



Let's Talk Broadband!

We are pleased to bring you the latest edition of **Let's Talk Broadband**. In 2017 the **California Emerging Technology Fund (CETF)** launched a 5-Year Strategic Plan to build on the successful first decade working across California to close the Digital Divide. We set Overall Goals to achieve 98% Deployment in each region and 90% Adoption statewide. We also are seeking to “institutionalize” **Digital Inclusion** by helping establish commitments and build capacity in existing agencies and organizations to address the needs of the digitally disadvantaged. This issue spotlights recent progress:

- **California Forward (CAFwd)** organized the **Digital Inclusion Roundtable** that met in June in Sacramento, engaging more than 40 leaders from State, regional, and local agencies, including the Chief Economic Advisor for Governor Newsom Lenny Mendonca, who declared that a “digitally-inclusive economy” is a priority for the Governor’s Administration.
- **UCLA Center for the Transformation of Schools**, CETF and 14 partners convened a conference in June on **Transforming Schools and Neighborhoods Through Digital Inclusion** that spurred thought-provoking discussion among top Los Angeles Region education and civic leaders to forge a new partnership to address inequities exacerbated by the Digital Divide. CETF pledged \$1M to implement Digital Inclusion strategies in neighborhoods where the County, City, and Schools agree to align and integrate their human services for **better outcomes** for children and families that **reduce poverty** with **tangible results**.
- **San José** is the leading edge as a “**Smart City**” by accelerating the deployment of 5G technology and reinvesting industry fees in their **Digital Inclusion Fund** to award grants to close the Digital Divide by getting 50,000 households connected and proficient in use of the Internet. The City engaged CETF to help manage the **San José Digital Inclusion Partnership**.

You can read more below about these initiatives and learn from an interview with **CETF School2Home** partner **Sophia Mendoza, Instructional Technology Initiative Director at Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD)**. Thank you for being a **Digital Inclusion Champion**.

Sincerely,

Sunne Wright McPeak, President and CEO
California Emerging Technology Fund

GRANT ANNOUNCEMENT:
California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC)
California Advanced Services Fund (CASF) will be accepting proposals for the
Broadband Adoption Account beginning:

January 1, 2020

**GOVERNOR NEWSOM'S ADMINISTRATION MAKES A
"DIGITALLY-INCLUSIVE ECONOMY" A PRIORITY**

In a state of 40 million people, broadband access and connectivity are imperative to maintain a strong economy and California's draw as a global innovation leader. The discussion at the **Digital Inclusion Roundtable**, convened by **CAFwd** and CETF in June, described the ongoing challenges to close the Digital Divide for 5 million residents who remain unconnected. There were clear "calls to action" for better planning and a statewide policy to ensure broadband access in every part of the state. **California Department of Technology Director Amy Tong**, also **Chair of the California Broadband Council**, made Opening Remarks for the Roundtable.

"We must be inclusive geographically and demographically. We must have a *California for All* and connectivity is essential to that," declared Lenny Mendonca, Chief Economic and Business Advisor for Governor Newsom. He further underscored the imperative by saying that "a digitally-inclusive economy" is a priority for the Governor.

Key topics discussed were: incorporating broadband deployment into State transportation corridor planning guidelines; recognizing broadband as a "green strategy" for decreasing greenhouse gas emissions; improving broadband mapping and coordination of site information; and reducing permitting challenges. Participants included leaders from: **CPUC; Caltrans; California Office of Emergency Services; California Council of Governments (CalCOG); California Air Resources Board (CARB); California Department of Education; Broadband Regional Consortia; League of California Cities; Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC); Internet Service Providers; and Tribal Representatives.**

CAFwd, CalCOG, and Valley Vision (on behalf of all Regional Consortia) are identifying priorities for "Strategic Corridors" and working with Caltrans and Regional Transportation Agencies on opportunities to deploy broadband (or conduit) in conjunction with transportation projects that are consistent with the State policy on "Dig Once", a law authored by **Assemblymember Jim Wood**. Valley Vision, CalCOG, and Caltrans will report their progress to the California Broadband Council on October 17. CAFwd has developed a "call to action" (***Advancing a Statewide Action Policy: Digital Equity in California***) to be ratified at the **California Economic Summit** in Fresno on November 7-8 for submission to the Governor.

Read more at [Digital Inclusion Sparks Commitments Towards Improving California's Broadband Access](#)



Roundtable leaders included: Cynthia Walker, CPUC Communications Division Director; Jim Mayer, California Forward Senior Fellow and President Emeritus; Sunne Wright McPeak, CETF President and CEO; Lenny Mendonca, Chief Economic Advisor to Governor Newsom and GoBiz Director; Tom West, North Bay North Coast Broadband Consortium Program Director; and Bill Higgins, California Association of Councils of Governments Executive Director.

SPOTLIGHT ON TRANSFORMING SCHOOLS AND NEIGHBORHOODS IN LOS ANGELES REGION

Making youth and their families a top priority, leaders from the Los Angeles Region joined the **UCLA Center for the Transformation of Schools** and CETF to reach agreement on transforming schools and neighborhood with integrated strategies for systems change that incorporate Digital Inclusion to tackle poverty with tangible results in the most vulnerable communities. Partners and participants alike underscored this imperative to ensure innovative entrepreneurs and a trained workforce for sustained economic prosperity.

[Transforming Schools and Neighborhoods Through Digital Inclusion](#) co-sponsors were: **County of Los Angeles; LAUSD; Los Angeles Community College District (LACCD); Southern California Grantmakers; California Community Foundation; New America Foundation; Stuart Foundation; Advancement Project; Families In Schools; InnerCity Struggle; LA's Promise Fund; Southeast Community Development Corporation; YMCA of Greater Long Beach; and Youth Policy Institute.**



Conference speakers included: Dr. Gary Segura, Dean, UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs; Dr. Francisco Rodriguez, Chancellor, LACCD; and Dr. Pedro Noguera, Distinguished Professor at the UCLA Graduate School of Education and Information Studies, Founder of the Center for the Transformation of Schools and former CETF Board Member.



*Mónica García Board President of the Los Angeles Unified School District said, **"The class of 2032 comes in tomorrow...We are on the line California, and we must move forward."***

Q&A WITH LAUSD INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY LEADER SOPHIA MENDOZA



Sophia Mendoza is Director of the LAUSD Instructional Technology Initiative (ITI) which leads with quality instruction to focus on teachers and students and then incorporates technology. ITI is making great strides with this insightful approach. LAUSD is the second largest school district in the country. CETF is partnering with LAUSD ITI on implementing School2Home in 15 middle schools to improve academic performance.

Q: Please describe your philosophy in integrating technology in the classroom?

A: It's personal for me. For example, at the turn of the century, my daughter will be 88. I keep in mind all of the work we are collectively doing is going to impact the next three generations to come.

Leading with instruction means centering equity and access for students, so that all learners receive the instructional scaffolding needed to thrive in a digital world. While the tools leveraged for instruction may vary, the teacher's role in facilitating and designing the environment remain constant. Technology is not a replacement for teaching; therefore, instructional technology decisions should not lead with the device.

This approach ensures the process is not dependent on the logistics or technical specifications of implementing software or hardware, but intentionally focuses on the creative, intentional, and rigorous instructional experience. [Read More...](#)

SAN JOSÉ MAYOR LICCARDO VOWS TO CLOSE THE DIGITAL DIVIDE

Right in the heart and “capital” of Silicon Valley, 50,000 San José households don’t have access to high-speed Internet at home, and many lack computing devices and the digital skills to access the full benefits of the technology developed in the region. Under the leadership of **San José Mayor Sam Liccardo and action by the Council**, San José established a **Digital Inclusion Fund** and engaged CETF to help manage grants to local community organizations and public agencies to get 50,000 households connected at home and proficient in digital skills.

Mayor Liccardo and **Silicon Valley Community Foundation President and CEO Nicole Taylor** hosted a meeting with funders to brief them and build support for the **Digital Inclusion Partnership**. Speakers included educators and a student from **Fischer Middle School** in the **Alum Rock School District** who described how helping students and families access the Internet at school and home through the CETF-sponsored **School2Home** program is changing lives and transforming schools.



San José Mayor Sam Liccardo greets Jazmin, a Fischer Middle School 7th grader who helps lead the Student Tech Team.

Jazmin, a member of the Fischer Tech Team, described how being online gives her confidence in her studies and it makes her feel good to be able to help her fellow students learn how to use (and fix!) their iPads. We are building a national model for giving everyone access to opportunity.



Former Fischer Middle School Principal Imee Almazan (now District Coordinator for State & Federal Programs) and Silicon Valley Community Foundation President and CEO Nicole Taylor talk with Jazmin about how digital lessons can make school more relevant and help students learn new computer skills.

CETF is pleased to announce that Charlene Tatis has been named Program Director for the San José Digital Inclusion Partnership. To learn more about Charlene, please read [*Silicon Valley City Names Digital Inclusion Leader.*](#)

To join the San José Digital Inclusion Partnership e-mail list, please fill out this [form](#).

Please Share This Newsletter With Your Network,

Help us get the word out to low-income families that they may be eligible for discount high-speed Internet service at home for \$10-\$20 a month.

Residents can learn if their household qualifies by visiting: www.everyoneon.org/CETF or call toll-free 844-841-INFO (4636)

Lower-cost affordable offers for home Internet service are available from AT&T, Charter (Spectrum), Comcast, Cox, and Frontier. You can find information in English, Spanish and Vietnamese on these offers at:

[Internet For All Now \(IFAN\)](#).