Grantor: The California Emerging Technology Fund (CETF)

Grantee: Insure the Uninsured Project (ITUP)
Name of Executive Director: Crispin Delgado, MPP
Name of Project Manager: Emili Cossio
Project Manager Phone and Email: 916-226-3899, ext.406

Project Title: Health, Equity, and Broadband: Outreach and Education

Project Timeline: November 1, 2022 – July 15, 2023

Proposed Budget: $25,000

I.   Introduction

Insure the Uninsured Project (ITUP) is a nonprofit with over 25 years of experience in the California health policy landscape. We bring together unique stakeholders in ways others cannot and do not by creating connections, educational opportunities, and resources across sectors, geographies, program and policy areas, and levels of government. The mission of ITUP is to promote innovative and workable policy solutions that expand health care access and improve the health of all Californians.

Each year ITUP convenes regional and statewide workgroups in California focused on learning from local health leaders on timely health care policy and implementation topics. In 2020 and 2021, ITUP facilitated workgroup discussions on the impacts of COVID-19 response efforts in their communities. One of the most prevalent insights from workgroup participants during the pandemic was how even with policy barriers removed, communities were unable to access telehealth because of a lack of sufficient, affordable, and equitable broadband and connectivity. While the pandemic magnified digital inequities, among many others, these barriers existed long before the pandemic and will persist beyond the crisis, becoming an even bigger barrier in a health care system that depends on technology and connectivity. Without affordable connectivity, devices, and digital literacy, the health sector will not achieve the promise of virtual care; be able to leverage forward-thinking technology; and/or, make meaningful use of data and data exchange for many of California's communities.

Building upon this work, ITUP has become a leader in bridging the knowledge gap between health care and broadband advocates, bringing California's health sector stakeholders to broadband, connectivity, and digital equity conversations at the state and local levels. ITUP's broad network of over 4,000 individuals, including local health care sector partners and state level advocates and legislative staff, ITUP has been instrumental in championing a voice for health care in broadband and digital equity policy. Over the past three years, ITUP has built a track record as a trusted source of information and education on digital barriers to health, creating multiple resources on the intersection of broadband and health

care, opportunities to address digital equity and ways for the health care sector to engage at state and local levels to close the digital divide and break down digital barriers to health.

II.   Purpose/Scope-of-Work Summary

CETF funded ITUP to conduct strategic outreach to key California state government agencies to engage them in efforts to close the digital divide, including the California Department of Technology's (CDT) Broadband for All initiative and adoption of the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP). This work supported the goals of CETF's "Action Plan for Telehealth", which include: 1) enacting legislation to permanently reimburse telehealth service comparable to in-person visits; 2) investing in and ensuring ubiquitous high-speed Internet infrastructure to support telehealth for all patients and providers, and 3) institutionalizing telehealth, with accountability, for improving patient outcomes and overall population health.

The partnership between CETF and ITUP, and this grant, supported ITUP's work addressing and breaking down digital barriers to health. Such barriers are the largest to making telehealth more accessible and equitable and in CETF's quest to institutionalize telehealth, create and advance policy solutions to truly leverage telehealth for better health outcomes among California's vastly diverse communities. Where CETF has the longstanding expertise and effort on broadband and connectivity work in California, ITUP is a trusted expert and leader in California's health care delivery system—making the partnership and the work this grant supports invaluable for the cross-sectoral approach needed to advance digital equity and ensure equitable and quality access to telehealth for all Californians.

III.   Impact of Activities

A. Institutionalize Telehealth. In collaboration with CETF, identify and co-outreach/co-facilitate 3-5 State departments with leadership capacity to discuss what it would take to institutionalize telehealth within a State department.

Deliverable: Support and connect CETF with 3-5 state departments to discuss what it would take to institutionalize telehealth with a State department and participate in discussions. In addition, collaborate with CETF to identify key messages and policy strategies for making telehealth more accessible, including ways to keep state departments accountable for equitable use of telehealth.

Impact: ITUP curated and shared with CETF a list of health care stakeholders to engage with on CETF's effort to institutionalize telehealth. This resource identified 20 individuals across seven government agencies, including the California Health and Human Services Agency, Department of Health Care Services, California Department of Aging, Department of Health Care Assess and Information, California Department of Social Services, California Department of Public Health, the Center for Data Insights and Innovation, and the Department of Finance. Within the shared resource, ITUP identified key personnel and their contact information for CETF to build their relationships with key department staff in an effort to strategize how to institutionalize telehealth in California. In addition, in March 2023, ITUP assisted CETF with brainstorming

several policy options and directions to advance CETF's policy goals towards institutionalizing telehealth. ITUP provided CETF with health policy expertise to enable messaging and political strategies on telehealth access and accountability.

Attachment: No Attachment.

B. <u>Coalition Building for Institutionalizing Telehealth.</u> In collaboration with CETF, ITUP will strategize and support coalition building around institutionalizing telehealth.

Deliverable: Identify and confirm 3-5 key coalitions and/or key organizations to support institutionalizing telehealth efforts.

Impact: ITUP identified Mei Kwong, Executive Director at the Center for Connected Health Policy (CCHP), and had scheduled meetings amongst ITUP/CCHP/CETF on November 30 and February 14. CCHP organizes the Telehealth Policy Coalition, where ITUP introduced CETF for ACP outreach and engagement, and identified this coalition as an active group to engage with to advance telehealth-related legislation and policy. ITUP also identified the Latino Coalition for a Healthy California (LCHC) to be a key organization to connect with and sent a connecting email to their Executive Director on June 26. In addition, ITUP identified the California Pan-Ethnic Health Network (CEPHN) to be another key organization to build relationships with and sent a connecting email to their Senior Policy Director on June 27.

ITUP also curated a list of 66 individuals and organizations in ITUP's network, including contact information, identified as key health and health related stakeholders at the state and local level and across different aspects of the health care delivery system that CETF can connect with to advance their goals towards institutionalizing telehealth.

Attachment: No Attachment.

C. <u>Engage CETF in ITUP Conference</u>. ITUP will feature Health, Equity, and Broadband at the 2023 ITUP Annual Conference.

Deliverable: ITUP will produce and host a breakout session and/or panel featuring broadband and health equity on February 6-7, 2023.

Impact: The 2023 ITUP Annual Conference, ***Cultivating an Equitable Future of Health***, concluded on February 6-7, 2023. The conference highlighted challenges, bold strategies, and policy opportunities to improve the health of Californians. Attendees were among the first to hear the ITUP Board of Directors' announcement of their selection of Crispin Delgado as new ITUP Executive Director. Conference speakers shared important issues and solutions on workforce, health equity, CalAIM, broadband, fostering an anti-racist health system, data exchange, and more. Throughout the 2023 conference, ITUP featured conversations centering digital equity for health in three ITUP-curated panels.

One of ITUP's plenary/general sessions, attended by over 600 registrants (both virtual and in-person)—*Health, Equity, and Broadband: Connecting California Communities* consisted of both state and local leaders highlighting how broadband and connectivity are essential to participate in today's technological world and elevating the intersection of health and connectivity and the importance of ensuring connectivity for all Californians.

In addition, a breakout session attended by over 85 registrants, *Connecting Older Adults: Closing the Digital Divide for Older Californians*, explored how broadband and connectivity are social drivers of health. The panel of experts for this session explored the challenges and successes in closing the digital divide for older adults, especially within the context of telehealth and equitable and accessible health care delivery.

A second breakout session, *The Promise of Equitable, Accessible, and Quality Virtual Care*, where prominent leaders highlighted how telehealth was a lifeline for consumers during the pandemic and can be utilized as a continual tool to improve patient outcomes and shared their visions for the future of telehealth and virtual care in California. This session was attended by over 85 registrants.

Attachment: No Attachments.

D. <u>Consult on Grants</u>. ITUP will be available to consult with CETF on grant opportunities with funders and partner with CETF on project opportunities if applicable.

Deliverable: ITUP will continue bi-weekly meetings with CETF for updates, check-ins and grant discussions.

Impact: Throughout the grant period, ITUP continued to regularly meet on a biweekly basis with CETF, connecting on many different opportunities to advance digital equity for telehealth. In these check-ins, ITUP and CETF not only checked in on grant deliverables but also found additional ways to share ideas and solutions to move the digital equity needle forward.

Attachment: No Attachment.

E. <u>Educate State and Health Sector on Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP)</u>. In collaboration with CETF and the California State Association of Counties, co-outreach to, co-facilitate meetings with, and meet with the identified departments to educate them about the State's **Broadband for All** initiative, opportunities for them to engage in CDT's stakeholder convenings, and opportunities to connect California consumers to the **Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP)**.

Deliverable: Support and connect CETF with 3-5 state departments to discuss the State's Broadband for All initiative and the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP).

Impact: Throughout the grant period, ITUP harnessed our role as an effective convener and trusted health care delivery system expert to educate and engage state-level health care leaders on the many opportunities to advance digital equity, including CDT's Broadband for All Initiative and the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP). To further leverage ITUP's network and role as a trusted, reliable connector among health care leaders across the state, ITUP hosted an in-person Broadband Bootcamp event on April 12, where over 30 key health care stakeholders were invited to learn more about broadband and the state opportunities to engage with highlighted initiatives and to participate in interactive workshops to identify problems and solutions facing health care and digital equity. State Department representatives, Brian Carter from the California Department of Aging, Laura Pelaez and Michael Freeman from the Department of Health Care Services, and Adam Dorsey from the Department of Finance attended the event, and many others were invited and expressed interest in an update on the outcome of the bootcamp. CETF was invited to present, participate, and network at the event. Following the event, ITUP wrote and published a bootcamp report highlighting findings from the event, shared with attendees and CDT, that will be used in developing the State Digital Equity Plan to ensure that the plan is inclusive of the digital equity needs to institutionalize telehealth. After the bootcamp, evaluations were provided to participants and there was an overwhelmingly positive response from attendees and many expressed an interest in participating in another follow-up bootcamp.

As noted in the above delivery, before the bootcamp, ITUP also connected with CETF the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) to share an ITUP-created resource for health stakeholders and their contact information.

Attachment: No Attachment.

F. <u>Produce PowerPoint Presentation for Educational Purposes and Upload to ITUP Website.</u>
Partner with CETF to create a PowerPoint slide deck for health stakeholders to introduce them to the State's **Broadband for All** initiative, ongoing stakeholder engagement opportunities, efforts to **institutionalize telehealth** and educate them on the **ACP.** Slide deck and links to flyers and other resources will be made publicly available on ITUP's website and shared with key stakeholders.

Deliverable: Create a PowerPoint slide deck for health stakeholders and those associated in health fields and philanthropy. Launch page available on ITUP's website with all relevant materials.

Impact: Over the past three years, ITUP has been creating and updating PowerPoint resources, fact sheets, issue briefs, policy toolkits, and other resources to facilitate a better understanding of the digital divide, and the current and upcoming opportunities to advance digital equity for accessible, equitable telehealth and virtual care. In the grant period, ITUP

created PowerPoint resources for the broadband bootcamp event (see Attachment A), and ITUP also curated and presented educational PowerPoint resources to the San Joaquin Valley Digital Equity Coalition (see Attachment B), our broader ITUP network at a recent Policy Forum entitled "Digital Equity is Health Equity" (see Attachment C), and to the Central Valley Health Network (CVHN) Quarterly Roundtable event featuring a connection between Medi-Cal redetermination outreach and connecting Medi-Cal members to ACP (see Attachment D). These PowerPoints and resources, as well as ACP flyers, can be found on ITUP's dedicated Broadband webpage, "Health, Equity, and the Digital Divide". The webpage has garnered over 300 independent views throughout the grant period.

Attachment: ITUP-created PowerPoint resources are attached as Attachments A-D.

G. Distribute ACP Flyers/Websites. ITUP will distribute ACP promotion flyers electronically to ITUP's network of consumer-facing partners, as well as promote ACP on the ITUP website.

Deliverable: Distribute 10,000 ACP promotional flyers electronically to ITUP's network of consumer-facing partners and provide list of organizations and reach (e.g., number of members associated with each organization).

Impact: During this grant period, ITUP also conducted targeted outreach with health clinic consortia partners in the ITUP network including the Alameda Health Consortium (estimated reach is over 200,000 individuals) and Central Valley Health Network (estimated reach is over 90,000 individuals) to distribute ACP adoption materials in parallel with Medi-Cal redetermination outreach efforts. Based on the high-value reach of our partners, we estimate about 29,000 flyers will reach Medi-Cal members served by clinics in these regions (calculation based on an assumption that flyers will reach at least 10% of the clinic patient populations highlighted above).

In addition to targeted outreach to the clinics (this work is ongoing beyond the grant period), ITUP also harnessed other opportunities to broaden ACP outreach to Medi-Cal members, through ITUP's network that predominantly serves the Medi-Cal population. ITUP shared ACP adoption strategies and resources at our two broadband-focused convenings on April 12, 2023, and June 8, 2023. ITUP also shared ACP flyers with the California LGBT Health and Human Services Network to share during their listening sessions.. ITUP shared flyers at or with over 300 individuals and organizations through these events.

Attachment: No Attachment.

H. Integrate Health Voice. ITUP will continue its broad-based work to elevate the health voice in broadband and Affordable Connectivity Program policy and infrastructure discussions where appropriate, including with the California Department of Technology and in counties as opportunities arise.

Deliverable: ITUP will continue attending major coalition meetings pertaining to telehealth and broadband to elevate the health voice in broadband, (i.e., California Telehealth Policy Coalition and Center for Connected Health Policy).

Impact: ITUP believes that the future of an accessible, equitable, and quality health care system, and better health outcomes for all California communities are strongly impacted by the digital divide. To break down digital barriers to health, and advance CETF's goals to institutionalize telehealth, active engagement of health and health policy leaders on CDT's Broadband for All Initiative and other opportunities to address digital barriers, is paramount. ITUP not only attends major coalition meetings to be a health voice for digital equity, but ITUP has also taken on leadership roles to better serve as the conduit between digital and health equity to align with CETF and stakeholders alike in advancing the mission towards digital and health equity. In this grant period, ITUP served as a co-chair on the Telehealth Policy Coalition, to lead the coalition's education and advocacy directions, especially around broadband and digital equity efforts. ITUP is also a co-chair of the Health Outcome Area Working Group (OAWG) for the California Department of Technology's State Digital Equity Planning stakeholder process, regularly attending, and often presenting at, public stakeholder meetings. ITUP has given three formal presentations on February 16, March 16, and June 15, 2023, for the OAWGs throughout the grant period, in addition to connecting CDT with health stakeholders, conducting outreach to get stakeholders to the event, and providing content support to generate thoughtful, meaningful conversations around the needs of health care stakeholders. ITUP also facilitated targeted outreach to support CDT and CETF outreach for the Regional BEAD Planning Workshops. ITUP promoted these events on social media, through network-wide emails, and by sending targeted emails to attendees of ITUP's broadband bootcamp, and other regional ITUP partners engaging in digital equity. ITUP staff also attended the Sacramento Regional BEAD Planning Workshop on May 11, 2023.

Attachment: No Attachment.

IV.   Summarize Challenges and/or Lessons Learned

At the beginning of the grant period, Executive Director, Katie Heidorn, resigned from her position. The ITUP Board began an executive director search and Board Chair, Marian Mulkey, stepped in to serve as Interim Executive Director. To address these challenges, ITUP staff took on additional responsibilities to manage key organizational responsibilities and workflows to ensure a successful transition. ITUP staff also continued to successfully plan the ITUP Annual Conference in February 2023. With Crispin Delgado as ITUP's new executive director, ITUP has embarked on a 6-month process to develop a new three-year strategic plan.

On the policy landscape, two additional challenges arose. After two state budget cycles with historic surpluses, California's fiscal year (FY) 2023-2024 budget faced a steep $31.5 billion deficit. The budget deficit presented uncertainties and significant policy process barriers that impact both health and

broadband investments—including availability of funds earmarked for the Broadband for All Initiative. In addition, at the federal level, the $14.2 billion investment from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) that supports the ACP program is expected to be spent entirely, with no replacement funding, by Spring/Summer 2024. These political shifts impact the strategies and progress towards both ACP adoption and CETF's goals to institutionalize telehealth.

During the grant period, creating connections among various key health care stakeholders across multiple organizations and coalitions requires dedicated time to continuously build relationships and form lasting partnerships to bridge the digital divide and help transform California communities to have the best opportunity for health.

V.   Set forth how ITUP proposes to work with CETF moving forward.

Moving forward, ITUP hopes to continue our partnership with CETF as leaders and conduits between health and digital equity. ITUP intends to continue our work connecting health care delivery system leaders at the state and local levels to state-level opportunities, funding, and policy engagement. ITUP will also remain an advice leader in ensuring that the SDEP and investments in broadband infrastructure and support are inclusive in breaking down the pervasive digital barriers to health. As CETF continues its work on closing the digital divide, ITUP will remain a trusted health care system and health policy expert and a telehealth policy resource for CETF.

Attachment A

ITUP Broadband Bootcamp

Closing Equity Gaps: Broadband Bootcamp for Health Care Stakeholders

April 12, 2023

ITUP Mission & Vision

Mission

ITUP's mission is to promote innovative and workable policy solutions that expand health care access and improve the health of all Californians. ITUP implements its mission through policy-focused research and broad-based stakeholder engagement.

Vision

ITUP believes that all Californians should have a fair opportunity to live their healthiest lives.

ITUP Values

ITUP Seeks a Health Care System that is:

Universal – All Californians are eligible for comprehensive health coverage and services, including primary, specialty, behavioral, oral, and vision health services, as well as services that address the social determinants of health.

Equitable – All Californians receive health care coverage, treatment, and services that address the social determinants of health regardless of health status, age, ability, income, language, race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, immigration status, and geographic region.

Accessible – All Californians have access to coverage options and services that are available, timely, and appropriate.

Effective – Health, health care, and related services that address the social determinants of health are person-centered, value-based, coordinated, and high-quality.

Affordable – Coverage and services are affordable for consumers at the point of purchase and care; and, at the health system level for public and private purchasers

Closing Equity Gaps: Broadband Bootcamp for Health Care Stakeholders

Wednesday, April 12th, 2023
8:45 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. PT

Registration Link

In-Person:
1414 K Street, Suite #500
Sacramento, CA 95814

AGENDA*	
8:45 – 9:00 a.m.	**Continental Breakfast**
9:00 – 9:30 a.m.	**Welcome and Introductions** **Crispin Delgado, MPP** (he/him), Executive Director, Insure the Uninsured Project (ITUP) **Chris Mitchell** (he/him), Director, Community Broadband Networks, Institute for Local Self-Reliance
9:30 – 11:30 a.m.	**Level Setting: Broadband Basics Workshop** **Chris Mitchell** (he/him), Director, Community Broadband Networks, Institute for Local Self-Reliance
11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	**Networking Lunch**
12:30 – 2:00 p.m.	**Workshop - Elevating Health Care Connectivity Needs for the State Digital Equity Plan** **Marissa Montano, PhD** (she/her), Director of Policy, ITUP **Anh Q. Nguyen, MPA** (she/her), Engagement and Operations Manager, Office of Broadband and Digital Literacy, California Department of Technology
2:00 – 2:15 p.m.	**Break**
2:15 – 3:45 p.m.	**Workshop - Closing the Digital and Health Equity Gaps** **Sunne Wright McPeak, MPH** (she/her), President and Chief Executive Officer, California Emerging Technology Fund **Kimberly Harris** (she/her), Strategic Partnerships and Program Development Consultant for the Community Broadband Networks Team, Institute for Local Self Reliance
3:45 – 4:00 p.m.	**Takeaways and Wrap Up**

Level Setting: Broadband Bootcamp Basics Workshop

Chris Mitchell

Director, Community Broadband Networks

Institute for Local Self-Reliance

Telehealth Broadband Bootcamp: Broadband 101

Christopher Mitchell

Community Broadband Networks

Institute for Local Self-Reliance

April 12, 2023

@CommunityNets

CommunityNets.org

Agenda

- Basic background resources
- Networking basics
- Fiber optic networks
- Show and Tell
- Short Break
- Fun economics!
- Wireless
- The Future!
- Q&A

SCAN ME

Institute for Local Self-Reliance

- Formed in 1974

- Focuses
  - Local Banking
  - Energy Democracy
  - Independent Business
  - Waste to Wealth & Composting

- Community Broadband Networks
  - *CommunityNets.org*

ILSR

INSTITUTE FOR
Local Self-Reliance
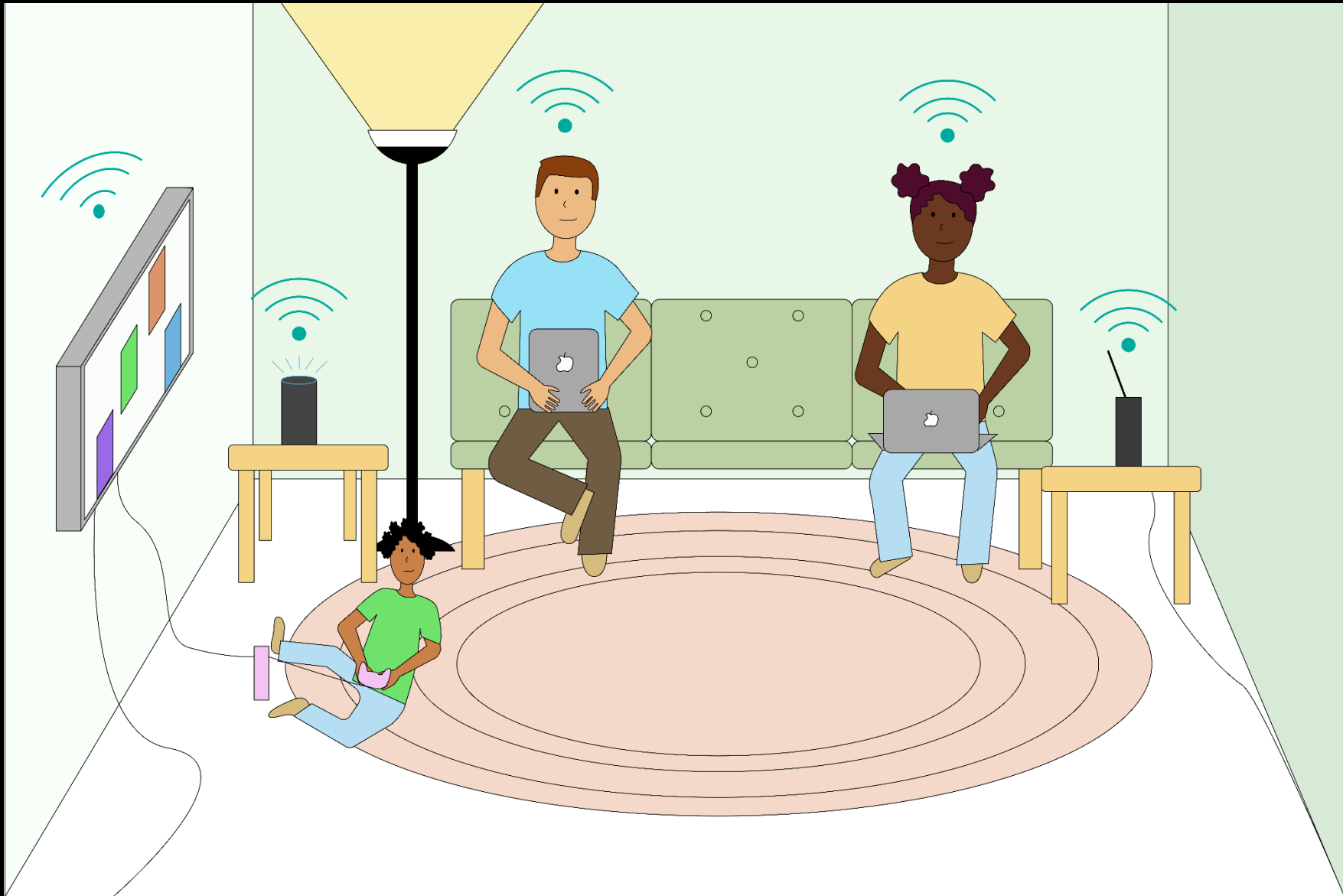
Access or Availability?

WHO IS NOT CONNECTED?

36 MILLION US HOUSEHOLDS

Do not have wireline broadband connections*

*cable, DSL or fiber

26 MILLION Households in URBAN Areas

10 MILLION Households in RURAL Areas

U.S. Census, 2019 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, Table B28002

Fact Sheets!

Exploring Digital Equity Fact Sheet Series

This fact sheet was created by ILSR with support from AARP

ILSR — INSTITUTE FOR Local Self-Reliance

AARP®

What Is Broadband?

This is one of a series of short explainers about high-speed Internet access issues. The full series is available here.

BACKGROUND

The word "broadband" is an umbrella term that can be used to describe any reliable Internet connection that is always on that can support commonly used applications. In the simplest terms, broadband is high-speed Internet access.

According to a report published by Older Adults Technology Services (OATS) from AARP's Aging Connected initiative, more than 21 million seniors in the United States lack wireline broadband access to the Internet. Online connectivity for older adults has become a necessity particularly as a result of the pandemic as more services have moved online. Online connectivity is essential for access to public health information, telehealth appointments, grocery shopping, financial security services, and staying connected to loved ones.

Many millions of children lack home broadband Internet access, which is crucial for homework at almost all ages. Additional fact sheets in this series cover some of the reasons why households are not using broadband—including the lack of availability, affordability challenges, access challenges, lacking devices, and the need to develop digital skills.

ILSR.org/exploring-digital-equity-fact-sheets/

SCAN ME

Power and Poverty, not Technology

Report

Financing mechanisms for locally-owned internet infrastructure

Photo by AirJaldi

ConnectHumanity.fund/report-financing-ccps/

Half of humanity is connected to high-quality Internet access.

The other half will not be connected by the business models that connected the first half.

TOP STORIES

Nationwide Push to Address ACP Anemia

By Sean Gonsalves on Mar 15, 2023

The White House, in coordination with the Federal Communication Commission (FCC) and the U.S. Commerce Department, has kicked off a major push to get more of the estimated 52 million eligible households across the nation to take advantage of the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP).

New Bill Could Make Colorado Friendly State for Municipal Broadband

By Sean Gonsalves on Mar 21, 2023

Earlier this month, a new Colorado bill was introduced that, if passed, would rid the state of a law designed to protect monopoly Internet service providers (ISPs) from competition.

Building for

Gina Birch Loves Digital Equity at the Ashbury Center in Cleveland

By Sean Gonsalves on Mar 17, 2023

In the second episode of our new Building for Digital Equity podcast, Gina Birch talks about how she trained digital navigators at the Ashbury Senior Computer Community Center in Cleveland to help enroll eligible households into the Affordable Connectivity Program, and why working with trusted messengers and organizations is key

Our Affordable Connectivity Program Dashboard is Back and Better Than Ever

LATEST PODCAST

Lessons from a Rural County - Episode 544 of the Community Broadband Bits Podcast

From grant requests that have gotten short-circuited by a local WISP

Lewis County Pushes Forward with Open Access Fiber Plan

CommunityNets.org

What is a "network"?

A **network** is a **connection between devices** that allows them to **communicate** and send information to each other.
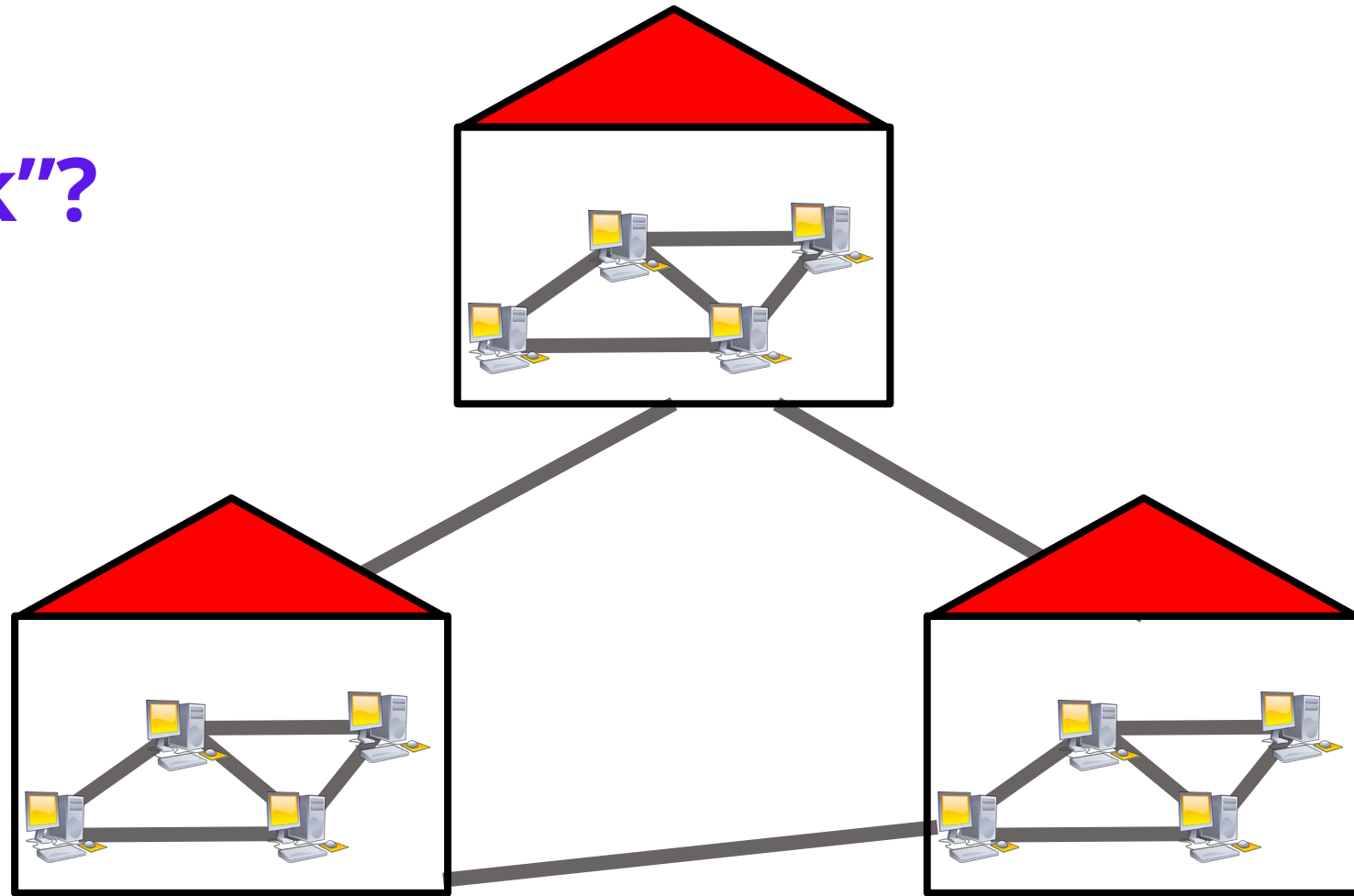
What is a "network"?
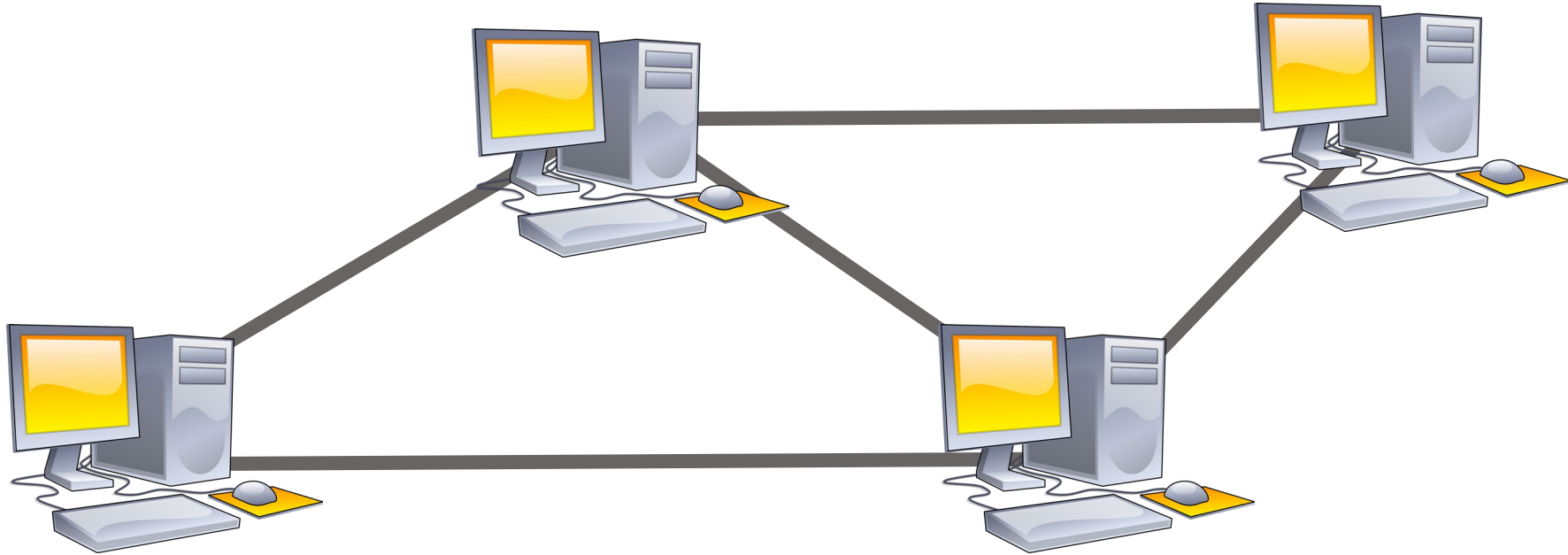
A network can be very big or very small.
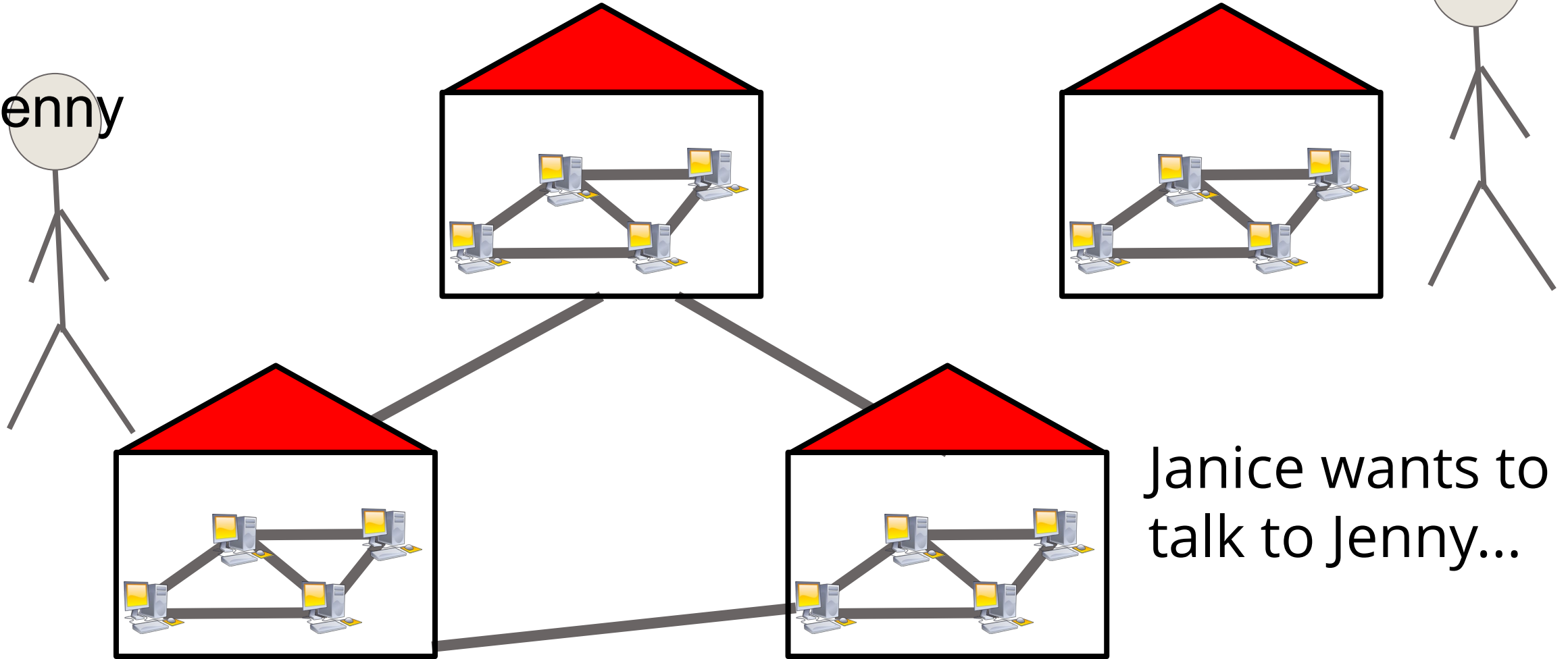
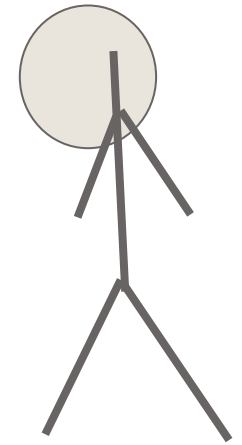# What is an "internetwork"?
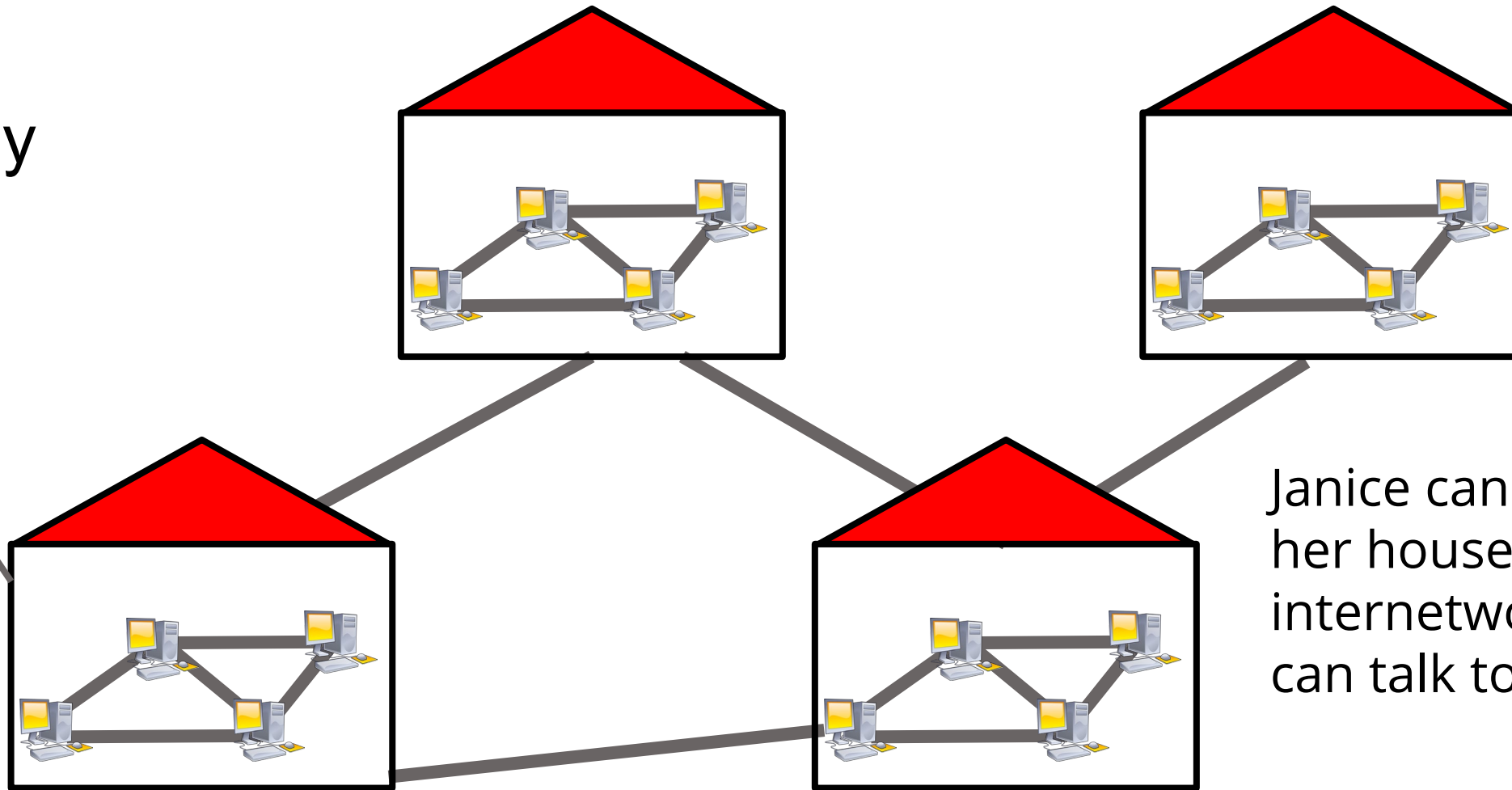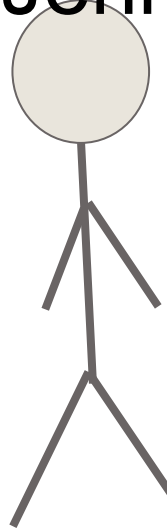
What is an "internetwork"?

Janice

Jenny

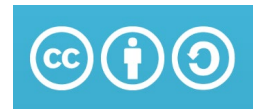Janice wants to talk to Jenny...

What is an "internetwork"?

Janice can just connect her house to the internetwork so she can talk to Jenny!

Bits

- **The base unit of information (data)**
- A bit represents a choice between 2 states or categories

1 and 0

light and dark

Yes and No

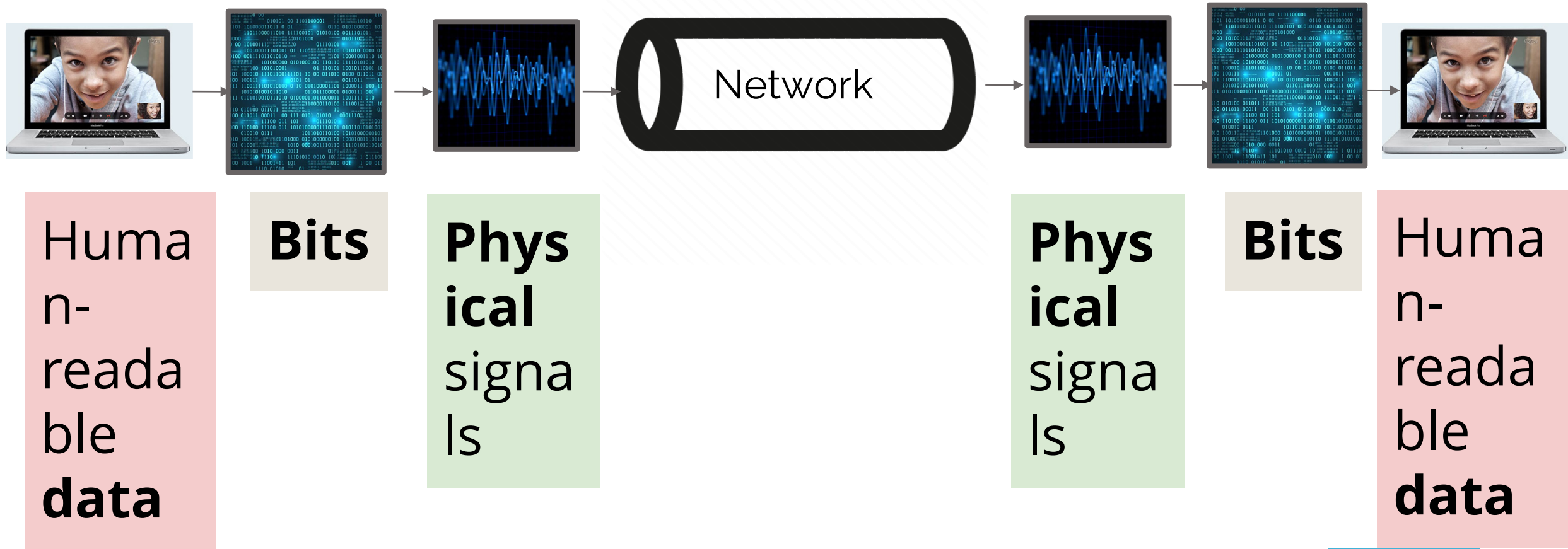- **Using an electrical signal (on and off)**

Ideal signal
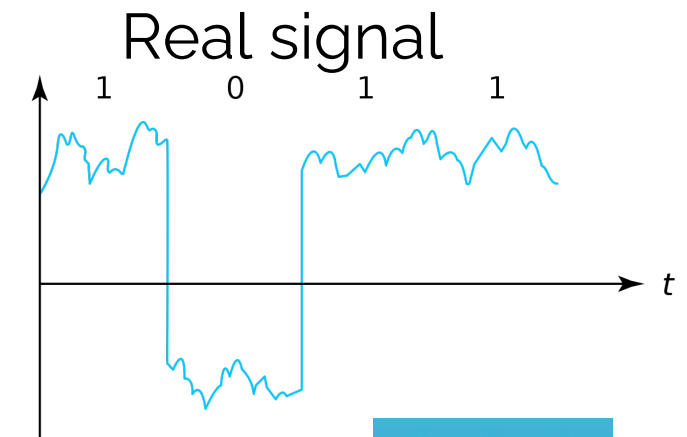
Real signal

Bits: How computers send data

Human-readable **data**

Bits

Physical signals

Network

Physical signals

Bits

Human-readable **data**

Wired Technology – Quick History

- DSL – 1-30 Mbps
  - Unreliable
 - Slow
  - Mostly Rural
- Cable – 100-1200 Mbps
  - Decent Download speeds
  - Expensive
  - Monopoly Problem
  - Urban
- Fiber optics – 100-10,000 Mbps
  - Building
  - Topology!

Fiber optics

thefoa.org/tech/ref/basic/fiber.html
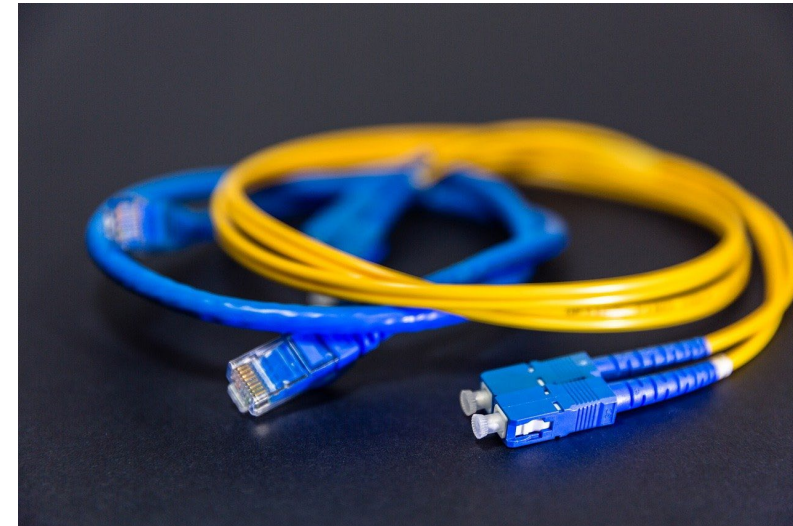
× Virtually unlimited speed, limited only by the equipment you place on the ends of the fiber

× Can carry signals for long distances

+ Undersea fiber cables go all the way across the oceans (1000s of miles)

+ Will need to re-generate the signal every 60 miles or so

× Low weight

× Very Reliable
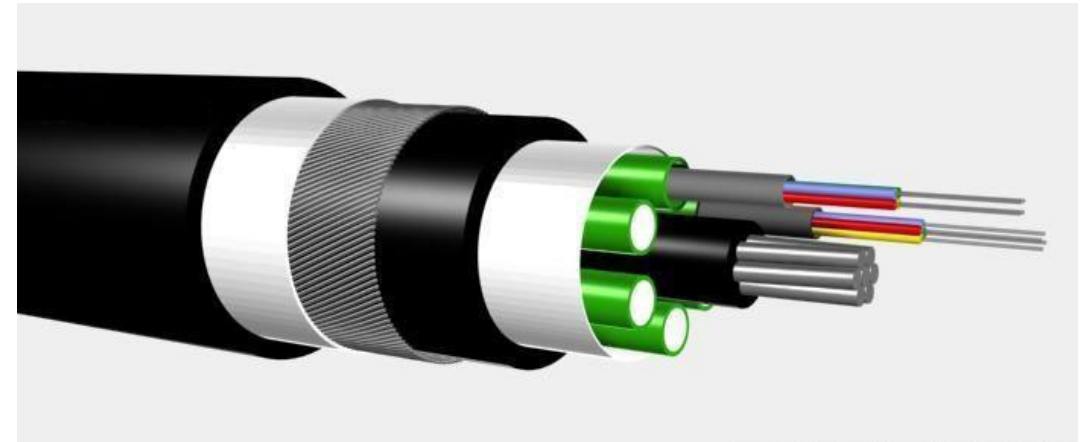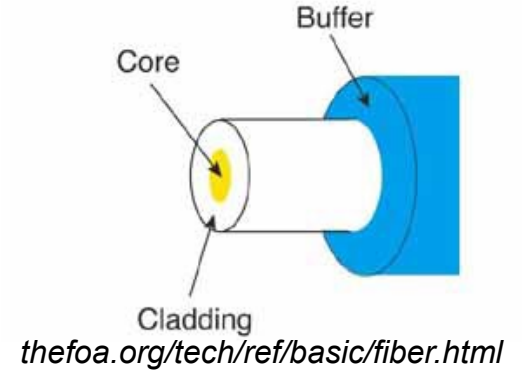
commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Optical_fiber_cable.jpg

Video – Fiber Network Overview!

YouTube.com/watch?v=qr9zjtfHR-w

www.rwdfoundation.org/dell - *Courtesy of Robert W. Deutsch Foundation*

www.rwdfoundation.org/dell - *Courtesy of Robert W. Deutsch Foundation*

BACKBONE / LONG HAUL 3

CHICAGO

NEW YORK

BALTIMORE

TYSONS CORNER
ASHBURN

www.rwdfoundation.org/dell - Courtesy of Robert W. Deutsch Foundation

Central Office Fiber

Aerial Fiber Construction

Courtesy, Dale Smith, NSRC, University of Oregon

Primary Insulator
Device used to isolate the high-voltage wire from the wood (pole or crossarm).

High-Voltage Sign
Allows utility workers to know the voltage level of wires at this location on the pole. High voltage is anything over 600 V.

Fuse
Protective device used to isolate the equipment from the high-voltage lines.

Transformer
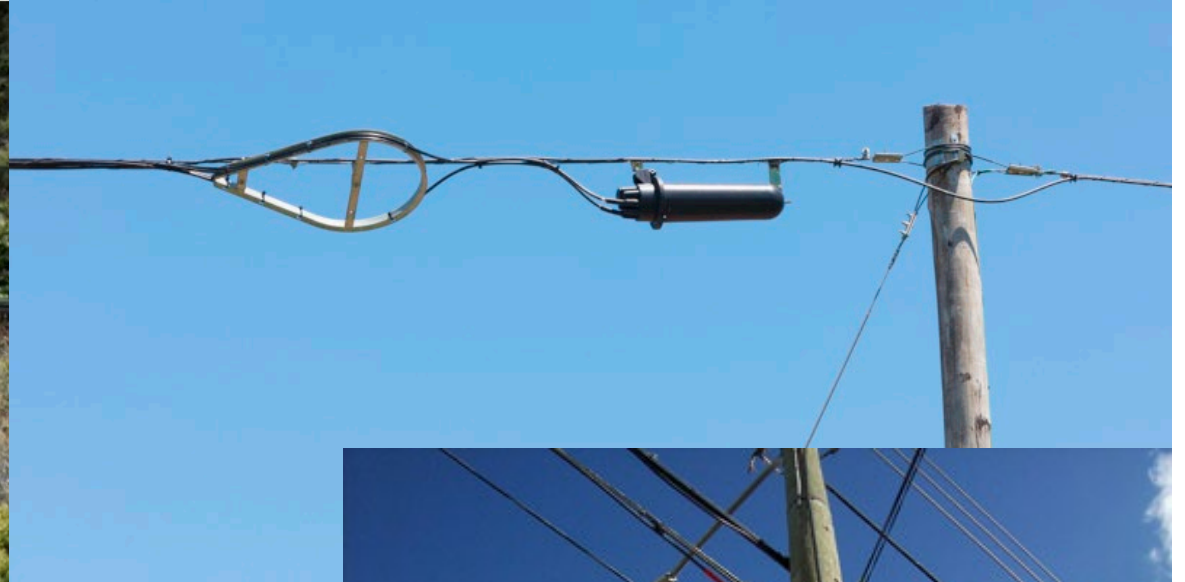Used to step down primary voltage power to secondary voltage power usable for residential (e.g. 120 V/240 V) and commercial customers (e.g. 120 V/208 V and 277 V/480 V).

Secondary Rack & Wires
Used to support and isolate low-voltage wires from the pole.

Secondary Insulator
Device used to isolate the wire from the wood.

Pole Steps
Used to ascend and descend the pole.

Wood Pole

Ground Moulding
Wood product used to cover the ground wire along the length of the pole.

Down Guy
Metal wire attached to the ground that supports the pole.

Risers
PVC pipe that encases the primary and secondary cables.

PRIMARY LEVEL — Location where primary wires (600 V+) are attached.

SECONDARY LEVEL — Location where secondary wires (50–500 V) are attached.

COMMUNICATION LEVEL — Location where telecommunications wires (telephone, cable, television and fiber optics) are attached.

PUBLIC LEVEL — Location where additional protective materials are used to ensure public safety.

HIGH VOLTAGE

HIGH VOLTAGE

PRIMARY | SECONDARY

PRIMARY

NEUTRAL

40 inches to top of duct
primary or secondary.
Rule 239G

* 40 inches
to neutral
Table 235-5

COMM. CABLE

21 feet at pole

30 inches mid span
between neutral
and comm. cable

9.5 feet for pedestrian only
15.5 feet for vehicle traffic
18 feet for TXDOT governed
23.5 feet for Railroad crossings

Comm. should bond messenger
to every pole ground.
Rule 92C & 97G

30 inches to
grounded tank
Rule 238B

6 inches between
grounded guy and
comm. cable
Table 235-6

40 inches to
secondary
wire/drip loop
Table 235-5

Effectively Grounded Arm

12 inches to
drip loop serving
street light
Rule 238D

4 inches to
grounded arm
Table 238-2

30 inches mid-span
between secondary
wire and comm. cable
Rule 235C2b

TAYLOR
ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVE

Summary of NESC Clearances to Communications
Cables

Underground Fiber Construction
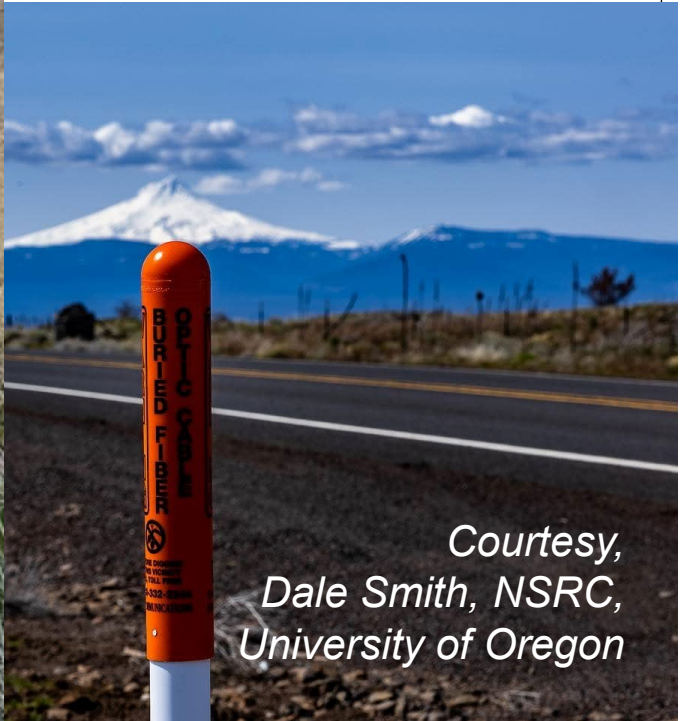

*Courtesy,
Dale Smith, NSRC,
University of Oregon*

Fiber Optic System Locates

Courtesy,
Dale Smith, NSRC,
University of Oregon

Fiber Optic Systems Outages

Courtesy,
Dale Smith, NSRC,
University of Oregon

ILSR INSTITUTE FOR **Local Self-Reliance**

Community NETWORKS

Legend:
- Electric Co-op - Built
- Electric Co-op - Build Funded
- Electric Co-op - Future Fiber?
- Telephone Co-op - Built
- Telephone Co-op - Build Funded
- Telephone Co-op - Future Fiber?
- RS Fiber Co-op - Built
- Municipal Fiber Network

Alaska and Hawaii are not drawn to scale.
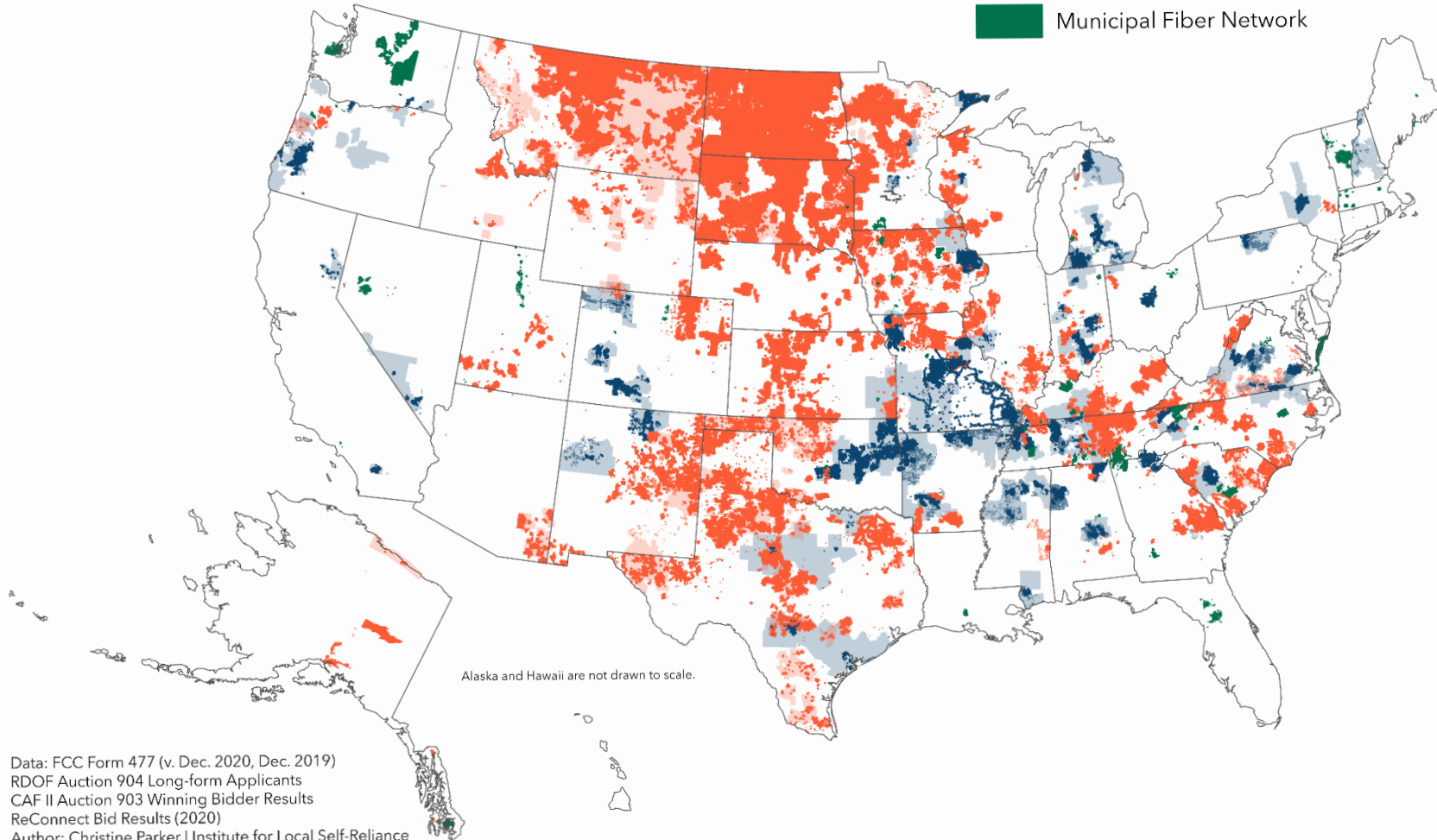
Data: FCC Form 477 (v. Dec. 2020, Dec. 2019)
RDOF Auction 904 Long-form Applicants
CAF II Auction 903 Winning Bidder Results
ReConnect Bid Results (2020)
Author: Christine Parker | Institute for Local Self-Reliance

Fiber Optics Show and Tell

- Then a quick break!

Fiber Optics Economics

- **High Upfront Costs**
  - Cost to build in Midwestern city, single family homes, directional boring in $/foot
    - Conduit $1
    - **Labor** $9
    - Fiber $1-$2
    - Permitting $2
    - Handholds, Couplers, Splicing misc, locate wire $2.5
    - **Total**: $17 (roughly at scale, this is super efficient and not California)
- **Low Operating Costs**
- **Additional Cost to Connect a Home:**
  - $1000 - urban single family
  - $500 – apartment / condo
  - $3,000 - $5,000 for many rural

Health Care and Broadband

- Is a $2500 one-time cost, with $300-$500 per year in operating expenses, "expensive" in health care?
- Analysis: 10 rural, Black, high-poverty counties in Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi
  - 235k population
  - About $3 billion in annual healthcare spending
  - 20% households no insurance, less than $25k/year income
  - Effective telehealth saves $43 million each year, half from regaining lost productivity, rest from emergency visits, readmissions, admissions
  - Estimated cost to connect 63k households, $80 million one time costs; $2-3 million digital equity investment per year, assumes Affordable Connectivity Plan continues
- Many other benefits that are extremely difficult to quantify – ex: Chattanooga removed racial gap in parental involvement in schools

UNITED

STATES

FREQUENCY

ALLOCATIONS

THE RADIO SPECTRUM

United States Frequency Allocations chart — "The Radio Spectrum" — showing spectrum bands from 0 kHz to 300 GHz across seven horizontal strips (0–300 kHz, 300 kHz–3 MHz, 3–30 MHz, 30–300 MHz, 300 MHz–3 GHz, 3–30 GHz, 30–300 GHz).

Non-Federal Travelers Information Stations (TIS), a mobile service, are authorized in the 535-1705 kHz band. Federal TIS operates at 1610 kHz.

* EXCEPT AERONAUTICAL MOBILE (R)
** EXCEPT AERONAUTICAL MOBILE

PLEASE NOTE: THE SPACING ALLOTTED THE SERVICES IN THE SPECTRUM SEGMENTS SHOWN IS NOT PROPORTIONAL TO THE ACTUAL AMOUNT OF SPECTRUM OCCUPIED.

Wireless Technology

- (Still mostly wired)
- Mobile
  - 4G LTE and 5G
- Fixed
- Wi-Fi
- Satellite
  - Geostationary
  - Low Earth Orbit
- High Operating Expense, Rapid Replacement Schedule

Fixed Wireless Technology

Fixed Wireless Technology

Broadband   ⚙

Type	Residential
Technology	Any Technology
Speed	25/3 Mbps or greater
Data As Of	Jun 30, 2022 (Last Updated: 11/17/22)

Residential | Business   Availability Challenge

Provider	Technology	Down (Mbps)	Up (Mbps)	Chall.
▸ Nextera Holdings, LLC	Unlicensed Fixed Wireless	1000	1000	
▸ Nextera Holdings, LLC	Unlicensed Fixed Wireless	1000	1000	

Symmetrical service (the same bandwidth for uploads and downloads)

	1 Year Term	2 Year Term	3 Year Term
2 Mbps	$122	$102	$85
3 Mbps	$180	$150	$125

Asymmetrical service (higher download speed/lower upload speed)

	1 Year Term	2 Year Term	3 Year Term
2/1 Mbps	$85	$70	$59
3/1 Mbps	$122	$102	$85

Fixed Wireless Technology

The Future: Business as Usual Course

- Over next 5-7 years, rapid improvement in rural Internet access
- Little change in low-income adoption, particularly in rural areas
- Cities, better cable modem service, more fiber in many parts of some neighborhoods
- More competition, then less in moderate-affluent areas due to consolidation
- Little market competition disciplining pricing - $100/month/hh
- Affordable Connectivity Program – high cost to renew funding… ACPDashboard.com
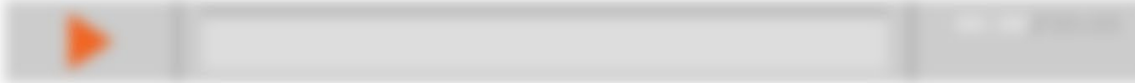
christopher@ilsr.org   **CommunityNets.org**   ILSR.org
@communitynets

Networking Lunch
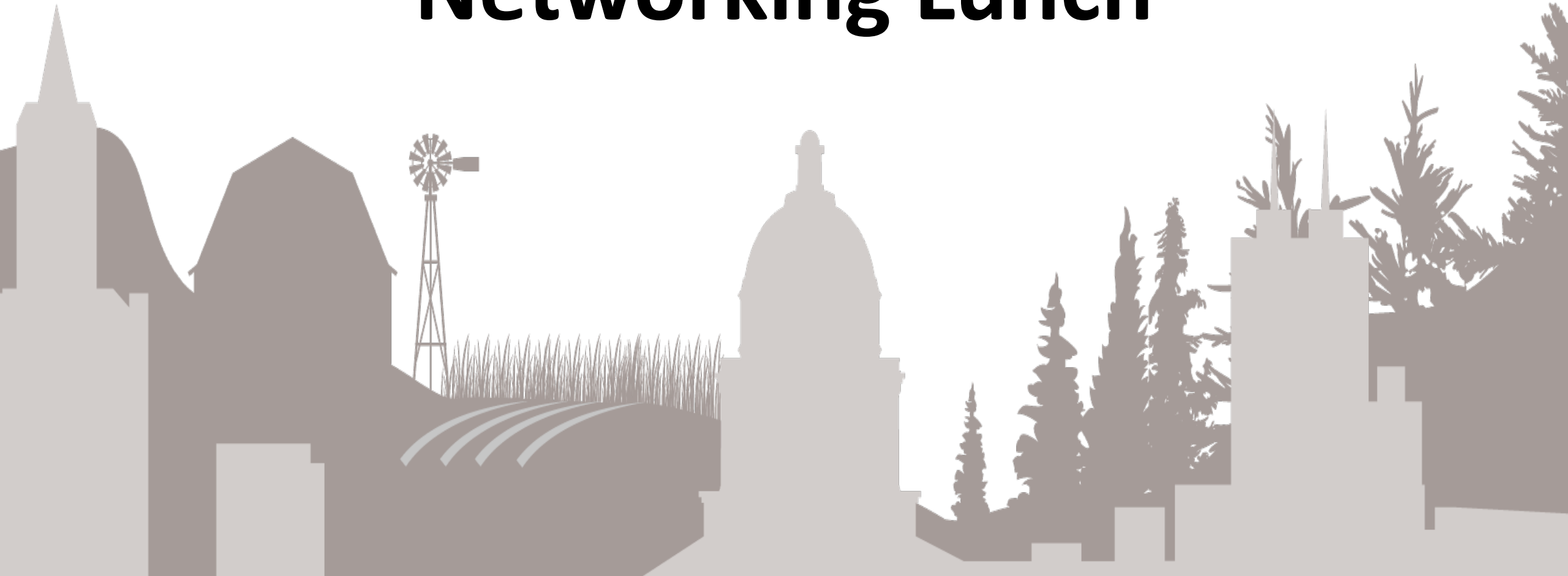
Elevating Health Care Connectivity Needs for the State Digital Equity Plan

Marissa Montano, PhD

Director of Policy

Insure the Uninsured Project (ITUP)

The Opportunity: Broadband Investments and the Future of Health

- Federal Broadband $45 Billion Dollars in the Infrastructure, Investment and Jobs Act of 2021 (IIJA)
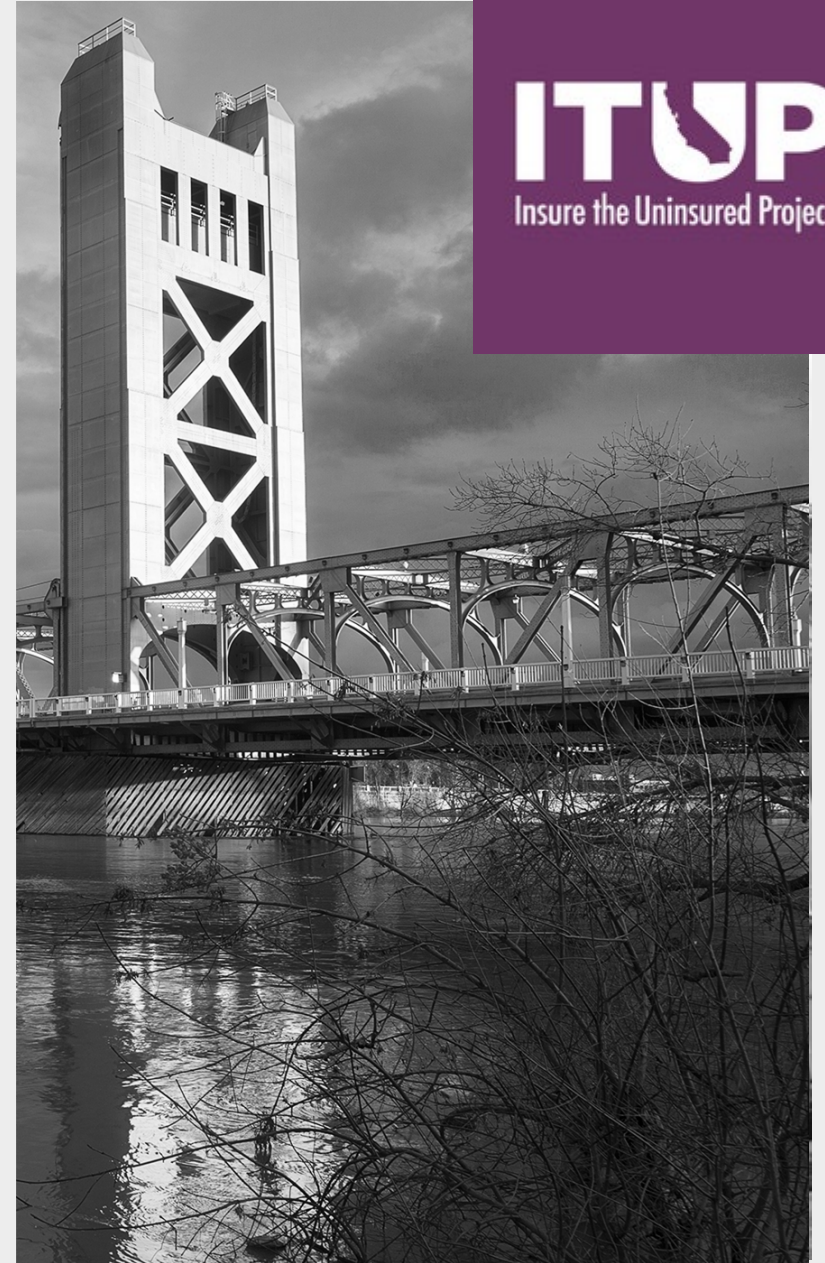- $6.5 Billion Investment in California
- Telehealth Flexibilities are Permanent

State-Level Broadband Engagement

- **California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC)**

- **California Department of Technology (CDT)**

- **State Digital Equity Plan (SDEP)**
  - Outcome Area Workgroups (OAWGs)
    - *Health OAWG*
    - *Digital Literacy & Inclusion OAWG*
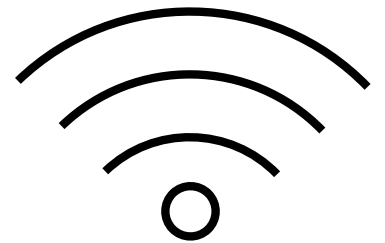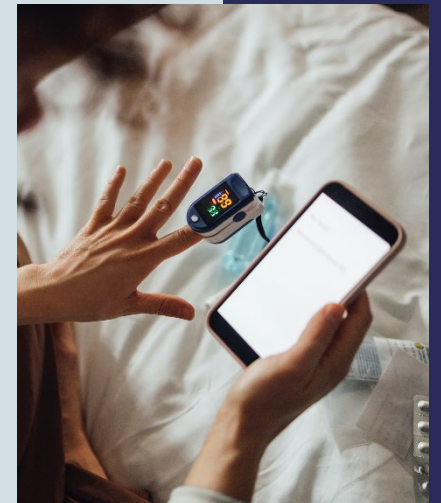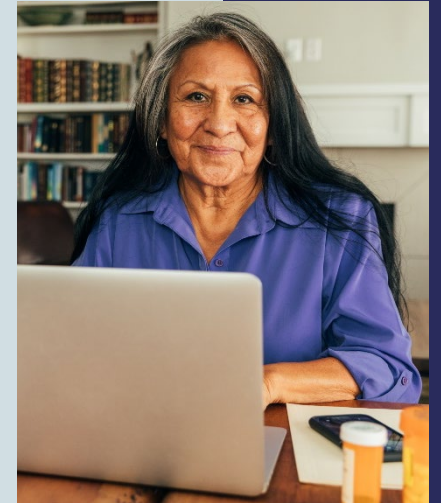
Access

Affordability

Adoption

Digital Literacy & Inclusion

Broadband Council (2010)

Executive Order N-73-20 (2020)

Broadband Action Plan (2020)

Senate Bill 156 (2021)

Middle Mile Broadband Initiative　　**Last Mile Programs**

Assembly Bill 2750 (2022)

IIJA Broadband Programs (2021)

Affordable Connectivity Program

Digital Equity Act Programs

Broadband, Equity, Access, and Deployment Program

Enabling Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure Program

Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program

USDA ReConnect Program

Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)

The IIJA invests roughly $65 billion to support broadband deployment and adoption and promote digital equity in states.

Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD)

$42.45B

Digital Equity Planning, Capacity, and Competitive Grants

$2.75B

IIJA Statute: https://www.congress.gov/117/plaws/publ58/PLAW-117publ58.pdf

BACKGROUND

SDEP AND BEAD Plan Coordination

- CDT administering entity for Digital Equity Planning program
- CPUC administering entity for Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment program
- Planning processes will be coordinated
- Extensive statewide and local engagement and input
- When completed, both plans will be integrated and unlock hundreds of millions of additional dollars to achieve Broadband for All
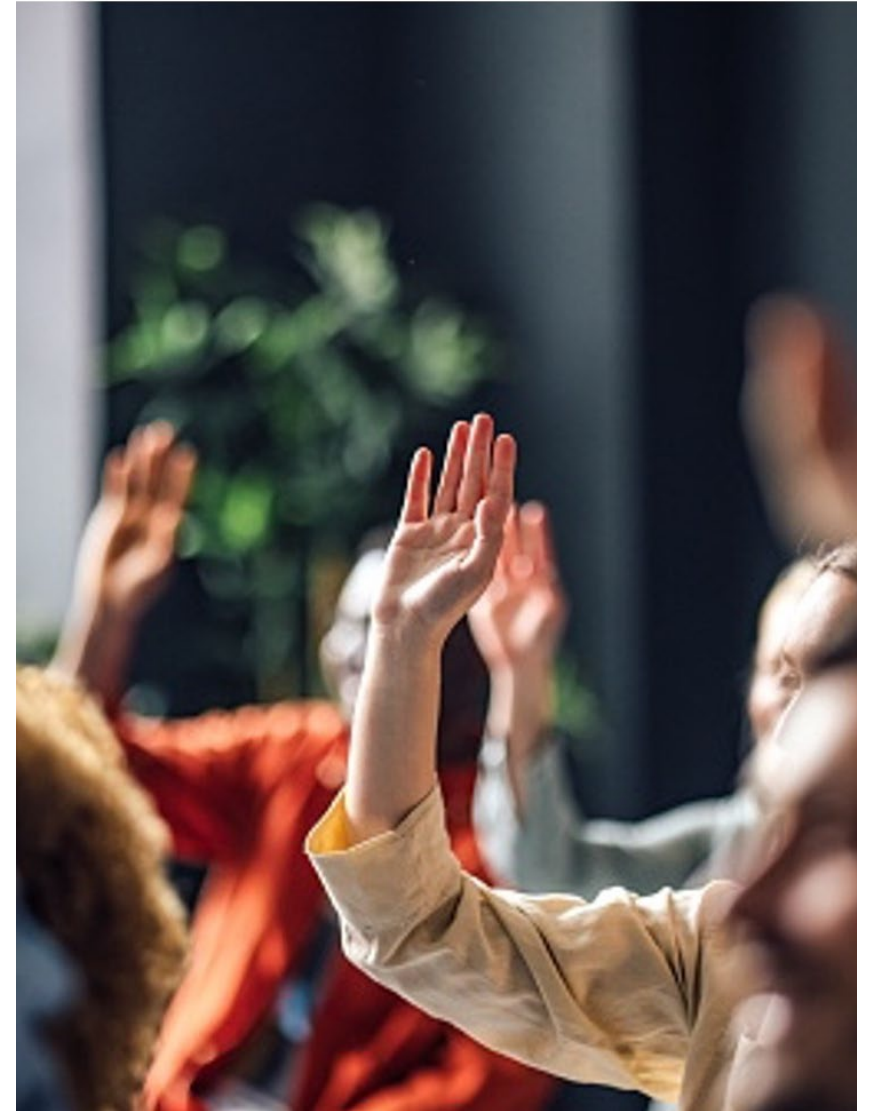
Covered Populations

The Digital Equity Act prioritizes investments for eight "Covered Populations"

1 **Individuals living in covered households** with an income at or below 150% Federal Poverty Level

2 **Aging individuals** (60+)

3 **Incarcerated individuals** other than individuals who are incarcerated in a Federal correctional facility

4 **Veterans**

5 **Individuals with disabilities**

6 **Individuals with language barriers** including individuals who Are English learners; and have low levels of literacy

7 **Members of a racial or ethnic minority group**

8 **Individuals who primarily reside in a rural area**

9 **Women**

10 **LGBTQI+**

Specifically called out in the BEAD notice of funding opportunity

SDEP PLANNING APPROACH
PLANNING COMPONENTS

The planning process will consist of five components:

- Statewide Planning Group (SPG)

- Outcome Area Working Groups (OAWGs)

- California Digital Equity Survey(s)

- Broadband for All, Digital Equity & BEAD Regional Planning Workshops

- Statewide Public Engagement

SDEP TIMELINE Approximate and Subject to Change

California State Digital Equity Planning (SDEP) Timeline

Important milestones for State Digital Equity Planning:

2022						**2023**										
JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV
				Stakeholder Mapping				Survey & Ecosystem Mapping				Draft Plan	Public Comment Period	Refine Plan		
								Data & Gap Analysis								
Stakeholder Outreach and Engagement																
								Regional – Local Outreach Events								

- CDT applied for SDEP funding
- Kick-off 10/24
- CDT receives SDEP funding
- SPG meeting 1/25/23
- SPG meeting 4/26/23
- SPG meeting 7/26/23
- SDEP draft posted for public comments (Open for 30 days)
- SPG meeting 10/25/23
- Final SDEP submitted to NTIA

Takeaways/Findings

• Telehealth is a powerful tool, but only if individuals have **access to the technology, devices, trainings, and skills to use it effectively.**

• Every population has **unique needs and challenges,** hence it's important to include the **community's voices** in the process of co-designing potential solutions.

• Rural Communities have been left behind when it comes to digital infrastructure, resulting in **slower economic growth and fewer investment opportunities.**

• Digital equity initiatives can improve health outcomes by partnering with healthcare providers and training digital navigators.

WE NEED YOUR HELP

How to Take Action

Digital Equity Ecosystem Mapping (DEEM) Tool

THE DEEM TOOL IS LIVE!

The Digital Equity Ecosystem Mapping tool tracks **Digital Equity** programs, plans, services, and resources throughout California. The mapping tool will help identify:

- What programs are being offered, where they're being offered and to whom, and what is missing in each region.

- Barriers to achieving digital equity in every California county.

Make your voice heard!

Millions of Californians do not have access to the internet. Our state wants to work with organizations across California to create a plan to give all Californians the access they need to succeed in the digital age.

Help our state identify and fund programs to close the digital divide for good. Put your organization on the map now.

Visit **Bit.ly/DEEMSurvey** or scan the QR code using your mobile device.

CALIFORNIA
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Broadband for All

SCAN ME

How to Take Action
# Digital Equity Public Survey

CDT will distribute a statewide **Digital Equity Public Survey in multiple languages** to residents of California to identify barriers to digital equity, especially for Covered Populations.

The survey is intended to capture information about internet access, internet affordability, and internet adoption for residents in California households.

Timeline: Launch Q2 2023
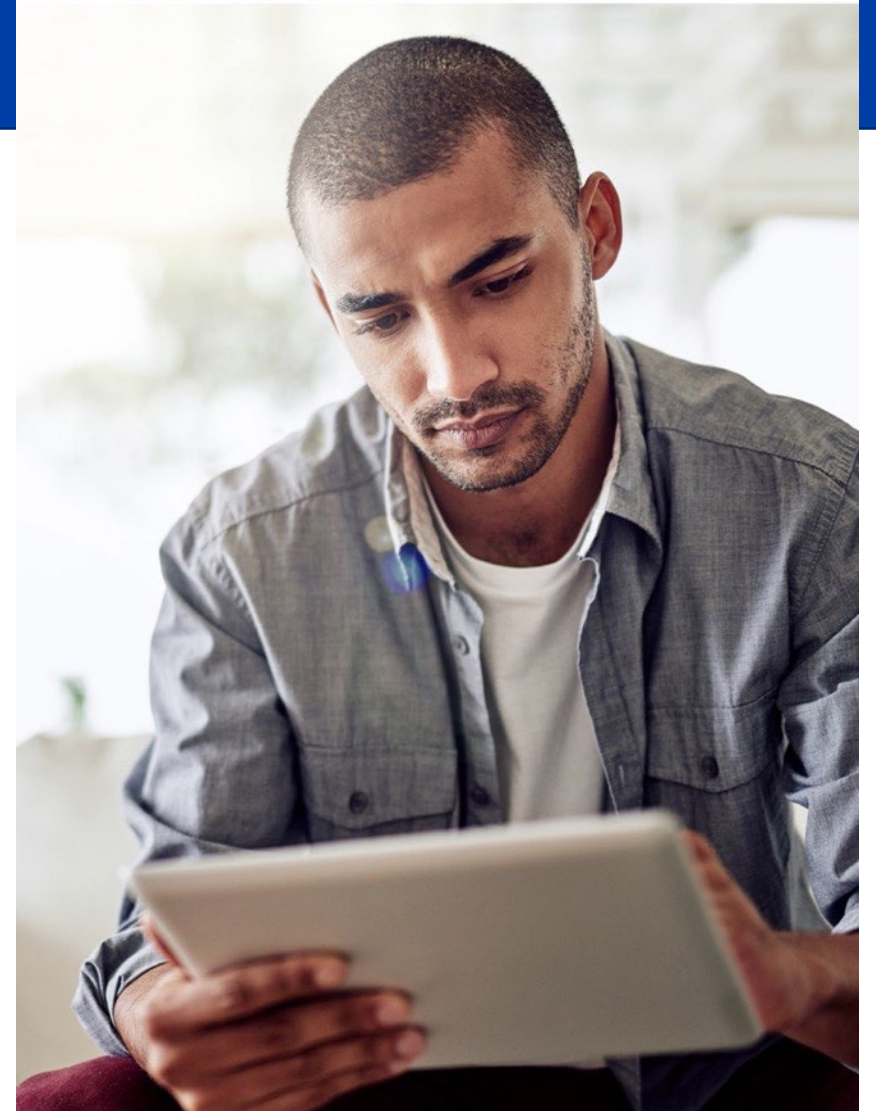
Broadband for All, Digital Equity and BEAD Regional Planning Workshops

- Friday, April 14, Merced
- Saturday, April 15, Fresno
- Friday, April 21, San Diego
- Thursday, April 27, Chico
- Friday, April 28, Santa Rosa
- Wednesday, May 3, Eureka
- Friday, May 5, San Jose
- Thursday, May 11, Sacramento
- Friday, May 12, Grass Valley

- Tuesday, May 16, Inland Empire
- Friday, May 19, Los Angeles
- Saturday, May 20, Long Beach
- Wednesday, May 24, Santa Ana
- Tuesday, May 30, Tuolumne
- Thursday, June 1, Santa Maria
- Friday, June 2nd, Seaside
- *To Be Announced: Oakland*

Scan the QR code using your mobile device or visit us at
bit.ly/CADigitalEquityPlanEvents

CALIFORNIA
ALL | **Broadband for All**

SCAN ME

Contact Us

Digital Equity Planning General: digitalequity@state.ca.gov

**California Department of Technology
Office of Broadband and Digital Literacy**

**Anh Q. Nguyen
Engagement and Operations Manager
anh.q.nguyen@state.ca.gov**

CALIFORNIA **ALL** BROADBAND **FOR ALL**

Thank You
Q&A

CALIFORNIA ALL

**BROADBAND
FOR ALL**

Workshop: Breakout Session #1

1. *What are the digital barriers to health you've encountered in your work and/or what digital barriers to health have the communities you served faced in accessing health care?*

2. *How do digital barriers to health contribute to, or worsen, health disparities for California communities?*

3. *What solutions for digital barriers to health care access have you/could you use in your work to make access to health care more accessible for the communities you work with or for?*

1. Write out 2-3 barriers on the provided post it notes.

2. Then, as a group, create categories/groupings of the barriers you wrote down.

3. Place the groups post its under the categories you delineated.

Workshop: Breakout Session #2

1. *What supports or polices are needed to operationalize the solutions identified for breaking down digital barriers to health care?*

2. *In what ways can the state digital equity plan help support you in breaking down the digital divide to advance health equity in your work?*
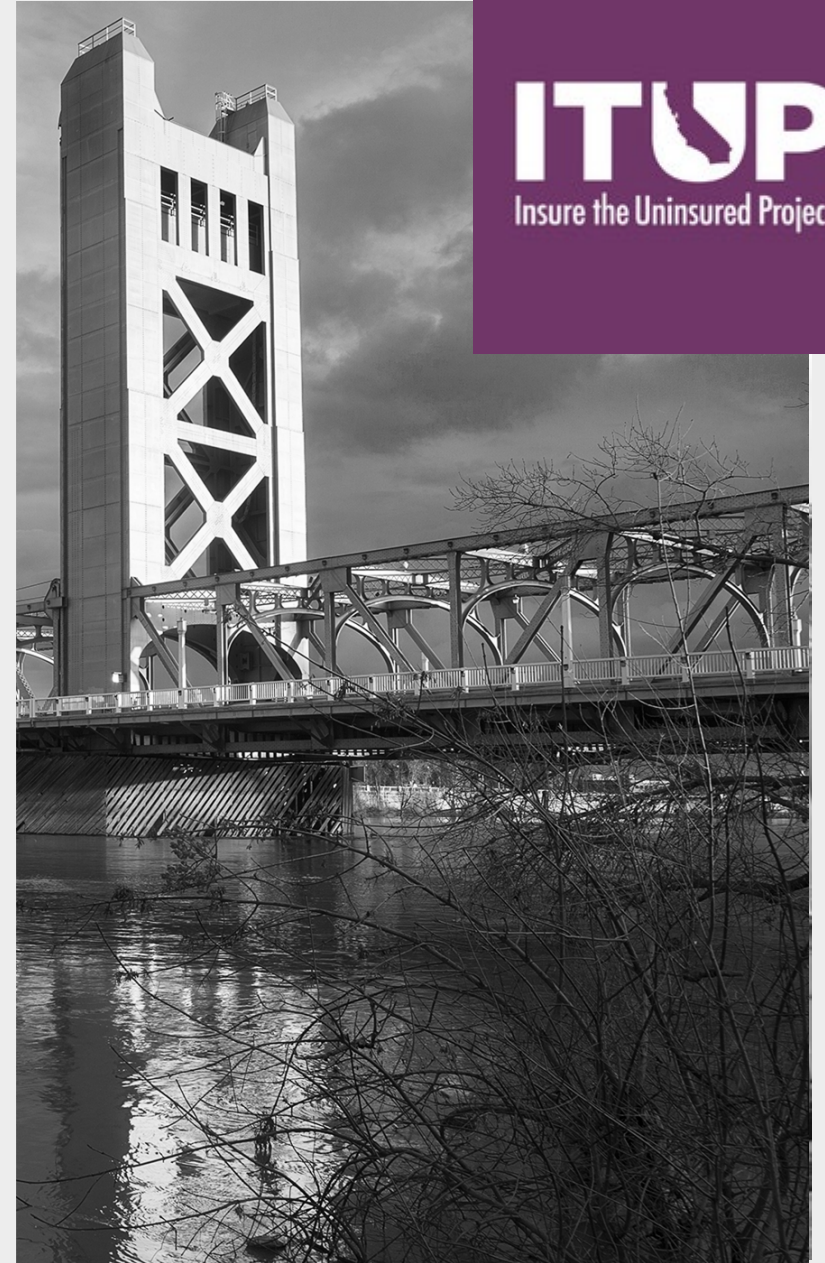
15 Minute Break

Closing the Digital Divide and Health Equity Gaps

Sunne Wright McPeak, MPH

President and Chief Executive Officer

California Emerging Technology Fund (CETF)

Thank You!

Follow ITUP on Social Media!

@itup

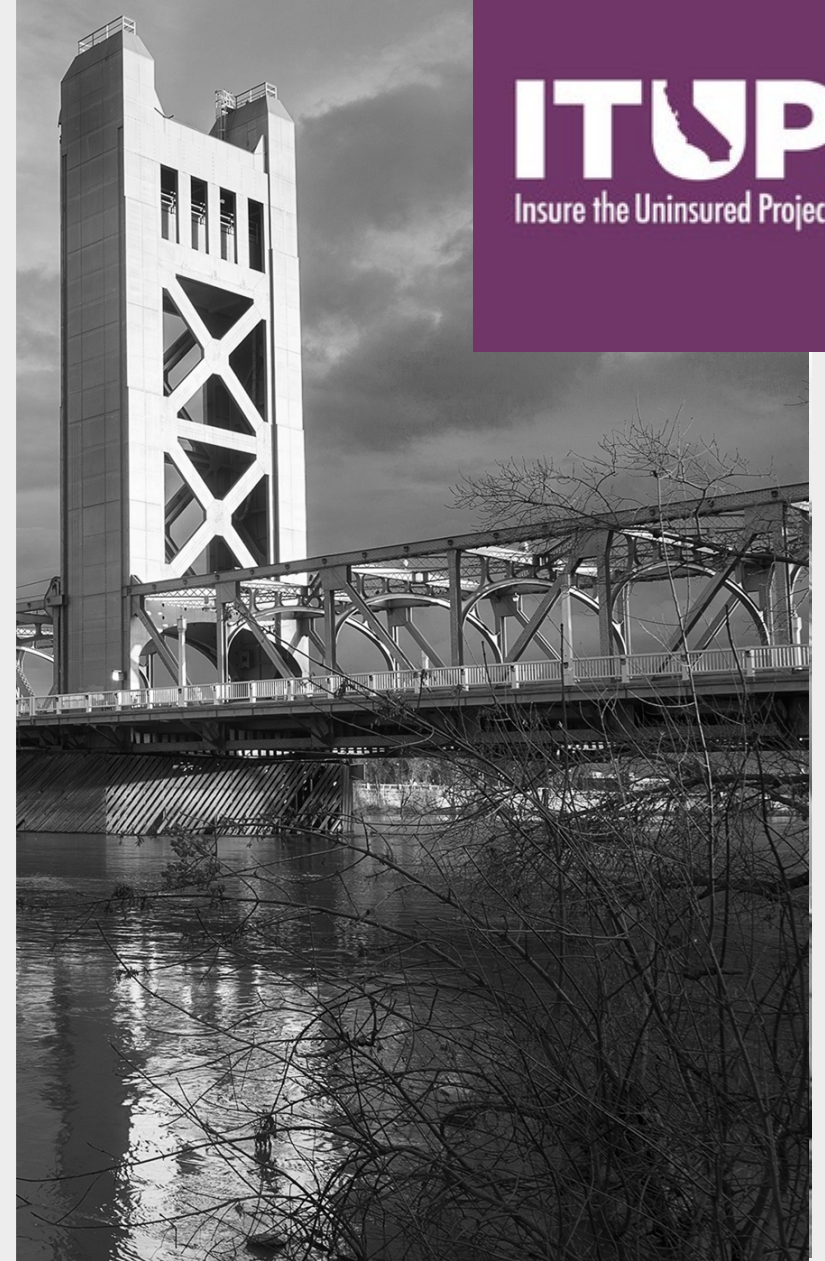@InsuretheUninsuredProject

@InsuretheUninsuredProject

www.itup.org

Attachment B

Health, Equity, and the Digital Divide

Shirley Lam, MPH

Senior Policy Project Coordinator,

Insure the Uninsured Project (ITUP)

Closing the Digital Divide: Investments

- CA Commitment to Continuing PHE Telehealth Flexibilities
  - CA Health and Human Services Agency (CalHHS)
  - Department of Health Care Services (DHCS)
  - CA Department of Aging (CDA)
- CA's "Broadband for All" Initiative and $6.5 Billion
  - Government Operations Agency (GovOps Agency)
  - CA Department of Technology (CDT)
  - CA Public Utilities Commission (CPUC)
- Federal Broadband $45 Billion Dollars in the Infrastructure, Investment and Jobs Act of 2021 (IIJA)
  - Federal Communications Commission (FCC)
  - National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA)

State-Level Broadband Engagement

- California Public Utilities Commission
  - Regional Broadband Consortia
  - Funding Opportunities
    - Broadband Adoption Account
    - California Teleconnect Fund
    - Broadband Public Housing Account (Implementation Rulemaking Underway)
- California Department of Technology, Broadband for All Initiative
  - Middle-Mile Advisory Committee
  - California Broadband Council
  - State Digital Equity Plan (forthcoming)
- Legislature
- Budget

Upcoming Engagement Opportunity: Middle-Mile Advisory Committee

Meets the Third Friday of Every Month

- November 18, 2022, 10:00 a.m.- 11:30 a.m.
- https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86792000768

- Meeting Agenda
  - Welcome/Opening Comments
  - Executive Report Out
  - Project Approach Updates
  - Public Comment

CALIFORNIA ALL

Middle-Mile Broadband Initiative

Upcoming Engagement Opportunity: California Broadband Council

California Broadband Council Meeting
- October 12, 2022, 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
- Recording of Meeting
- https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83999730119
- Existing CA State Broadband Action Plan

- Agenda Highlights
  - State Digital Equity Plan—Update
  - Expected CA Funding: $4 Million in Fall 2022
  - https://broadbandusa.ntia.doc.gov/resources/grant-programs/digital-equity-programs

Upcoming Engagement Opportunity: Broadband, Equity, Access and Deployment (BEAD)

Met this past Monday

- October 24, 2022, 9a.m. - 1 p.m.

- Topics of Discussion
  - State's Equity and Broadband programs
  - Implementations of State's Broadband for All initiatives
  - Briefing of BEAD planning process
  - Engagement and partnership with the State
  - Q&A session
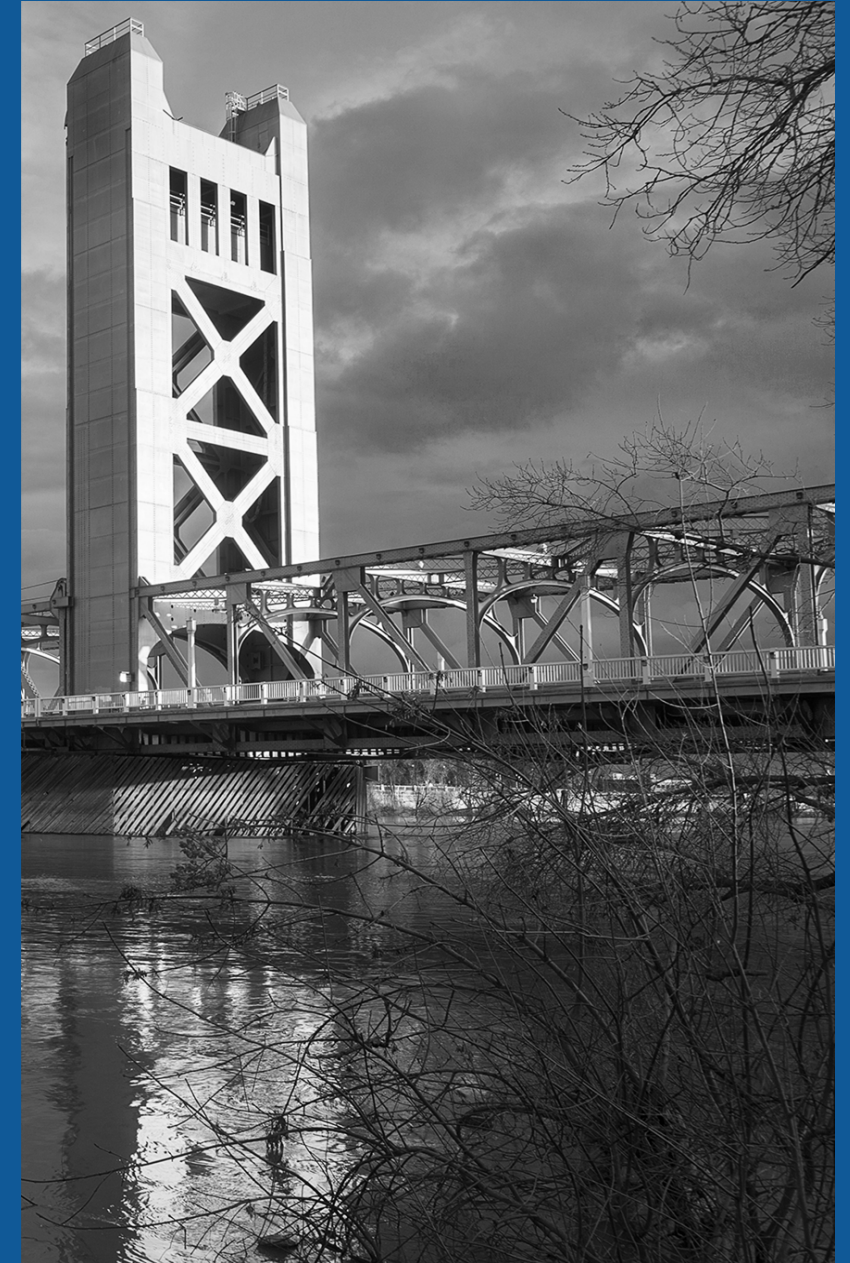
Housekeeping

- **This session is being recorded.** The meeting, links and resources will be emailed to participants and posted to the ITUP website after the meeting.

- **Closed Captioning is available.** To enable captions, select the "CC" or transcript icon from your toolbar.

- **Submit your questions** at any time during today's webinar using the Q&A function on your screen

- **Chat is open** and we encourage you to engage throughout today's discussion.

About ITUP

Policy Priority Areas

Coverage and Access

Delivery System Transformation
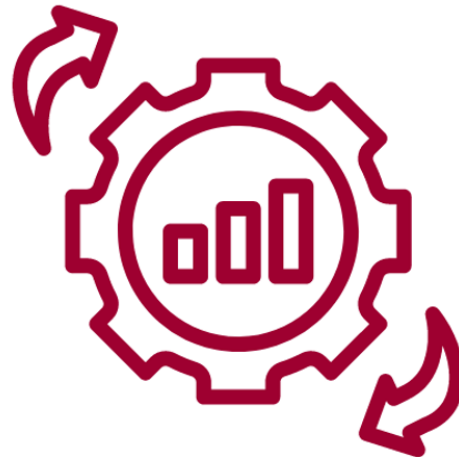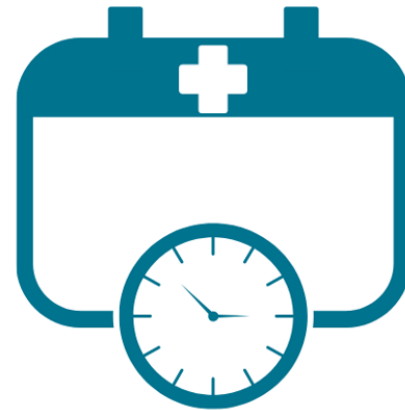
The Future of Health

ITUP

Insure the Uninsured Project

The Children's Partnership

ITUP
Insure the Uninsured Project

Addressing Digital Equity for Equitable, Accessible Health Care

JUNE 2023

INTRODUCTION: WHY DIGITAL EQUITY IS NECESSARY FOR HEALTH EQUITY

At the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, at a time when physical distancing was the most effective way to mitigate the spread of the virus, non-critical health care turned entirely online for all Californians. For California's safety net populations, this was the first time, thanks to pandemic-permitted policy changes, that telehealth was a major, accessible health care delivery tool. The necessity of virtual care also magnified that many individuals and communities across the state that persistently lacked access to health care and were most at risk for COVID-19 also lacked access to reliable, sufficient, and affordable internet, or broadband and connectivity—effectively rendering telehealth services inaccessible to those that needed them most.

As health care becomes increasingly reliant on technology, broadband is the nexus in making the future of health care equitable and accessible for communities historically lacking access to care. Telehealth, virtual care, health information exchange, and future technology innovations all require reliable broadband and connectivity. Without addressing the digital barriers to health, the combination of telehealth, data exchange, and technology will not fulfill its potential of increasing equity and access to health care for California communities.

Social Determinants (or Drivers) of Health (SDoH) are the conditions and environments that influence health risks and the overall wellbeing of people. Broadband impacts many SDoH, making it a super determinant of health. Existing disparities in availability, affordability, and adoption of broadband and technology tools were intensified by COVID-19. These disparities have only increased as more essential aspects of life, such as school, work, and health care continue to move to an online platform or modality. To fully participate in today's rapidly changing economy and modern society, all individuals need access to digital tools, devices, and skills training. Despite the advancements in technology, communities across California continue to face immense challenges and barriers in achieving digital equity.

THE OPPORTUNITY

Historic, One-Time $6 Billion Investment in Broadband [1]

+

Policy Change Making Telehealth a Permanent Health Care Delivery Tool in Medi-Cal [2]

=

Opportunity for More Accessible Health Care and Better Health Outcomes

PURPOSE OF THIS ISSUE BRIEF

This issue brief emphasizes the actionable ways health care stakeholders and the health care delivery system can harness this pivotal moment in California to close digital equity gaps and ensure an equitable and accessible future of health. This brief highlights the roles health care stakeholders can and should take in closing the digital divide, the state and federal regulation of broadband, and where and how to meaningfully engage in efforts to advance digital equity at the state and local levels. This issue brief also includes highlights and lessons learned from ongoing community-driven digital equity initiatives ITUP has been working on.

Health Information Exchange

Telehealth and Virtual Care

BROADBAND

Future Technology Innovations

Digital Equity:
A Key to Children's Health & Racial Justice

A Call to Action & Policy Agenda
2023-2024

The Children's Partnership

Part 3 of the Racism and Child Health Series

Maddie Ribble, MPH (he/him)
Director, Social Drivers of Health, The Children's Partnership (TCP)

The Basics: Addressing Digital Equity for Better Health Outcomes

About The Children's Partnership

Digital equity

refers to the condition in which all individuals and communities have the information technology capacity needed for full participation in our society, democracy and economy. Digital equity is necessary for health, civic and cultural participation, employment, lifelong learning and access to essential services.

Source: National Digital Inclusion Alliance (NDIA)
https://www.digitalinclusion.org/definitions/

The Children's **Partnership**

Los Angeles County
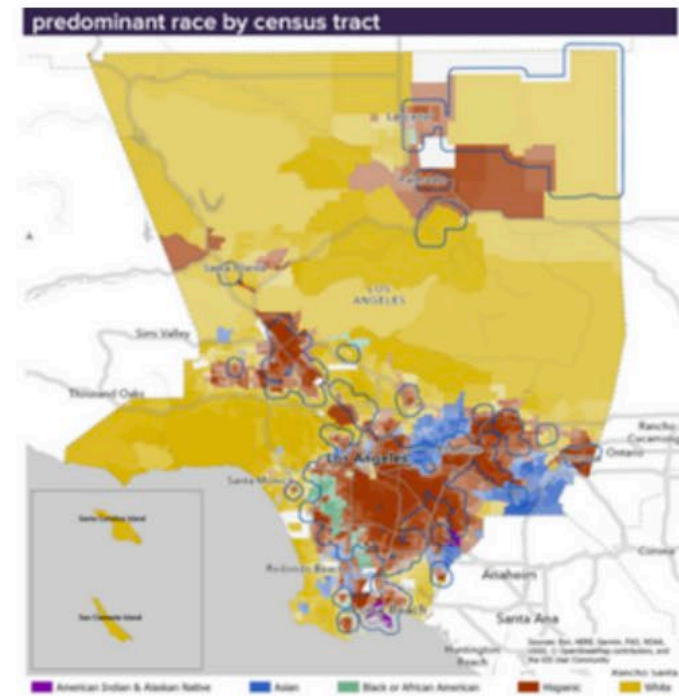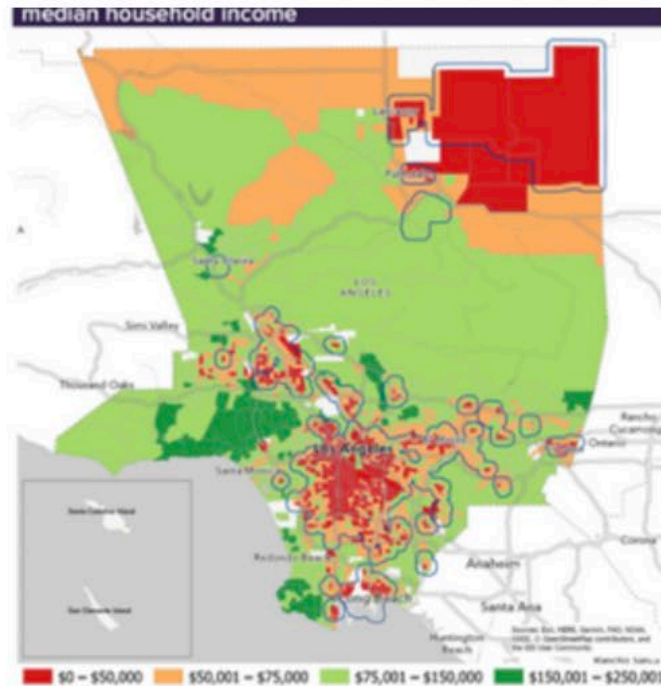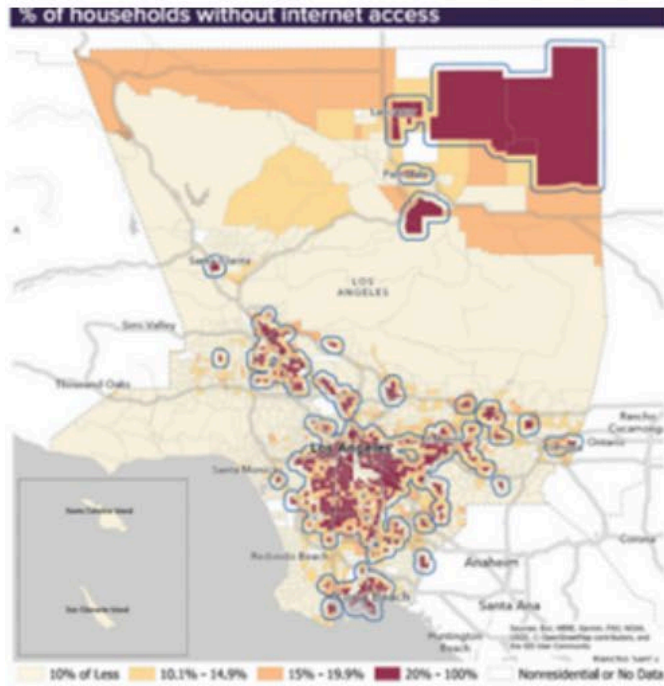
Three Core Pillars of Digital Equity

Reliable, Affordable Broadband
82% of CA children — or more than 1.3 million kids — who lack high-speed internet at home are BIPOC.

Adequate Devices
8% of Latinx residents do not have computers or tablets but rely solely on phones to connect to the internet, compared to just 4% of white residents.

Digital Literacy Skills & Supports
Nearly 50% of Spanish-speaking families with children stated in a survey that they did not know how to receive medical services online or by phone.

The Children's Partnership

Opportunities Enabled by Digital Equity

Health Care Services
Telehealth services, virtual check-ins

Education
Distance learning, online educational platforms

Economic Security
Earnings, job search tools, jobs requiring digital skills

Stable Housing and Public Benefits
Housing search, public benefits applications

The Children's Partnership

Marissa Montano, PhD (she/her)
Director of Policy, Insure the Uninsured Project (ITUP)

The Basics: Addressing Digital Equity for Better Health Outcomes

Why Focus on Digital Equity?

- **Our Goal:** Achieve an Equitable and Accessible Health System by Closing the Digital Divide
- **Needed to Fulfill the Potential of:**
  - Telehealth and Virtual Care
  - Health Information Exchange
  - Health Access and Equity
  - Future Health Innovations
- **Address the Social Determinants of Health**

The future of health care and health care innovation is grounded in technology and connectivity.

Historic, One-Time $6 Billion Investment in Broadband [1]

+

Policy Change Making Telehealth a Permanent Health Care Delivery Tool in Medi-Cal [2]

=

Opportunity for More Accessible Health Care and Better Health Outcomes

Federal & State Regulation of Broadband

Federal Communications Commission (FCC)

The FCC is the federal agency that sets the standards for broadband speeds and collects broadband data. Per the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), the FCC is tasked with adopting final rules to facilitate equal access to broadband services that prevent digital discrimination and promotes equal access to robust broadband internet service. The cross-agency Task Force to Prevent Digital Discrimination oversees the development of model policies and best practices that states and local governments can adopt to ensure internet service providers (ISPs) do not engage in digital discrimination.[4]

National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA)

The NTIA is the federal agency that advises the President on telecommunications and information policy issues. The NTIA established anchor institutions and helps establish broadband infrastructure through various programs such as, the Digital Equity Act (DEA), and Broadband Equity Access and Deployment (BEAD). NTIA's Broadband Infrastructure Program is a $288 million broadband deployment program directed to partnerships between a state and providers to support broadband infrastructure deployment to areas lacking broadband, especially in rural areas.

California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC)

The CPUC is the state government entity that initiates rulemaking and regulations and oversees the implementation of many broadband investments, including broadband infrastructure and collecting broadband accessibility data. The CPUC makes broadband data publicly available to inform public policies intended to direct broadband projects equitably.[5]

California Department of Technology (CDT)

The CDT is the state government entity of public data, has broad responsibility and authority over all aspects of technology in California state government including oversight of the Broadband for All Initiative. CDT's Office of Broadband and Digital Literacy manages the statewide ecosystem of individuals and organizations dedicated to closing the digital divide.

California Engagement Opportunities

- California Broadband for All Initiative
  - California Broadband Council (CBC)
    - Wednesday, July 26, 2023 at 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
    - Wednesday, October 25, 2023 at 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 am.
  - Middle-Mile Advisory Committee (MMAC)
    - Friday, July 21, 2023 at 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
    - Friday, October 20, 2023 at 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
- California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC)
  - Broadband, Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Rulemaking
    - R.23-02-016

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California Engagement Opportunities

- **State Digital Equity Plan (SDEP)**
  - **Outcome Area Working Groups (OAWGs)**
    - Health
      - Thursday, June 15, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
    - Digital Literacy
      - Wednesday, June 14, 2023 at 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
  - **Statewide Planning Group Meetings (SPG)**
    - Wednesday, July 26, 2023 at 12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.
    - Wednesday, October 25, 2023 at 12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.
  - **Regional Meetings**
  - **California State Digital Equity Plan Public Survey**

California State Digital Equity Planning (SDEP) Timeline
Important milestones for State Digital Equity Planning:

Addressing Digital Barriers to Health in California Communities

- Regional Collaborations
  - Create, Lead or Join a Local Consortium
- Leveraging Health Care Infrastructure and Workforce to Address Digital Barriers to Health
  - Serving as an Anchor Institution
  - Community Health Workers as Digital Navigators
- Data Collection to Identify Digital Barriers to Health
- Outreach and Enrollment in the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP)

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Fireside Chat: Activating Health Leaders to Advocate for Digital Equity

Marissa Montano, PhD (she/her), Director of Policy
Insure the Uninsured Project (ITUP)

KaBria A. Payden (she/her), Legislative Assistant
Assemblymember Chris Holden, 41st District

Kevin Shimamoto, MBA (he/him), Vice President and Advisor to
the Chief Information Officer
Valley Children's Hospital

TCP Digital Equity Policy Priorities

Call to Action: 2023-2024 Policy Priorities

Concerted policy action at all levels of government — together with action from schools, social service agencies, business and other entities — will be needed to close the digital divide. We have an unprecedented opportunity to make progress toward this goal in the next several years.

The US Congress should:

Renew funding for the Affordable Connectivity Program, which provides $30/month to low-income families. Additional funding should be paired with measures to ensure the program's implementation equitably prioritizes high-speed, home internet service in the communities that need it most and ensures equitable pricing and service are provided to low-income families.

The US Federal Communications Commission (FCC) should:

Establish clear definitions and rules on digital discrimination that hold internet service providers and others accountable for the impact on communities of color, low-income communities and others impacted by digital redlining.

The California Legislature should:

Pass AB 41, the Digital Equity in Video Franchising Act (DEVFA) (Holden), to create greater accountability for cable broadband providers who perpetuate digital redlining and improve affordability and service for customers through enhanced public oversight and stronger anti-discrimination standards.

Pass AB 286, Broadband Infrastructure Mapping (Wood), to require more granular reporting of broadband mapping at the address level to understand the nuances of broadband adoption and ensure that investments can be targeted to address digital inequities most effectively.

Pass AB 1588, the Affordable Internet and Net Equality Act (Wilson), to require internet service providers that contract with state agencies to provide consumer internet services to recipients of public benefits at affordable prices and guaranteed speeds.

Pass AB 1714, Broadband as a Public Utility (Wood), to allow the state to regulate internet service similarly to other essential public goods — like electricity, water and sewer — providing the oversight needed to ensure the greatest possible access at reasonable prices and with clear standards for quality service, such as speed and reliability. (AB 1714 has been made a 2-year bill by the author and no action will be taken before January 2024.)

The CA Department of Technology (CDT) should:

Fully consider the needs of children and youth of color as part of the California State Digital Equity Planning (SDEP) process and final recommendations by prioritizing the inclusion of youth and youth-serving organizations and including a youth impact assessment or similar analysis in its final report.

The CA Department of Education (CDE) should:

Finalize and release guidelines required under AB 2315 (Quirk-Silva) for the use of telehealth technology in public schools to provide mental health services.

The California Health and Human Services Agency (CalHHS) should:

Leverage technology through program data sharing and systems interfacing to streamline access to services so that when families enroll in one program, like Medi-Cal, they are automatically enrolled in other programs they qualify for, like WIC and Cal-Fresh.

The CA Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) should:

Clarify that community health worker/promotora services that support members in effectively using telehealth to access health care are considered preventive services and covered by Medi-Cal.

Clarify that telehealth appointments that include an interpreter should by default be scheduled for longer than if the same appointment were being scheduled without a translator.

Clarify that Medi-Cal managed care plans (MCPs) have the responsibility to provide all telehealth-related documentation in threshold languages.

The Children's Partnership

**Letter from Health Leaders
in Support of AB 41 to Advance Digital Equity**

Click here to sign on!

June XX, 2023

Senator Steven Bradford, Chair
Senate Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Communications
1021 O Street, Room 3350
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: Health Leaders SUPPORT for Assembly Bill 41 (Holden)**

Dear Chair Bradford,

We are writing as organizations and community leaders working to advance health equity in our communities to express our strong support for AB 41 (Holden), which would advance digital equity in California

Digital equity is a core social driver of health for our communities. The systems crucial to the wellbeing of families are increasingly dependent upon digital infrastructure: schools and learning, doctor visits and health care services, skills training, housing and job applications, workforce development resources, and more.

tinyurl.com/HealthLeaders4DigitalEquity
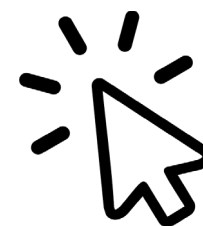
Thank you!
Complete the Event Evaluation

Organizers Contact Information:

Marissa@itup.org

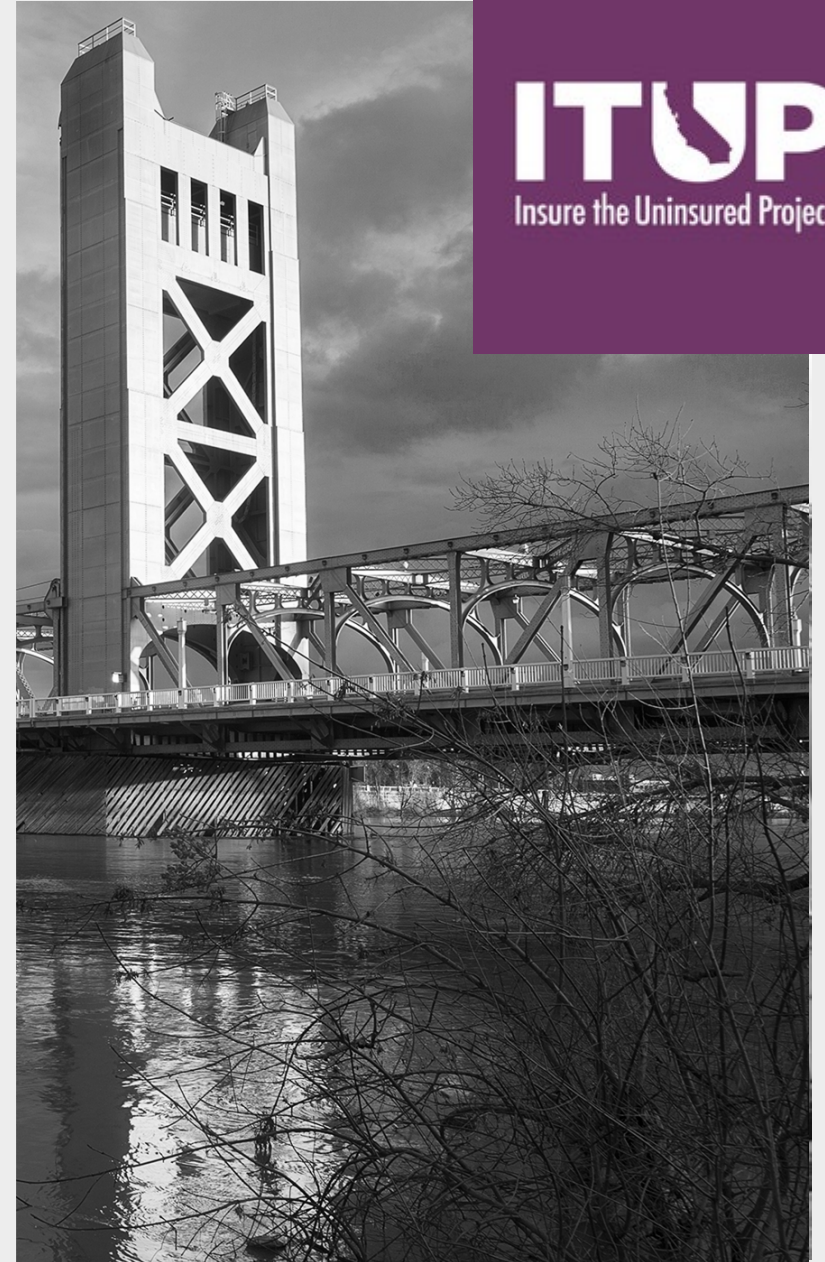mribble@childrenspartnership.org

Attachment D

Ensuring Equitable Health Coverage and Access in Pandemic Recovery

Crispin Delgado, MPP (he/him), Executive Director

Marissa Montano, PhD (she/her), Director of Policy

ITUP Mission & Vision

Mission

ITUP's mission is to promote innovative and workable policy solutions that expand health care access and improve the health of all Californians. ITUP implements its mission through policy-focused research and broad-based stakeholder engagement.

Vision

ITUP believes that all Californians should have a fair opportunity to live their healthiest lives.

ITUP Values

ITUP Seeks a Health Care System that is:

Universal – All Californians are eligible for comprehensive health coverage and services, including primary, specialty, behavioral, oral, and vision health services, as well as services that address the social determinants of health.

Equitable – All Californians receive health care coverage, treatment, and services that address the social determinants of health regardless of health status, age, ability, income, language, race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, immigration status, and geographic region.

Accessible – All Californians have access to coverage options and services that are available, timely, and appropriate.

Effective – Health, health care, and related services that address the social determinants of health are person-centered, value-based, coordinated, and high-quality.

Affordable – Coverage and services are affordable for consumers at the point of purchase and care; and, at the health system level for public and private purchasers

The work continues…

Understanding the impact of COVID-19

+/- Policy changes

+/- Budgets

COVERAGE

Explore Policy Solutions for the Remaining Uninsured & Underinsured

Access to Health Care Including Behavioral Health and Specialty Care

ACCESS

MODERNIZATION

Set a Vision for the Future of Health

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Health Care Is Local

Coverage → Making Care Accessible → Addressing the Social Determinants of Health → Culturally Competent, Equitable, Quality Care → Better Health Outcomes

California's Culture of Coverage
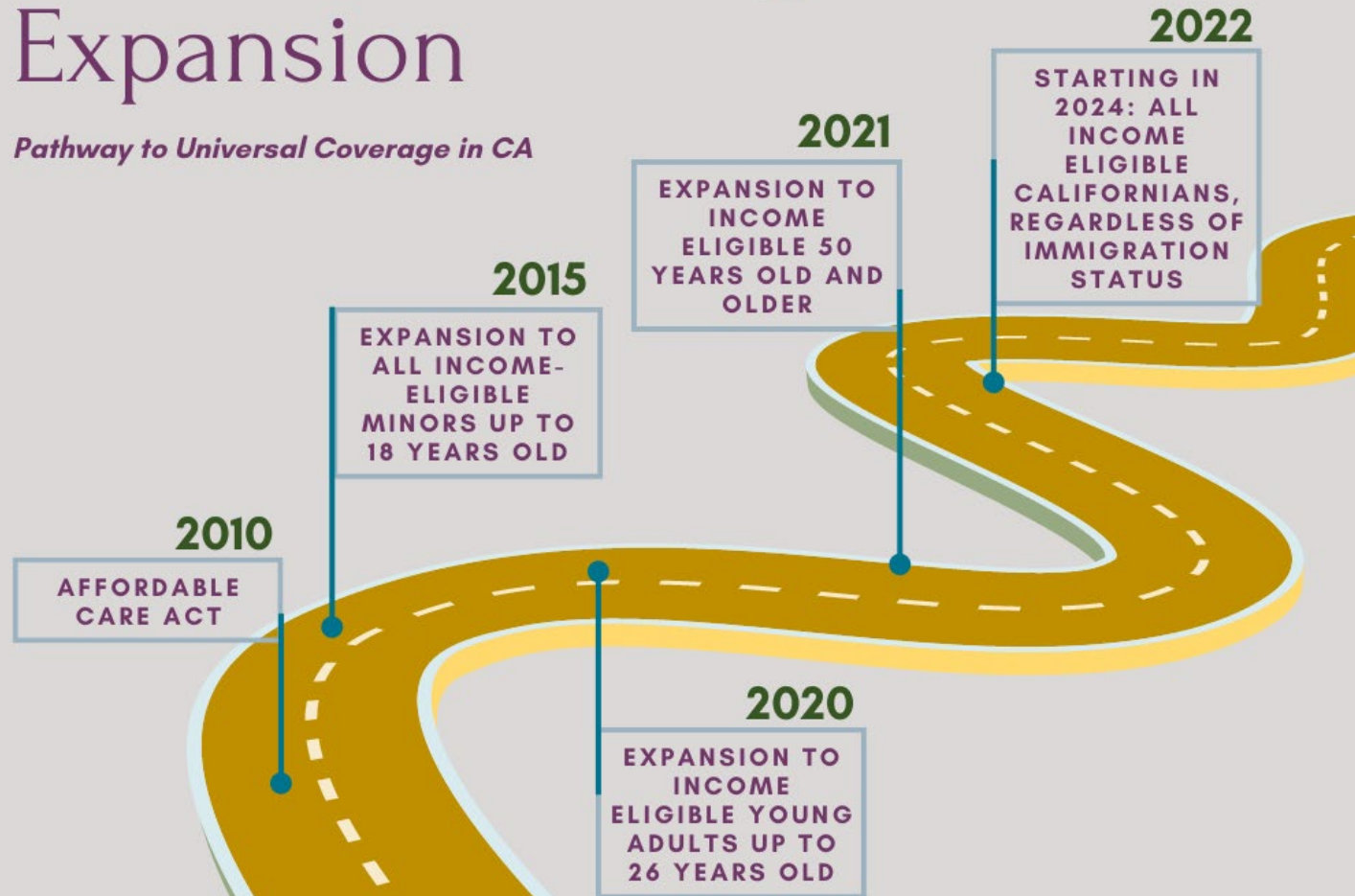
Redetermination is a vulnerability in the progress so far, and the upcoming efforts to close the remaining coverage gaps in California.

Impact of Redetermination on Enrollment

- There are currently over 15 million enrolled in Medi-Cal
- DHCS Projects that following redetermination there will be 12.8 million enrolled in Medi-Cal, resulting in 2 to 3 million people dropping off of Medi-Cal coverage
- Opportunity to screen for eligibility for other services
- Communities of color have the highest risk of falling through the cracks in redetermination

Impact of Redetermination on Enrollment

Poll Question

Who are the patients/communities that you serve that you think will be most impacted by redetermination?

Menti.com   use code 4290 6525

What are the solutions you have planned to reach these communities?

Learning from Coverage Expansion: Effective Outreach Strategies

- Early Outreach in California

- Leveraging Trusted Messengers

- Participating in Community-Led Events

- Frequent, Community-Based Messaging Campaigns

- Pairing Enrollment Outreach with Education and Additional Resources

Leveraging the Opportunity to Get Medi-Cal Members Connected

- While the pandemic is "over" it is important the message the value of ongoing coverage

- Ensure each re-enrollee understands their benefits and how to access care

- This is a critical point to re-engage patients in their health, understanding that continuity and connectedness are the drivers of patient engagement

Why Broadband and Connectivity?

- **Health Care is Increasingly Reliant on Broadband and Technology.**
- **Connectivity and Access to Devices is** Needed to Fulfill the Potential of:
  - Telehealth and Virtual Care
  - Health Information Exchange
  - Health Access and Equity
  - Future Health Innovations
- **Address the Social Determinants of Health**, including economic mobility and education
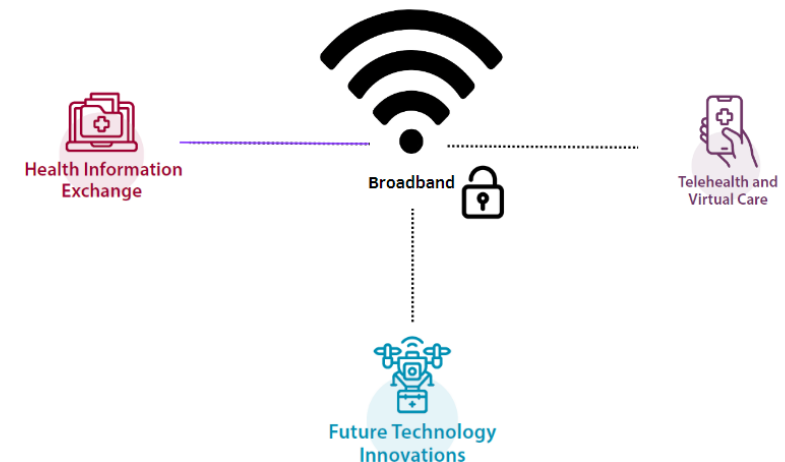
Immediate Broadband Solution: The Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP)

- Federally funded and administered by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Program
- Permanent extension of the federal Emergency Broadband Benefit (EBB)
- Subsidizes internet and devices for low-income families
- Complimentary to the federal Lifeline Program which is specific for mobile phone connectivity

Eligible households can receive:
- Up to **$30/month** discount for broadband service and associated equipment rentals;
- Up to **$75/month** discount for households on Tribal lands
- Up to **$100** for an appropriate device, where ISPs participate

Who Qualifies for ACP?

A household (HH) is eligible if a member of the household meets *one* of the criteria below:

- Participates in one specific assistance programs, such as Medi-Cal, WIC, CalFresh, or Lifeline.
  Tip: Lifeline recipients can skip the application.

- Has income that is at 200% or below the Federal Poverty Level.
  Tip: For a family of 4, it is $55,500 or less a year.

- Receives a Pell Grant in the current school year.

- Has a child at a Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) designated school, which is a subset of the Free and Reduced Lunch Program. *Tip: The school will be listed in the application if is part of the CEP.*

Number of People in Household	Gross Monthly Income Eligibility Standards 200% Federal Poverty Level Maximum Gross Income Allowed	Annual Income Eligibility for 200% Federal Poverty Level Gross Income
1	$2,265	$27,180
2	$3,052	$36,620
3	$3,838	$46,060
4	$4,625	$55,500
5	$5,412	$64,940
6	$6,198	$74,380
7	$6,985	$83,820
8	$7,772	$93,260
Each Additional Member	$787	$9,440

Preparing to Apply

You Need:

- ❑ A valid email address that can be accessed to check on status of the ACP application.

- ❑ Your first and last name and date of birth must match on these 3:
  - ✓ Identity documents
  - ✓ ACP Application
  - ✓ Internet Service Provider (ISP) Account

- ❑ Your proof of eligibility documents, e.g.
  - Monthly Statement from Lifeline, Medi-Cal, CalFresh
  - Proof of Participation in National School Lunch Program (NSLP) at a CEP designated school
  - Pell Grant Award Letter

FCC List

- Social Security Number (**not** required)
- Tribal Identification Number
- U.S. Driver's License
- Other Government-issued ID, e.g. state ID
- U.S. Military ID
- Passport (Current from any country)
- Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN)
- Matricula (Mexican Government ID Card)
- VISA Consular Card (Country Issued ID)
- Birth Certificate (Any Country) for the minor that is the Benefit Qualifying Person (BQP)

Sample Messages for Assisting Consumers

- Would you like to save money on your Internet bill? In some cases it might even be free. Look at this flyer and call the phone number to see if you can sign up for $30 a month discount. Nobody will ask you if you are documented. Please don't miss this opportunity and call today.

- Did you know you might be able to get a free mobile phone and free or low-cost home Internet that is actually fast? Here is more info. Call the number and the community group that answers can be very helpful, and they will not ask you if you are documented. Please don't miss this opportunity and call today.

- Let me give you some information about how to qualify for very low-cost – in some cases even free – home Internet. Just call this phone number and a community group can help you apply. They can tell how to get a $30 a month discount on most Internet services. Some companies offer 100 mbps, with unlimited data for home Internet. Please don't miss this opportunity and call today.

How to Get Your Community Connected

- Call toll-free **(323) 801-8220**, for help.
- You will reach staff at community organizations around the state who have a team of Digital Navigators who are experienced with helping people get:
  - The ACP Benefit
  - Affordable Internet Service
  - Low-Cost Devices
  - Digital Literacy Training

- [Enroll in ACP](#):
- Need a Low-Cost Computer or Digital Skills Training? Visit:
  - https://www.internetforallnow.org/devices
  - www. Human I-T.org

Getting This Information Out to You Communities

- Social Media Posts
- Outreach and Enrollment Events with Partners
- Leveraging Community Health Worker Networks
- Distributing Flyers:
  - Email
  - Newsletters
  - Website Banners and Info

Continue the Conversation!

- Register [HERE](#) for the 2023 ITUP Regional Workgroups!
  - Tuesday, July 18 at 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.
    - Central Valley (Fresno, Inyo, Kern, Kings, Madera, Mariposa, Merced, Mono, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Tuolumne, and Tulare Counties)
  - Tuesday, August 22 at 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.
    - North Central (Alpine, Amador, Calaveras, El Dorado, Napa, Placer, Sacramento, Solano, Sonoma, and Yolo Counties)

Questions?

Thank you!

crispin@itup.org

marissa@itup.org

@itup

@InsuretheUninsuredProject

@InsuretheUninsuredProject

www.itup.org