

Results now available: CETF - University of Southern California
[2021 Statewide Broadband Adoption Survey](#)

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Let's Talk Broadband Newsletter

Happy Earth Day! We are pleased to bring you the latest headlines from California Emerging Technology Fund. We have several exciting developments to share, which underscore the progress we are making to close the Digital Divide in California. In the past month, we have released two sets of results from the [Statewide Survey on Broadband Adoption](#), conducted in partnership with the **University of Southern California**. See media coverage on the right that highlights why broadband is a vital green strategy for California. We are also introducing a timely **Resource Guide** to help policymakers plan and make new strategic investments so all Californians have access to affordable high-speed Internet, devices and digital skills training.

Do something to advance a cleaner, healthier California TODAY by signing the [Digital Equity Bill of Rights](#).

Broadband Is Vital "Green Strategy" For California

New habits formed during the pandemic are presenting California with a unique opportunity to invest in broadband deployment and adoption programs to help the state achieve its goal of cutting carbon emissions. The survey found 55% of workers with access to broadband have been working fully or partly at home during the pandemic, and a large majority of those workers are planning to continue a similar pattern in the future, which could result in a 55% reduction in commute trips. [See the results](#).

The use of telehealth and distance learning by adults also has jumped. Just over half of respondents accessed health consultations by phone, smartphone or computer during the pandemic, and 70% of those expect to cut in-person healthcare-related trips going forward by at least half. Still, these evolving new lifestyle habits vary greatly by race/ethnicity, age and income -- stark evidence of the continuing Digital Divide that leaves a significant number of Californians at a disadvantage because they are unable to access the Internet and other digital functionality needed for vital activities.

"These 2021 Statewide Survey findings build momentum for the deployment of high-speed Internet infrastructure so that we can not only offset vehicle trips, reduce greenhouse gas

CBS News

[Californians want to keep working and learning from home post-pandemic, survey says](#)

San José Mercury News

[Work from home forever? After COVID, Californians want to ditch daily commutes, survey says](#)

San Francisco Chronicle

[In 'seismic shift,' a lot of Californians want to work from home after pandemic ends](#)

Hola News

[Latinos son el grupo que menos utilizala telemedicina](#)

Yahoo Finance

[Californians want to keep working from home post-pandemic](#)

emissions, and relieve traffic congestion, but ultimately provide all of our communities equitable access to healthcare and the education that the Internet provides,” said **Kome Ajise, Executive Director, Southern California Association of Governments**.

More Than 90% Of California Households Are Connected To The Internet

For the first time since the Statewide Survey began in 2008, the percentage of California households connected to the Internet has passed 90%. Still, the Digital Divide remains especially challenging for a significant number of low-income and Latino households, seniors and people with disabilities.

[See the results.](#)

[Getting Connected: A Broadband Deployment And Adoption Resource Guide For Local And Regional Government Leaders](#)

The **Resource Guide** provides a road map for communities to invest in broadband while returning triple bottom-line dividends for the economy, environment and equity. First developed a decade ago, we are introducing a timely update with detailed information and resources on innovation policies and practices from across the state and nationally to help communities develop and increase broadband investments and partnerships to ensure all Californians have access to high-speed Internet. To learn more, join us for a **May 14 webinar presentation of the updated Resources Guide**. [Register now here.](#)

[Young Leaders Host Digital Divide Roundtable Discussion With State Lawmakers](#)

CETF and **California Forward** are encouraging young California leaders to activate their important networks to advocate for new policies and legislation that will accelerate broadband deployment and adoption in order to expand educational and career opportunities. Listen to **California Forward Young Leaders Advisory Council** members **Michael Wiafe** a Graduate Student Instructor at the UC Berkeley Goldman School of Public Policy and Co-Host of **PolicyWise Podcast**, and **Lawson Hardrick III**, President of the Associated Students of San Diego State University, Imperial Valley speak with **Assemblymember Mike Gipson** and **Capitol Legislative Aide Abraham Mendoza**, **Assemblymember Tim Grayson**, Senator Lena Gonzalez’s Policy Director George Soares and CETF Senior Vice President Susan Walters.

Here's what you can do to close the Digital Divide. Join California Emerging Technology Fund and community organizations, business and local government leaders and over 1,000 individuals who have signed the [Digital Equity Bill of Rights](#) -- calling for expanded broadband deployment, affordable home Internet offers and digital literacy training.



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