



California Emerging Technology Fund

Quest for Digital Equity

PROGRESS REPORT
IN CLOSING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE
2020

The companion pandemics of COVID-19 and de facto economic segregation laid bare the Digital Divide and systemic racism which compel us to renew a collective commitment to tackle poverty with a laser focus that realigns public resources and attracts private investment with accountability for results.

The sobering realities confront us with these questions:

- Will protest lead the way to policy?
- Will the substance of our actions match the power of symbols?
- Will we finally come together to deliver for everyone on the promise of America and potential of California?



**It is only a matter of
LEADERSHIP
to say YES
to a better future
for all Californians.**

Quest for Digital Equity

The California Emerging Technology Fund (CETF) has diligently worked to close the Digital Divide in California since we began operations in 2007. We have partnered with and supported leadership from the Governor's Administration, Legislature, California Public Utilities Commission, Regional Consortia, Local Governments, Civic Leadership Groups, and Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) to make measurable progress. CETF serves as a "Catalyst for Action"—hence the title of our 2017 Decade Report (www.cetfund.org) which sets forth our Strategic Action Plan and chronicles the accomplishments during the first 10 years.

Now, in light of recent emergencies and crises—devastating wildfires, public safety power shut-offs, and a health pandemic that closed schools and workplaces sending everyone home—there is a deeper sense of urgency among policymakers and regulators to get everyone online—especially rural communities and tribal lands, low-income households, and other digitally-disadvantaged populations. The sobering reality is that Unconnected and Underconnected residents are not only at a distinct disadvantage for educational and economic opportunities, but their very public safety also is at risk because they are not online. That is why CETF calls Digital Access a 21st Century Civil Right and continues to forge ahead with focus and accountability in the Quest for Digital Equity.

Barbara O'Connor, Ph.D.

Chair, Board of Directors
California Emerging Technology Fund



A Record of Achievement in Leading the Way

The California Emerging Technology Fund (CETF) is a statewide non-profit organization with the mission to close the Digital Divide by accelerating the Deployment and Adoption of broadband and other advanced communications to unserved or underserved communities. CETF was directed to be established by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) in approving mergers in 2005. CETF was founded with \$60 million seed capital and obtained additional funds to directly manage more than \$117 million in the first decade and leverage more than \$126 million in matching funds. CETF is required by law to report annually to the California Legislature through the CPUC. CETF concluded the first 10 years of operations in 2017 and published the Decade Report which was submitted to the CPUC and Legislature and is available online.

Highlights of first decade achievements include:

- * Led a Strategic Action Plan to achieve 97% deployment and 88% adoption statewide by engaging a diverse spectrum of stakeholders.
- * Managed \$58 million in grants to a network of 100+ community-based organizations and public agencies that delivered digital literacy training to more than 830,000 residents and connected more than 298,800 low-income households with Internet service at home.
- * Sponsored the Governor's Executive Order on Digital Literacy and advanced statewide workforce training in Information and Communications Technology (ICT) skills.
- * Developed and managed School2Home to close both the Achievement Gap and Digital Divide in 39 Schools and 13 Districts reaching more than 20,000 students and their parents and involving more than 1,000 teachers.
- * Provided the vision and seed capital to establish the California Telehealth Network.
- * Secured \$545 million for the California Advanced Services Fund (CASF) administered by the CPUC and sponsored the Internet For All Now Act of 2017 which was passed by the Legislature with extraordinary bi-partisan support and signed into law by the Governor.
- * Established Regional Consortia to assess need, aggregate demand, and engage Internet Service Providers (ISPs) to build broadband infrastructure. Today, Regional Consortia are supported by CASF to assist the CPUC achieve the State's goal of at least 98% deployment by 2022.
- * Launched the concept of "smart housing" and advanced policies and programs to get connected residents in publicly-subsidized multi-unit housing complexes.
- * Published seminal reports on policy guidelines for local governments and broadband as a "green strategy" to reduce traffic congestion and decrease impacts on the environment.
- * Convened Local Government Roundtables with CSAC, LCC and RCRC.
- * Secured major public benefits in corporate consolidations for deployment, adoption, and affordable offers.
- * Established the Statewide Survey on Broadband Adoption to drive policy and action, showing significant progress (55% to 88% adoption from 2008–2019), but too many residents are still stuck on the wrong side of the Digital Divide:
 - › Low-Income Households up 48 percentage points (33% to 81%): 19% Unconnected (30% Households earning \$20,000 or less annually Unconnected).
 - › Latino Households up 52 percentage points (34% to 86%): 14% Unconnected (20% Spanish-Speaking Latino Households Unconnected).
 - › People with Disabilities up 43 percentage points (36% to 79%): 21% Unconnected.



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5-Year Strategic Plan: 2018–2022

The mission of the California Emerging Technology Fund (CETF) is to close the Digital Divide in California by accelerating the deployment and adoption of broadband and other advanced communications services to unserved and underserved communities. CETF uses “broadband” as a generic term for high-speed Internet infrastructure, including both wireline and wireless networks and advanced communications such as 5G.

CETF is a unique organization in the nation—no other state has a non-profit with a primary mission to close the Digital Divide by addressing the challenges of both “supply” and “demand” to increase the use of technologies enabled by ubiquitous high-speed Internet access. CETF is a vital catalyst for bringing together diverse stakeholders—elected officials and policymakers, regional and local civic leaders, community-based organizations (CBOs), and broadband providers—to collectively address the challenges associated with the many facets of the Digital Divide. CETF concluded the first 10 years of operation in 2017 and published the Decade Report (www.cetfund.org). This Progress Report charts the course of the new 5-Year Strategic Plan to achieve Digital Equity and documents accomplishments through 2020.

OVERALL GOALS

A hallmark of CETF is a disciplined focus on outcomes and accountability for results. The 5-Year Strategic Plan continues a focus on aggressive Overall Goals to achieve at least:

- 98% Deployment in Each Region
- 90% Adoption Statewide
- Institutionalization of Digital Inclusion

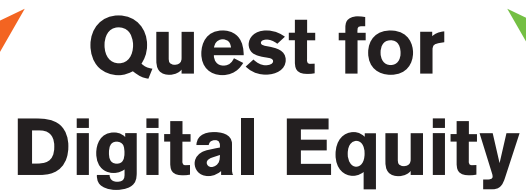
CETF strives to build capacity in other public and private institutions to incorporate Digital Inclusion policies and practices into their ongoing operations and programs. This is called “institutionalization” so that Digital Equity is “rooted” into the organizational culture and actively pursued by all public agencies and major organizations that serve large numbers of low-income households and other disadvantaged populations.

This Progress Report is organized according to the Overall Goals:

Deployment

Adoption

Institutionalization



Quest for Digital Equity

Achieve 98%
Deployment
in Each Region
by 2022



Achieve 90%
Adoption
Statewide
by 2022



Achieve
Institutionalization
High-speed Internet Connectivity
and Digital Literacy
for All Californians



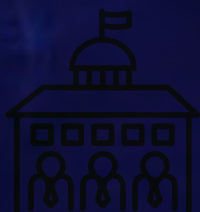
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Federal Communications Commission Chairman Ajit Pai (center) toured farms in Yolo County on a visit hosted by Valley Vision and the Sacramento Metro Chamber of Commerce in March 2019. Valley Vision briefed Chairman Pai on the reductions in environmental impacts and increases in productivity through the use of broadband for AgTech documented by a grant from CETF.

Deployment: Achieve At Least 98% Deployment in Each Region

The California Emerging Technology Fund sponsored the Internet For All Now Act of 2017 to add \$330 million to the California Advanced Services Fund (CASF), which is administered by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), and set the official State Deployment Goal so that at least 98% of all residential households in each region have access to high-speed Internet infrastructure by 2022. Building broadband infrastructure is referred to as Deployment. Since the Legislature and CPUC established CASF in 2008 with \$100 million, CETF has sponsored all subsequent legislation related to CASF, adding \$545 million with dedicated funding for Regional Consortia, Public Housing, and Adoption. CETF has taken an active role in CASF rulemaking and continues to recommend streamlined procedures to accelerate broadband Deployment.

CETF is a member of the California Broadband Council (CBC), chaired by the California Department of Technology (CDT). CBC is the statutory body responsible for coordinating State Agencies to close the Digital Divide. CETF supported CDT to convene State Agencies, Regional Consortia, ISPs, and other stakeholders to identify Broadband Strategic Corridors to encourage installation of broadband conduit with transportation construction in the spirit of “dig once” and “dig smart” to minimize future environmental impacts and traffic disruptions. CETF secured action by the California Transportation Commission and California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) to recognize broadband as a “green strategy” in Corridor Planning Guidelines. CETF also provided grants to Valley Vision and the California Association of Councils of Government (CalCOG) to engage Regional Consortia to prioritize Broadband Strategic Corridors and work with Regional Transportation Agencies to facilitate broadband Deployment. Caltrans, with leadership from the California State Transportation Agency, appointed a Broadband Coordinator and is working to streamline permitting procedures. In addition, CETF and Regional Consortia submitted detailed testimony to the California Air Resources Board urging recognition and funding of broadband to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

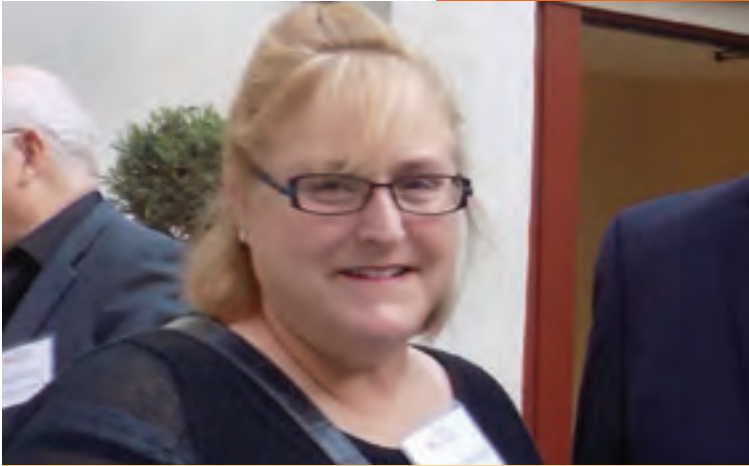
Regional Consortia are responsible for bringing together all stakeholders in their region, especially ISPs and Local Governments, to help the CPUC achieve the Deployment Goal. CETF has funded Rural Regional Consortia to prepare “Preferred Scenarios” to reach all unserved households and engage ISPs to submit applications to CASF and mobilize support. CETF also collaborated with CENIC to identify opportunities to leverage existing infrastructure to reach last-mile unserved households. CETF advocates for projects which deploy fiber middle-mile networks. And, CETF encourages Regional Consortia and ISPs to identify all anchor institutions along the pathway of Deployment so they can be connected when the Legislature authorizes CASF funding for that purpose.

These strategies are key actions to build a world-class Internet network for public safety, economic prosperity, and quality of life in the Quest for Digital Equity.



Achieve At Least 98% Deployment In Each Region

Strategies	Achievements
Promote effective implementation of the Internet For All Now Act of 2017 and efficient administration of California Advanced Services Fund (CASF) by California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC).	<p>Participated in CPUC CASF rulemaking by submitting detailed recommendations for effective implementation with widespread support from community leaders.</p> <p>Monitored CASF grants, analyzed results, and proposed revised rules for greater impact.</p> <p>Published reports to accelerate deployment of advanced networks, including 5G, and to promote Digital Inclusion.</p>
Engage State Agencies to assist and facilitate broadband deployment and incorporate Digital Inclusion in all policies and programs.	<p>Secured action by CTC and Caltrans to incorporate broadband into transportation corridor planning guidelines.</p> <p>Organized CBC Strategic Corridor stakeholder meetings and charted action plan.</p> <p>Submitted testimony to CARB to embrace broadband in Cap-and-Trade investments.</p>
Support Regional Consortia to assist ISPs submit CASF applications to reach all unserved households.	<p>Funded 6 Regional Consortia to plan and assist ISPs to submit CASF applications.</p> <p>Supported Regional Consortia to identify and prioritize Broadband Strategic Corridors.</p> <p>Assisted Regional Consortia to engage and support Local Governments.</p>
Ensure ISPs comply with deployment public benefit obligations in MOUs governing corporate consolidations.	<p>Worked with Frontier Communications to reach 107,000 unserved HHs, including securing CASF funding for the Northeast Loop.</p> <p>Monitored Charter Communications to upgrade Internet access for 150,000 HHs.</p> <p>Negotiated MOU with T-Mobile to reach 99% of all HHs and 10 rural fairgrounds.</p>
Secure additional funding for CASF to achieve ubiquitous high-speed Internet infrastructure throughout California.	<p>Recommended additional CASF collections to policymakers for tribal lands, fairgrounds, AgTech, telehealth, and distance learning.</p> <p>Promoted fiber middle-mile network policy to meet public safety and economic needs.</p> <p>Provided input to policymakers for COVID-19 emergency response.</p>



Martha van Rooijen, Manager, Inland Empire Regional Broadband Consortium, has stepped up to spearhead initiatives with a \$500,000 Caltrans grant to promote broadband as a “green strategy” by integrating deployment and transportation planning.

Regional Consortia Promote Broadband as a Green Strategy

Martha van Rooijen, manager of the Inland Empire Regional Broadband Consortium (IERBC), is launching a series of surveys and community listening sessions in collaboration with the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG), CETF, and other Regional Consortia to promote broadband as a “green strategy” and advocate for “dig once” and “dig smart” strategies to integrate broadband deployment and transportation planning. SCAG has been awarded a \$500,000 Caltrans Sustainable Communities Grant to identify ways to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by providing communities with access to high-speed Internet service to encourage fewer vehicle trips and other best practices adopted by the California Transportation Commission.

Who’s Making It Happen: Inland Empire Regional Broadband Consortium; Southern California Association of Governments; Broadband Consortium of the Pacific Coast; Southern Border Broadband Consortium.



“Over and over we run into the Digital Divide and lack of connectivity because there is simply inequitable distribution of connectivity across the state. We have to think about rural communities, but also urban communities that cannot access remote learning even if it was an option. This emergency really puts into relief the importance of having this infrastructure in place for when you need it the most.”

— Ben Chida

Chief Deputy Cabinet Secretary
Office of Governor Gavin Newsom



Cole Przybyla, Director, Tuolumne County Innovation and Business Assistance, worked with key stakeholders to plan for infrastructure expansion in the region.



Trish Kelly, Managing Director, Valley Vision, and Lenny Mendonca, Chief Economic and Business Advisor for Governor Gavin Newsom, Sunne Wright McPeak, CETF President and CEO, Ben Chida, Chief Deputy Cabinet Secretary for Governor Newsom, and Assemblymember Cecilia Aguiar-Curry joined together in Sacramento to discuss the urgency of connecting all Californians to broadband.



State Senator Anna Caballero and Assemblymember Devon Mathis co-chaired a Roundtable on AgTech in Tulare County in conjunction with the 2018 World Ag Expo. CSU Fresno Office of Community and Economic Development and Valley Vision reported on the results of AgTech Pilot Projects funded by CETF that showed increased agriculture cultivation efficiency and productivity from using broadband signals to connect with environmental sensors in the fields.



Greg Norton, President/CEO, Rural County Representatives of California, Carolyn Coleman, Executive Director, League of California Cities, and Graham Knaus, Executive Director, California State Association of Counties, joined CETF and regional leaders to discuss broadband deployment strategies.



Charlie Born, Director, Government and External Affairs at Frontier Communications, said that collaboration among the Northeastern and Upstate California Connect Consortia, Frontier and CETF was instrumental in gaining the CASF grant to jump-start deployment.

Northeastern California Consortia Spur Broadband Deployment

Improving high-speed Internet connectivity for residents and businesses in the northernmost reaches of California has been a long-standing challenge. Led by David Espinoza, Manager, Northeastern and Upstate California Connect Consortia at the Geographical Information Center at CSU Chico, the team has been engaging community leaders to gather necessary data and information to encourage deployment of broadband infrastructure. Espinoza introduced Frontier Communications to anchor institutions that have established relationships in the community. With the help of local support, Frontier was awarded a \$10.7 million infrastructure grant from the CPUC California Advanced Services Fund. In January 2020, Frontier started the first phase of the deployment project that will eventually connect nearly 110,000 households in Butte, Lassen, Modoc, Plumas, Shasta, Siskiyou, and Tehama counties.

Who's Making It Happen: Northeastern and Upstate California Connect Consortia; Frontier Communications; California Public Utilities Commission.



“Caltrans oversees 50,000 miles of highway, as large as the U.S. Interstate network. That’s a lot of infrastructure and an opportunity to help support Broadband For All.”

— Taks Omishakin

Director
California Department of Transportation



Eduardo González, Executive Director, California State University, Fresno Office of Community and Economic Development, discussed how infrastructure investment can help rural communities at the CETF Board of Directors meeting in Modesto.

“CENIC always welcomes the opportunity to collaborate with CETF because this organization focuses on outcomes and drives to results when leadership is needed to forge policy and facilitate action.”

— Louis Fox
President and CEO
CENIC



Patrick Kane, Program Manager, Central Sierra Connect Broadband Consortium, Tracy Rhine, Legislative Advocate, Rural County Representatives of California, Michael Pierce, Senior Analyst, CPUC, and Paul Lamb, Member, CETF Board of Expert Advisors, discussed the need for collaborative deployment planning.



The CETF Board of Directors, including Carol Whiteside, Dorian Traube, Renée Martinez, Barbara O'Connor, and Former Founding Director Lloyd Levine (also Former Chair of the Assembly Committee on Utilities and Commerce), meeting in Modesto in May 2018, celebrated the success of the Internet For All Now Act of 2017 with San Joaquin Valley civic leaders.



Assemblymember Eloise Gómez Reyes (far left) honored local leaders and ISPs at the annual meeting of the Inland Empire Regional Broadband Consortium (IERBC). Front row: Assemblymember Reyes; Martha van Rooijen, IERBC; Kevin Short, Anza Electric Cooperative; Ally Hetland, Race Communications; Louis Fox, CENIC; Luis Portillo, Inland Empire Economic Partnership; Sandra M. Cuellar, Charter Communications, Inland Empire; William O. Bayne, PE, Bayne and Associates; Marissa Schnur, IERBC. Back row: Greg Walker, Great Harvest Community Center; Jim Miller, Race Communications; Tom Mullen, Riverside County; Mickey Yates, Great Harvest Community Center.



Achieve 98%
Deployment
in Each Region
by 2022

Achieve 90%
Adoption
Statewide
by 2022



Quest for Digital Equity



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Adoption: Achieve At Least 90% Adoption Statewide

The California Emerging Technology Fund calls Digital Equity a 21st Century Civil Right. Rural and low-income residents stuck on the wrong side of the Digital Divide are being left behind at an accelerating pace—unable to apply for jobs, keep up in school, or access information about public services. Today 22% of California households are digitally-disadvantaged—12% are Unconnected (not online at home) and 10% are Underconnected (have only a smartphone). Getting residents connected at home to the Internet is called Adoption. Given the depth of economic insecurity among digitally-disadvantaged populations, CETF set an aggressive target of 500,000 Adoptions in 5 years (2018–2022) to achieve a net 90% Adoption statewide.

While availability and access to broadband infrastructure is necessary, it is not sufficient to close the Digital Divide. It takes targeted strategies and intense outreach in-language and in-culture by “trusted messengers” to overcome 3 primary barriers for low-income households: (a) cost; (b) relevance; and (c) digital literacy. CETF partners with experienced CBOs to assist households to sign up for affordable home Internet service. However, 70% of eligible residents are not aware of these offers. Therefore, CETF works with the California Department of Education (CDE), County Offices of Education (COEs), School Districts, Local Governments, and other human services agencies to distribute information to eligible households. CETF also coordinates with EveryoneOn to customize landing pages for collaborating organizations. CETF further augments these efforts with public information and advertising supported by a call center (844-841-INFO) staffed in-person 24 hours a day in English and Spanish. These strategies taken together have demonstrated the effectiveness of public awareness promotions and advertising in driving Adoptions. The results are why CETF urges ISPs to increase advertising and step up efforts to enroll low-income households for their interim free and affordable offers, especially in response to the pandemic. A purposeful partnership with ISPs could get online most low-income households in just a few months.

School-based strategies, such as School2Home (page 22), have proven to be very effective in closing the Digital Divide—reducing the percentage of Underconnected households from 18% to 10% between 2017 and 2019 according to the University of California, Berkeley Institute of Governmental Studies (IGS). All School Districts, with support and technical assistance from CDE and COEs, should provide a computing device to every low-income student, train the parents on using the technology, and inform them about affordable home Internet offers. The State should require CalFresh, Covered California, and Energy Utilities to get online all low-income customers to save time, money, and the environment. Local Governments can further close the Digital Divide through initiatives such as the San José Digital Inclusion Partnership (page 30).

These strategies are key actions to empower all Californians with technology and access to the Internet in the Quest for Digital Equity.



Achieve At Least 90% Adoption Statewide by 2022

Strategies	Achievements
Achieve 110,000 adoptions through performance-based grants to CBOs.	Managed grants to CBOs to achieve 31,000+ verified adoptions.
	Launched ad program and established 24/7 INFO Line to get low-income HHs connected.
	Urged CPUC to set goal of 70,000 adoptions for CASF \$20M Adoption Account grants.
Generate 390,000 adoptions through promotion of affordable Internet offers to 7.8M eligible households.	Distributed affordable offers information to 5M HHs to generate 229,000+ adoptions.
	Engaged 105 School Districts to distribute fliers on affordable offers to families.
	Promoted “ <i>Get Connected, Get Counted</i> ” to reach digitally-disadvantaged for Census.
Ensure ISPs comply with adoption public benefit obligations in MOUs governing corporate consolidations.	Partnered with Frontier to achieve 150,000 adoptions and distribute 50,000 computers.
	Oversaw commitment by Charter-Spectrum to achieve 350,000 adoptions.
	Negotiated MOU with T-Mobile to achieve 332,500 adoptions and maintain no less than 675,000 LifeLine customers with Internet.
Lead School2Home to close the Digital Divide and Achievement Gap to transform practice and policy for excellence in education.	Implemented School2Home at 30 Schools in 7 Districts for more than 16,000 students, their parents, and 800 teachers.
	Developed and peer reviewed detailed Implementation Guide for 10 Core Components to publish “School2Home In A Box”.
	Aligned public services to support students and families (Neighborhood Transformation incorporating Digital Inclusion).
Support City of San José to advance Digital Inclusion as a leading model to get online 50,000 low-income households in a decade.	Assisted City of San José design and launch Digital Inclusion strategies and grantmaking.
	Managed process to award \$1M in grants to 23 CBOs to achieve 4,000 adoptions in Year 1.
	Helped mobilize response to COVID-19 to accelerate adoptions and device distribution.

Adoption

Former FCC
Commissioner
Mignon Clyburn
and CETF
Communications
Associate
Nadine Hugg

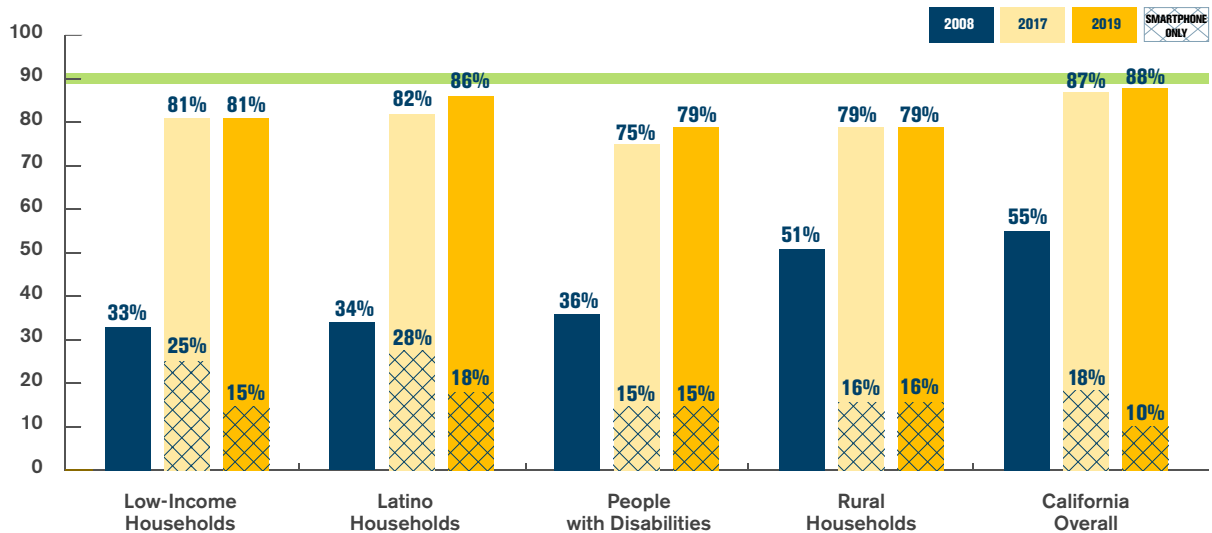


Broadband Adoption Progress

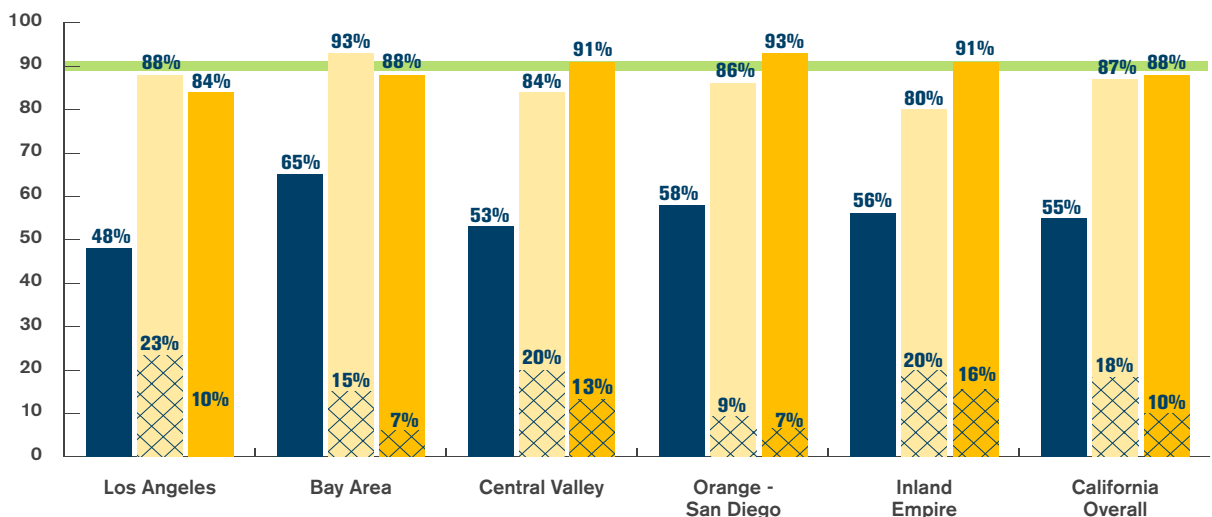
CETF developed and sponsors the Statewide Survey on Broadband Adoption to track high-speed Internet at home and then drive policy and action. The Survey shows significant progress is being made. Between 2008 and 2019, statewide home broadband adoption grew from 55% to 88%. Still, 1 in 8 households (12%) do not have Internet access at home, increasing to 1 in 5 (19%) for low-income households.

Broadband Adoption Groups

GOAL 2022: 90% OVERALL ADOPTION



Broadband Adoption Regions



CETF Grantees Champion Digital Equity

CETF experience demonstrates that Internet adoption is most successful when community-based organizations are empowered to be the trusted messengers and honest brokers delivering the message about the benefits of going online. They can deliver services in-language and in-culture, reaching priority consumer groups in target communities.



“The settlement with T-Mobile and Sprint is an example of the effectiveness of CETF and how important it is for California that in the mergers that have taken place that organizations have been set up to close that gap for so many Californians. And we have a lot of work to do.”

— Assemblymember Marc Levine

SPOTLIGHT ON SUCCESS



Emma Hernandez (left), Executive Director, Southeast Community Development Corporation, has successfully led regional workforce training programs serving Spanish-speaking residents in South Los Angeles County and mentored SCDC intern Briana Aguirre.

Workforce Training Leads to Better Jobs

Southeast Community Development Corporation (SCDC) is on target to achieve 5,000 new or reconnected broadband adoptions among low-income, Spanish-speaking clients. With a \$1 million annual budget, the non-profit has grown into a regional workforce training powerhouse focusing on broadband adoption and digital literacy education for underserved residents in South Los Angeles County. In partnership with other community organizations, SCDC has established several regional centers to provide free computer access to the residents and operates a regional technology center providing basic and advanced digital workforce literacy classes, computer refurbishment, e-waste collection, and low-cost computer resales.

Who’s Making It Happen: Cesar Zaldivar-Motts, Founder and Director of Operations, SCDC; Emma Hernandez, Executive Director, SCDC.



Parent University has provided digital skills training to San Joaquin Valley families, reaching more than 3,200 parents since its launch in 2013.

San Joaquin Valley Parents Learn Computer Skills

At 8:30 am, Fresno State Parent University is bristling with the activity of parents and grandparents eager to learn digital skills and improve English and parenting skills. Free classes focus on topics such as how to talk to their children's teachers online, gain workforce skills and stay connected to family and friends. Since its founding by the California State University, Fresno Office of Community and Economic Development in 2013, well over 3,200 parents have received training. Separately, more than 5,600 households have subscribed to the Internet via the Fresno State Connect adoption call center supported by grants from CETF.

Who's Making It Happen: Eduardo González, Executive Director, California State University, Fresno Office of Community and Economic Development; Sandra Prado, Program Coordinator, Parent University.

Watch the Parent University video at www.cetfund.org/video/Parent_University

“We help screen callers for affordable Internet connectivity and welcome the T-Mobile commitment to provide free Internet access and data for its LifeLine customers. This will be a big help for digitally-disadvantaged residents to access the Internet, especially when they are in crisis.”

— Pete Manzo

President and CEO
United Ways of California



Tech Exchange hosted Drive-Thru Donation Days during pandemic closures and distributed 4,000 laptops in low-income communities in the Bay Area.



State Senator Connie Leyva, Chair of the Senate Education Committee (third from left), congratulated Greater Harvest Community Center clients who completed digital literacy training at the Housing Authority of the County of San Bernardino.



Eric Zhao and Grace Shin, Tech Exchange training instructors, have taught computer skills to Oakland seniors.



Assemblymember Eduardo Garcia was welcomed by Imperial County students to "flip-the-switch" on BorderLink, a pilot wireless education network that connects students, teachers, and staff.



The California Foundation for Independent Living Centers sponsored events to help people with disabilities sign up for affordable home Internet, enabling them to access work and educational opportunities.



“I congratulate School2Home for their patience, persistence and humility in working with teachers, students, and parents attending schools in underserved communities. I’m excited about what School2Home is doing to make the LCAP a living document and to change the tropes about closing the Achievement Gap and addressing the Digital Divide with a community of practice that is actually working to develop real and meaningful engagement.”

— Patricia Rucker

Member
California State Board of Education



“Equity is one of my biggest priorities, specifically, equity and access for ALL our students.

— Tony Thurmond

State Superintendent of Public Instruction

School2Home

School2Home is an innovative statewide initiative to close both the Achievement Gap and Digital Divide at low-performing middle schools by integrating the use of Internet-enabled computing devices into teaching and learning coupled with significant parent engagement. It is anchored in research and best practices for improving academic performance and effectively using technology. School2Home employs a compendium of mutually-reinforcing interventions that transform school culture to improve student outcomes on a range of measures. It provides the *essential framework* to turn around low-performing schools and the *requisite platform* for innovative pedagogy and personalized learning. School2Home enhances Local Control Accountability Plans (LCAP) and helps students acquire deeper skills to succeed in a digital world.

When COVID-19 closed schools and sent home millions of students to try to continue their education remotely, the pandemic laid bare the Digital Divide and exposed deep inequities and widespread challenges for distance learning. However, School2Home schools made the transition relatively easily because all teachers were prepared, parents had been trained, and students already had been assigned computers to take home. One Principal commented, “*We had the advantage as we dealt with the school closure.*” A Teacher Leader said, “*Without School2Home, we would not have been ready for this moment.*”

While School2Home results are promising, Schools need Counties and Cities to align services to address the inter-related forces of concentrated and persistent poverty—a strategy called Neighborhood Transformation—so that students in low-income neighborhoods can focus on learning. CETF and the UCLA Center for the Transformation of Schools convened stakeholders in the Los Angeles Region to develop a model framework to transform schools and neighborhoods while incorporating Digital Inclusion (page 40).

Learn more at www.School2Home.org.

SCHOOL2HOME PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS 2019-2020

School District	School
Los Angeles Unified School District	Robert Louis Stevenson College and Career Preparatory Partner: Partnership for Los Angeles Schools
	John Muir Middle School Partner: LA Promise Fund
	James Madison Middle School Partner: Madison Computer Science and Engineering Design Magnet
	Edwin Markham Middle School Partner: Partnership for Los Angeles Schools
	San Fernando Institute for Applied Media
	San Fernando Middle School
	Orchard Academies 2C
	Maywood Center for Enriched Studies
	LA Promise Charter Middle School Partner: LA Promise Fund
	Monseñor Oscar Romero Charter School
	John A. Sutter Middle School
	Samuel Gompers Middle School
	Thomas Alva Edison Middle School
Riverside Unified School District	Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune Middle School
	Central Middle School
	Chemawa Middle School
Inglewood Unified School District	University Heights Middle School
	George W. Crozier Middle School
San Bernardino City Unified School District	Arrowview Middle School
	Curtis Middle School
	Del Vallejo Middle School
	Golden Valley Middle School
	Serrano Middle School
Long Beach Unified School District	Stephens Middle School
	Jackie Robinson K-8 Academy
Alum Rock Union Elementary School District	Clyde L. Fischer Middle School
Franklin-McKinley School District	Bridges Academy

“The School2Home program is strategic and effective at providing much-needed support, guidance, and actionable growth to a diverse population of both students and educators. In fact, the representatives are more aligned with the diverse students’ needs than any other program I have observed.”

— Kenneth Shelton
Educational Technology Strategist



Assemblymember Patrick O'Donnell, Chair of the Assembly Committee on Education, hosted School Leadership Teams at the Capitol for the 2019 School2Home Leadership Academy and inspired everyone at the 2020 Leadership Academy.



Ken Shelton addressed the School2Home Leadership Academy in 2018 and 2019.

School2Home 10 Core Components

1. Assessment, Planning, and School Leadership
2. Technology Bundles for Students and Teachers
3. Teacher Professional Learning
4. Teacher Coaching and Mentoring
5. Parent Engagement and Education
6. Student Tech Experts Development
7. Online Resources
8. Learning Academies
9. Affordable Home Broadband
10. Evaluation



Jerry Winkler, Director, California Department of Education Educational Data Management Division, called on state leaders to continue advocating for Digital Equity and expanded student access to technology.



Susan Keidel (right), Assistant Director, Accountability and Educational Technology, San Bernardino City Unified School District, shared best practices on a panel with Renée Martinez, CETF Vice Chair, and Renee Hill, School2Home Senior Program Advisor.



Agustin Urgiles, Executive Manager, School2Home, and Felipe Barragan, Principal, Orchard Academies, addressed the importance of mentors and coaches for teachers.

“I love the School2Home program because it ensures districts get devices to students, even those who can’t afford it. It trains teachers to effectively integrate technology into their classroom curriculum and also trains parents on how to support their students and sign up for affordable broadband.”

— Tony Thurmond

State Superintendent of Public Instruction



CETF Director Darrell Stewart and Steven Harwood, Manager, Riverside Unified School District Instructional Technology, discussed how parent engagement is critical for student achievement.

“Our partnership with School2Home is a model for effectively extending access to all students during this challenging time, giving us the ability to swiftly replicate districtwide the provision of devices and access.”

— Lynn Carmen Day

Chief Academic Officer
Riverside Unified School District



Sophia Mendoza, Director, LAUSD Instructional Technology Initiative, and said aligning educational missions with strategic partners such as CETF is essential for student progress.

LAUSD and School2Home Prepare Students for Digital Age

Sophia Mendoza, Director, Instructional Technology Initiative at Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD), oversees the integration of instructional technology across the nation's second-largest school district. CETF is partnering with Mendoza's team on School2Home to close the Digital Divide and Achievement Gap in middle schools. Her insightful approach includes supporting educator growth through comprehensive professional development and aligning missions with strategic partners. Leading with instruction, she says, means centering equity and access for students so that all learners receive the instructional scaffolding needed to thrive in a digital world. In Los Angeles, School2Home serves more than 10,000 students and 500 teachers in 14 schools and is working to expand to an additional 3 schools.

Who's Making It Happen: Los Angeles Unified School District; Sophia Mendoza, Director, Instructional Technology Initiative; Francisco Canche, Program, Policy and Partnership Development Specialist.

School2Home and LAUSD Are Transforming Student Learning

"The strategic collaboration between LAUSD and School2Home has helped our partner schools prepare to effectively integrate technology into their daily instruction which is essential for students to continue making academic progress despite the current physical closure of schools."

— Sophia Mendoza

Director, Instructional Technology Initiative
Los Angeles Unified School District



Rich Motta, CETF Treasurer-CFO, and Francisco Canche, LAUSD Program Specialist, participated in the 2020 School2Home Leadership Academy.

“School2Home has led to 84% of our students logging in daily. The earlier parent trainings we had conducted were critical to move to the distance learning platform with minimal interruptions.”

— Gabriel Durán

Principal
Maywood Center for Enriched Studies



Maywood Center for Enriched Studies (MaCES) trained all parents on computer skills through School2Home, allowing families to communicate more easily with teachers during the pandemic. The MaCES Team (left to right): Gabriel Durán, Principal; Diana Amador, Teacher and Co-Lead, S2H Professional Learning and Affordable Home Broadband; Christina Vera, Coordinator and Lead, S2H Parent Engagement and Education; and Maria Camarena, Computer Science Teacher.



Susan Parker, Principal, James Madison Middle School, and Elizabeth Lester, LAUSD Instructional Technology Facilitator, launched Tech Students Hubs and increased teacher professional development resources.

“School2Home has helped us connect families to low-cost Internet service, and 99% of our students connected with their teachers during the pandemic. S2H is available for ongoing assessment of needs and support to resolve issues with device management and connectivity.”

— Rowel Salvador

Assistant Principal
John Muir Middle School

“School2Home helped Stevenson manage the COVID-19 quarantine by providing information on home Internet services. Parents and students who attended S2H training not only already had a computer but also could navigate parent portals and Schoology.”

— Sonia Herrera

Assistant Principal
Stevenson College and Career Preparatory

Adoption



Robert Cabeza, Retired Vice President, YMCA of Greater Long Beach, described his decades of experience in youth development, including teaching technology skills.



Dr. Reginald Sirls, Executive Director, Secondary Education, Inglewood Unified School District, and Dr. Lisa Andrew, CEO, Silicon Valley Education Foundation, described the role of district leadership to close the Digital Divide.



Raquel Cinat (left), CETF Associate Vice President, and Sunne Wright McPeak (center) congratulated Change Agent Productions, a youth video team sponsored by the YMCA of Greater Long Beach, for their work making videos of the 2020 School2Home Leadership Academy.



Imee Almazan, Ph.D., Former Fischer Middle School Principal, and Ken Shelton, Educational Technology Strategist, joined Crystal Madril, Lead Teacher, and Monserrat Orozco, Parent Coordinator, to discuss best practices for improving student and parent engagement.

“Through School2Home, we have seen increased student and parent engagement: 98% of our families have been trained on many platforms, increasing communications between school and home.”

— Imee Almazan, Ph.D.

Coordinator for State & Federal Programs
Alum Rock Union Elementary School District
San José



CETF and the School2Home Team have hosted 7 Annual Leadership Academies, bringing together educators from schools around California to share experiences and identify best practices.



“Never has it been more urgent to expand Internet access to all San Joséans and ensure that no resident is left on the wrong side of the Digital Divide. We are grateful that the California Emerging Technology Fund is our partner and their deep expertise will allow the Digital Inclusion Fund to be a national model for equal access to opportunity.”

— San José Mayor Sam Liccardo

The vision for the San José Digital Inclusion Partnership was forged collaboratively on behalf of the City Council and City Manager’s Office by Dolan Beckel, Director of Civic Innovation and Digital Strategy, and J. Guevara, Broadband Manager, and on behalf of Mayor Liccardo and the Mayor’s Office of Technology and Innovation by Shireen Santosham. The successful launch and implementation of the Digital Inclusion Partnership and subsequent immediate response to the pandemic were made possible by a dedicated City Team:

- Mayor’s Office: Shireen Santosham; Khanh Duy Russo; Candace Le; Vicki Sun; Carolyn Wu; Kaylana Mueller-Hsia; Apoorva Pasricha; Clayton Garner; Jordan Sun.
- City Manager’s Office: Kip Harkness; Dolan Beckel; J. Guevara; Kerstyn Olson; Jill Bourne (City Librarian); Ann Grabowski; Abigail Shull; Adrian McBride.
- City Attorney’s Office: Elizabeth Klotz; Diana Yuan.

“Digital access is a human necessity and it is a top priority for me.”

— San José Vice Mayor Chappie Jones

For more information, visit www.sjdigitalinclusion.org.

San José Digital Inclusion Partnership: Closing the Digital Divide in the Capital of Silicon Valley

In the heart of Silicon Valley, 95,000 San José residents are not connected to high-speed Internet service at home, and many lack computing devices and the digital literacy skills to access the full benefits of the technology developed in the region. As visionary leaders in “smart city” innovations, the Mayor and City Council established the Digital Inclusion Fund with fees from ISPs deploying 5G networks. The City Council engaged CETF to help manage \$24 million over 10 years in Digital Inclusion Grants to community organizations and public agencies to get 50,000 households online and digitally proficient.



CETF Director Jim Kirkland (at podium) was a champion in establishing the San José Digital Inclusion Partnership. He was joined in the announcement of the Partnership in February 2019 by Shireen Santosham, San José Mayor’s Office Chief Innovation Officer (2016–January 2020), Sunne Wright McPeak, Seth Hubbert, Executive Director, Tech Exchange, and Alicia Orozco, Manager, Chicana Latina Foundation.



San José Councilmember Maya Esparza convened the inaugural Digital Inclusion Community Forum in May 2019, which was hosted by Franklin-McKinley School District Superintendent Juan Cruz and co-sponsored by the San José Public Library, Silicon Valley Education Foundation, Joint Venture: Silicon Valley, Knight Foundation, and Silicon Valley Community Foundation.



San José Councilmember Raul Perez sponsored a Community Forum in October 2019 to hear from residents and community-based organizations about how to deploy resources to close the Digital Divide.

“San José is not waiting for someone else to close the Digital Divide.”

— Dev Davis

San José City Councilmember

Listen to the Digital Inclusion messages from the San José Mayor and all City Councilmembers:
www.cetfund.org/SJ_Digital_Inclusion_Partnership_Council_Members_Speak_Out



San José Councilmember Johnny Khamis joined the San José Folklórico Nacional Mexicano Dance Group at a community event where students received school supplies and information about affordable home Internet service.



At a forum for funders hosted by Silicon Valley Community Foundation CEO Nicole Taylor, Mayor Sam Liccardo said he was inspired to establish the San José Digital Inclusion Partnership to help young students like Jazmin and her family gain digital literacy skills and access to work opportunities in Silicon Valley.

“Once I got my iPad I became interested in computers. It helped me become less shy and I gained confidence. Now I help my classmates, and even my teachers, learn how to use and fix the iPads.”

— Jazmin

7th grader, School2Home Student Tech Team Leader

Clyde L. Fischer Middle School, San José

Watch Jazmin's story at www.cetfund.org/School2Home_Fischer_Middle_School

Public-Private Partnership Works to Connect San José Residents

The San José Digital Inclusion Partnership was established in 2019 to accelerate the deployment of 5G networks while promoting Digital Inclusion through \$24 million in grants over the next decade to close the Digital Divide—making this initiative one of the largest public-private partnerships in the nation to advance Digital Inclusion. The City Manager appointed an Advisory Board of public and private civic leaders to guide the Partnership. In early 2020, the City Council awarded \$1 million to 23 community organizations to get 4,000 households online and digitally proficient.

Who's Making It Happen: City Council (Mayor Sam Liccardo; (1) Vice Mayor Charles (Chappie) Jones; (2) Sergio Jimenez; (3) Raul Peralez; (4) Lan Diep; (5) Magdalena Carrasco; (6) Devora (Dev) Davis; (7) Maya Esparza; (8) Sylvia Arenas; (9) Pam Foley; (10) Johnny Khamis); **City Manager's Office; Mayor's Office; Digital Inclusion Advisory Board:** (Mayor Sam Liccardo; Dolores Alvarado, Community Health Partnership; Dr. Lisa Andrew, Silicon Valley Education Foundation; Chad Bojorquez, Destination Home; Jill Bourne, San José Public Library; Dr. Mary Ann Dewan, Santa Clara County Office of Education; Christine Fitzgerald, Santa Clara Valley Independent Living Center; Chris Funk, East Side Union High School District; Lennies Gutierrez, Comcast; Dr. Allen Hammond, Santa Clara University; Sophie Horiuchi-Forrester, AARP; Steve Preminger, Santa Clara County; Betty Ramirez, City of San José Youth Commission; Angel Rios, City of San José; Karla Rodriguez-Lomax, Kaiser Permanente; Nicole Taylor, Silicon Valley Community Foundation; Tedi Vriheas, AT&T).



Santa Clara County Superintendent of Schools Dr. Mary Ann Dewan joined San José Mayor Sam Liccardo, San José Digital Inclusion Partnership Director Charlene Tatis, and San José Mayor's Chief Innovation Officer Shireen Santosham for a forum at Cisco Systems on advancing Digital Inclusion in San José and Silicon Valley hosted by CETF Director and Cisco executive Jeff Campbell. Cisco Chairman and CEO Chuck Robbins addressed the CETF Board of Directors about corporate social responsibility.



CETF Secretary Melinda White and San José Vice Mayor Charles (Chappie) Jones discussed the San José Digital Inclusion Partnership at an October 2019 forum.

“Now more than ever, we need to bridge the Digital Divide.”

— Sergio Jimenez
San José City Councilmember



Mayor Sam Liccardo, Assemblymember Kansen Chu, and Councilmembers Magdalena Carrasco and Lan Diep awarded the first round of grants to 23 community-based organizations, schools, and public agencies at a community celebration in February 2020 hosted by Zoom Video Communications CEO Eric Yuan, Chief Financial Officer Kelly Steckelberg, and Chief Marketing Officer Janine Pelosi.

Achieve 98%
Deployment
in Each Region
by 2022



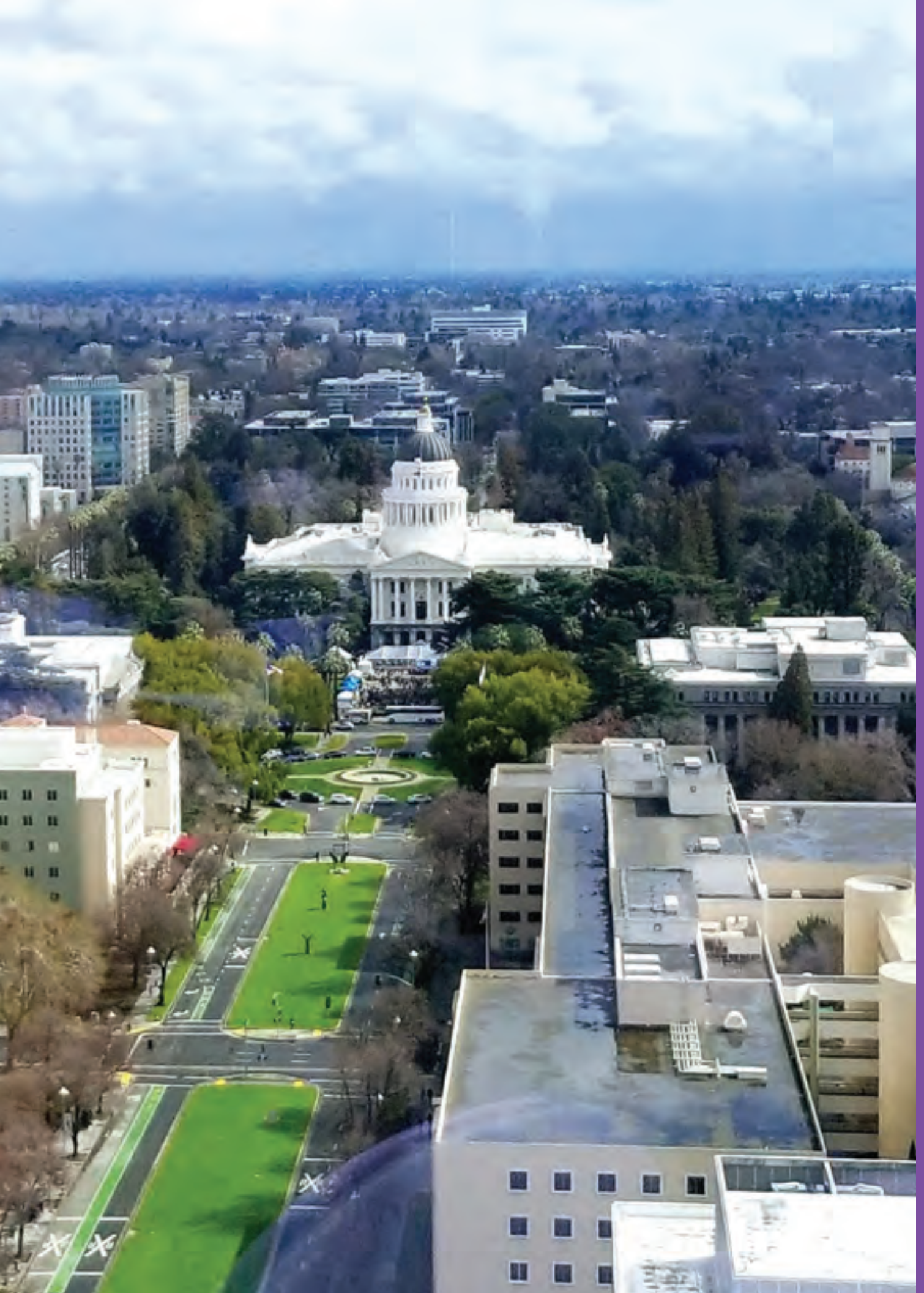
Achieve 90%
Adoption
Statewide
by 2022



Question Digital Equity



Achieve
Institutionalization
High-speed Internet Connectivity
and Digital Literacy
for All Californians



Institutionalization: Establish and Root Digital Inclusion

The California Emerging Technology Fund strives to build capacity in other institutions to incorporate Digital Inclusion policies and practices into their ongoing operations and programs. This is called Institutionalization so that Digital Equity is “rooted” into the organizational culture and actively pursued by all public agencies and major organizations serving low-income households and other disadvantaged populations. Institutionalizing Digital Inclusion requires State policy and leadership by the Governor and Legislature to set goals, establish commitment, and sustain momentum.

The California Economic Summit, co-convened by California Forward and the California Stewardship Network, elevated broadband to a top priority in 2018 to support all economic prosperity strategies. In 2019 CETF and California Forward partnered in cooperation with the California Broadband Council to convene State Agencies, Regional Consortia, Internet Service Providers (ISPs), and other stakeholders to advance commitments to promote Digital Inclusion. The deliberations evolved into a “Call to Action” culminating with Governor Newsom announcing his Broadband For All initiative at the California Economic Summit in November 2019 and including it in the State Budget for FY20-21. The California Department of Technology, as Chair of the California Broadband Council, was designated by the Governor to convene all State Agencies to develop an action plan for implementation. CETF applauds the Governor’s Broadband For All initiative and urges reform and extension of collections into the California Advanced Services Fund (CASF) to back it with resources. CETF is leading the effort to secure new CASF funds to: connect unserved households, anchor institutions, Tribal Lands and fairgrounds; providing a signal for AgTech; and upgrading networks in high-need low-income neighborhoods to support distance learning, telehealth, and telecommuting.

The achievement of State goals and advancement of government policy can be effectively and efficiently accomplished through public-private partnerships with ISPs. Thus, CETF has entered into Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) with Frontier, Charter, and T-Mobile during corporate consolidations to secure significant public benefits for both Deployment and Adoption. However, a deeper partnership with ISPs is called for to address the digital inequities laid bare by the pandemic. CETF welcomes the opportunity to join forces with the ISPs to increase advertising and remove barriers for low-income households to sign up for interim free and affordable home Internet service. CETF also looks forward to working with ISPs to develop an effective broadband LifeLine program under the leadership of the California Public Utilities Commission. Finally, County-City-School services must be aligned to tackle poverty with accountability for better results for children and families. This is referred to as Neighborhood Transformation which is enabled and empowered by Digital Inclusion.

These strategies are key actions to root Digital Inclusion in the culture of all public agencies and human services organizations in the Quest for Digital Equity.



Institutionalization: Establish and Root Digital Inclusion

Strategies	Achievements
Advance State policy and leadership to achieve Digital Equity.	Served on the California Broadband Council to coordinate action by State Agencies.
	Collaborated with California Forward to obtain commitments from State Agencies.
	Promoted the California Economic Summit Call to Action resulting in the Governor's launch of Broadband For All initiative.
Promote legislation for Digital Inclusion programs and funding.	Supported the Governor's Budget Proposal for Broadband For All and urged Legislature to reform and extend collections into CASF.
	Urged Legislature to inform all recipients of School Lunch Program, CalFresh, and Covered California about affordable Internet service.
	Called upon Legislature to get online all residents in publicly-subsidized housing.
Pursue performance-based regulations to accelerate broadband deployment and adoption.	Submitted testimony to CTC and CARB to establish broadband as a "green strategy."
	Petitioned CPUC and Energy Utilities to get online all CARE customers for public safety.
	Became party in CPUC LifeLine Proceeding to secure universal affordable home Internet service for all low-income residents.
Support Regional Consortia and Local Governments.	Organized Summit for Regional Consortia and ISPs to focus on effective use of CASF.
	Engaged Local Government Associations and ISPs to accelerate deployment of advanced networks and promote Digital Inclusion.
	Negotiated MOU with T-Mobile to establish \$5M grant program for Local Governments in collaboration with Regional Consortia.
Engage civic leaders and foster public-private partnerships.	Co-sponsored with UCLA convening of public and private leaders in Los Angeles Region to transform schools and neighborhoods with integrated services and Digital Inclusion.
	Worked with ISPs to increase sign-ups for affordable home Internet service.
	Joined forces with Silicon Valley Education Foundation to promote Digital Inclusion and achieve academic excellence.

Neighborhood Transformation: Aligning Resources to Improve Results

Digital Equity is achieved most effectively by incorporating Digital Inclusion into comprehensive strategies to tackle poverty, which is why CETF leads Neighborhood Transformation initiatives to align County and City services to support students and their families in Schools implementing School2Home. Neighborhood Transformation Partnership Agreements have been signed by County, City, and School Officials for West Contra Costa County and Long Beach with a collaborative commitment to overcome the “wall of poverty”—interrelated factors and forces that constitute a formidable barrier to families escaping poverty and get in the way of children succeeding in school. CETF and the UCLA Center for the Transformation of Schools convened Los Angeles Region civic leaders to develop an action framework that embraces Digital Inclusion to transform schools and neighborhoods.



“I applaud the California Emerging Technology Fund for helping to build partnerships among our local governments, nonprofits, educational institutions, and business community to institutionalize Digital Inclusion as an important cornerstone to expand opportunities to all Angelenos.”

— Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti



Susan Walters, CETF Senior Vice President, and J.R. DeShazo, Director, Luskin Center for Innovation at UCLA, discussed designing Digital Inclusion strategies to support entrepreneurship and develop a trained workforce for sustained economic prosperity.



Los Angeles education leaders discussed integrating Digital Inclusion and workforce preparation strategies: Heather Hiles, President and CEO, California Online Community College; Chancellor Francisco Rodriguez, Los Angeles Community College District; Frances Gipson, Chief Academic Officer, LAUSD; Renée Martinez, CETF Vice Chair; Oscar Menjivar, Founder and CEO, Teens Exploring Technology; Esther Soliman, Director, Office of Linked Learning, LAUSD; and Lindsey Heisser, Director, Bixel Exchange Tech Talent Pipeline.

SPOTLIGHT ON SUCCESS



Dean Gary Segura, UCLA Luskin School of Public Policy, Chancellor Francisco Rodriguez, Los Angeles Community College District, and Dr. Pedro Noguera, Professor, UCLA Graduate School of Education and Information Studies, provided important insights at the Transforming Schools and Neighborhoods Through Digital Inclusion Summit at UCLA in June 2019.

Los Angeles Region Leaders Advance Digital Inclusion

The UCLA Graduate School of Education and Information Studies Center for the Transformation of Schools, CETF, and 14 partners convened a conference in June 2019 on Transforming Schools and Neighborhoods Through Digital Inclusion to focus on families and youth in vulnerable communities. Speakers included top educational and civic leaders, and Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti who called for a new partnership to address inequities exacerbated by the Digital Divide. CETF pledged \$1 million to implement Digital Inclusion strategies in neighborhoods where the County, City, and Schools agree to align and integrate their human services for better outcomes that reduce poverty with tangible results. In early 2020, CETF spearheaded a Neighborhood Transformation Partnership with the City of Long Beach, Long Beach Unified School District, and Los Angeles County to serve as a model for aligning resources in order to support families, schools, and community transformation. The Partnership Agreement has been signed also by Assemblymember Patrick O'Donnell, Chair of the Assembly Committee on Education.

Who's Making It Happen: UCLA Center for the Transformation of Schools; City of Long Beach; Long Beach Unified School District; County of Los Angeles; Regional Civic Leaders.

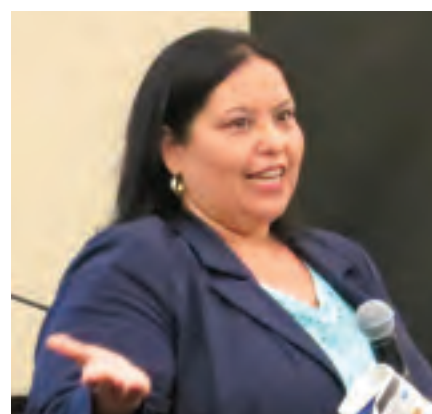
Watch the highlights at www.cetfund.org/Transforming_Schools_and_Neighborhoods_Through_Digital_Inclusion



“I don’t think you can have better partners than CETF—who come in and develop the kind of collaboration that is necessary to challenge our county departments to think more strategically in terms of the way they deliver services.”

— Harvey Kawasaki

Manager, Services Integration Branch
Chief Executive Office (2016-2020)
Los Angeles County



Mónica García, Los Angeles Unified School District Board President in 2019, addressed the Transforming Schools and Neighborhoods Through Digital Inclusion Summit.



Dr. Kamau Bobb, Founding Senior Director, Georgia Tech Constellations Center for Equity in Computing, Julie Flapan, Director, Alliance for California Computing Education for Students and Schools (ACCESS) and UCLA Computer Science Project, and Dr. Pedro Noguera, Professor, UCLA Graduate School of Education and Information Studies, described strategies for achieving Digital Equity.



J.R. DeShazo, Director, UCLA Luskin Center for Innovation, Kate Anderson, Director, Los Angeles County Center for Strategic Partnerships, and Sophia Mendoza, Director, LAUSD Instructional Technology Initiative, explained why innovative partnerships are critical for success.



Lisa Salazar, Director, Los Angeles Mayor's Office Workforce Development & Economic Opportunity, spoke of strategies to develop talent pipelines.



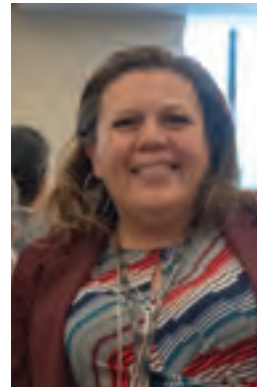
Brandon Nicholson, Founding Executive Director, The Hidden Genius Project, Jaime Casap, Education Evangelist, Google, and Dr. Joseph Bishop, Director, UCLA Center for the Transformation of Schools, spoke about how employers can foster Neighborhood Transformation.



CETF Director Dorian Traube, Ph.D., University of Southern California, led a table discussion at the Transforming Schools and Neighborhoods Through Digital Inclusion Summit at UCLA in June 2019 that convened more than 50 prominent public and private civic leaders committed to realigning investments for greater impact.



Former State Senator Richard Polanco and Renée Martinez, CETF Vice Chair and President Emeritus, Los Angeles City College, encouraged Los Angeles educators to institutionalize Digital Inclusion to help transform schools and communities.



Lorena Bautista, Specialist, Los Angeles County Executive Office Service Integration Branch, described strategies for aligning service delivery.



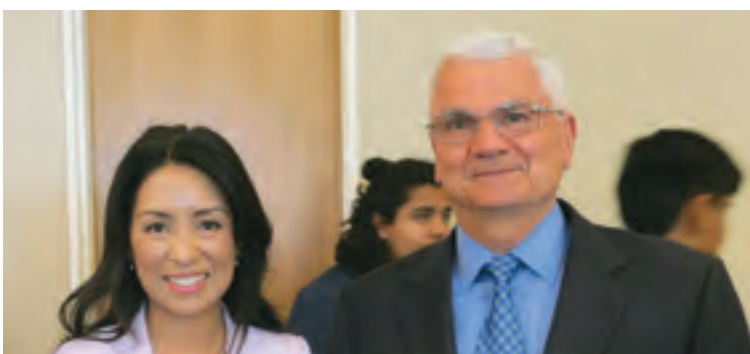
In early 2020, Long Beach Councilmember Roberto Uranga (center) and CETF established a Neighborhood Transformation Partnership. Left to right: Shane Mckeithen, Field Representative, Councilmember Uranga; Jonathan Gray, YMCA of Greater Long Beach; Larry Best, CETF Director of Neighborhood Transformation; Councilmember Uranga; Christopher Lund, Assistant Superintendent of Middle Schools, Long Beach Unified School District; Sunne Wright McPeak; and Les Peters, Executive Director, YMCA of Greater Long Beach.



“We are very happy that the City is a partner to the Neighborhood Transformation initiative...this initiative will definitely be part of the solution to advancing Digital Equity in Long Beach.”

— Lea Eriksen

Director of Technology and Innovation Department
City of Long Beach



CETF Director Tim McCallion discussed strategies for transforming neighborhoods with Sophia Mendoza, Director, LAUSD Instructional Technology Initiative.



Dr. Manuel Pastor, Director, USC Program for Environmental and Regional Equity, said Digital Inclusion must be “baked in” not “sprinkled on” policy and practice.



California Department of Technology Director Amy Tong, as Chair of the California Broadband Council, convened all State Agencies and stakeholders to develop an action framework to implement the Governor's Broadband For All initiative.

“The collaboration among private and public institutions is critical to strengthen Digital Inclusion. To provide digital connectivity to this large state, the partnership among the Administration, CPUC and CETF is more critical than ever to make progress.”

— Amy Tong

State Chief Information Officer
Director, California Department of Technology
Chair, California Broadband Council

Collaboration Makes for Good Policy

Working through the California Broadband Council (CBC), CETF has helped organize and facilitate collaboration among State Agencies spanning transportation, environmental protection, information technology, emergency preparedness, education, and economic development. The participants include: California Department of Transportation (Caltrans); California Transportation Commission (CTC); California Transportation Agency; California Office of Emergency Services; California Air Resources Board; California Department of Education; Broadband Regional Consortia; California Forward (CAFwd); California Association of Councils of Governments (CalCOG); California State Association of Counties; League of California Cities; Rural County Representatives of California; Tribal Representatives; and Internet Service Providers.

As an example of the work, CAFwd collaborated with CETF and CBC to convene State Agencies and stakeholders to develop an action plan for Digital Equity which became a “Call to Action” for the California Economic Summit at which the Governor announced his initiative Broadband For All. Valley Vision (in coordination with all Regional Consortia) and CalCOG identified priorities for “Strategic Corridors” and are working with Caltrans and Regional Transportation Agencies to identify ways to deploy broadband in conjunction with transportation projects consistent with the State policy on “dig once” and “dig smart.” Caltrans is taking the next steps to identify “corridor gaps”—where no ISP or public agency is ready to install broadband in construction with construction of a transportation project.

Who's Making It Happen: Governor Newsom; Legislature; California Broadband Council; State Agencies; California Forward; Valley Vision; Regional Consortia; CalCOG; ISPs.

Watch California's Quest for Digital Equity Video at www.cetfund.org/CETF_Quest_for_Digital_Equity



Tom Torlakson, Former State Superintendent of Public Instruction, and Lenny Mendonca, Chief Economic and Business Advisor to Governor Newsom, said committed partnerships are key to rooting Digital Inclusion in broadband and education policy.



“Collaborating with CETF in my prior involvement with California Forward and in Governor Newsom’s Administration has been absolutely essential in terms of understanding how you close the Digital Divide and in ensuring that there is the advocacy and insistence to make it happen.”

— Lenny Mendonca

Chief Economic and Business Advisor
Office of Governor Gavin Newsom
Former Co-Chair, California Forward



Toks Omishakin, Director, Caltrans, Frank Molina, Principal, Strategic Solutions Advisors, and Bernie Orozco, Vice President, Governmental Affairs, California Cable & Telecommunications Association, exchanged ideas on deployment priorities.



Arturo Barajas, Deputy Secretary, California Department of Food and Agriculture, described how broadband can revolutionize farming techniques.



Sunne Wright McPeak, California State Library California Research Bureau Director Anne Neville-Bonilla, and Assemblymember Cecilia Aguiar-Curry shared priorities for connecting all Californians to broadband at home.



“Ten years ago, I met Sunne McPeak and we were trying to figure out Internet for my small rural town of Winters and the one thing I kept saying to myself is how to turn the economy around in a small city, and we did it. No one realizes what Internet does to change a community.”

— Assemblymember Cecilia Aguiar-Curry

When everyone recognized the need, but few would take the lead, Assemblymember Aguiar-Curry stepped forward to present a bold proposal to secure essential reforms and funding to build now the Internet infrastructure for the future. Supported by Chief of Staff John Ferrera and Legislative Aide Samantha Samuelsen, she introduced the Internet For All Act of 2020.



Rob Osborn, Director, CPUC Communications Division, and Adelina Zendejas, Senior Advisor, California Department of Technology, discussed Governor Newsom’s Broadband For All initiative at a January 2020 stakeholder forum.



Trish Kelly, Managing Director, Valley Vision, and David Espinoza, Manager, Northeastern and Upstate California Connect Consortia at the Geographical Information Center, CSU Chico, described how Regional Consortia work to expand broadband opportunities.



The California Department of Technology hosted the January 2020 public listening session for stakeholders, Regional Consortia, and ISPs to share ideas on implementing the Broadband For All initiative where CPUC Communications Division Director Rob Osborn outlined a strategy for accelerating broadband deployment.



Carolyn McIntyre (far right), President, California Cable & Telecommunications Association (CCTA), joined State leaders at a CETF forum in March 2020 where she discussed broadband priorities with Jacqueline Kinney, Senior Vice President, CCTA, Chase Hopkins, Legislative Aide, Senator Steven Bradford, and Bernie Orozco, Vice President, CCTA.

“When no one was playing that role advocating for broadband, CETF built the bigger tent so that the public interest was in the room with the interest groups.”

— Jim Mayer

Senior Fellow and President Emeritus
California Forward



Susan Lipper, Director, State Government Affairs, T-Mobile USA, met with Sunne Wright McPeak and CETF Board of Directors to discuss increasing Internet adoptions after the merger with Sprint.



Keri Askew Bailey, State Government Affairs Regional Vice President, Charter Communications, addressed the 2020 School2Home Leadership Academy.



Charlie Born, Director, Government and External Affairs, Frontier Communications, and Amy Warshauer, Manager, Government and External Affairs, joined state leaders at a CETF forum.



Rachelle Chong, CETF Special Counsel, Micah Weinberg, CEO, California Forward, and Alice Perez, Director, External Affairs, AT&T, discussed ways in which ISPs can work with local non-profits and policymakers to promote broadband as an economic recovery tool.

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From left to right: CETF Directors Rich Motta;
Tim McCallion; Barbara O'Connor;
Sunne Wright McPeak; Carol Whiteside;
Barb Johnston Yellowlees; and Jim Kirkland.



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San José Digital Inclusion Partnership
Director Charlene Tatis, CETF Directors
Renée Martinez and Melinda White, CETF
General Counsel Melinda Guzman, and
CETF Vice President of Operations Alana
O'Brien showed their enthusiasm for
affordable Internet For All Now.

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Francois Bar
Professor
Communication and
Spatial Sciences
Annenberg School for
Communication and
Journalism
University of
Southern California

Robert Cabeza
Retired
YMCA of Greater Long Beach

Dannielle Campos
Senior Vice President
National Philanthropy
Program Manager
Bank of America
Charitable Foundation

Roger Caves
Professor Emeritus
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State Legislature

California Emerging Technology Fund Board of Expert Advisors

The CETF Board of Expert Advisors convened a Public Forum in March 2020 with State Agencies, Regional Consortia, Local Government Associations, ISPs and community leaders to delineate collaborative strategies to implement Governor Newsom's Broadband For All initiative. The consensus among participants was that Administration leadership is the most important factor at this moment in time to accelerate broadband deployment and adoption. It is essential that State Agencies coordinate efforts to streamline approval and permitting for Internet infrastructure construction projects and ensure that all low-income households are urged to get connected immediately by notifying everyone on the National School Lunch Program, CalFresh, Covered California and the Energy Utilities' CARE Program about interim free and reduced-cost home Internet service offers from ISPs. It also is vital that all ISPs invest more in advertising their affordable offers and reduce barriers to signing up low-income customers.



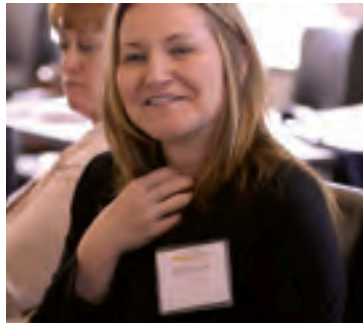
From left to right: Joseph Mouzon, Executive Director, Attles Center for Excellence; Jessica Honeyfield, CPUC Communications Division Representative; Michael Minkus, CPUC Communications Division Senior Policy Advisor; Michael Morris, CPUC Video Franchising and Broadband Deployment; Kathy McKim, Hawksbill Group Senior Vice President; and Alice Perez, AT&T External Affairs Director



From left to right: Stephanie Tom, California Department of Technology (CDT) Deputy Director for Strategic Planning; Sunne Wright McPeak; Amy Tong, CDT Director and State CIO; Robert Tse, USDA Rural Development Senior Policy Advisor; and Joy Sterling, CETF BEA Member, CEO, Iron Horse Vineyards, and Member, State Board of Food and Agriculture



**Carlos Ramos, Former State CIO
and CETF BEA Member**



**Kim Lewis, CENIC Legislative
Advocate**



**Michael Morris, CPUC Video Franchising and Broadband
Deployment, and Kathy McKim, Hawksbill Group Senior
Vice President**



**Michael Minkus, CPUC
Communications Division
Senior Policy Advisor**



Pat Lanthier, CETF BEA Member



**David Espinoza, Manager, Northeastern and
Upstate California Connect Consortia at the
Geographical Information Center at CSU Chico**



**Laura Sasaki, California State Library,
Broadband Opportunities Program Manager**



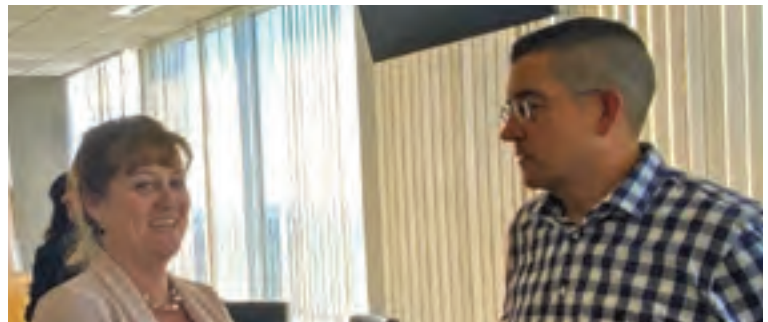
**Stephanie Tom, California Department of
Technology, Deputy Director for Strategic Planning**



Luis Arteaga, CETF BEA Chair



**Rich Motta, CETF Treasurer-CFO, and Luis Arteaga,
CETF BEA Chair**



**Sonja Harris, Conifer Communications Director, and Stephen Garcia, Crown
Castle Government Relations Senior Manager**

California Emerging Technology Fund Board of Expert Advisors



Carlos Ramos, CETF BEA Member and Former State CIO; Richard Polanco, Former State Senator; and Frank Molina, Strategic Solutions Advisors Principal



Monica Kress-Wooster, Caltrans HQ Broadband Program Manager



Patrick Kane, Central Sierra Connect Broadband Consortium Program Manager; Debbie Shireman, CETF Digital Inclusion Director; and Connie Stewart, California Center for Rural Policy at Humboldt State University Executive Director



Joseph Mouzon, CETF BEA Member; Julia Lave Johnston, California Association of Councils of Governments, Assistant Director, Academy Program; Rochelle Swanson, Crown Castle Government Affairs Manager; and Stephen Garcia, Crown Castle Government Relations Senior Manager



Hank O'Neill, California Governor's Office of Emergency Services Chief Deputy of Emergency Communications

California Emerging Technology Fund Team

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Renee Hill Senior Program Advisor
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Rachelle Chong Special Counsel
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School2Home Implementation Team

The following individuals and firms support School2Home implementation with District and School Partners: **Elaine Carpenter**, Research and Development Advisor; **Gretell Castro**, Parent Engagement and Education Manager; **Pamela Stiles**, Teacher Professional Learning Manager; **Matthew Llamas**, Teacher Professional Learning Manager; **Families in Schools (Silvia Torres, Lissette Saenz, Rebecca Rahimi)**, Parent Engagement and Education Trainers; **Tech Exchange (Seth Hubbert)**, San José School2Home Partnership; **Metiri Group LLC (Cheryl Lemke)**, Independent Evaluator; **Kenneth Shelton**, TechEquity Consultant; **Mind & Mill, LLC (Joshua Mauldin, Timothy Jackson, Winnie Tan)**, Website Developer and Manager.

Acknowledgments

The following individuals and firms assisted CETF in implementing the 5-Year Strategic Plan in the Quest for Digital Equity: **SAESHE, Inc.** (Young Yu); **Tres Es, Inc.** (Former Senator Richard Polanco); **Change Agent Productions, YMCA of Greater Long Beach** (Braulio Roman and Team); **3.14 Communications** (Cassandra Pye); **Filament Strategies** (Lloyd Levine); **Ann B. Spaulding**; **MVR Consulting** (Martha van Rooijen); **Rose Jacobs Gipson**; **Team Tom, LLC** (Tom Torlakson); **Uptown Studios** (Tina Reynolds, Brent Stromberg, Jaime Fernandez); **Pacific Rim Advisory Group, LLC** (Mathew Francis, Susan Donker); **Hawksbill Advisors** (Principals Kathy McKim and Hal Lenox, consultant Kieran Nolan); **Lucas Public Affairs, Inc.** (Cassandra Pye, Daisy Castellon, Grace Becker, Connor Jang, Jessyca Sheehan, Thea Kaiser); **Big Kahuna Productions** (Sean O'Kane); **Riverman Productions** (Leaf River); **LA 20/20 Consulting Solutions, LLC** (Leticia Alejandrez); **Claire Del Prete** and **Lila Puziss**, Interns; **Mission Critical Creative LLC** (Hae Yuon Kim).

Summary of Financial Status

Fiscal Years 2017–2018 to 2019–2020

Fiscal Prudence: Program 93% – Support 7%

The California Emerging Technology Fund is fiscally prudent and operationally efficient with independent audits showing Program Expenditures at 93% and Support Expenditures at 7% of Total Cumulative Expenditures since July 2017.

SOURCES OF FUNDS

\$ 2.3M Legacy Earnings on Seed Capital
\$32.5M Charter Communications MOU
\$.1M Grants and Other Revenue

\$34.9M TOTAL

EXPENDITURES

\$ 4.1M Grants to CBOs
\$ 6.1M School2Home
\$ 8.9M Program Implementation
\$ 1.4M Support Administration

\$20.5M TOTAL

(Figures Rounded to Nearest \$100,000)

MANAGEMENT OF FUNDS FOR PARTNERS

Frontier Communications MOU

\$3M for CBO Grants to Achieve 50,000 Adoptions
\$50,000 Grantee Learning Communities
(CETF receives no management funds from Frontier)

City of San José Digital Inclusion Fund and Partnership

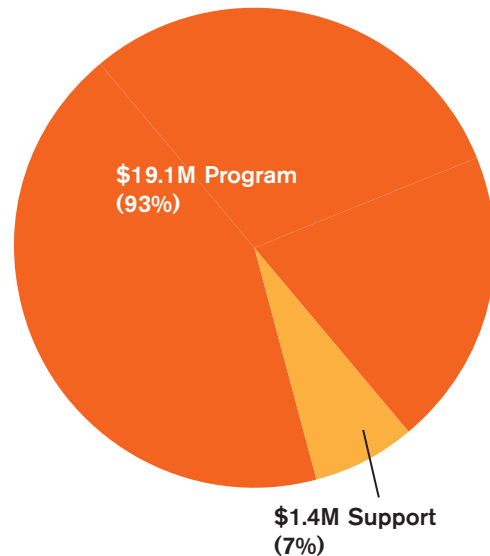
\$1M for 23 CBO Grants to Achieve 4,000 Adoptions by June 2021
\$24M Projected in 10 Years for 50,000 Adoptions and
Digital Proficiency for 50,000 Households
(CETF receives \$190,000 annually for Program Director and
Grants Management)

T-Mobile USA, Inc.

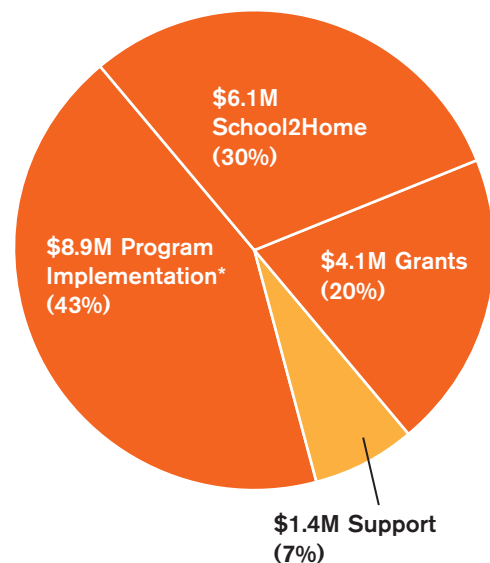
\$22M for Digital Inclusion Programs
(CETF will receive \$13M over 5 Years for Core Mission and
Management of the Digital Inclusion Programs)

Audited Financial Statements are posted on the CETF website.
RINA Accountancy LLP, Independent Auditor

\$20.5M Total Expenditures



Distribution of Expenditures



*Public Information
Promotion of Affordable Offers
Institutionalization of Digital Inclusion

DISTRIBUTION OF GRANTS

Grantee Partner	Amount of Grant
Adoption Legacy Fund	\$685,000
California State University, Fresno SJV Consortium	\$20,000
Chicana Latina Foundation	\$10,000
El Concilio of San Mateo County	\$90,000
OCCUR	\$5,000
Pivotal	\$5,000
Silicon Valley Education Foundation	\$50,000
Tech Exchange	\$425,000
Valley Vision	\$25,000
WiConduit	\$25,000
In Support of Santa Clara County Office of Education Outreach to Students	
Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County	\$10,000
Goodwill of Silicon Valley	\$10,000
Sacred Heart Community Service	\$10,000
Access Broadband Connect Grants	\$2,343,000
American GI Forum Education Foundation of Santa Maria	\$48,000
Asian Youth Center	\$48,000
California Foundation for Independent Living Centers	\$120,000
California State University, Fresno Foundation	\$102,000
Delhi Center	\$81,000
EveryoneOn	\$50,000
human-I-T	\$288,000
Independent Living Center of Kern County	\$5,000
Mothers Helping Others	\$18,000
mRelief	\$50,000
National Council of Negro Women Inland Empire	\$96,000
Priscilla's Helping Hands	\$72,000
Sigma Beta Xi	\$300,000
Southeast Community Development Corporation	\$170,000
United Ways of California	\$360,000
World Institute on Disability	\$535,000
Neighborhood Transformation	\$160,000
CFEE Smart Housing Forum	\$5,000
City of Long Beach Digital Inclusion Initiative	\$10,000
Families in Schools	\$25,000
Southeast Community Development Corporation	\$25,000
UCLA Center for the Transformation of Schools	\$10,000
YMCA of Greater Long Beach	\$80,000
Youth Policy Institute	\$5,000

Grantee Partner	Amount of Grant
Institutionalization of Digital Inclusion	\$910,000
California Association of Councils of Governments	\$25,000
California Forward	\$50,000
California Foundation for Independent Living Centers	\$50,000
California State PTA	\$90,000
California State University, Fresno SJV Consortium	\$30,000
East Los Angeles College Foundation	\$10,000
Families in Schools	\$25,000
Foundation for the Los Angeles Community Colleges	\$70,000
Inland Empire Economic Partnership	\$10,000
Inland Empire Regional Broadband Consortium (SmartRiverside)	\$50,000
Los Angeles City College Foundation	\$10,000
Los Angeles Community Foundation (Mayor's College Fund)	\$50,000
SCAG Caltrans Sustainable Communities Project	\$30,000
Southeast Community Development Corporation	\$10,000
Southern Border Broadband Consortium (IVEDC)	\$50,000
The Maddy Institute	\$10,000
United Way of Greater Los Angeles	\$200,000
United Ways of California	\$50,000
Valley Vision	\$55,000
WiConduit	\$25,000
YMCA of Greater Long Beach	\$10,000
Total Consolidated Grants	\$4,098,000
Frontier Partnership Grants	\$3,000,000
American GI Forum Education Foundation of Santa Maria	\$210,480
California Community Action Partnership Association	\$240
California Foundation for Independent Living Centers	\$136,200
California State University, Fresno	\$150,000
Great Harvest Community Center	\$39,000
Happy Village	\$4,080
human-I-T	\$1,800,000
McFarland School District	\$54,000
Mothers Helping Others	\$36,000
National Asian American Coalition	\$9,000
National Council of Negro Women Inland Empire	\$3,000
Partners In Education	\$18,000
Priscilla's Helping Hands	\$30,000
Sigma Beta Xi	\$60,000
Southeast Community Development Corporation	\$300,000
United Ways of California	\$150,000

Quest for Digital Equity

The Quest for Digital Equity must recognize that the Digital Divide is simply another manifestation of the Economic Divide and that concentrated persistent poverty is rooted in institutionalized racism. Thus, closing the Digital Divide must address the inter-related factors and forces that we call the “wall of poverty” that make it very difficult for low-income residents to escape oppressive economic conditions and succeed in school. This reality screams for systemic change that is within our grasp if policymakers and regulators are willing to overcome bureaucratic inertia and break through government silos.

The COVID-19 pandemic illuminated the Digital Divide and laid bare the widespread inequities that demand immediate action to accelerate the deployment and adoption of broadband throughout the state. Distance learning, telehealth, and working from home require ubiquitous high-speed Internet infrastructure and digitally-disadvantaged households need assistance in-language and in-culture to get online. The most effective and efficient way to accomplish these goals is through a sincere public-private partnership in which (a) Internet Service Providers step up to increase advertising about their affordable offers in collaboration with community media, remove barriers for low-income households to sign up, and to partner with community organizations as trusted messengers and (b) all governments and public agencies remove barriers to constructing broadband infrastructure and distribute affordable offers to all low-income households. This is just common sense, but the opportunity still eludes both sides from joining forces in a deep and abiding partnership with a sense of urgency that embraces Digital Equity as a 21st Century Civil Right.

We applaud the Governor’s Broadband For All initiative and are grateful to Legislators for leading to secure essential funding and reforms. The Digital Divide Task Force convened by State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond has the opportunity to transform education. However, technology is only a tool—powerful and empowering—but, must be coupled to the pursuit of academic excellence for all students to truly close the Digital Divide. As Dr. Manuel Pastor says, Digital Inclusion must be “baked in” not “sprinkled on” policy and practice. It must be infused and integrated into everything we do to achieve Digital Equity. Yet, we also must do more—it is time to make “Good Trouble” as we were implored by The Honorable John Lewis.

The companion pandemics of COVID-19 and de facto economic segregation compel us to renew a collective commitment to tackle poverty with a laser focus that realigns public resources and attracts private investment with accountability for results. The sobering realities confront us with these questions: Will protest lead the way to policy? Will the substance of our actions match the power of symbols? Will we finally come together to deliver for everyone on the promise of America and the potential of California? It is only a matter of LEADERSHIP to say YES to a better future for all Californians.



Sunne Wright McPeak

President and CEO
California Emerging Technology Fund



**ON AUGUST 14, 2020, GOVERNOR GAVIN NEWSOM
SIGNED AN EXECUTIVE ORDER TO IMPLEMENT
BROADBAND FOR ALL**

**“The Governor understands the importance
of a level playing field for all Californians so
we will not end up with ‘information rich’ and
‘information poor’ segments of society, but
rather everyone will have equal access to
technology that is so critical to our wellbeing
today and even more important in the future.”**

— Rich Motta

CETF Treasurer-CFO



Find CETF Online

www.CETFund.org

www.InternetForAllNow.org

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