLIC BENEFIT AGREEMENT

Sunne Wright McPeak

PRESIDENT and CEO

California Emerging Technology Fund (CETF)

Overview – Framework for Public Benefits MOUs

CETF Negotiated 4 Public-Benefits MOUs in Decade

“Appropriate, Fair and Comparable” Doctrine

- ❑ Deployment: HHs; Anchor Institutions; RBC Consultations
- ❑ Affordability: Affordable Offers for >5 Years
- ❑ Adoption: Digital Inclusion Investments



Overview – Framework for Public Benefits MOUs

CETF-Cal Advocates-CWA Verizon Public Benefits MOUs

- ❑ Deployment: Fiber to 75,000 HHs; 250 Towers; 600 Jobs
- ❑ Affordability: Verizon Forward, LifeLine for 10 Years
- ❑ Adoption: \$40M Digital Inclusion + \$1M Small Business
 - Get 100,000 Low-Income HHs Online and Digitally Proficient
 - Help Small Businesses access \$500M in Verizon Programs for Small Businesses (qualify for \$150M more – Total \$650M)
 - Strive through Inclusion-Diversity-Equity (IDE) to achieve workforce and supplies that reflect California population

Public Benefits MOUs Align to BB4All & SDEP

3 Goals All Californians have:	BB4All Actions	Public Benefits MOUs
High-speed high-performing broadband	#1-#10: Facilitate deployment and permitting	Fiber to 75,000 HHs 250 Wireless Towers RBC-MPO Consultations 600 New Jobs
Affordable broadband and devices	#16: Partner with ISPs. Promote affordable offers and devices	Offer Verizon Forward (\$20), Frontier Offers, and LifeLine for 10 Years; \$1.5M for awareness & outreach
Training and support to enable digital inclusion	#18: Ensure training and support. Manage network of digital inclusion stakeholders	Connect 100k HHs with affordable Internet. Deliver DL training/resources Assist small businesses Inclusion-Diversity-Equity



Call to Action: Participate in Listening Sessions

2 Tracks of Listening Sessions

Engage: CDT, CPUC, Stakeholders

Schedule: March-April

1. Digital Inclusion: Thursdays, 2-4 PM
2. Small Business: Fridays, 12-2 PM

May: Release Draft Action Plans

June: Action by CETF Board of Directors

Participate in most appropriate session.
(Small business sessions for existing stakeholders.)



Questions



Broadband for All



LOOKING AHEAD

Anh Nguyen

ENGAGEMENT & OPERATIONS MANAGER

Office of Broadband and Digital Literacy
California Department of Technology

Community Feedback

Digital Equity Topics

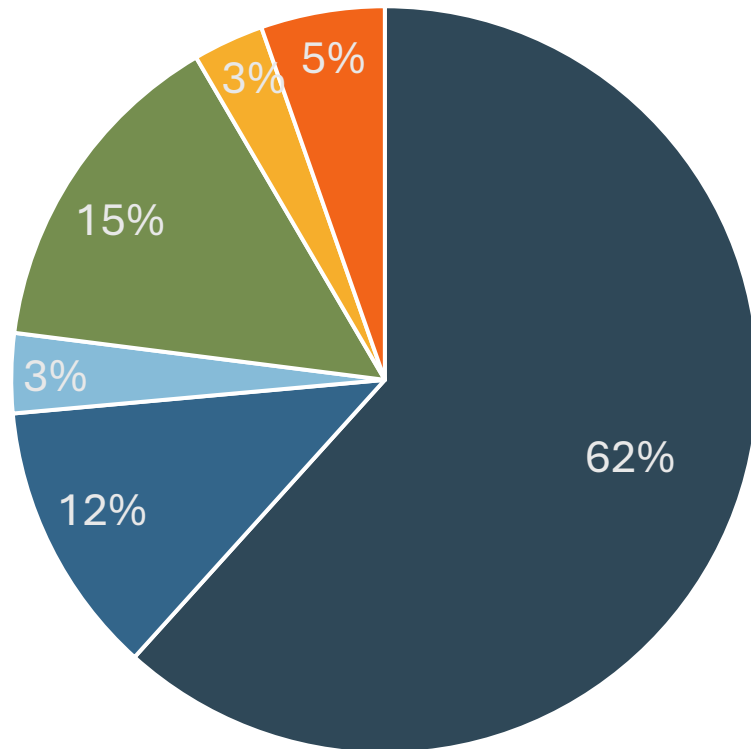
- Health & Telehealth access
- Get Connected Program
- School/Anchor institution connectivity & Wi-Fi access
- Non-infrastructure Grants and Funding opportunities
- CA Lifeline Home Broadband Pilot
- KPIs, OKRs and SDGs for digital equity
- Data Security
- Small Business Digital Inclusion
- Lessons learned from Collaborative Networks or Community Coalitions formed to help bridge digital divide
- Mass Device Donations to Non-Profit Refurbishes
- Workforce Development Pathways for Digital Navigators
- **Affordability** of reliable internet access
- **Devices** funding, distribution, engage with private industry
- **Digital literacy** trainings and curriculum for instructors and residents, smart phones
- **Workforce** resources, certification, apprenticeships
- **Supportive services** for vulnerable communities
- **AI** literacy and adoption, safety, ethics, bias recognition

Future Speakers

- Common Sense Media on AI Literacy in Education
- Open AI or nonprofit leaders who are leading work in this area.
- California Department of Education
- Leadership from agencies serving covered populations articulating the impact of digital inclusion activities on their programs
- Community-based practitioners
- Community leaders
- Disability and digital rights advocates
- Local government
- Cory Doctorow
- Internet service providers
- Tech industry founders
- Public and Private industry leaders
- U.S. Dept. of Commerce

Community Feedback

What tool or resource would be most helpful to address your organization/community/residents' needs? Please pick one.



- All of the above or blank
- Free Digital Literacy Skills & Training
- Free Online Educational Resources
- Digital Equity Survey/Data
- Free Digital Navigator Training
- Free Online Workforce Development Resources

Community Feedback

Improvements & Comments

- Connect Community Based Organizations to resources.
- Have more actionable skills
- More peer exchange, practical examples, shorter presentations, clear follow-ups, and shared resources after meetings.
- Training videos to act as refresher courses later down the line
- More resources for sustained funding opportunities
- Include scholars in public administration

DE COP Future Meeting Dates

***Upcoming 2026 Meeting Dates (Thursdays 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM):**

- 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



Broadband for All

Upcoming Community of Practice Meeting

Date: Thursday, March 26, 2026

Time: 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM

Website:

BroadbandForAll.cdt.ca.gov

Contact:

broadbandforall@state.ca.gov

Sign up:

Broadband for All Email Update



Broadband for All

