Dear Digital Equity Champion:

It has been a busy first quarter for 2023 as the California Emerging Technology Fund (CETF) has been working diligently to achieve Digital Equity in California by convening Digital Equity leaders throughout the state to coordinate our shared work.

The dedication of the **CETF Team** including **Board Directors**, and **Board of Expert Advisors** (BEA) has brought together key leaders for **Sacramento Public Policy Forums, State Led Digital Equity Broadband Workshops**, **Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) Events**, **School2Home Northern California Leadership Academy,** and even a **Webinar Briefing** on recent ACP findings by the **University of Southern California, Annenberg Research Network on International Communications (USC ARNIC).**

We are so appreciative of the commitment of all of our Digital Equity partners. Please enjoy these California Digital Equity updates and learn how you can get involved in our work to close the Digital Divide, promote Digital Inclusion, and achieve Digital Equity.

Your leadership is the key!

Sincerely,

Sunne Wright McPeak
President and CEO
California Emerging Technology Fund

CETF Salutes State Leaders for Their Commitment to Broadband For All Digital Equity and BEAD Regional Planning Workshops

The **California Department of Technology (CDT)** is more than halfway through the process of hosting over 20 **Broadband For All Digital E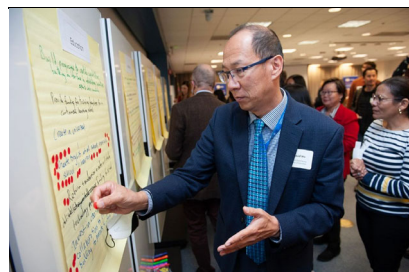quity-BEAD Regional Planning Workshops**. These workshops are in collaboration with the **California Public Utilities Commission** in partnership with the **Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development, California Department of Education (CDE)** and other State Agencies. The workshops throughout California continue to provide input on how future federal dollars may be allocated to achieve **Broadband for All** in rural, remote, and densely populated urban areas.

Workshops are ongoing and you are welcome to attend and have your voice heard.

Find A Workshop

Amy Tong, Secretary of Government Operations, Sacramento Mayor Darrel Steinberg, and other Workshop participants pose for a photo in front of a workshop van with a banner reading "On the Road to Digital Equity".
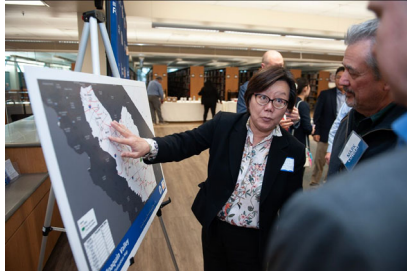
David Wu, Head of Technology, Santa Clara County Office of Education, at the Santa Clara Digital Equity Planning Workshop.

Sunne Wright McPeak, President and CEO of **CETF** makes opening remarks at the Sacramento Digital Equity Planning Workshop.

Congressman Jim Costa at the Fresno Digital Equity Planning Workshop.

Rachelle Chong, Government Relations for Golden State Net, points to a middle-mile work map.

San José City Mayor Matt Mahan speaks at the Santa Clara Digital Equity Planning Workshop.

Santa Clara County Supervisor, Cindy Chavez speaks at the Santa Clara Digital Equity Planning Workshop.

State Senator Aisha Wahab speaks at the Santa Clara Digital Equity Planning Workshop.

Digital Equity Public Forum Brings Leaders Together

In March, the CETF Board of Directors and Board of Expert Advisors hosted a Sacramento **Public Forum** to understand the importance of, and strategies for, improving connectivity goals and outcomes.

The day began with a tour of **Leataata Floyd Elementary School** (LFE), a school where the culture focuses on nurturing the whole child, supporting social-emotional development, and giving each student the support they need to learn and grow. The school has an on-site Food Literacy Center where students learn to prepare healthy meals with ingredients from the garden. Board Directors and CETF Partners also had the opportuntiy to see the schools public Internet installation which also serves the neighboring public housing community.

Digital Champion Spotlight: Assemblywoman Lori D. Wilson

Assemblywoman Lori D. Wilson, thank you for your vision in authoring AB 1588.

This bill would ensure all Californians have access to affordable and reliable Internet. This is a vital piece of legislation to achieve Digital Equity in California. Again, thank you Assemblywoman Wilson for leading the way for #DigitalEquity in California!

Watch:
State Leaders Say Access Is
A 21st Century Civil Right

Left to right: **Trish Kelly, Managing Director of Valley Vision** and **LFE Principal Maiuu-Sam Floyd** collaborate in ensuring students have Internet access at home and at school. **Sunne Wright McPeak, President and CEO, CETF, Austin Urgiles, Executive Manager, School2Home** and **Frances Gipson, Board Director, CETF** support strengthening access to resources in the school community.

After the tour, the public forum reconvened in Downtown Sacramento where **Scott Adams, Deputy Director of Broadband and Digital Literacy** at the **California Department of Technology**, and **Graham Knaus**, **Chief Executive Officer** at the **California State Association of Counties** hosted a discussion on the state's Broadband For All Digital Equity-BEAD Planning Regional Workshops and ACP mobilization. Attendees had the opportunity to ask questions and share their thoughts.

"The state wants to formalize Digital Equity," said **Scott Adams, Deputy Director of Broadband and Digital Literacy, CDT** during a Q and A moderated by **Sunne Wright McPeak.**

Assemblymember Akilah Weber, MD, founder of the Assembly Select Committee on Social Determinants of Health discussed the importance of mental health.

It was an honor to have Assemblymember Akilah Weber, MD join us to discuss telehealth policies that are being considered by the Legislature this year.

Access Is A 21st Century Civil Right
www.cetfund.org

Taking Action: Internet Access Is A 21st Century Civil Right

The Digital Equity Bill of Rights (AB414), authored by **Assemblymember Eloise Gómez Reyes** moved out of Communications and Conveyance with amendments and was referred to the Appropriations Committee where it passed and now moves to the Assembly for a floor vote.

AB414, which establishes the Digital Equity Bill of Rights at no cost to the state will set a new goal for the state to see that every Californian has access to broadband. CETF is championing this important piece of legislation to bring us a step closer to achieving true Digital Equity and closing the Digital Divide in California - **Join Us!**

Thank you, **Assembly Majority Leader Eloise Gómez Reyes** (center), for your dedicated commitment to achieving Digital Equity for all Californians. And thank you, **Jen Galinato, Sacramento City College Alumni** and **Former Los Rios Community College District Student Trustee** (left), and **Honorable Senator Richard Polanco** (right) for supporting AB414 in the Capitol.

The Buzz On ACP

In April, we were thrilled to learn over 2 million Californians had enrolled in ACP. It is crucial to understand the California enrollment numbers as there remains more than $1 billion annually in ACP to be claimed by residents.

Richard Figueroa, Deputy Cabinet Secretary, Governor Newsom Administration and **Michael Freeman, Assistant Deputy Director of Healthcare Benefits and Eligibility at the California Department of Health Care Services** answered questions about expanding access to telehealth services.

Our last panel discussion of the day featured the CETF **School2Home** program and how to effectively utilize instruction in to improve math learning outcomes and academic achievement for all students.

Special thanks to panelists: **Darrell Stewart, Chair of the School2Home Committee; Agustin Urgiles, Executive Manager, School2Home; Geoff Belleau, Education Administrator, CDE, Elizabeth Lester, Assistant Principal, James Madison Middle School and MAGNETS; Troy Flint, CIO, California School Boards Association;** and **Sujie Shin, Deputy Executive Director, California Collaborative for Educational Excellence.**

Elizabeth Lester, Assistant Principal, James Madison Middle School; Sujie Shin, Deputy Executive Director, California Collaborative for Educational Excellence; and **Geoff Belleau, Education Administrator, CDE** discussed different strategies to empower students, parents, and educators using technology.

Los Angeles Promotes ACP

In Los Angeles, CETF joined **FCC Chair Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel**; **City of Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass**; **LA Councilmember Heather Hutt**; and **EveryoneOn** to promote ACP in LA.

We are so pleased with the powerful impact of working together.

2 Million
Californians connected to the Internet thanks to the Affordable Connectivity Program.

GET CONNECTED!

Recent Research from **USC ARNIC** shows this is mostly because eligible households—including those already enrollment in Pell Grant, Medi-Cal, CalFresh, and WIC—are not aware of the program.

Experience has shown that the most powerful strategy to increase enrollment is for credible sources, trusted by communities to notify directly all ACP-eligible households and to coordinate with community-based organizations (CBOs) to assist in-language and in-culture those residents who would benefit from the program.

To make progress in reaching unaware groups, CETF in collaboration with CBOs, grantees partners, and local government, has hosted 20 **Get Connected! California** ACP Enrollment Events this year.

In April, **Inglewood Public Library** partnered with CETF to host a **Get Connected! California** ACP Enrollment event.

Find An ACP Enrollment Event Near You

ACP Enrollment Update: The California Numbers

Statewide Percent of Eligible Households that are Enrolled as of
May 1, 2023

36%

ACP-eligible households in California

45%

Out of **13,044,258** households in California, approximately **5,844,797** are eligible for ACP.

School2Home Spirit

Silicon Valley Education Foundation (SVEF) partnered with **School2Home** to host the premier **Northern California Leadership Academy.** The 2-day event included a workshop for Digital Navigators, intense collaborative work across our School2Home schools and districts and a presentation by CETF Board Director Jim Kirkland on the strength of School2Home San José partners.

We celebrated with School2Home partners statewide. **Dylan Porter, Senior Program Manager, School2Home; Vy Nguyen, Program Director SVEF; Denise Williams, Chief Teacher Professional Learning Officer SVEF; Charlene Tatis, Director, San José Digital Inclusion Partnership; Ulises Zatarain, Executive Director, Tech Exchange.**

Inglewood Unified School District (IUSD) hosted music and fun-filled events for families and invited School2Home to provide information on ACP for parents. We are extremely grateful for **Mayor James T. Butts** for showing support for ACP awareness at the **IUSD Community Resource Fair** and **Family Night**.
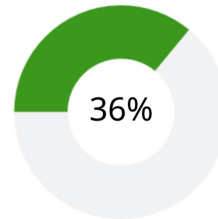
Thank you, **Crown Castle** for your ongoing support at school community events and helping School2Home get families **#ConnectedforGood**.
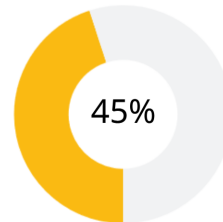
Agustin Urgiles, Executive Manager, School2Home; City of Inglewood Councilmember, Dione Faul; Subrina Miller, Community Liaison Specialist and Student Support Services, IUSD; Dr. James Morris, Los Angeles County Office of Education, Administrator, IUSD; Ugema Hosea-James, Executive Director, Elementary Education, IUSD; City of Inglewood Mayor James T. Butts; City of Inglewood Councilmember Alex Padilla.

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