

Digital Equity Community of Practice Meeting

June 25, 2026

10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Meeting Minutes and Transcript

The Digital Equity Community of Practice met virtually on Thursday, June 25, 2026, at 10:30 a.m. Engagement and Operations Manager Ms. Anh Nguyen welcomed attendees and then instructed attendees to introduce themselves in the Zoom Chat box with their name, job title, and affiliated organization.

Housekeeping & Agenda

Ms. Nguyen reviewed a few housekeeping items. The ASL interpreters and Zoom closed captioning were available throughout the meeting. Ms. Nguyen also mentioned that the meeting's recording, minutes, and transcript will be posted on the Broadband for All (BB4All) portal. She shared the overview of meeting agenda.

Agenda items:

- Welcome
- Digital Inclusion Partnerships
- Digital Equity Data Refinement Panel
- CA Lifeline Home Broadband Pilot Program Update
- Digital Equity Resource Finder Summer Outreach Campaign
- Upcoming Grant Opportunities
- Community Feedback & Future Meetings

Agenda Item 1 – Welcome

Ms. Nguyen welcomed participants and reviewed the purpose of the Digital Equity Community of Practice, emphasizing its focus on Goals 2 and 3 of the Broadband for All Action Plan. She also outlined the meeting norms before introducing Mr. James Spencer.

Agenda Item 2 – Digital Inclusion Partnerships

Mr. James Spencer, OBDL Broadband Administrative Manager, provided an overview of the Digital Inclusion Partnerships (DIP). He reviewed a chart outlining the initiative's activity and partnership categories, highlighting key activities that

include promoting and tracking low-cost internet offers and subsidies, streamlining enrollment, supporting digital literacy skills and training platforms, providing digital navigation training and services, expanding device access through a statewide device ecosystem, refining digital equity data, and enhancing online educational and workforce development resources. Mr. Spencer then introduced Shawn Daugherty, who welcomed and introduced the guest speakers for the next agenda item.

Agenda Item 3 – Digital Equity Data Refinement Panel

Ms. Shawn Daugherty, Principal with the Broadband Equity Partnership, introduced a guest panel to discuss digital equity data. The panel included Senior Vice President Kat Zigmont from the California Emerging Technology Fund (CETF), Director Patrick Messac from the East Bay Broadband Consortium, and Director of Research and Programs Aaron Schill from the National Digital Inclusion Alliance (NDIA). Ms. Zigmont spoke about the importance of the statewide Digital Equity Survey, Mr. Messac discussed K–12 Technology Assessment Survey, and Mr. Schill shared about the Digital Equity Impact Aggregator. The panel explored the purpose, benefits, and community impacts of these data collection efforts. Following the discussion, Ms. Daugherty invited questions and comments from meeting participants and encouraged continue engagement.

Questions

The following participants asked questions:

- Paula Treat, CVIN/VAST
- J Randolph Luening, BroadbandToolkit.com
- Darby Hatfield, East Bay Broadband Consortium
- Bill Payne, San Diego Second Chance Program
- Amairany Macias, Computers 2 Kids

Agenda Item 4 – CA Lifeline Home Broadband Pilot Program

Ms. Loi Nguyen and Ms. Lisa Anthony provided updates on the California Lifeline Home Broadband Pilot Program. Ms. Nguyen shared the program's latest enrollment and implementation updates, noting that two internet service providers (ISPs), Connect To Communications and Frontier/Verizon, were pending review, while four additional providers were in the onboarding and systems interface testing phase. She also reported that 13 providers were actively enrolling customers. As of June 22, the program had enrolled 15,970 new subscribers and processed 3,721 transfers, for a total of 19,693 subscribers. Ms. Anthony then highlighted outreach resources developed in response to partner recommendations, including a one-page Program flyer available in

English, Spanish, and Chinese, and a centralized program website that serves as a one-stop resource for information about the California Lifeline Home Broadband Pilot Program. Following the presentation, Ms. Nguyen invited questions from participants, and shared links to the program website and related resources in the meeting chat.

Questions

Ms. Aracely Hernandez moderated the Q&A session. Ms. Loi Nguyen proceeded to address questions from the audience. The following meeting attendees asked questions:

- Beth Olschewsky, Los Angeles County Office of Education
- J Randolph Luening, BroadbandToolkit.com
- Amaline Chraibi, International Rescue Committee, San Jose
- Barry Boyd, The Sacramento Environmental Justice Coalition Organization
- Stephanie Swift, Computers 2 Kids

Agenda Item 5 – Digital Equity Resource Finder Outreach Campaign

Ms. Anh Nguyen shared the Digital Equity Resource Finder and provided an update on the Digital Equity Outreach Toolkit to launch the Summer Outreach Campaign. She conducted a live demonstration of the outreach toolkit's webpage, highlighting its available multilingual resources and step-by-step instructional videos designed to support community outreach efforts. Following the demonstration, Ms. Nguyen invited questions and feedback from meeting participants.

- Geoff Belleau, California Department of Education

Agenda Item 6 – Upcoming Grant Opportunities

Ms. Aracely Hernandez provided an overview of upcoming funding and grant opportunities, beginning with a reminder of key application deadlines for several California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) California Advanced Services Fund (CASF) programs, including the Tribal Technical Assistance Account, Broadband Adoption Account, and Broadband Public Housing Account. She shared QR codes directing participants to additional information for each program. Ms. Hernandez also highlighted two federal funding opportunities: the Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program, with a September 17, 2026 application deadline, \$540 million in available funding, eligibility requirements, and priority focus areas; and the Native Entities Grant Program, also due September 17, 2026, which offers \$250 million in funding through awards ranging from \$500,000

to \$2.5 million, requires a 10% match, and supports a range of eligible broadband and digital equity initiatives. She congratulated recent CPUC grant recipients and shared a QR code linking to additional information about the awards.

Ms. Hernandez then introduced additional funding opportunities, including the OpenAI People-First AI Grant Fund, which has a July 15, 2026, application deadline, a \$50 million funding commitment, and a focus on people-centered AI initiatives. She also shared Anthropic's Claude Corps Grant program, with a July 17, 2026, application deadline. QR codes were provided throughout the presentation to direct attendees to additional program information and application resources.

Questions

Ms. Aracely Hernandez moderated the Q&A session. The following meeting attendees asked questions:

- Claire Fitiausi, Valley Voices
- Carolyn Coleman, CAP OC
- J Randolph Luening, BroadbandToolkit.com
- Rebecca Kauma, County of Los Angeles
- Cinthia Medrano, East Bay Broadband Consortium

Agenda Item 7 – Community Feedback & Future Meetings

Ms. Anh Nguyen briefly reviewed community feedback received from participants, including suggested discussion topics, recommendations for future speakers, meeting improvements, and other comments. She encouraged attendees to continue providing feedback, emphasizing that participant input helps shape future Community of Practice discussions and ensures the meetings remain relevant and engaging. Ms. Nguyen then announced that the next Community of Practice meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 30, 2026, noting that the meeting will follow its regular timeframe unless adjustments are needed due to holidays or other urgent circumstances. She concluded the meeting by sharing several ways for participants to stay connected with the California Department of Technology's Office of Broadband and Digital Literacy, including a QR code to subscribe to Broadband for All email updates, a link to the Broadband for All portals, and contact information for future inquiries.

CDT Office of Broadband and Digital Literacy stayed to check for any last questions and then thanked participants and presenters for their engagement and partnership. The meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

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

Transcript

Good morning, everyone. Thank you so much. We'll just wait a couple of minutes to let folks into or from the waiting room before we get started. Okay, as we're rolling in, please add your name and organization affiliation to the chat. Quick introduction for everyone. And then welcome to the June 25 Community of Practice meeting, where we aim to foster alignment, coordination, and collaboration within the statewide digital equity ecosystem on behalf of the State of California and the Department of Technology. We thank you for being here. If you haven't already, please add your name to Job Title Affiliation organization. First, let's start with a few housekeeping items. So, presenters, please keep your key to advance your slides. Select side-by-side speaker mode for the best viewing experience when slides are shared, and for visibility of our ASL interpreters. Also, I heard that closed captioning is available by selecting CC Closed Caption on your toolbar and select Show Subtitles. If you cannot find it, depending on the version of Zoom that you have, please click that icon with three dots for more options. Please note that there is time allocated for questions. At the end of the agenda portion, we'll queue it. But in the meantime, use the Q&A box to type your questions related to that portion of the agenda while the speaker is presenting. Please use your raise hand icon on Zoom, or star 9 if you're calling in by phone. Our team will request that you come off mute or video. Feel free to turn on your mic or camera at that time. Chat will be off while the presenters are speaking, so that no questions are lost in the chat, and chat will be available when prompted. This meeting, as you can tell, is being recorded. We will be posting the recording, slides, and transcript of the meeting to the Broadband for All portal. Please use this QR code right here, or the link in the chat to access post-meeting materials from past events. We usually try to remediate all materials for our web accessibility and have it available, but within 10 days. So if you give us some time, we'll make sure to get this one uploaded by next week. And because of this, AI note-taking bots are not permitted and will be removed from the meeting. And so, let's begin. Our agenda today include a Digital Inclusion Partnership updates from the CDT, next we will have a guest panel on digital equity data refinement. Then we will hear updates from CPUC on the California Lifeline Home Broadband Pilot Program. Next, we, I will talk a little bit about the DE Resource Finder Outreach Summer Campaign, upcoming grant opportunities, and community feedback, and future meetings. So, with that, I'll begin. Just two contexts for those who are joining us, or have been, you know, here, just to reiterate, our goal for our DE, Digital Equity Community of Practice is to emphasize on Goal 2 and 3. Goal 2, where all Californians have access to affordable broadband and necessary devices. And Goal 3, all

Californians have access trainings and support to enable digital inclusion. And there are opportunities for Goal 1, with Middle-Mile Advisory Committee and other engagement, and we can definitely link you and refer you to that. But for this meeting, we focus on 2 and 3. And, thus the meeting norms. Only questions, comments on the agenda items will be addressed, our chat will be monitored, any disruptive behaviors will not be tolerated, and individuals will be removed from the meeting, if these aren't meet. So, with that, I want to hand the mic over to our Broadband Administrative Manager, James Spencer.

Yeah, thank you, Anh, and thank you, everyone, for joining us today. We can go to the next slide, please. So, my update today will be quick, but I'd just like to start with a thank you for your interest and response to the RFI squared. We received many great solutions and recently formally closed it out. We've been able to enter into a number of partnerships to support the ecosystem. The slide here illustrates how each partnership relates to the activities we have been communicating. These partnerships represent the most quickly deployable solutions to have the biggest impact in supporting the Digital Equity Plan and public need. We are really excited that we have selected partners for the identified activities and will provide more information on these partnerships through upcoming email updates and COPs. That does conclude my update, and I'd like to introduce Shawn Daugherty, who will facilitate the Digital Equity Data Refinement Panel.

Thanks, James. It's nice to see everybody again, welcome. I'm excited today to lead this panel on digital equity data refinement. As many of you will recall, this digital equity data refinement was a key activity in the State Digital Equity Plan, key activity number 3, to be specific. So, when, as James mentioned, we put out the RFI squared, it was really about ready solutions to be able to move forward and make progress on the State Digital Equity Plan acknowledging that the Digital Equity Act funding has gone away. So, I'm really excited to have this panel. We have Kat Zigmont from CETF, Patrick Messac, sorry from East Bay Broadband Consortium, and Aaron Schill from the NDIA with us today. And if you want to go to the next slide, Ricki. We're gonna hear about 3 partnerships that we're excited about. CETF is gonna talk about their Digital Equity Survey. East Bay is going to talk about their K-12 tech assessment, and NDIA is going to talk more about their digital equity impact aggregator. So, let's just dive right into the panel. Ricki, if you want to take the slides down, I think all of our panelists are spotlighted, or I think we're just missing Kat. Oh, Kat, if you can just come on camera, and then we'll be able to have you come on. Oh, it looks like she got kicked out, so we're gonna admit her, and then we'll, we'll have her kick it off. Great. Hi, Kat, welcome back, sorry about that. That's time for everything, so I don't want to put a lot of pressure on you. I know you just kind of, like, dialed back in, but would love to hear, or for you to start off, kind of talking about CETF's Digital Equity Survey, right? As you were that survey was out as we were

actually developing the Digital Equity Plan. It was really done in, you know, I think, close collaboration with the online mobile survey, where we got 40,000 responses throughout the state of California. So, would just love to hear, you know, what is that survey, you know, who is the audience, how does it work, maybe kind of some of the impetus behind it, and kind of where we are right now.

Great, absolutely. So our statewide digital equity survey builds on nearly two decades of research. So we started in 2008, and we have used a consistent methodology that includes random digit dialing for randomized survey respondents. And we do this in alignment with the population of California, and with that methodology, we can get a margin of error of less than 3% for statewide findings. That results in interviews in four languages. Over the phone, and at the end of the day, we get 1,650 households. Now, we have to go to 5 times that many households to get that number of folks that qualify for our survey. But what's really important about our survey, the value, is that it has the ability to measure change over time. So, we are trying to provide reliable, comparable data on broadband adoption, affordability, digital skills, and technology use by asking the same questions as a longevity study, for example. And this is to see where disabilities sorry, not disabilities, disparities still persist. Which populations still face barriers to full inclusion? And so, we can see the trends over time. And that really allows us to see our progress in actually closing the digital divide, and what topic areas we really need to focus on. As we move forward to really get that closed. And, you know, in the 2023 survey, we really documented important gains among older adults, for example. Low-income households were doing better, households with disabilities, but the ongoing challenges continue to be affordability, digital skills language barriers, and rural connectivity. So yeah, so we hope to be doing our survey in 2027, and then we'll have, practically, since we started in 2008, we'll have 19 years of consistent data over time.

Almost two decades, that's exciting. More about that timeline to come in a few minutes, but Patrick, I'm going to turn it over to you. I know East Bay is doing a K-12 tech assessment. You've already done it in Alameda, so would love to hear about what you hope to get out of this process, maybe some findings from Alameda to share here as well.

Yeah, thank you so much, Shawn, and to CDT for hosting these monthly convenings. So, this effort began in the classroom. I was a middle school science teacher in East Oakland in 2020, and when the schools closed down and learning went online, we had to figure out a very simple question, which was, who can attend class? My district sent out a technology survey, and I sent it out to all my students in my advisory, and then I spent months calling families, texting, trying to remind them to complete the survey, calling them, and

completing it with them, the central problem was that the survey was online, and so the families that we were trying to target most were the least able to complete the survey. It was one of the biggest barriers. So, we were asking families to prove that they lacked access by using the very access they did not have. That experience made clear that we could not keep solving a systems problem through an inspired teacher or one family at a time. We had to come up with a better way. And at first, the surveys asked a ton of questions. We wanted to make sure that we were equitably distributing devices, so we asked about race, geography, family income, grade level, all these household details that made the survey a Herculean effort. But we also realized that all this information already lived within the student information system, so we narrowed down all of these questions to two foundational questions. Does the student have reliable internet access at home? And two, does the student have a computer at home to complete schoolwork each night? And then the breakthrough came when we integrated those two questions into the back-to-school data registration, or some schools call it data validation, the annual process that every parent goes through every year to get their student back into the succeeding grade level. And this changed the scale of what was possible. We went from months of trying to track down families, to year over year, annually, in OUSD alone, collecting over 30,000 responses per year. And instead of a separate survey. It became part of a process that families were already doing. Adding two quick questions into a much broader data collection was much easier than having a whole ad hoc survey. And because the answers were tied into the student information system, the survey didn't have to feel intrusive. We didn't have to ask their address, we didn't have to ask their phone number, because all those answers could be correlated with all the information that already existed. And then, it helps the district act with precision. We could generate heat maps, priority distribution, targeted outreach, and intentional planning, because it was all in a unified data system, and we collected the data at scale. And most importantly, it was taking the burden off the families with the fewest resources and placed it back where it belongs on the system itself. So, that was the origin of the tech check. It continues to exist within many districts in many different iterations, and what we're really excited to do with this project is to kind of develop a report of best practices throughout the state, and to expand this use by having school districts incorporate just these two questions, and I can share a little bit more later about what we're hoping to get from anyone on this call who wants to participate.

Fantastic. So now we're gonna, I think, pull back a little bit in scale, and welcome Aaron from NDIA. And so, NDIA created the aggregator, and I think, maybe fundamentally it's about measuring collective impact, but Aaron, I'll let you speak to that, you know, kind of, what was the development of this tool? How did that kind of come about? And I know it was developed under different

times, and maybe how do you see that changing in the new environment that we're in?

Yeah, thanks. Thanks for having me here. It's great to see so many familiar names, and a lot of new folks also. So, one of the most persistent challenges and questions we would hear from our community, community-based organizations all across the country, is how challenging it is to talk about our work and the impact we're having, especially when we move beyond a single individual program. There's lots of great resources, some that we've developed, most of which that folks like yourselves have developed to measure the work that you're doing in your individual program. But when that all comes together through a coalition or across an entire community or a state. There really were no resources available to aggregate all of that information together and talk about what are we doing, how are we moving the needle toward digital equity across all the different types of programs we're engaged in, the different services we're providing to community members, and how does that collectively advance digital equity. And that's been a persistent problem for years. But with the, the Digital Equity Act, and the particularly the state capacity grant programs, that component of it. states were all of a sudden faced with the requirement to collect data across these grants that they were going to be administering across all different types of programs, lots of different, grantees across the state, and so there was going to be a requirement to do exactly that, and so the impetus behind this was states that we had been working with through the digital equity planning process, and a lot of the local community members that they were, seeking input from, we're going to be faced with, like, how do we report all this data, report all this work we're doing to advance, the goals of our digital equity plans? And frankly, we're not getting a lot of guidance from NTIA or others on how to do that, or what the expectations will be. And so, we worked with a set of 8 pilot states to think about how would we collectively measure impact in a single place? How could we start to standardize data collection in a way that's not going to put significant new burden on community-based organizations that may already be strapped for resources? may already have their existing data collection practices in place, so how can we try to leverage those as much as possible and provide guidance on how to do that? And so what we ended up with is what we call the Digital Inclusion Impact Aggregator. Rather than being a single tool, it's actually a set of a few different resources. And I'll share the link to the to those on our webpage here in a moment, so you can explore them as you'd like. But essentially, it's an evaluation framework that is a series of logic models that looks from the very granular individual program level up to an entire ecosystem. And kind of in between there, it aggregates data into different categories of digital inclusion work, which we used to know as the measurable objectives of, under the Digital Equity Act, but it's really just categories of work. So you might want to know, across all of our programs, how are we advancing digital literacy? Or how are we addressing device needs broadly across a range

of programs? So, this tool helps to think about, and then how to actually aggregate data to these different categories, and then to a higher level to see what impact are we having across all of the different types of programs and all the different types of work we're doing. In addition to that framework, there's an actual database template that, when folks are ready, is freely available to actually begin collecting data. And we encourage folks, you can use it as is, but we also encourage folks to, to customize that for their own purposes. And then lastly, we thought, if we're going to suggest collecting this data and aggregating it. We should probably provide guidance on how to do that. And so we also developed a data collection guide that pulls from organizations like many of you, who are doing this work and who have developed expertise in how to do that, and have really great resources, like surveys, like intake forms, and lots of different ways to collect data. We compiled those into a guide that practitioners can use to think about how to begin doing data collection if they're not doing it, or how to start to standardize toward something that would work across an ecosystem, across different partners. All with the goal of understanding, Shawn, as you said, collective impact across a community. And one of the other really important pieces that is built into this is how to understand impact in a line... what we call a line field. So, not just how many people are we serving, and meeting their digital equity needs, but how are those services we're providing helping people use technology to benefit, their health, or their educational goals, or their workforce goals, or other goals? So that kind of a line field impact is a really important piece. To show how our work and impacts extend beyond the direct digital inclusion services that many of you all are providing.

Great, thanks. And so, I'm gonna, I think for this next question, I'm gonna pose it to everyone here about, kind of, why is this work important? And I think, Kat, you touched a little bit on, you know, being able to track progress with certain, you know, demographic groups, and Patrick being able to see whether students can get online or not, but, like, right, we know it's one thing to collect data, it's another thing to understand what the data says, and another thing to. Like, why is that investment, right? Because sometimes I think data refinement can be either, time-intensive, right? Having to make calls, you know, because People, completing the survey aren't able to actually access it online. I would love to kind of dig a little bit more into, like, why is this work a matter? And, like, what does it matter to your organizations? Kat, do you want to start off with that?

Sure. I mean, I think we just heard several reasons of why this data really matters. It matters to different groups, so it provides policymakers, community organizations, internet service providers, researchers, funders, this...Objective data that can guide their investments. It allows us to evaluate outcomes. And I think the 2027 survey will, for us, will be especially important, because we're going to be entering a new policy environment, and so, you know, I think we

can use this data to help set up the new administration on the priorities, what affordability programs are working, what populations are still continuing to face barriers. Are residents able to use broadband for education, healthcare, employment, and civic engagement, like Erin was talking about? So, it'll provide this comprehensive statewide assessment that can be used to do decision-making in various areas or help community-based organizations focus their work on the most in-need populations.

Great. Patrick, do you want to take that next?

Yeah, at a very human level, I think this work matters because most broadband maps don't capture my students' needs. You know, a broadband map can tell you if a home has hypothetical service. But that's not a lot of help at 10pm when the student's trying to study for their SATs on Khan Academy. You know that wall jack is not going to help write... help them write a term paper when they're typing away on their phone, and having a serviceable address for a low-income family doesn't mean that they can afford service. California has made historic progress in infrastructure, led by CDT and CPUC, local governments and tribes, and providers. They've helped to move billions of dollars to put glass in the ground, to create new networks in places that have left behind, and that's really foundational. But for students the question is more direct. Like, can I get online tonight? Do I have a device to do my homework tonight? And in high-poverty school districts, the answer is too often no. Persistently, we've seen in high-poverty school districts, 1 in 4 students goes home and doesn't have a reliable internet connection. And the truth is that whether we like it or not, learning has changed. Homework is online, college applications are online, tutoring is online, job applications are online, public benefits are online, and more of civic life is moving online. So, when a student lacks a connection and a computer. They're being asked to compete in a new 21st century without the basic tools of the 21st century. But really importantly, I think schools are such an important part of the story here, because this is not a story of despair. Schools, more than probably any place in our communities, are one of the most trusted institutions out there. They can really clearly identify where the need is, they're trusted by families, families show up there consistently. And they touch nearly every single child in the community. So, when schools collect this data, it's not just data for data's sake, it can point them in the direction and actually help them intervene at that point of connection. In Oakland, this helped the school district distribute tens of thousands of laptops and hotspots over the pandemic period and even since. Devices were prioritized, families were contacted and brought in, tech support was offered by student groups at the school, and they could get all that help from the system that they already know and that they already trust at a time in their lives when they need it probably more than ever. And also at a statewide level, I think this gives us something that we really desperately need, which is, one, a clearer picture of student access, but also a clear picture of what I would

call true access, I think most call it adoption. Not in some hypothetical sense, you could potentially be connected, but who has a connection? Who has a computer? Where are the gaps? Where are these historic investments really working, and where do we need to do more? Schools are such a powerful place, and we have to do more to take advantage of this really critical period in life.

Yeah, absolutely, and I think right, lines nicely with the Broadband for All goals, right? Do all Californians have access to broadband and the necessary devices? And, you know, do they have access to the training and the support to, you know, enable digital equity? And so, Aaron, I don't know if you want to touch on that question, too.

Yeah, I was gonna say. The impetus for starting this project is maybe the least compelling and interesting reason for utilizing the tool. So, we built this to do reporting and, you know, grants management for this federal grant program. That's important. We should know where the money is going and the impact that it's having. But no one gets excited about grant reporting. What we think is really interesting is how we are seeing states like California and some of the other states' kind of post-Digital Equity Act funding. How and why they are interested in using a tool like the aggregator. And coalitions who are beginning to use this tool and adopt it, who are looking at it entirely, entirely voluntary reporting, bringing along coalition members and community partners who are interested in understanding, like, what are we all doing here? We have a feel, often, for, like, heuristically. What's our, impact? We can, you know, we have stories, we have impact stories, we have a feel for the work that we are doing as an individual organization, but, it's really hard to understand, like, how are we impacting the overall, ecosystem? And this will provide insights into that and allow for, one, more effective use of funding, so we can see where there are gaps, or needs that aren't being met. What I think is really interesting and exciting is, we have some funders and states who want to use this as both a data transparency tool and a way to provide information back to those organizations who are reporting data to leverage their own data and the data of others to tell their story and demonstrate why this work is so important and why others should support it, whether that is through funding, or whether that is through joining a coalition and becoming a stakeholder and getting more invested in this work. It's a way to shed light on the work that's happening in a way that we haven't really been able to see before across an entire ecosystem. And being a relatively new tool. Those use cases and how people will end up using that data is still evolving, and that's one of the more exciting pieces, is to see how do, when we have a data set that allows us to see work across an entire ecosystem and across all these strategies seeing what people do with that and how they communicate about their work is the part that's really

compelling, and I'm excited to see how that develops across the different states and partners that are using it.

Great. And I know some of this work is just kind of getting kicked off, but Kat, is there any ways, you know, we have a whole community here that may be thinking a little bit in the future how folks might engage, be able to participate in this effort, as kind of the, the, the survey process starts to kick off. I think you mentioned early 2027, so.

That's correct, yeah, we're hoping to do this in early 2027 and release a report in late spring. But yes, the community of practice here, this great community, can play a critical role, and that is thinking of what are the focused questions and emerging issues that we need to understand in order to really close the digital divide. So, we would absolutely welcome folks to provide questions that they would like included in the 2027 survey, so that, so we would like to hear from you all to make sure that we are collecting the most critical data right now, and the data that we need to actually make a difference in closing that digital divide. So, we are going to obviously continue with the questions that we have been asking over, but we do ask time, specific, and, you know, pressing questions. So, we are welcoming the community of practice to submit what you think we should be asking.

Great, and I think we'll try to figure out a way to.

Yeah

Maybe help them, yeah, a little bit more organized, right? Fair enough, yes, yes. And all of that.

We're starting that planning process, so... Yes.

Yes, absolutely. More to come, right? Yeah.

Absolutely, yeah.

Yeah, more to come, great. And Patrick, is there ways that the individuals on this call can engage?

Yes, yes, yes. Y'all, school is out for summer, and we need your help. As they say in the Bay Area, there's strength in numbers. So, if you work in a school district, if you support a school district, if you know someone who does either of those things. And you can help us get those two questions into the back-to-school registration or annual data confirmation. Again, just these two questions. Does the student have reliable internet access at home? And does the student have

access to a computer? This is where we need to start. Now, some districts already have these questions in their back-to-school registration, so we'd love to bring them on to this statewide project. Some districts are open to adding them, and we have, kind of, templates that are ready to go plug and play. So, we're looking for districts across California. Urban districts, rural districts, tribal-serving communities. We want to understand what student access really looks like across different places, different systems, and different communities. We're not gonna ask districts to share student-level data. That's protected and protected for good reasons. We're gonna ask for aggregate, de-identified results. We're gonna amass those altogether, and school districts will be able to decide whether they want to be named explicitly or participate kind of anonymously, you know, a Northern California tribal serving community, for instance. Just these two questions, but we have a very short implementation window, because many school districts are already kind of finalizing their questions for back to school. So please, please, please help us. You can email info at [eastbaybroadband.org](mailto:info@eastbaybroadband.org) and just say, hey, I'm interested in learning more about the K-12 data project, or hey, I know a district that you should contact, here's their info. Whatever you can provide for us, we're in a bit of a blitz right now, because we want to integrate as many districts as possible, so that this can really be an incredible process of robust learning, so that we as a state can make our better investments, make better programs, and really figure out what our students and families need. So again, please, if you even have an inkling or a contact, contact info at [eastbaybroadband.org](mailto:info@eastbaybroadband.org). And we'll take it from there, and I look forward to hopefully coming back and sharing the results of kind of this statewide learning about how we can better leverage schools and data systems to identify need and meet that need.

We've got, if anybody listening or participating has any questions, feel free to drop them in the chat or in the Q&A, or you can raise your hand. We're going to open it up to some, if anybody has questions for any of the panelists, kind of, on this work and on these partnerships, we have some time for that afterwards. Oh, chat is now open, thank you, Ana, so I know that box might have been close beforehand, and Aaron will be able to I think you mentioned wanting to put a link to some work. We can put that in the chat as well. But and Aaron, I understand that the kind of the work on the aggregator is brand new, and so I think that might be another one of those with CAD, you know, a little bit of more to come, and I think more to come with all of this work, right? We're excited to be working and, you know, in partnering around this effort, really to, you know, to drive forward and to make progress on the State Digital Equity Plan in this new environment that that we have found ourselves in. So, I don't, let me see, is there any questions in the chat, or let me see, where's the Q&A? Nothing there? And then let me go to the top, wait. Alright, Patrick just dropped the email address in there. Great. All right. just kind of clicking around here, see if anybody's got questions. Some connections being made in there. Aaron just dropped in the

link there. Very cool. Great, and I think, you know, we'll hear more about, this work ongoing in future Communities of Practice as well, and so, please stay tuned, and Anh rightfully pointed out, Aaron, I didn't give you the opportunity to answer question number 3 on ways to possible ways to participate. Thank you, Anh. This, it takes a team.

Yeah, so, as Shawn mentioned, this is, we are still developing the, all the ways that we may seek input from the community of practice. But there are a couple of things that y'all can do in the near term. One is some of the aggregator resources that I shared may be useful to your own data collection purposes, in particular, the data collection guide that's intended for practitioners. So, would encourage you to use that if you've been thinking about, how would we collect certain types of data about the work we're doing? In addition to that, we may be coming back to you all at some point. We're starting with, working with the team at the state to think about how we do gather data to speak directly to the broadband for all and state digital equity plan goals. But we are also thinking in the long term, how do we collect data and engage, this community of practice and others across the state? So, what I would encourage you to do is think about what data are you currently collecting? What data would you like to be able to collect, or what would you like to be able to say about your programs? And how would you like that to appear in a broader statewide effort? Like, how would you like your data to appear, alongside data about other similar programs or other types of digital inclusion programs. In particular, you maybe think about what would you like to be able to say about your work? Like, how do you talk about impact now? And what barriers or challenges have you had when you're trying to speak about impact and communicate about the work that you're doing. That is information that we may be coming back to you to get some input on, trying to understand, like, how do we use this data that is collected in a way that would be most useful to you all as practitioners, to talk about your work and how it fits into this broader statewide ecosystem. The last thing I want to note, if you're kind of thinking about, well, you know, I may be asked to report my data to this statewide system, similar to what Patrick mentioned, nothing that goes into the aggregator tool is record-level data about individuals who are served. All of it is aggregate data talking about number of people served, maybe from a particular demographic group, but it's all about aggregate data. How many people are being served, how many people are we impacting in different areas, and in different ways? So, in that context, we want to start out, you know, hopefully alleviate some concern about reporting and data privacy, but also encourage you to think about how would you like to be able to talk about your programs, in the future.

Great, fantastic. We do have a couple questions that have come in. One is, you know, kind of basic, is there contact information for the speakers? So, I will allow the speakers to either put it in the chat or communicate how they wish. But one

comes from Darby Hatfield, and I think, Kat, this is for you. Are most of your participants of your survey, probably in the past, adults, or is there a mix of young adults and adults? I don't know if you want to talk a little bit about the demographics.

Yeah, absolutely. So, because we do random digit dialing, we don't know who our participants will be. We do have qualifying questions when we call, so they are 18 or older, and then have some qualifying questions at the beginning of the phone call. That said. We do, as I said before, have the spread of demographics match the population of California, so we do have young adults being 18, and above. But it is essentially a blend that is consistent with the California population, so that's our ultimate goal to match, and then, you know, obviously we ask about their, you know, income level, race, ethnicity, etc. And we have worked with partners in the past, for example. We needed more representation from the disabled community, and so we worked with social services to get, an extra group, that we could do concentrated calling towards, but we do not believe we're going to need to do those this year, but that is just to say, when we see the results coming in and we monitor it constantly, we do sort of pivot where we have gaps in reaching our goals in matching the California population.

Great, thanks for that. And we have another question that came in, and I think, Patrick, this might be a little bit for you. It comes from Bill Payne. I've heard a lot of exciting updates for the K-12 population, but what about the adult target populations, and what are the adult target populations, and are there additional efforts around those? So, Patrick, your effort is K-12 focused, so not, you know, not necessarily geared towards adults or adult education, which we know is a big effort as well. But obviously, I think Kat spoke to, you know, over 18 is kind, one of the qualifying questions for the CETF Digital Equity Survey, but totally acknowledge that there is also, like, important adult target populations as well. Yours just happens to be K-12, correct?

Yeah, but I'll also say this, you know, K-12 students live in households with their grandparents, with their parents, with their older siblings, so it is a really powerful snapshot of the community. Yes, families with students are a unique subset of our population, and it doesn't it excludes, you know, elders that are living on their own and other populations. But you can generate a heat map with this data that shows you the communities of need, and if there's a lot of students in Deep East Oakland that don't have internet connection, you better believe that a lot of their neighbors don't as well. I'll also say that on the adoption side, probably one of the other really strong data sets at scale is the American Community Survey, which you can search and get a really good picture of adoption. That's associated with the U.S. Census. And it gives not just what addresses are maybe hypothetically serviceable, but where are the pockets throughout the country of

the greatest concentrations of those without an active connection. And so, there are some larger kind of at-scale data collection systems, but it's a central challenge in this broadband space, is how do we figure out where that need is, and what systems can we work through to kind of streamline that identification process?

Fantastic. And we did have another question come in, about, seeing, past surveys. And, Kat very kindly has linked into the 2023, statewide survey. I can also encourage folks to go to the Broadband for All portal and look at the State Digital Equity Plan, where that took, where a lot of the baseline data for that was, a combination of the CETF statewide data, as well as the, the census data that Patrick just mentioned, as well as an online mobile survey that OBDL led through the development of the State Digital Equity Plan process. Any other questions? We're just about at time. Thanks, Anh. Let me see, what's the new question? But if not, if there's no questions, I don't see any hands raised, and the Q&A and the chat look good. I will thank our panelists and looking forward to working over the coming weeks and months. And so, Kat, Aaron, Patrick, thank you very much. All of their contact information is in the chat. And with that, I think we can have Ricki bring the slides up, and I think we're gonna hear from our friends at the CPUC, Loi and Lisa. Thank you so much.

Thank you so much, Shawn, for moderating so wonderfully.

Thank you. It's good to see you all.

Thank you so much, Shawn, Kat, Patrick, Aaron, and ASL interpreters. Please take a moment to welcome Loi Nguyen and Lisa Anthony from the California Lifeline Home Broadband Pilot Program from CPUC. Well, whenever you're ready. Lisa, you too.

Hi, great, thank you so much, Anh. We're happy to be here again to provide updates on our California Lifeline Home Broadband Pilot Program. Next slide, please. We're happy to share that we received two advice letters from Connect To Communication and Frontier Verizon. We are. They're, they're both currently under review, pending our review. We have 4 providers that are pending onboarding, system interface testing, and submission of market materials for approval. We have 13 active providers that are offering broadband service and enrolling new customers. And in the, I will hand it over to Lisa to provide updates on the subscriber count and additional resources we just developed. Lisa?

Thank you, Loi. If we can get the next slide, please. So, I'm going to start by giving you an updated count on the Broadband Pilot, and these numbers are very current as of Monday this week, so it'll give you a pretty accurate account of where the enrollment stands to date. So as of Monday, June 22nd, the total

count was 19,693. 70% of those are coming in as broadband-only service, so that's 13,718 individuals. And about 30%, 5,975, are under bundled, broadband bundled plans. So there seems to be currently a preference for that broadband-only service. Drilling down into the details of the enrollments of who's coming in as new to Lifeline discount versus those that are transferring, and a transfer is they were receiving a wireline or wireless traditional Lifeline discount, and they chose to transfer over to a Broadband Pilot discount. So, about 81% of individuals enrolling are coming in as new to Lifeline, so that's 15,970 individuals, and transfers account for the remaining 19% at 3,721 individuals. Next slide, please. So, we shared in a previous update that the program was working with the third-party administrator to create a one-page flyer. This came about from community-based organizations that were contacting the program, saying, hey, can I get a flyer that I can pass out, just something brief, one page, that gives some information on the Broadband Pilot and how people can sign up, so we can help raise awareness around the Broadband Pilot Program. So, we were working on that previously, and are happy to say that is now available, so you're seeing a print screen of it now. I have provided PDFs over to Anh, so you will get copies of these, and the languages that they are available in currently. That is going to be English, Spanish, and Chinese. Those were the most highly requested languages, so we prioritized those. But we do have other iterations that are in the works for Japanese, Korean, Vietnamese, and Tagalog. So those will be forthcoming and will be made available as soon as possible. Should be within the next couple of weeks. But basically, the flyer gives just a brief overview of what the broadband pilot program is, what discounts an individual can receive, and then how to get started. Find out if they qualify, then if they have a provider in their area, and then to get started on that application process, they should contact that provider. So, that will be available. The other thing that you see here is a link under item number 2. This will take you to the California Lifeline Home Broadband Pilot Program page. So, this page was developed, basically, to put all of the information, all of the resources into one location. So, if you click into that, and if you, if I can get the next page, please. It will be very small, but it'll give you a snapshot of what you can see here. So, it gives you, similarly, information on what the Broadband Pilot Program is discounts, provider participation, and even the list of available service providers by region, and that is based on zip codes. So, these are some resources that are available, and we hope that are very helpful to you. And that takes us to the end, if anyone has any questions for us.

Thank you so much, Loi and Lisa, for joining us at our monthly Community of Practice. We really appreciate having you here. And I'm sure folks are very excited to see that there's some promotional materials that are now available, such as a flyer that can be distributed across the ecosystem. And then, including that map that you highlighted, Lisa, with the ISP providers by geographic region. So, yeah, thank you so much for sharing those updates. So,

we do want to open up the floor for any questions. We kindly ask that any questions stay on topic as it relates to the Lifeline program. Great, I do see that there's already a question there, it says, can the PDF one-pager flyers be accessed online to share? And I believe that's already on your website. Do you want to confirm that?

This is a great question, and it is not yet posted on the website, but we are working on adding that, so we will let you know once the flyers have been added there. But yes, they will be.

Great, thank you so much. And then it looks like, also folks may just want to be able to follow up with any questions, if there's a contact info that you'd like to share, if folks have any general questions or anything as it relates to the Lifeline.

Also on that website is kind of links to all of our webpages, which have contact info displayed there. But happy to put my email in the chat, and Lo's, where you can contact us directly if there's a specific follow-up question, happy to do that. But all the contact information is also listed handily there on the website.

Sounds great. Thank you so much, Lisa. See any questions, in the Q&A. I just want to make sure I'm not missing anybody in case anyone is raising their hand. Alright, looks like Barry has his hand up. Barry, would you like to unmute yourself?

I was just doing that as to say, hey, wait a minute, I have my hand up. But thank you, and good morning, everyone. My question is. Are you getting feedback stating that maybe individuals are not going to the Pilot Program, because the limitation of the phone service has to be bundled with that of the broadband provider? So, a lot of folks who are receiving their broadband service through their phone may not want to come out, or come off of their current phone lifeline provider. To go to one specific broadband provider, which then they'd have to become familiar with its data limitations and or phone service. i.e., coming off of, let's say you had T-Mobile Wireless as your lifeline phone, so you're getting your phone and your broadband, you know, through your phone. And the discount, of course, is for the Lifeline phone. So now, in a particular area, only Comcast is available for broadband and phone service. So, my question, just narrowing it, you know, repeating it. So, are you getting feedback from individuals wanting a broader selection. That's not the best way to put it. An opportunity to still get broadband discount to the pilot program, but their choice of the wireless or home, Hardline, lifeline service? Even, I understand. Excuse me, I'll wrap it up. I understand the through California's current law, is you only get one choice, or one benefit can be applied, but are you finding that maybe the numbers would be higher if the opportunity to choose your own wireless or landline service, may help that number grow, if that was available.

So, I can, Loi, I can start, and then if you want to chime in, if you think of anything, I'm not. My immediate response is, A, I haven't heard that feedback specifically. I would say that the numbers tell a story when you're seeing that the vast majority of individuals enrolling that they're new to the program, they're not transferring. So, I would say that people, if they're already on their wireline or wireless service. They seem less likely to want to transfer that, and I think it could be for a multitude of reasons, not necessarily that they want to change, they don't want to change to that provider. The other point I want to note is that while they can only have one discount, we're also not telling them that they have to let go of a wireline or wireless service that they have, that if they're so if they wanted to keep whatever service provider they use their phone with, for example, but then they want to apply to the broadband program. Correct, they cannot have a discount for both. So, if they wanted to maintain both, they would still have to pay for whatever service they want to keep, but then if they wanted to apply to the to the Broadband Pilot Program, they could get their discount there. Loi, anything to add to that?

No, you covered it. Great.

And I do see a couple of questions that came in. One of them relates to different languages that may be needed for the flyer. I know you mentioned, you know, they're still in progress. There are specific languages, such as Dari, Farsi, Arabic, a few others, that were mentioned. Just wanted to make sure that, if there is a need for the What's the best way to make that request?

Yeah, that would be great to know. The languages that you just mentioned are not part of the languages that we provide written documents in currently, so if that is a need, we would love to know that. I'm about to put my email in the chat here, so you can feel free to let me know directly if you do have a population, you think would benefit from having a translation, and I can definitely look into that.

Thank you so much for that, Lisa. There is another question. I'll just go ahead and read it out. How is a program designed relative to the ACP, the Affordable Connectivity Program, which is, you know, now defunct? Is the benefit portable between providers? Sorry, there's a series of questions here. So is a benefit portable between providers? How extensive is provider participation? And what is the mix between fixed and mobile providers? I'll pause there. There's a kind of a number of questions within one question here, but, yeah, if you want to maybe just start with the difference between the ACP program and the California Lifeline program.

I think the difference between, and I'll take this, and Lisa, jump in at any time. The difference between the ACP and the Broadband Pilot is we have a

minimum service standard that providers have to meet. In offering the services. The ACP, there wasn't any minimum service standards, and, it was, any types of, you know, mobile could be considered broadband, you know, for us, we have fixed broadband. So, it could be fixed wireless or fixed fiber or broadband. And with bundling with a voice component. And I think that's the main difference between the broadband. pilot and the ACP. Is that right? Do you agree, Lisa? Yeah. And is the benefit portable? So, for the service providers that are approved to offer broadband so those are the only ones that you can transfer or enroll with, so it's only in those, I think right now, 13 providers that you can choose from to participate in. And what is the mix between fixed and mobile providers? Do you have that? I think it's just a mix. I think it's mostly. Fix broadband that are participating in it. Mobile, I'm not sure about the mobile. It's not coming to mind. Lisa, do you, would you know?

I do not have that breakdown, but we can make sure we have that for the next meeting.

Yeah, it looks like, yeah, perhaps, referring to the, to the qualifying criteria that is outlined on your website. I believe that was part of the question. And, and then lastly, how it's similar to the FCC, or difference, right? It's a similar difference to the FCC's Lifeline Program. Yeah, sorry, there was just a number of questions within that one, so I know you clarified some of that information already.

Yeah, so our, the 200%, ours is similar to the core Lifeline Program, which is 150%. And if you go to, sorry, if you go to the website with that was provided earlier, it has all the information regarding program eligibility, participating providers. And a lot of other information.

Got it, thank you. And then there is another question, regarding perhaps some challenges with one of the service providers. It looks like they're being referred back to the Lifeline program. I'll just go ahead and read it out. The only service provider that will be offering the discount in San Diego is Spectrum. When you call Spectrum, the call can be answered by an office anywhere in the U.S. And the agents are pointing back to the California Lifeline to apply, but my understanding is that the ISP has to start the application process and at least provide the enrollment number to apply.

That is good feedback, thank you. We have received some of the same feedback, and we've been educating providers, so in these instances where a call can be routed to anywhere. It's not necessarily the person that's getting it. It's going to be familiar with the pilot and with how to direct people that they actually can start the application process with them. So, I will take this back and make sure that we are letting and specifically since this one came up, this service provider know that it sounds like they need to educate their customer

service representatives across all locations, so that's very helpful. If someone did get routed to our TPA, California Lifeline which does happen, they get some of these calls, we try to soft transfer them over to the service provider directly to a contact we know that can help them start the process. So, we do help them, but to eliminate that frustration, we will make sure we work on that.

Thank you so much. And then there is one person that has their hand raised. Barry, would you like to unmute yourself?

Yes, thank you. In fact, the question that was just excuse me, the question that was just answered was partial of my question, to that the Universal Lifeline folks, which are separate from the California Lifeline, that's a distinction that really needs to be hammered home for folks, because most of us are used to hearing, you know, universal lifeline and you would dial that number, regardless if it's there on your flyer as its link, but if someone is to go with familiarity, they would go universal, which is the federal, which is, now I understand, non-existent. In fact, the question that was just. Excuse me, the question that was just answered was partial of my question, to that the Universal Lifeline folks, which are separate from the California Lifeline, that's a distinction that really needs to be hammered home for folks, because most of us are used to hearing, you know, universal lifeline and you would dial that number, regardless if it's there on your flyer as its link, but if someone is to go with familiarity, they would go universal, which is the federal, which is, now I understand, non-existent. But to that, with the, as you stated, the ISP providers If you get their main customer service, again, as you just quoted. They're like, well, we don't know anything about this, maybe you're thinking of the Internet Essentials, so that's another department or number. So, if there is a way to highlight California-specific Life. Excuse me, sorry, my allergies are closing my throat here. The California-specific Lifeline versus the universal lifeline. Just really hammer home, you need to contact the California Lifeline. And as you stated, the ISPs hopefully will educate their customer service agents that, yes, every all of them can take the call and start the process. Thank you.

So, we are definitely aware there's a lot of confusion, now that federal and California are completely split in two different programs, that is feedback we get a lot. We are very limited. We have no say on how federal Lifeline enrollments are handled. So, we are just trying to do everything we can on our side to raise awareness. We have added verbiage to our website that when someone's applying for California Lifeline, you may also be eligible for federal, and direct them to where they need to go to that. For our renewal process, letting them know that, you know, just because they're renewing for California doesn't mean that they're that renews them for federal, and they need to work with the federal lifeline to renew their service there. So, at every point we can, we're trying to make sure to start to incorporate that. And we'll definitely take the feedback and see anywhere we can do that for the pilot as well.

Great. We do have one last question that we're gonna wrap up so we can transition into our next portion. And again, and it's related to some of the challenges between the FCC's Lifeline. And the ACP, the former ACP program, which also has some challenges in enrollment. So, just concerns about how folks who may be low-income or have low computer literacy skills. May struggle to get through the enrollment process, and just any thoughts around that? How to address any of that.

Yeah, we have, a staff proposal that's out right now that would work towards developing our Customer Portal 2.0, where individuals comply directly to the program, rather than going to a service provider first. And part of a future iteration of that is a trusted partner approach. While the Customer Portal 2.0 will be very nice because it will put the application there where community-based organizations would then have access to be able to help individuals in front of them be able to apply to their program, which currently they can't do, right? They don't see all the applications at every service provider, so all they can do is direct them to a service provider. But moving the enrollment to the program would allow community-based organizations to help individuals enroll directly, where they can't currently do that. But we see building that out further, in future iterations, where we really work with the community-based organizations to develop those trusted partners that can be on the ground helping people enroll.

That's really great to hear. Yeah, trusted messengers definitely go a long way, and so we're really excited to hear about your updates. Well, thank you so much again, Loi and Lisa, for joining us. We look forward to, you know, continuing with monthly updates at our next Community of Practice, so thank you so much, and I'll pass it over to Anh.

Thank you.

Thanks all, so really glad to have you here, and I know every time we have the registration, folks are asking about the Lifeline Program, so we look forward to seeing you again next month. With that, I would like to transition to the Digital Equity Resource Finder Summer Outreach Campaign. And, next slide, please, Ricki. As you've all remembered, we started this process together to develop the Digital Equity Resource Finder as it currently has over 900 resources, and that is because of this collective effort. You all have made it possible for us to include so many resources, and I know California has even more. So, this is the QR code to get to the Finder if you're new here, but today, particularly, I would like your help and would love for our collective effort to raise awareness of the tool. Next slide, please, through the Outreach Toolkit. So, we've developed an email newsletter template, social media copy, as well as graphic, a video demo that, you know, both in English and Spanish, and ways for you to reach you

community. As we've been talking about trusted messengers, Folks will be more receptive to hearing from you, who they're familiar with, they've been working with. You know, we will reach out as well, but we hope to collaborate with you to get to folks who need this the most. And at the same time, in the summer, we're helping to expand our resources from 900 to looking at 1,200 resources, right? So, we need all of our collective effort but start here. I'll drop the screen and go into a quick demo. In the next 3 minutes, just to show you how to navigate the page. Something that's really cool with our portal, it's, integrated with Google Translate, so all the template that I'll show you here currently is in or is in English, but you can always translate the entire page and the template language into the language of your choice. So, can we pause it just a little bit on the top right corner, Ricki? If you can just select "language" and then let's go to Spanish, just because that's one where we can probably identify. Easier Yeah, towards the S. Almost there. Right there. Three of them. Perfect. There we go. So, by clicking on that, the entire page will be translated. And so, as I mentioned before, we have, if we can scroll down just a bit. There's the overview of what the DE Resource Finder's about, and essentially template for newsletter and emails. Whether you're emailing a group of individuals or an organization, information, short version and long version for newsletters. Right, so if by clicking the plus sign, you can expand the template in and copy-paste it to an email, newsletter, Constant Contact, or, you know, any version of your platform. And as always, let's go back to the original so that we can see. You can click on the top left, show original. Yeah, so you can definitely navigate through all the languages. Social media does the same in terms of including a suggested copy, and the images currently are translated to Spanish only, but like Lisa has said before, if you have a language that you would like us to support and translate to, let us know, and email DEresourcefinder@state.ca.gov, and we'll help you with that. But with the images, let's expand that again, Ricki. If you would like to use any of these images, the easiest way is just to right-click on your mouse, save as a file to your computer, and it's easy as up. Download and upload to the platform that you're using. And then let's also open the Spanish images, too. Yeah, so images just takes a while to load on the page, so bear with us. But yeah, we have 9 versions, feel free to use them in your newsletters, and then below that is the video demo in English and Spanish just walking through, we don't have to play it on this call, but once you click through it, it walks through what is the DE Resource Finder, how can you use the DE Resource Finder to find the tool that you need. So, I'll pause here and, yeah, pivot over to Aracely for Grant Updates and collectively, we'll take questions at the end.

Thank you so much, Anh. So, yes, if we could get the slides back up. Thank you all for your continued engagement as we share some important updates as it relates to grant opportunities. Next slide. So here we want to remind folks of the upcoming deadline of July 1st, for the three accounts that are part of the California Advanced Services Fund programs that are part of the Public Utilities

Commission. The first is the Broadband Public Housing Account, the second is the Broadband Adoption account, and the third is the Tribal Technical Assistance. So, just given that the deadline is less than a week away, we do encourage you to use the respective QR code to obtain more information as it relates to the requirements, eligibility, focus areas, and funding amounts. Next slide, please. And we're excited to share that the NTIA released the NOFO for the Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program. It's now available. The application is due on September 17th, and the TBCP, for short, supports tribal governments, tribal organizations by bringing high-speed internet to tribal lands, including broadband infrastructure, telehealth, distance learning, affordability, and broadband adoption. There is a total of \$540 million available for eligible applicants. And there are, you know, two tracks. Funding amount ranges from \$500,000 to \$2.5 million for Broadband Use and Adoption Projects. And for the Broadband Infrastructure Deployment, the funding amount ranges from \$1 million to \$25 million for Broadband Infrastructure Deployment. Next slide, please. So, in addition to the Tribal Connectivity Program, there is also the Native Entities Grant Program. The NOFO was also released, and it has the same deadline of the former one of September 17th, 2026. The Native Entities Grant Program is to advance use and adoption of broadband within Native communities. Here, the total funding amount is \$250 million for eligible applicants, and the individual awards range from \$500,000 to \$2.5 million. However, there is a match requirement of 10%, but a petition can be submitted if needed for a waiver. And the funding focus here is for broadband use, adoption, workforce development, and technology upgrades. And there is a QR code here if you are interested in learning more information. Next slide, please. So, we do want to pause here to congratulate some recent grant awardees. The Public Utilities Commission recently approved over \$18.2 million to enhance broadband access and digital inclusion across the state of California. And this funding is distributed through several programs, the Broadband Infrastructure Grants, the Regional Broadband Consortia Grants, and the Digital Divide Grants. So, we'll as you can see here, the, the rural and Urban Regional Broadband Consortia accounts will be supporting 6 regional consortia across 16 counties with broadband planning and coordination efforts. So congratulations to all the awardees. And then as it relates to the Digital Divide Grant Program, recipients will be expanding access to technology, devices, and digital literacy training in underserved communities. So, again, just a big shout out to all the grantees who are helping to advance California's broadband goals. Next slide, please. We also wanted to make folks aware of additional grant opportunities that are available. The first is the OpenAI Foundation, which is committing \$50 million in 2026 to its People First Aid AI Fund. This initiative supports U.S. nonprofits that engage with AI to advance their missions. Applications are open until July 15th and the grant focus is for mission-driven nonprofits who have an interest in exploring and integrating AI tools, regardless of any prior experience. Next slide, please. And the second grant opportunity is the Anthropic Grant Program, via the Claude Corp. It's a \$150

million fellowship program. It's designed to train and place 1,000 young individuals in 400 nonprofits across the U.S. The fellows will be receiving an annual salary of \$85,000 and work full-time for a year to assist organizations in leveraging AI to improve operations and impact. And this initiative welcomes applicants over 18 years of age, with diverse educational and work backgrounds, and they are expecting a first group of fellows to be starting in October, so the deadline for this is July, but there are additional cohorts, so for more information, please use the QR codes on the slide here, and we will continue to provide any information. Next slide, please. So, we will now open up the floor for any questions that relate to grants, or anything related to the Digital Equity Resource Finder that Anh mentioned earlier.

These slides will be shared, Patrick. Want to make sure folks have a chance to type in questions in the chat or in a Q&A. We'll take live questions as well. Congrats, Patrick. I know there are others on this call. I just saw your camera is on, so I wanted to congratulate you and East Bay Broadband Consortium.

Hey, thanks so much. I'm looking forward to all the RBCs kind of working together to keep advancing this work.

We have one question here, Aracely, and then I see Rebecca's with hand up as well. I'll take one chat, and then we can go to Rebecca. Are we allowed to add organization's logo to Broadband for All social media assets? I say yes, if it's coming from your newsletter, although currently it's not designed for you to add it easily, but if you know how, please do so. That is definitely okay. And especially if your organization is part of the DE Resource Finder, I say it's relevant to say, like, we're part of this DE Resource Finder, you can find us here, and other organizations. So, it makes a lot of sense to add your logo on it as well. And then, yeah, as promised, Rebecca.

Yeah, sorry, I'm just trying to get myself off of mute here. First and foremost, amazing panel. I really appreciated the conversation around just data and the great work that our partners are doing. My second question, and no worries if you guys are not able to answer it. Most likely you won't be able to, but I just wanted to put it out there, perhaps for future meeting, and then also for future conversations. So, per Broadband Breakfast as of yesterday, it sounds like the federal administration may be exploring to reinstate the Digital Equity Act, and they called out the Federal Digital Equity Competitive Grant Program, and they said that they would consider reinstating it if race was taken out of the scope of the work. I was just curious to see if you guys, from a statewide standpoint, have received any updates about that recent news, and if we can expect any additional information, perhaps, if it was to be reinstated how the work that we were doing a little over a year ago, like, what that would look like. And no

worries if you can't answer, but I just wanted to put that out there. Top of mind for many of us practitioners in the field.

Yeah, thank you so much, Rebecca. We don't have any information to share as it relates to that at the moment, but, yeah, as soon as we do, we'll be sharing updates during these meetings. But yeah, thank you so much for sharing that information.

Okay, thank you.

I do see there is another question as it relates to the grants, if they're California-specific. The Public Utilities Commission grants are California-specific, however, the NTIA grants are open to, you know, Native organizations or tribes. The Public Utilities Commission grants are California-specific; however, the NTIA grants are open to, you know, Native organizations or tribes. And so, you can definitely, you know, use the link there to the NTIA for more information. And then the other grants, related to AI training and the fellowship, you know, please take a look at that. I don't believe that is California-specific, but, you know, please take a look at that for more information. Yeah, definitely encourage you to read through that.

I'm sorry, Aracely. And, Jay Randolph, I see that you're asking questions here. It may not be specifically relevant to the DE Resource Finder or the grant, but happy to connect offline to talk over these questions with you, if that's all right? Because I think it'd be a larger conversation unrelated to what we're talking about at the moment. Thank you. Awesome. I'm not seeing any more questions, Aracely. Maybe we can just move on to the next portion and stay back for. Oh, I see someone. Cinthia, the FCC recently released a draft proposing asking whether E-rate should be limited or sunset. What can we do to protect this essential program for schools and libraries? Cynthia, would you like to expand on that question, or what you may have in mind?

I'm also happy to jump in Cinthia, because I know we've been talking about this a lot. Yeah, recently it was announced that the FCC was considering sunseting the E-Rate program, which brings over a billion dollars to California schools and libraries to provide high-speed internet. It's very recent. I think it just came out, and I just think it's something we should all be thinking about as a, as a Community of Practice, because if E-rate were to go away, then your local library and your local schools would go from having high-speed fiber internet to slow, slow, low-cost internet. For low-income areas, E-Rate saves on those community anchor institutions up to 90% of the cost of the service that they're providing. So, who knows what direction the FCC will take this, but I'd love to kind of maybe think together as a collective about what we can do to protect this essential program, not just for California, but for the whole United States.

Yeah, thank you so much for that, Patrick. Yeah, we can definitely, you know, circle back on that, since, yeah, that conversation is still evolving, and hopefully, you know, things settle a little bit there. But, yeah, we'll definitely stay tuned for more information. Geoff from the California Department of Education also added in the chat too. All are invited to follow comments to share the value of E-Rate for schools, either as organization or individuals, so if you would like to connect with Geoff, please do so via chat. We'll leave the chat open as we just wrap up the meeting, so let's have the slides back up, on mainly some logistics, for next steps, right? Next slide, please. And so, community feedback is something we like to show you all at the end or beginning of each meeting, to show that we're listening to you, really taking in your feedback, and also as our way to keep ourselves accountable and collaborative. As you've seen today, we definitely talked about lots of funding and grants opportunity. We had suggestions on digital equity data, so we brought in Patrick, Kat, Aaron, and Shawn to talk, you know led through a panel on that. And leveraging AI for equity some a topic that I feel like is top of mind for folks, so I'm glad that Aracely was able to introduce some of the AI grants that could contribute to community work and impact and digital inclusion. So, some of the ones that we are still looking at is digital skills training. I think we can, you know, preview that, perhaps, for the next month or two, and then on devices and, yeah, access to devices. So, keep on letting us know what interests you, and we will definitely build that into a future Community of Practice. Next slide, please. On suggestion for future speakers, we've had a great amount of subject matter expertise today as well, and some of the new additions that we've seen is Dr. Jamshid, I will not get that name right. Dr. Jamshid Damooei, and then Education Superhighway. We kept some of the old ones, like Governor Gavin Newsom. I'm not sure if we can get him to our COP, but, you know, looking forward to other key leaders in technology, women in tech, tribal connectivity leads, all good to consider. So, next slide, please. And then, some of the improvements that we're taking into consideration is a longer Q&A session. We try to include at least 10 minutes for Q&A for each section, and then, our Zoom recording is posted post-event. I know folks have been asking for recordings and materials. Outreach materials, as you can see, both ours and CPUC's Lifeline is now available, and so we would be happy to get that to you, help with the outreach for both Lifeline and the DE Resource Finder. And, not sure if you've received this, but we try to remind all registered participant morning of as well. And so, hopefully that could, you know, remind you of the meeting and get you the link you need to join. And so, next slide, please. And with that, I close the community feedback. But quick reminder for all of our future Community of Practice meetings. The July one will be on Thursday, July 30th, and just as a plug, too, for those interested in infrastructure, the Middle-Mile Advisory Committee is on July 17. It is a public meeting, and we can definitely include that in our follow-up email, just so you have links to it as well, since we couldn't address a lot of the infrastructure

questions in registration and during the meeting. And yeah, the last slide is how you can continue to connect with us, our broadbandforall.cdt.ca.gov. Contact us through this email address and then sign up for the monthly email update where we feature great community work, as well as updates on all the work that we're doing under the Broadband for All umbrella. So, I'll take down the slides, and CDT team will be here a bit longer to answer any questions that you may have for us. Yeah, if you're on camera and want to ask questions and somehow can't raise your hand, just wave at us and we can connect. But, yeah, Aracely and I, Shawn, James are here until the end but thank you for joining us again if folks gotta go to lunch, then I'll conclude the meeting. Thanks so much. John, do you want to ask a question? No? Just saying goodbye? Okay. Bye, Patrick, thanks for joining!

Thanks, y'all!

Thank you, Sarah. Thanks, Crystal.

You're welcome. Are we free to go?

Certainly. Thank you so much.

Bye, thank you. Take care.