

Policy Toolkit

Broadband and Connectivity for Better Health Care



This ITUP Policy Toolkit:

- 1) Provides hyperlinks to resources that help you understand more about the need to expand broadband and connectivity to ensure a better future of health care for California communities,
- 2) Curates state and federal initiatives and select resources around telehealth, broadband, and connectivity, and,
- 3) Contains hyperlinks to help you navigate between state agency programs and initiatives.

Broadband and Digital Equity: Learn More

- [ITUP Broadband for Health Basics Fact Sheet](#)
- [ITUP Health, Equity, and the Digital Divide: How to Engage](#)
- [ITUP Broadband and Connectivity Policy Forum](#)
- [ITUP LA Health Collaborative: Addressing Broadband as a Social Driver of Health](#)
- [Local Lessons Learned in Telehealth](#)
- [Institute for Local Self-Reliance \(ILSR\): Digital Equity Fact Sheets](#)
- [National Digital Inclusion Alliance: Digital Inclusion 101](#)
- [Electronic Frontier Foundation: Community Broadband Fact Sheet](#)
- [ITUP Health Information Exchange Fact Sheet](#)
- [ITUP Community Health Workers Fact Sheet](#)
- [ITUP Telehealth During COVID-19 Fact Sheet](#)

Advancing Digital Equity in Virtual Care

- [Department of Health Care Services \(DHCS\): Telehealth FAQ](#)
- [DHCS Public Health Emergency \(PHE\) Unwinding Plan: Telehealth Flexibilities](#)
- [DHCS Telehealth Advisory Workgroup](#)
- [DHCS Telehealth Advisory Workgroup Slides: Telehealth Data](#)
- [California Health Care Foundation \(CHCF\): Bridging the Digital Divide Series](#)
- [CHCF Survey Results: Listening to Californians with Low Incomes: How They Experience the Health Care System and What It Means for the Future](#)
- [CHCF Telehealth Resource Collection](#)
- [California Pan-Ethnic Health Network \(CPEHN\): Equity in the Age of Telehealth: Considerations for California Policymakers](#)
- [OCHIN California Telehealth Network](#)
- [Center for Connected Health Policy \(CCHP\): California Telehealth Policy Coalition](#)

FastFacts

BROADBAND AND TELEHEALTH LANDSCAPE IN CALIFORNIA

[Statewide Broadband Adoption](#), by Speed (Megabits per second (Mbps))

79.6%
25/3 Mbps



66.5%
100 Mbps

According to [Department of Health Care Services \(DHCS\)](#) data from April 2020 to March 2021:

- **1 out of 5** new patient Evaluation and Management Claims were via telehealth across age groups
- **1/3+** of all claims for established patients, all age groups, were for telehealth visits

*Telehealth utilization data during the pandemic is skewed because in-person visits may have been postponed.

A [CHCF Telehealth Survey](#) showed:

79% of low-income adults in California would like to always have the option for a telehealth visit



Affordable Internet, Devices, and Digital Literacy and Navigation

[Everyone On](#)

[California Emerging Technology Fund \(CETF\): Internet for All](#)

[Human-I-T](#)

[National Digital Inclusion Alliance \(NDIA\): Free & Low-Cost Internet Plans](#)

[Department of Housing and Urban Development \(HUD\): Connect Home Program](#)

[California Department of Technology \(CDT\): Broadband and Digital Literacy Office](#)

[California State Libraries: Digital Navigators Program](#)

[High-Speed Broadband in California Libraries](#)

Broadband Data

[California Interactive Broadband Map](#)

[CDT: Middle-Mile Broadband Initiative Data and Analysis](#)

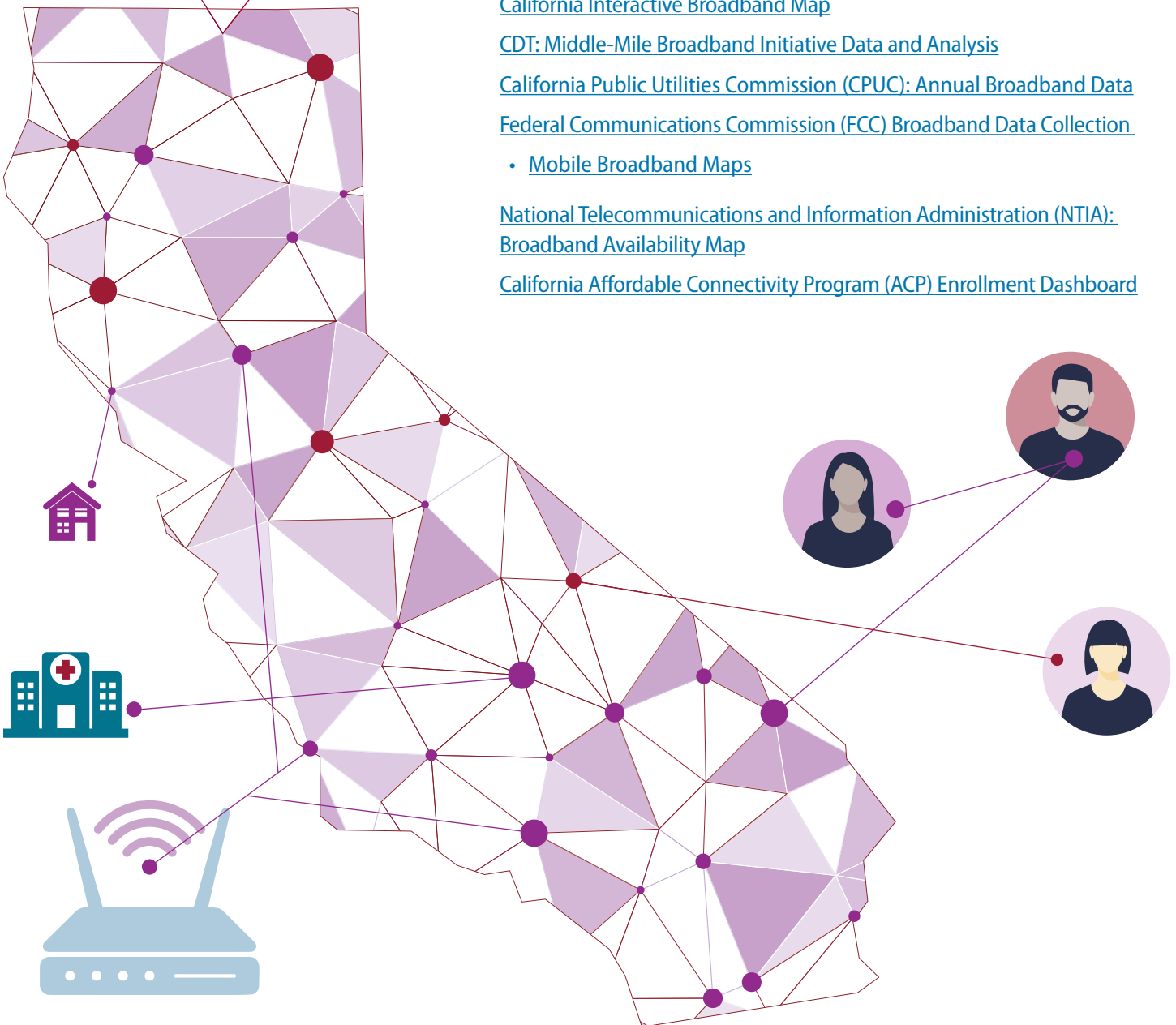
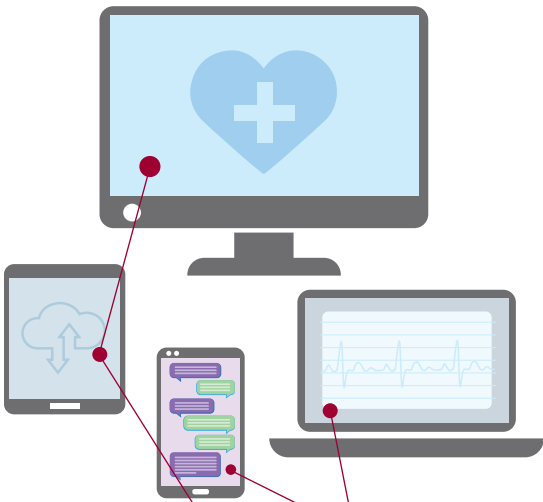
[California Public Utilities Commission \(CPUC\): Annual Broadband Data](#)

[Federal Communications Commission \(FCC\) Broadband Data Collection](#)

- [Mobile Broadband Maps](#)

[National Telecommunications and Information Administration \(NTIA\): Broadband Availability Map](#)

[California Affordable Connectivity Program \(ACP\) Enrollment Dashboard](#)



Broadband Engagement for Health Stakeholders

The highlighted state and federal agencies and departments all have initiatives and efforts to expand broadband and digital equity. The future of health is grounded in data, virtual care, and technology making health voices integral to expanding broadband and connectivity across California communities.

State-Level Engagement on Broadband

CPUC initiates rulemaking and regulations and oversees implementation of many broadband investments

[California Department of Aging: Digital Divide](#)

[California Public Utilities Commission \(CPUC\)](#)

- [Middle-Mile Rulemaking](#)
- [Middle-Mile Advisory Committee](#)
- [Open Access Middle-Mile](#)
- [Last-Mile Federal Funding Account](#)
- [Rulemaking Regarding Revision to the California Advanced Services Fund \(CASF\)](#)

[California Department of Technology \(CDT\)](#)

- [California Broadband Council](#)
- [State Action Plan Progress Tracker](#)
- [Middle-Mile Broadband Initiative](#)
- [Last-Mile and Adoption Programs](#)

CDT oversees the Broadband for All Initiative activities enabling easy access to broadband related information, tools, and ways for communities to develop and expand broadband connectivity

Federal Agencies for Broadband and Virtual Care

[Health and Human Services \(HHS\): Telehealth FAQ](#)

[Public Health Emergency: Telehealth for CBOs](#)

[Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services \(CMS\): Telehealth](#)

[Federal Communications Commission \(FCC\): Broadband Data, Speeds, and Adoption](#)

- [Affordable Connectivity Program \(ACP\)](#)

[National Telecommunications and Information Administration \(NTIA\): Broadband Infrastructure](#)

[US Department of Agriculture \(USDA\) : Rural Broadband](#)

CMS oversees telehealth policy

FCC sets broadband speed regulations and collects broadband data

USDA helps establish broadband in rural areas

NTIA established anchor institutions and helps establish infrastructure