Digital Equity Community of Practice Meeting

October 29, 2026

CALIFORNIA ALL | Broadband for All

Housekeeping

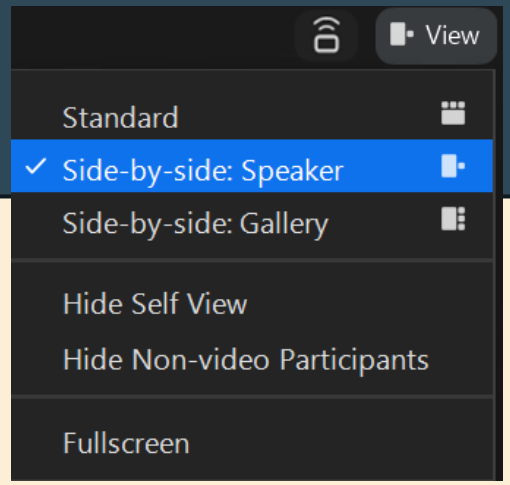
Select Side-by-Side: Speaker Mode for the best viewing experience when slides are shared and visibility of the ASL interpreters

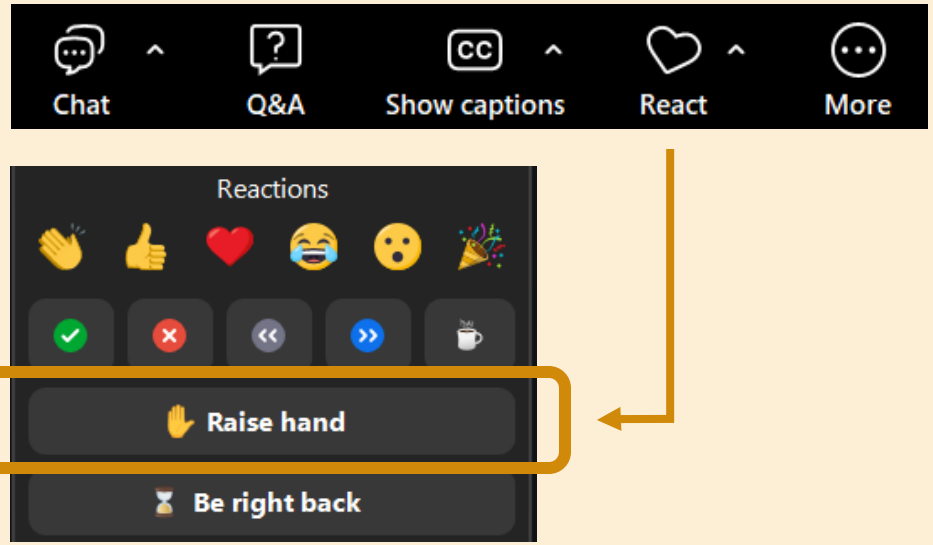
Closed Captions English closed captions are available. Choose “CC Show Caption” on your toolbar

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

Guest Speaker: Angela Siefer, Executive Director, NDIA

CA LifeLine Home Broadband Pilot Program

Digital Inclusion Partnerships Update

Local Digital Inclusion Panel

2027 Digital Equity Survey Briefing: Sunne McPeak, President & CEO, CETF

Upcoming Grant Opportunities

Future Meetings

Community Feedback - Topics

What DE topics would you like to see featured in future meetings?

- ✓ ACP replacement updates
- ✓ Affordability
- ✓ Artificial Intelligence
- ✓ CA Home Broadband Pilot Program
- ✓ Data Protection and Privacy
- ✓ Digital Equity Data
- ✓ Fiber network deployment
- ✓ Funding & Grants Opportunities
- ✓ Large device ownership
- ✓ Leveraging AI for equity
- ✓ Library Digital Inclusions Services
- ✓ Tech Accessibility for individuals with disabilities

- Workforce dev & Internet safety for folks w/ disabilities
- Intermediate & advanced digital literacy training
- How to measure digital equity
- Access for elderly & unhoused
- Ways the community can support
- AI use for Digital Navigators for older adults
- Analytics assessing outcomes
- Connecting students to tech hardware, software and resources
- Cybersecurity training for the public
- Digital skills training
- Digital Communication Landscape
- Digital Equity for Stroke Survivors & Caregivers
- Digital literacy in media
- Education program for digital financial literacy
- Environmental justice telecommunication issues
- Increased data sharing
- New technologies
- Spanish language and rural access
- Technology and ethics

Community Feedback – Future Speakers

What speakers would you like to hear from in future meetings?

- ✓ Andrew Broderick (SF Tech Council)
- ✓ Academics
- ✓ California Public Utilities Commission
- ✓ Librarians
- ✓ NDIA
- ✓ Sunne McPeak, CETF
- ✓ Vera Zakem, CA Dept. of Technology

- Internet service providers
- CA govt. politicians
- AI policy
- Tips & tricks from their experience providing a digital program
- Accessibility
- Focus on older adults
- Access and technology thought leaders
- Adult Educators (i.e. OTAN)
- Benton Institute
- Brian Rathbone
- County Public Benefit Experts (re. HR1)
- Department of General Services
- Device Refurbishment Companies
- Dr. Jamshid Damooei
- Education Superhighway
- Kevin Harbour, BizFed Institute
- Federal Communications Commission
- Governor Gavin Newsom
- LaVada English
- Latina women experts in tech
- Philanthropy or practitioners
- Stacey Abrams
- Tim Downs, Next Level.Net
- Tribal connectivity leads
- Women in Tech
- Workforce development and job training organizations

Community Feedback - Improvements

How can we improve your experience of these Community of Practice meetings?

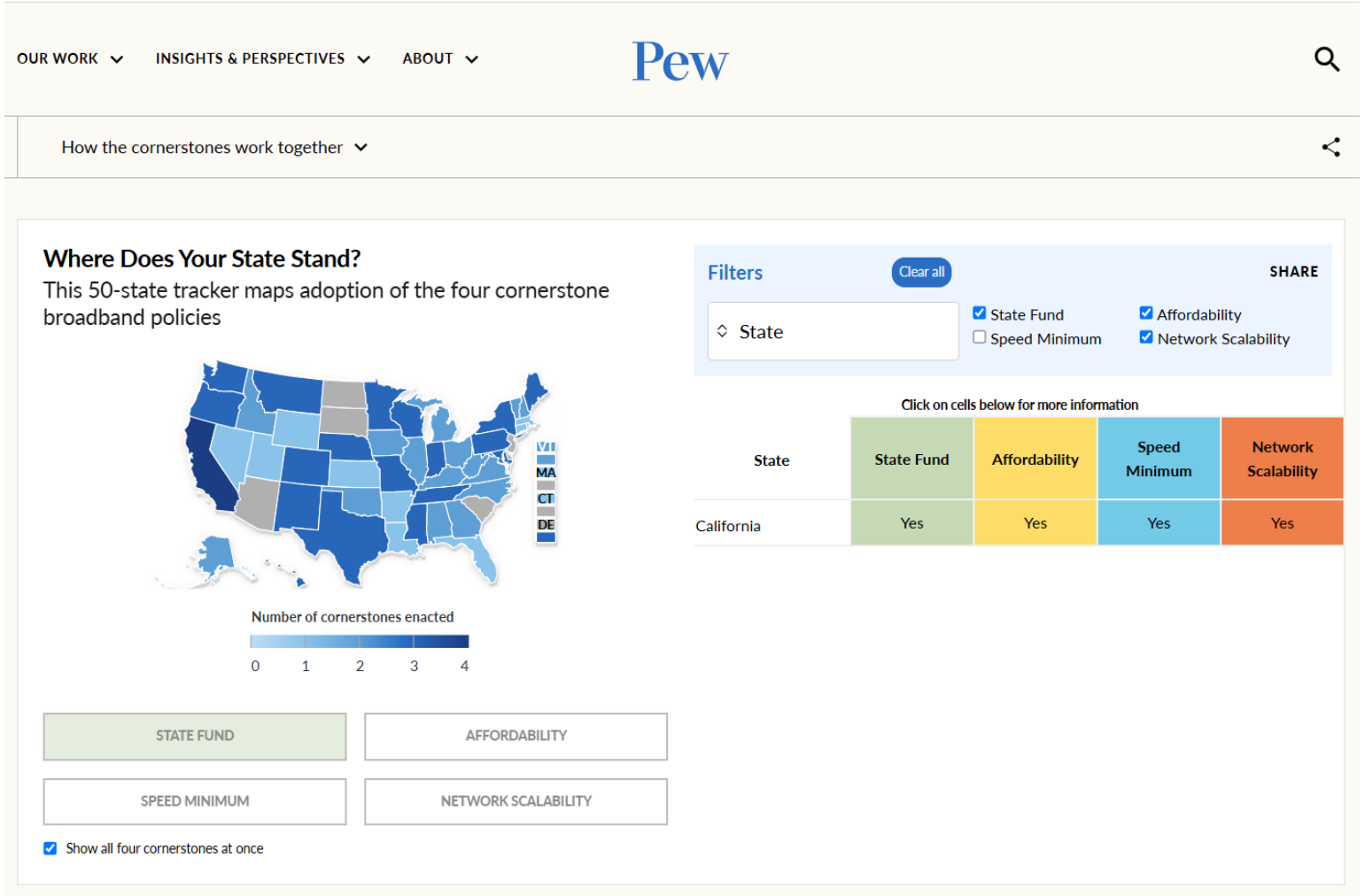
- Make public more aware of these meetings via Zoom
- Allow attendees to ask questions
- More resources & materials to amplify outreach
- Share success stories
- Get information early to register for events
- Provide agendas and other information in advance of the meetings
- Provide accessible, electronic copies of any materials
- Offer simultaneous interpretation
- Hosting 1-on-1s
- Grants on AI literacy
- Have different sub-focus groups...like healthcare, aging, education, etc.
- Access to tools & resources

Pew Report on Broadband Policy

A recent Pew report tracked four cornerstone policies for universal broadband. Those policies were:

- Dedicated deployment funding
- Affordability requirements
- Minimum speed standards
- Network scalability

California is the only state in the nation to address all four policies in statute.



Tracking the Foundations for Universal Broadband Across States | The Pew Charitable Trusts



GUEST SPEAKER

Angela Siefer

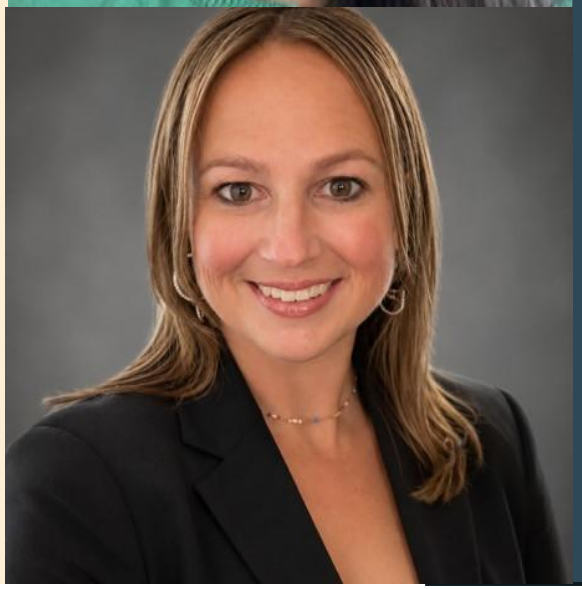
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

National Digital Inclusion Alliance

Questions

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CA LIFELINE HOME BROADBAND PILOT PROGRAM

Loi Nguyen
Lisa Anthony
REGULATORY ANALYSTS
California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC)

CA Lifeline Home Broadband Pilot Program

Pending Review: 1

- Connect To Communications

Pending Onboarding and Systems Interface Testing : 6

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

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 Count as of 10/20/2026				
Service	**New**	**Transfer**	**Reconnect**	**Total**
Standalone Broadband (67%)	17,709	2,978	3	20,690
Bundled Broadband (33%)	7,809	2,413	19	10,241
TOTAL	**25,518**	**5,391**	**22**	**30,931**

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

CA Lifeline Home Broadband Pilot Program

Process Improvements:

Staff and the TPA continue to identify opportunities to streamline enrollment, reduce avoidable email-verification denials, and introduce features that support increased pilot participation.

- On August 21, 2026, the email-verification period was extended from 3 to 7 days to evaluate whether this reduces avoidable denials.
  - **93%** of successful email verifications were completed within the first 3 business days.
  - Completion rates increased significantly on Business Day 3 following TPA reminder notifications, showing reminders effectively prompt applicant action.
  - 280 applicants (7%) successfully completed verification during Days 4-7 and likely would have been denied under the previous 3-day window.

- On September 29th, 2026, Comcast became the first Broadband Service Provider to begin utilizing the Service Provider Intake Application (SPIA) method to process enrollments into the Broadband Pilot. The Program is anticipating improvements to the speed and success of enrollments with this enhancement.

Questions

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DIGITAL INCLUSION PARTNERSHIPS UPDATE

James Spencer

BROADBAND ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGER

Office of Broadband and Digital Literacy
California Department of Technology

Digital Inclusion Partnerships

Total Organizational Sign-Ups and Referrals as of 9/30:

Referral Stage	Count	% of Referrals
Sign-ups	79	—
Referrals from CDT	178	100%
Followed up by vendors	178	100%
Replied to vendor outreach	96	54%
Declined services	14	8%

Note: One sign-up may lead to more than one referral

Digital Inclusion Partnerships Progress

Activity – Promotion and Enrollment in Low-Cost Offers / Subsidies	Outcome
Households connected to low-cost internet programs / subsidies	6,806
Organizations that sent direct notifications	7
Households reached by direct notifications	9,630,000
Activity – Digital Literacy Training	**Outcome**
Organizations providing access to digital literacy training platforms	61
Digital literacy assessments taken	706
Residents using digital literacy training platforms	365
Organizations providing access to online Artificial Intelligence training	18
Residents utilizing online Artificial Intelligence training	147
Activity – Digital Navigation Training, Services, & Tech Support	**Outcome**
Organizations receiving digital inclusion program management training	4
New digital navigators trained	35
Organizations utilizing virtual digital navigation services	42
Digital navigation sessions performed – Call Center	47,385
Digital navigation sessions performed – Virtual	6,934
Computer technical support hours provided to residents	272
Activity – Devices	**Outcome**
Organizations participating in device program	61
Donated devices received	21,913
Devices distributed to residents	1,532

Digital Inclusion Partnerships Feedback

LOCAL ORGANIZATION TESTIMONIALS

“We appreciate having this as a resource for our staff and patrons.”

“This information is very helpful. I can’t wait to refer clients.”

DIGITAL INCLUSION PARTNER OBSERVATIONS

“Libraries are making our free AI courses a permanent part of how they serve their communities, from patron-facing promotion to staff training. That kind of lasting adoption is exactly what we hoped this partnership would make possible.”

“Programs who have staff capacity seem excited to start. One location with a very small budget was …very excited to have a year of it paid for her.”

“Some organizations may be short staffed, and they are not ready to utilize the resources even though they are available to them free of charge. Some said they need to first find funding to pay for the staff time to go through the training.”

Digital Inclusion Partnership Resource Sign-up Form



Official website of the State of California

Select Language

Translate

Broadband for All

Search

About | Initiatives | Partners | Residents | Monthly Update | Contact 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.

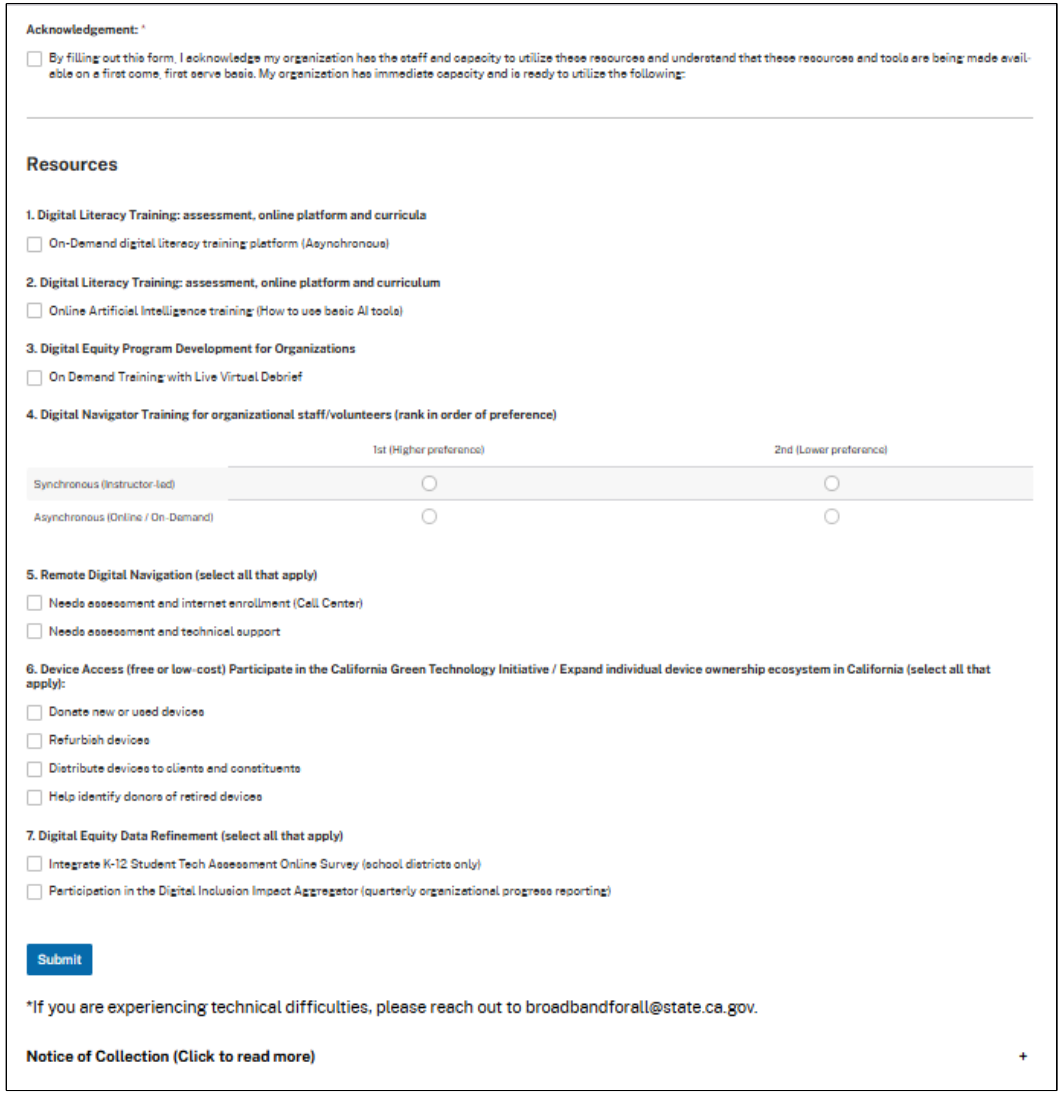
Organization information

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

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LOCAL DIGITAL INCLUSION PANEL







Adele McClain
ADULT ED COORDINATOR
Apple Valley Adult School

Martha Gomez
MANAGING DIRECTOR
Trans Can Work

Lily Rojo
TECHNICAL SERVICES LIBRARIAN
Mendocino County Library

Robert Guerrero
DIGITAL NAVIGATOR
Sigma Beta Xi

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Questions

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Questions

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UPCOMING GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

Aracely Hernandez

DIGITAL INCLUSION MANAGER

Office of Broadband and Digital Literacy
California Department of Technology

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

Native Entities Grant Program | BroadbandUSA

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.

Claude Corps / Anthropic

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.

Digital Divide Grant Program

CPUC CASF Broadband Infrastructure

The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) extended 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

CPUC CA Advanced Services Fund Programs

CASF Tribal Technical Assistance

Deadline: January 1, 2027

- *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

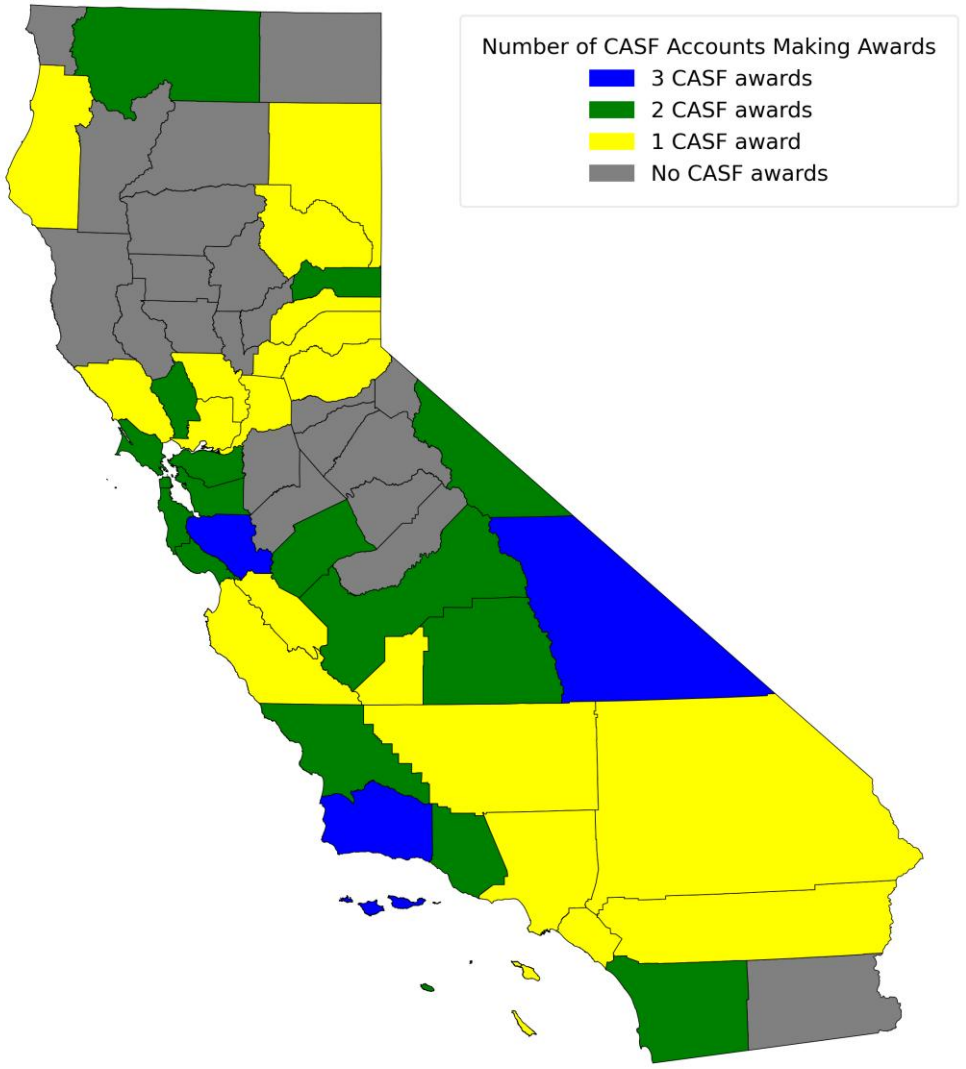
- *Eligible*: Local govt, senior centers, schools, libraries, nonprofits, CBOs
- *Funding*: $100K–$4M+ and 15% match
- *Focus:* Digital literacy & broadband access in community spaces, call centers

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

2026 CASF Awarded Grants



- **CASF Infrastructure Grants:**

  Awarded $166 million for 17 infrastructure projects serving over 3,800 locations in 17 counties.

- **CASF Adoption Account Grants:**

  Awarded over $11 million thus far for 114 projects in 27 counties (as of July 2026).

- **CASF Broadband Public Housing Grants:**

  Awarded $2.4 million to 17 projects so far with $3.7 million for 18 applications pending

- **CASF Consortia Grants:**

  Awarded approximately $3.4 million to 6 Consortia in 16 counties.



2027 DIGITAL EQUITY SURVEY BRIEFING

Kat Zigmont

SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT

California Emerging Technology Fund (CETF)

Statewide Digital Equity Survey

In 2026, CETF and CDT worked with stakeholders to develop another statewide assessment of Broadband Adoption: 2027 Digital Equity Survey

Purpose:

- Benchmark progress since 2023 by regions and populations.
- Assess and quantify remaining challenges for closing the Digital Divide and promoting Digital Inclusion to achieve Digital Equity.
- Provide guidance for implementation of Broadband For All and Digital Equity Plans and help target resources.

Sample Size: 1,650 HHs to achieve <3% margin of error matched to population demographics.

Methodology: Random Digital Dialing supported by advance texting and online survey option.

Launch Date: Mid-January 2027

Independent Research Partner: University of Southern California Equity Research Institute

Future Meeting Dates

Upcoming Community of Practice Meetings*

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

- Thursday, November 19
- Thursday, December 17

***Subject to Change**



THANK YOU

Website:
BroadbandForAll.cdt.ca.gov

Contact:
broadbandforall@state.ca.gov

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