Broadband for All and Digital Equity Update
Insure the Uninsured Project Statewide Broadband Stakeholder Workgroup

October 6, 2022
Scott Adams, CDT Deputy Director, Broadband and Digital Literacy
“Californians’ ability to access and use broadband is the difference between being able to fully engage in life and being cut off.”
Digital Divide

COVID-19 amplified lack of equity:

- 83% of Californians have access to broadband
- Only 52% of Californians have broadband at modern speeds of 100 Mbps
- 51% rural households have no network offering 100 Mbps
- 28% tribal lands also lacking this service level
- Millions the lack internet service, devices, and skills to access your services, and realize other social and economic benefits
Policy
Coordination
IT Oversight
Information security
Technology service delivery
Advocacy
Office of Broadband and Digital Literacy

- Statewide ecosystem dedicated to closing the digital divide
- California Broadband Council
- Broadband Executive Order and Broadband For All Action Plan
- Statewide Open-Access Middle-Mile Network
- State Digital Equity Plan
California Broadband Council

Multi-agency collaboration
Executive Order N-73-20

Required the development of a California State Broadband Action Plan.

Specific direction on 15 items:

• Data and Mapping
• Funding
• Deployment
• Adoption
Goal 1: All Californians have high-performance broadband available at home, schools, libraries, and businesses.

Goal 2: All Californians have access to affordable broadband and necessary devices.

Goal 3: All Californians can access training and support to enable digital inclusion.
$6 billion investment over three years to:
  • Expand broadband infrastructure
  • Increase affordability
  • Enhance access to broadband for all Californians.

$3.25 billion to develop, acquire, construct, maintain and operate a statewide “open-access middle-mile” network. (CDT)

$2.75 billion for last-mile infrastructure grant programs (CPUC)
SB 156 (Chapter 112, Statutes of 2021)

- CDT oversees the acquisition and management of contracts for the development, acquisition, construction, maintenance, and operation of statewide open-access middle-mile broadband network
Middle-Mile Working Group

- Program, fund management, reporting and oversight
- Retain TPA
- In collaboration with TPA and CPUC, facilitate high speed broadband access through last-mile connectivity

- Budget oversight and facilitation
- SLFRF quarterly reporting to the federal government

- Manages the development, acquisition, construction, maintenance and operation of the statewide open-access middle-mile broadband network

- Provide data to identify unserved & underserved areas
- Facilitate public comment
- Recommend network placement

- Leverage existing transportation projects
- Oversee acquisition and management of construction contracts for open-access middle-mile broadband network
Infrastructure, Investment, and Jobs Act Broadband Programs

The Infrastructure, Investment, and Jobs Act (IIJA) sets forth a $65 billion investment into broadband, of which $48.2 billion will be administered by the National Telecommunications Information Administration (NTIA).

- Affordable Connectivity Program (Federal Communications Commission)
- Digital Equity Programs
- Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD)
- Enabling Middle-Mile Infrastructure Program
- Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program
- ReConnect Program (USDA Rural Utility Service)

These programs will provide critical funding to expand on the state’s Broadband for All program and goals.
State Digital Equity Plan

- CDT will develop the State Digital Equity Plan with a planning grant from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration.
- Develop in consultation with the California Public Utilities Commission, the California Broadband Council.
- Extensive engagement and collaboration with state, regional and local entities.
- Final plan will shape how state allocates Digital Equity capacity funds to implement the plan.
## Digital Equity Plan Objectives

California will a State Digital Equity Plans (SDEP) to identify barriers to digital equity and solutions.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Includes measurable objectives for promoting:</th>
<th>Assesses how digital inclusion impacts outcomes in:</th>
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<tr>
<td>• Access to fixed and wireless broadband</td>
<td>• Education</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Online accessibility and inclusivity of public resources</td>
<td>• Healthcare / Access</td>
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<td>• Digital literacy</td>
<td>• Digital Literacy</td>
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<td>• Awareness and use of measures to secure online privacy and cybersecurity</td>
<td>• Economic and workforce development</td>
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<td>• Access to devices and technical support</td>
<td>• Civic participation / Essentials services</td>
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<td>• Tribal Outcomes</td>
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Digital Equity Plan

The State Digital Equity Plans (SDEP) will prioritize engagement and outcomes for eight covered populations.

1. Low-income individuals
2. Aging individuals
3. Incarcerated individuals
4. Veterans
5. Individual with disabilities
6. Members of racial or ethnic minority groups
7. Individuals residing in a rural area
8. Individuals with literacy barriers
Digital Equity Planning Process

• Statewide Planning Group
• Outcome Area Working Groups
• Statewide Survey (s)
• 20 Local/Regional Engagement Events
• Stakeholder Engagement
Upcoming Meetings

October 12: Broadband Council Meeting
October 21: Middle-Mile Advisory Council Meeting
October 24: Fall Broadband for All Summit and Digital Equity & BEAD Kickoff

Summit Registration link
Resources

Broadband for All Portal
California Broadband Council
California Middle-Mile Broadband Initiative
CPUC Broadband Implementation
Thank you!