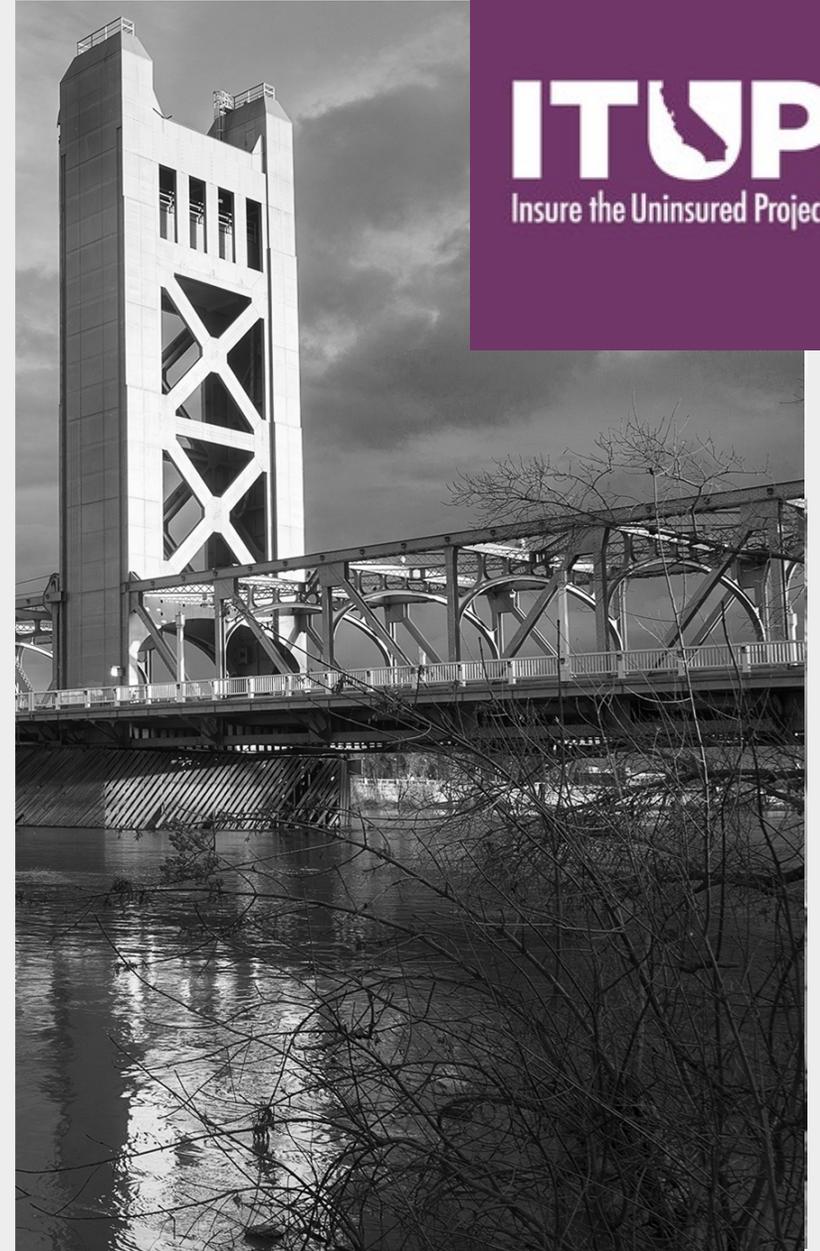


Health, Equity, and the Digital Divide

Katie Heidorn, MPA

Executive Director, Insure the Uninsured Project (ITUP)



ITUP
Insure the Uninsured Project

ITUP Mission & Vision



Mission

ITUP's **mission** is to promote innovative and workable policy solutions that expand health care access and improve the health of all Californians. ITUP implements its mission through policy-focused research and broad-based stakeholder engagement.

Vision

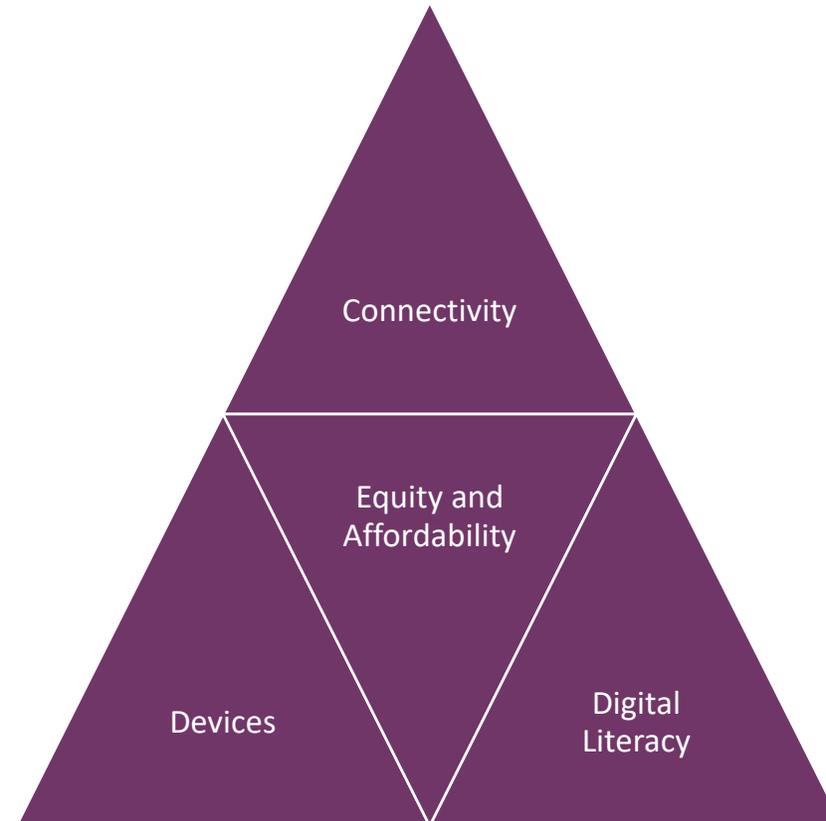
ITUP **believes** that all Californians should have a fair opportunity to live their healthiest lives.

Values

ITUP seeks a **health system** that is: universal, equitable, accessible, effective, and affordable.

Why Focus on Broadband?

Our Goal: To Achieve the Potential of Telehealth/Virtual Care, Data Exchange, Health Access, Equity



State and Federal Commitments to Closing the Digital Divide



- California's [Broadband for All Initiative](#)
 - \$6 Billion in CA State Budget Act of 2021
- Federal Infrastructure, Investment and Jobs Act of 2021 (IIJA)
 - \$45 billion dollars in the for states to close the digital divide

Roles for the Health Organizations



- Local, State, and National Opportunities for Health
 - Infrastructure
 - Local Builds and Engagement
 - Become an “Anchor Institution”
 - State Engagement in Middle Mile and Last Mile Policy and Planning
 - CA Alliance for Digital Equity Coalition (CADE)
 - National Coalitions
 - Schools, Libraries, and Health Broadband Coalition (SHLB)
 - National Digital Inclusion Alliance (NDIA)
 - Affordable Internet and Devices
 - Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) Outreach and Enrollment
 - \$30/month subsidy for a household
 - Device Subsidy

How to Engage?



- **California Public Utilities Commission**
 - [Regional Broadband Consortia](#)
 - [Funding Opportunities](#)
 - [Broadband Adoption Account](#)
 - [California Teleconnect Fund](#)
 - Broadband Public Housing Account (Implementation Rulemaking Underway)
- **California Department of Technology, [Broadband for All Initiative](#)**
 - [Middle-Mile Advisory Committee](#) (Meets Monthly, Next Meeting: June 17th 10-11:30 a.m.)
 - [California Broadband Council](#) (Meets Ad Hoc, Next Meeting: July 27th 9:30-11:30 a.m.)
 - [Broadband for All Roundtables](#) (Meets Ad Hoc and By Sector)
 - State Digital Equity Plan (forthcoming)
- **Legislature**
- **Budget**

Learn More



ITUP Broadband for Health Basics Fact Sheet:

<https://www.itup.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Broadband-and-Health-Basics-FINAL-V1.pdf>

ITUP LA Health Collaborative: Addressing Broadband as a Social Driver of Health:

<https://www.itup.org/events/la-health-collaborative-may-5-2022/>

Broadband 101 Fact Sheet:

<https://www.calfund.org/wp-content/uploads/CCF-Digital-Equity-Initiative-Glossary-of-Terms-FINAL-2.3.22.pdf>

Digital Equity Fact Sheets:

<https://ilsr.org/exploring-digital-equity-fact-sheets/>

California Community Foundation Initiative: Glossary of Terms:

<https://www.calfund.org/wp-content/uploads/CCF-Digital-Equity-Initiative-Glossary-of-Terms-FINAL-2.3.22.pdf>

California 'Broadband for All' Initiative:

<https://broadbandforall.cdt.ca.gov/>

Thank you!

Contact: Katie Heidorn

katie@itup.org

www.itup.org

Follow ITUP on Social Media!



@itup



@InsuretheUninsuredProject



@InsuretheUninsuredProject



www.itup.org

Key Definitions for Health



Anchor Institutions: Anchor institutions are flagship community institutions that are sometimes connected to fiber even when fiber services are not commercially available to the broader community. Because of this, they can act as a connection to the Internet backbone. Health care facilities, schools, and libraries are examples of anchor institutions.

Digital Equity: The state of all members of a community having equal access and sufficient digital literacy to use communication technologies.

Internet Service Providers (ISPs): An entity that provides broadband services to subscribers/consumers.

Unserved Household: The California Public Utilities Code defines an unserved household as a household for which no facility-based broadband service at speeds of at least 6Mbps downstream and 1Mbps upstream.

Key Definitions for Health



Last Mile: The portion of the internet which connects ISPs' shared infrastructure to end users, such as homes or businesses. For example, in a cellular wireless network, the last mile is the wireless connection between a base station and an individual mobile device. Sometimes this is also called the "first mile."

Middle Mile: This is a term most often referring to the network connection between the region and/or local network to the core network, or, the greater internet. For instance, in a rural area, the middle mile would likely connect the town's network to a larger metropolitan area where it interconnects with major ISPs.

Municipal Network: A broadband network owned by a local government, or "municipality". These networks take many forms, from modest networks serving a few businesses to networks that are available at every address across a community. Some are run by the municipality and others are managed by an ISP under contract.

Other Definitions



Bandwidth: The speed of transmitting information across a network. Generally, higher bandwidth is desirable, especially the more individuals and devices use the same source of broadband. The amount of bandwidth available to you can determine whether you download a photo in 2 seconds or 2 minutes.

Broadband Speed: Typically, there are two different types of speeds the average consumer uses: download speed and upload speed.

- **Download Speed:** Also referred to as downstream internet connection, download speed refers to the rate at which the user's device can receive data from the internet.
- **Upload Speeds:** Also referred to as upstream internet connection, upload speed refers to the rate at which the user's computer can send data to the Internet. Often times, DSL and cable internet only offer upload speeds at 1/10 of download speeds, which make them insufficient for modern day internet needs, like live video calls or virtual conference presentations. Fiber-optic internet networks more readily have robust connections for both upload and download needs.

Other Definitions



California Public Utilities Commission: The California regulatory agency that regulates privately-owned public utilities that includes telecommunications, or broadband.

Federal Communications Commission (FCC): The federal agency with the authority in promoting competition, innovation, and investment in broadband services. The FCC defines broadband and determines the metrics for determining whether a household or business has access to sufficient broadband internet. **The current metric was set in 2015 as 25 Mbps download speeds and 3 Mbps upload speeds.**

Fixed Wireless: A connectivity model that uses stationary wireless technology to bridge the “last mile” between the Internet backbone and the subscriber/consumer.^v This can be contrasted with **Mobile Wireless** which is transmitted from a stationary source to a moving cellphone, tablet, or laptop (cellular data, for example).