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## TELEHEALTH: A CALL TO ACTION

June 22, 2021

The COVID-19 pandemic is nearly behind us, but in its wake is tragedy as well as vital lessons to be heeded and reflected in public policy priorities **NOW!** The pandemic underscored the convergence of Broadband technology and healthcare to optimize Telehealth to ensure quality care for medically- disadvantaged residents to improve overall population health. It illuminated the imperative for investments in constructing high-speed Internet infrastructure capable of supporting Telehealth services and the urgency of getting all residents online with appropriate computing devices and functional digital literacy.

Late last year, the California Emerging Technology Fund (CETF) in co-sponsorship with Partners in Care Foundation (PICF), Corporation for Education Network Initiatives in California (CENIC) and California Primary Care Association (CPCA) convened two Fact-Finding Listening Conferences: ***Delivering on the Promise of Telehealth to Improve Health Status in California***<sup>[1]</sup>. These proceedings were rich in content, robust in insight, and timely in conferring as California harnesses its policy leadership and expertise to close the Digital Divide and advance Telehealth for all Californians. Conferences were attended by over 250 stakeholders, including the Governor’s Office, California Legislators, state and local – both public and private healthcare system leaders, medical centers, community clinics and federally qualified health centers, senior care providers, Veterans Affairs administrators and statewide health advocates and organizations.

The Final Report and Action Plan Framework provide a path forward for California. The Action Plan Framework is built on three over-arching recommendations:

### Action Plan Framework

- Enact legislation to permanently reimburse Telehealth services comparable to in-person visits.
- Invest in and ensure ubiquitous high-speed Internet infrastructure to support Telehealth for all patients and providers.
- Institutionalize Telehealth with accountability for improving patient outcomes and overall population health.

[1] Final Report and Action Plan, March 2021. [https://www.cetfund.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Delivering-on-the-Promise-of-Telehealth-to-Improve-Health-Status-in-California-Final-Report-and-Action-Plan\\_210409.pdf](https://www.cetfund.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Delivering-on-the-Promise-of-Telehealth-to-Improve-Health-Status-in-California-Final-Report-and-Action-Plan_210409.pdf).

We, the undersigned Co-Sponsors and stakeholders, urge state and federal policy leaders to integrate this Action Plan Framework into the highest policy and funding priorities for Telehealth.

If you have questions, please contact Leticia Alejandre, CETF Director of Telehealth and Human Services at [LeticiaA@LA2020ConsultingSolutions.com](mailto:LeticiaA@LA2020ConsultingSolutions.com).

Sincerely,



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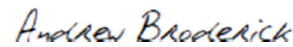
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