

Digital Equity Community of Practice Meeting

September 24, 2026



Broadband for All

Housekeeping

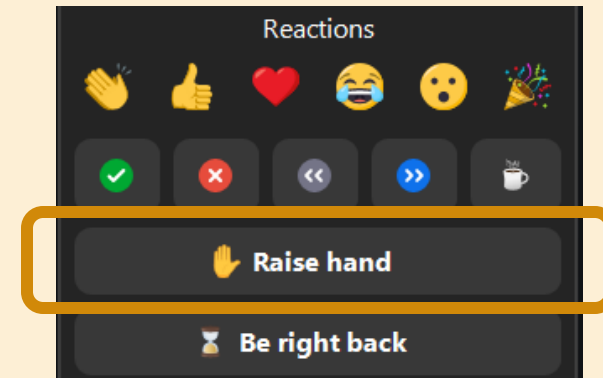
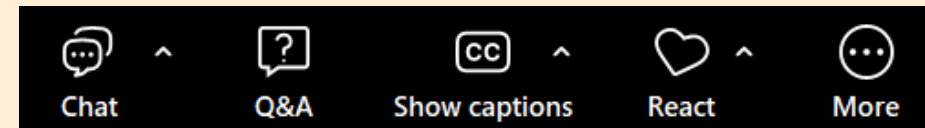
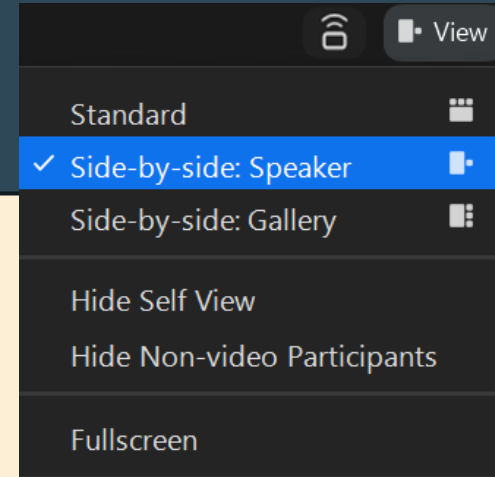
Select Side-by-Side: Speaker Mode for the best viewing experience when slides are shared and visibility of the ASL interpreters

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.



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

Community Feedback and Event Calendar

CA LifeLine Home Broadband Pilot Program

Digital Inclusion Partnerships Update

Digital Literacy Training Platforms

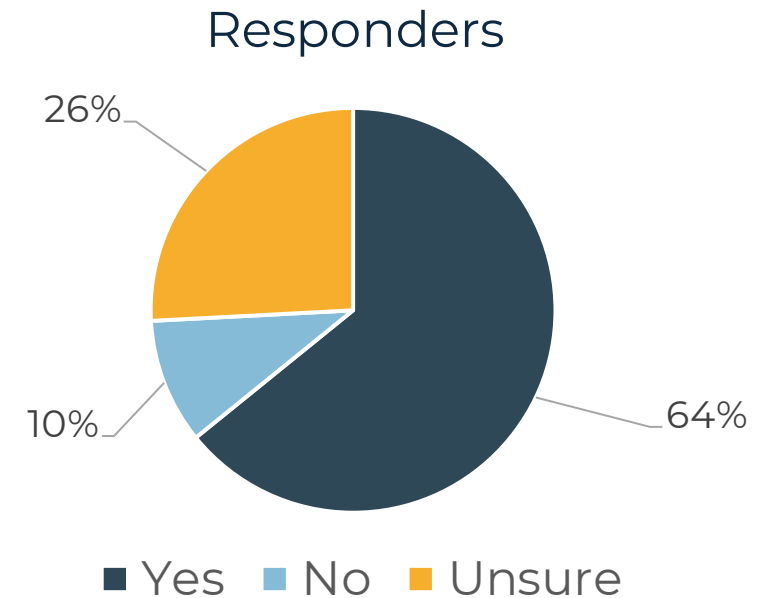
**Device Access and Individual Device
Ownership Ecosystem**

**Upcoming Grant Opportunities and Future
Meetings**

Community Feedback

Would your organization like free access to digital literacy assessment and training content for your residents or communities you serve?

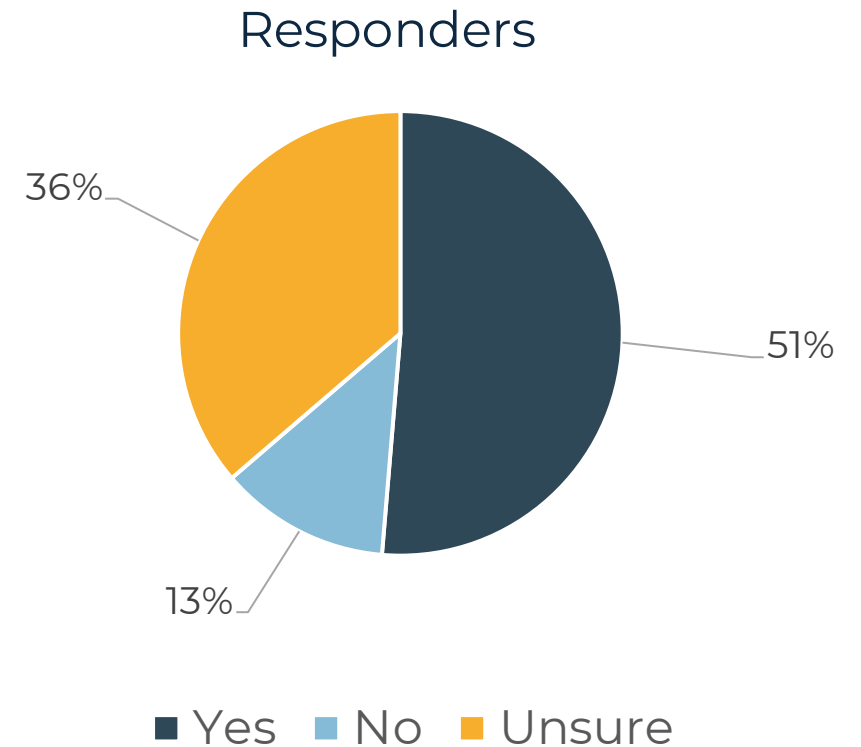
Yes	77
No	12
Unsure	31
Total	120



Community Feedback

Would your organization like to participate in the expansion of California's individual device ownership ecosystem?

Yes	58
No	14
Unsure	41
Total	113



Digital Equity Ecosystem Event Calendar

Share your event!

1

Visit the submission form

Go to the CA Digital Equity Ecosystem Event Calendar page on Broadband for All.

2

Complete the event details

Org name, event name, description, date/time, format, location, website, and contact.

3

Get reviewed and posted

Submissions are reviewed within 5 business days, then added to the public calendar.



Submit your event here:

broadbandforall.cdt.ca.gov/ca-digital-equity-ecosystem-event-calendar

Digital Equity Ecosystem Event Calendar

Submission Form

Please include all event details including:

- Event Name
- Event Description Details
- Event Date / Time
- Event website / URL

Submit your event here:

broadbandforall.cdt.ca.gov/ca-digital-equity-ecosystem-event-calendar

CA Digital Equity Ecosystem Event Calendar

The [California Digital Equity Ecosystem Event Calendar](#) has been created to support ecosystem partners promote their digital equity related events to partners across the state of California.

Organizations may share their information in this Calendar by completing the form below.

Events submitted will only be considered for posting if they are:

- Specific to digital equity (i.e. broadband adoption, digital navigation, digital skills training)
- Located in California

Events outside of this purview will not be included.

Event information will be reviewed and considered within 5 business days of submission.

Legal Disclaimer: *Published event information does not imply or signify endorsement by the California Department of Technology or the State of California.*

*Fields marked with an asterisk are required, and all other fields are optional.

Information that will be published on the Calendar.

Sponsor or Host Organization Name *

Event Name *

Event Description Details *

0 of 500 max characters.

Event Date / Time *

Date Time

What is the format of the event? (Select all that apply) *

☐ In-person

☐ Virtual

Event Website / URL *



CA LIFELINE HOME BROADBAND PILOT PROGRAM

Loi Nguyen

REGULATORY ANALYST

California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC)

CA Lifeline Home Broadband Pilot Program

Pending Review: 1

- Connect To Communications

Pending Onboarding and Systems Interface Testing : 5

- Cal Ore Telephone Co.
- City of Ontario
- Frontier/Verizon
- Pinnacles Telephone Co.
- Ponderosa Telephone Co.

Enrolling Customers: 13

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

CA Lifeline Home Broadband Pilot Program

Broadband Pilot Subscriber County as of 09/14/2026

Service	New	Transfer	Reconnect	Total
Broadband Only (66%)	15,595	2,656	0	18,251
Bundled Broadband (34%)	6,996	2,261	8	9,265
TOTAL	22,591	4,917	8	27,516

*New enrollments continue to drive pilot participation (82% new and 18% transfer rates)

Questions



Digital Inclusion Partnerships Update

James Spencer

BROADBAND ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGER

Office of Broadband and Digital Literacy
California Department of Technology

Digital Inclusion Partnerships Updates

- **Only government & non-profit organizations are eligible**
- **All resources and services are free of charge**
- **Sign-ups for multiple services**
- **Referrals to & follow-ups from multiple partners / providers**
- **Shortening process to 24–48-hour follow-ups**

Digital Inclusion Partnerships Updates

Total Organizational Sign-Ups and Referrals: 65 (as of 9/21)

Tools and Resources	Sign-Ups	Referrals	In Discussion	Utilizing Service / Participating
Digital Literacy Assessment and Skills Training Platforms	61	52	3	32
Digital Literacy Training (Artificial Intelligence)	54	47	35	8
Digital Equity Program Development for Organizations	41	21	5	3
Digital Navigator Training (Synchronous)	23	23	8	1
Digital Navigator Training (Asynchronous)	36	28	10	3
Remote Digital Navigation (Needs Assessment and/or Technical Support)	38	32	19	4
Device Access (Donate, Refurbish, Distribute, and/or Identify donors)	50	—	—	—
Digital Equity Data Refinement – K12 Tech Assessment	9	9	4	4
Digital Equity Data Refinement – Aggregator	30	—	—	—

Digital Inclusion Partnership Resource Sign-up Form

Official website of the State of California

California ALL

Broadband for All

Select Language

Powered by Google Translate

Search

AboutInitiativesPartnersResidentsMonthly UpdatesContact us

Digital Inclusion Partnerships

The termination of federal Digital Equity Act programs drastically reduced funding available for the digital equity strategies such as broadband adoption assistance, digital literacy training, digital navigation services, device access, online education and workforce development resources, and the collective capacity to implement them at scale. California remains committed to digital equity and to the full implementation of Broadband for All and the [State Digital Equity Plan](#).

In service to that commitment, the California Department of Technology (CDT) has partnered with seven entities to deliver free digital tools, training, and resources to community-based groups across California. Through these partnerships, California residents gain access to low-cost home internet, devices, and digital skills training.

The entities are:

- California Emerging Technology Fund:** Call center access to support low-cost internet enrollment; digital literacy and digital navigation training; device access; digital equity survey, and online education and workforce development resources
- digitalLIFT:** Digital equity capacity-building training for community-based organizations and individual digital navigator training
- East Bay Broadband Consortium:** School Technology Assessment Survey to identify needs and gaps in K-12 schools
- Everyone On:** California-specific affordable offer locator with address-level specificity to assist residents to find low-cost internet
- Human-I-T:** Online artificial intelligence training curriculum, virtual digital navigation and tech support, free or low-cost devices, and online workforce development resources
- Northstar Digital Literacy:** Asynchronous digital literacy assessment and training platform to increase digital literacy skills of residents
- National Digital Inclusion Alliance:** A Digital Inclusion Impact Aggregator to assist in tracking and measuring collective statewide and local digital inclusion efforts

Digital Tools and Resources Sign-Up Form

Due to limited resources, only organizations that have staff capacity and readiness to take action should complete the form below. Please limit to one entry per organization.

Organization information

Organization name *

Organization Website / URL

Primary contact name *

Title / role

Acknowledgement: *

☐ By filling out this form, I acknowledge my organization has the staff and capacity to utilize these resources and understand that these resources and tools are being made available on a first come, first serve basis. My organization has immediate capacity and is ready to utilize the following:

Resources

1. Digital Literacy Training: assessment, online platform and curricula

☐ On-Demand digital literacy training platform (Asynchronous)

2. Digital Literacy Training: assessment, online platform and curriculum

☐ Online Artificial Intelligence training (How to use basic AI tools)

3. Digital Equity Program Development for Organizations

☐ On Demand Training with Live Virtual Debrief

4. Digital Navigator Training for organizational staff/volunteers (rank in order of preference)

	1st (Higher preference)	2nd (Lower preference)
Synchronous (Instructor-led)	☐	☐
Asynchronous (Online / On-Demand)	☐	☐

5. Remote Digital Navigation (select all that apply)

☐ Needs assessment and internet enrollment (Call Center)

☐ Needs assessment and technical support

6. Device Access (free or low-cost) Participate in the California Green Technology Initiative / Expand individual device ownership ecosystem in California (select all that apply):

☐ Donate new or used devices

☐ Refurbish devices

☐ Distribute devices to clients and constituents

☐ Help identify donors of retired devices

7. Digital Equity Data Refinement (select all that apply)

☐ Integrate K-12 Student Tech Assessment Online Survey (school districts only)

☐ Participation in the Digital Inclusion Impact Aggregator (quarterly organizational progress reporting)

Submit

*If you are experiencing technical difficulties, please reach out to broadbandforall@state.ca.gov.

Notice of Collection (Click to read more)



Questions

DIGITAL LITERACY TRAINING PLATFORMS PANEL



Kat Zigmont

SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT

California Emerging Technology Fund
(CETF)



Theresa Sladek

**STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS &
NORTHSTAR BUSINESS
DEVELOPMENT MANAGER**

Literacy Minnesota



Erin Lorandos

PHILANTHROPY ASSOCIATE
Human-I-T

DigitalLearn

- ✓ No Cost
- ✓ Available at: <https://getconnected.digitallearn.org/>
- ✓ Voluntary initial assessment recommends relevant courses
 - Receive a \$25 gift card upon completion
- ✓ 5 to 20 mins., basic to moderate skill-level courses, and a certificate upon completion
- ✓ Content is currently in English and Spanish
 - English: 31 Courses, 132 Lessons
 - Spanish: 25 Courses, 134 Lessons
- ✓ Trainers can provide homework to their classes

Northstar Digital Literacy



- Internet based – accessed through each location's dedicated URL
- Assessments and educational tools for foundational and mid-level computer skills
- Available in English, Spanish and Somali
- Written at Grade 4 reading level
- Multiple resources to assist staff and administrators in using Northstar



Features

- **Assessments**
- **Instructor led Curricula**
- **Self-paced online learning**
- **Learner Management System**
- **Reports**

Assessment Topics



NORTHSTAR

Essential Computer Skills

- Phone Keyboard Basics & Logging In
- Basic Computer
- Internet Basics
- Using Email
- Windows 10
- Windows 11
- Mac OS

Essential Software

- Microsoft Word
- Excel
- PowerPoint
- Google Docs

Using Technology in Daily Life

- Social Media
- Information Literacy
- Career Search Skills
- Your Digital Footprint
- Supporting K-12 Distance Learning
- Accessing Telehealth Appointments
- Cybersecurity Basics

Badges and Certificates



- Passing score = 85%
- Unproctored and pass
 - Digital badge (unproctored)
- Proctored and pass
 - Digital badge (proctored)
 - Certificate – printed or emailed as pdf



Email

Passed an online assessment in a proctored setting with a score of 85% or higher, demonstrating competency sending and receiving email, email etiquette, and registering for and managing email accounts.



Verified

Last verified by Canvas Badges on Jun 11, 2025

Re-verify Badge

Awarded to tsladek@literacymn.org

Issued on: Apr 29, 2025 at 2:48 PM



AI 101: How to Use Basic AI Tools

A free, self-paced course that teaches practical AI to adults with adults with no technical background — built for service and hands-on workers, the people most AI curricula skip.



Free

No cost to the learner

30

Short video lessons

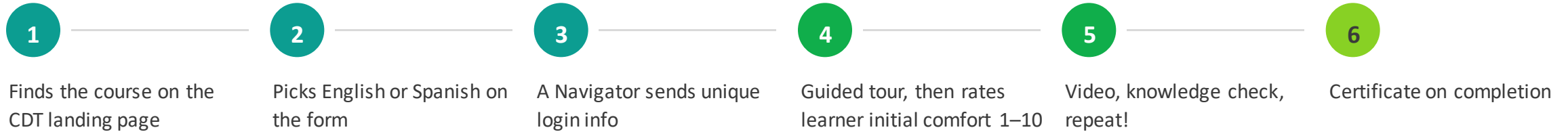
2

Languages: English, Spanish

Any

Smartphone or computer

How a learner moves through it



Built so people actually finish.

- ✓ Subtitles on every video, and adjustable playback speed
- ✓ Embedded glossary for unfamiliar terms
- ✓ Safe use of AI is Module 1, not an afterthought
- ✓ Typed prompts, voice, and image generation all covered



Live chat on every single screen.

A learner stuck mid-lesson can reach a person without losing their spot. It is the best of asynchronous and synchronous learning in one place!

Digital Navigation is available 8:30-5 PST, learners can request a call back after hours.

44%

average gain in learner comfort scores (5.33 → 7.68) across Human-I-T's AI literacy programming. Learners reporting discomfort fell from 37% to 9%, and one in three graduates finished confident enough to teach these skills to someone else.

Key stakeholder information



PLATFORM

We use Moodle as our learning platform, learners start on our website.

INITIAL ASSESSMENT

Yes. A 1–10 self-rating with a plain-language behavior at every point, run before and after the course.

CONTENT TYPE

Self-paced online. 30 short videos, each followed by a knowledge check, plus hands-on exercises.

TRAINING FOR TRAINERS

Yes. Trainers can work with our Community Engagement team to learn the content, then deliver it directly to their own communities.

LANGUAGES

English and Spanish, selected by the learner at signup.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COMPLETION

Yes. Learners receive a certificate at the end of every Human-I-T course.

COST

Free. No cost to the learner, offered free and open nationally.

IDEAL FOR

Adults with no tech background... service and hands-on workers, job seekers, and CBO staff wanting a baseline.

Questions

DEVICE ACCESS & INDIVIDUAL DEVICE OWNERSHIP ECOSYSTEM



AJ Middleton

SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT OF IMPACT
Human-I-T



Kat Zigmont

SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT
California Emerging Technology Fund (CETF)



Broadband for All

A woman with dark hair in a ponytail is sitting at a desk, looking at a computer monitor. The monitor displays a webpage with a map and some text. In the background, there are several flags hanging on the wall. The image has a green overlay.

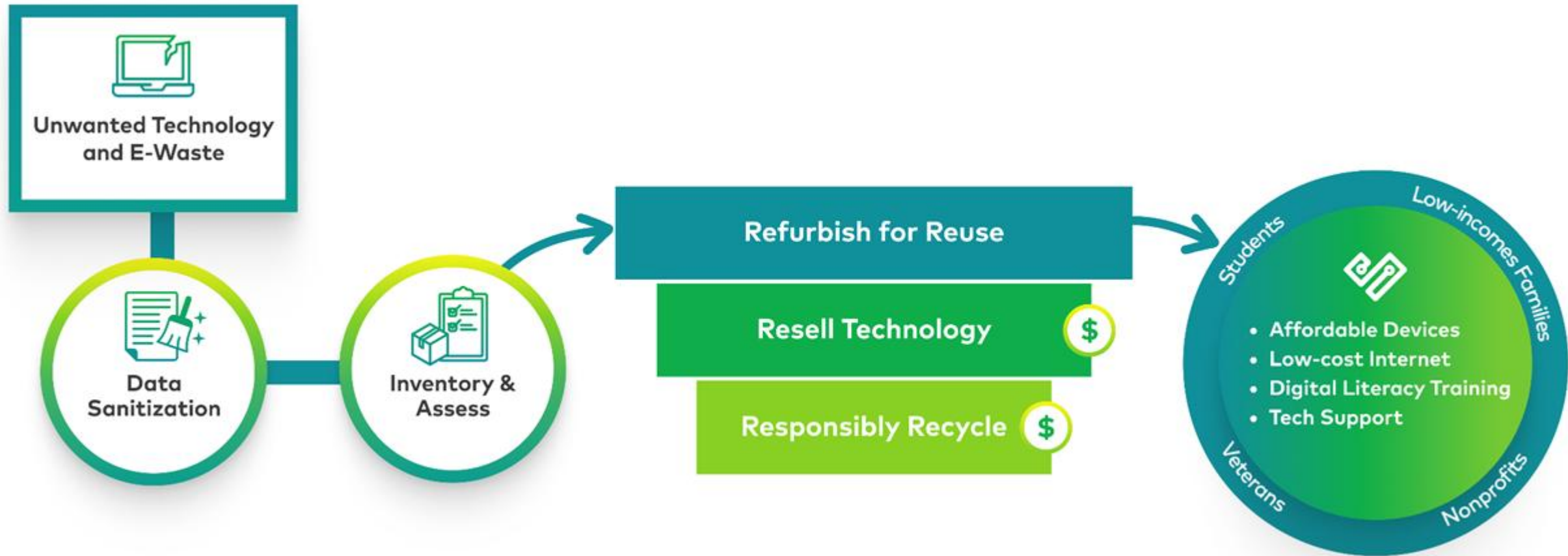
Human-I-T

Device Access and Individual Device Ownership



Our Mission

Human-I-T is a social enterprise that creates equitable access to opportunity by providing devices, internet access, digital skills training, and tech support for communities left on the wrong side of the digital divide, while at the same time, empowering businesses and organizations to do good by diverting technology from landfills to protect our planet.



Devices: There Is No One Size Fits All

Devices, new and refurbished

- Chromebooks, Windows and Apple laptops
- Tablets and desktops
- One device or bulk orders

Specs and cost are ranges

- RAM 4–16GB; storage 16 GB– 256 GB+
- Screens from 10"– 15.6"
- Laptops start at \$105
- Lower pricing for income-qualified households; free or subsidized devices based on availability and need

What comes with every device

- 1-year hardware warranty
- A year of free bilingual tech support (English and Spanish)
- Access to additional Digital Navigation support

Start with a conversation — tell us who you serve and we will match the right devices.



Thank you!

AJ Middleton

SVP of Impact

aj.middleton@human-i-t.org



California Green Technology Initiative

The California Green Technology Initiative advances Digital Equity and **environmental sustainability** by refurbishing retired technology and connecting underserved Californians to **devices, training, and the internet**.

Goals:

1. **Decrease** the volume of retired computing devices being dismantled, destroyed, and/or shipped offshore.
2. **Increase** the supply chain of devices remaining in California to help close the Digital Divide.

CA Green Tech Initiative - How It Works

- Any business/entity donates retired computers to regional non-profit device refurbishers, who is a member of the CA Green Tech Initiative.
- CETF raises funds to buy those devices and provide them to low-income households that have completed Digital Literacy Training.
- To coordinate a donation, email: GreenTech@cetfund.org
- CETF, CDT, and the CA Green Technology Initiative member refurbishers are working to **increase donated devices** by conducting a **series of webinars to raise awareness** and explain how to donate devices

Questions



UPCOMING GRANT OPPORTUNITIES & FUTURE MEETINGS

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: October 1, 2026

- *Eligible:* CA Tribes with or without federal recognition that demonstrate Tribal leadership and Tribal Consortia.
- *Focus:* To pursue improved voice and broadband communications needs (ie. Market & feasibility studies, business plans, grant writing, consulting, TTA tribal staff hours and admin costs).



CASF Broadband Adoption Account

Deadline: January 1, 2027

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



CASF Broadband Public Housing Account

Deadline: January 1, 2027

- *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



CPUC Digital Divide Grant Program R4

Deadline	October 30, 2026
Eligible	Rural and urban public schools, 501c3 non-profits
Funding	DDGP will provide three grants for a total of \$200,000 • one grant of \$100,000 for rural and urban public schools • two grants of up to \$50,000 each for non-profit / CBO
Focus	Projects may address gaps in broadband networks, affordability, access to personal devices and digital skills training.



CPUC CASF Broadband Infrastructure

The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) extends the California Advanced Services Fund (CASF) Broadband Infrastructure Grant Account 2026 application deadline in response to some stakeholders' requests to allow time for prospective applicants to analyze the new eligibility data and account for the federal Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) program.

Old Deadline: October 1, 2026

New Deadline: November 2, 2026

[CASF Broadband Infrastructure Grant Account](#)



NTIA Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program

Deadline	November 17, 2026 (by 11:59pm Eastern Time)
Eligible	Tribal Government or Organization, College or University, Consortium applicants and prior entities that previously received TBCP grant funds.
Funding	\$540M available for eligible applicants • Broadband Use and Adoption Projects \$500,000 to \$2,500,000 • Broadband Infrastructure Deployment \$1,000,000 to \$25,000,000
Focus	Deployment of internet infrastructure, affordability, telehealth & distance learning initiatives

[Round Three Notice of Funding Opportunity](#)



NTIA Native Entities Grant Program

Deadline	November 17, 2026 (by 11:59pm ET)
Eligible	Tribe, Alaska Native entity, Hawaiian org., or consortium
Funding	\$250M available; Grant ranges from \$500,000 and \$2,500,000
Match	10% of matching funds
Focus	Broadband use and adoption activities, workforce development, technology upgrades



Anthropic Grant Program: Claude Corps

Deadline	January 2027 (second cohort)
Eligible	• 18+ years • authorized to work in the U.S. • under 2 years of work experience • no degree required
Funding	\$150M initiative to train and deploy 1,000 young workers into 400 nonprofits across the U.S. (Fellows will get paid \$85K annually)
Goal	To equip nonprofits with AI tools and systems while giving fellows hands-on AI skills that will benefit their careers.



Future Meeting Dates

Upcoming Community of Practice Meetings*

(Thursdays 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM)

- Thursday, October 29
- Thursday, November 19
- Thursday, December 17

*Subject to Change



THANK YOU

Website:

BroadbandForAll.cdt.ca.gov

Contact:

broadbandforall@state.ca.gov

Sign up for Broadband for All Email Updates via QR Code



Broadband for All

