

# California Broadband Council

February 18, 2021

Meeting Minutes

The California Broadband Council (CBC) met on Thursday, February 18, 2021 at 10:00am via virtual conference (per [California Executive Order N-25-20](#)).

## Agenda Item 1 – Welcome

California Department of Technology Designee Richard Rogers welcomed everyone on behalf of Chair Amy Tong.

Mr. Rogers thanked outgoing State Librarian Designee Anne Neville-Bonilla and outgoing Department of Food and Agriculture Designee Arturo Barajas and welcomed State Librarian Greg Lucas, new State Librarian Designee Laura Sasaki, and new Department of Food and Agriculture Designee Rachel O'Brien.

## Roll Call

A quorum was established for the meeting.

Member	Designee	Present	Absent
California Department of Technology Director	Amy Tong	Richard Rogers	X
California Public Utilities Commission President	Marybel Batjer	Rob Osborn	X
California Office of Emergency Services Director	Mark Ghilarducci	Patrick Mallon	X
Superintendent of Public Instruction	Tony Thurmond	Jerry Winkler*	X
Department of General Services Director	Daniel Kim	Brent Jamison	X
California State Transportation Agency Secretary	David Kim	Marci Khabody	X
California Emerging Technology Fund President	Sunne Wright McPeak		X
California Department of Food and Agriculture	Karen Ross	Rachel O'Brien	X
State Librarian	Greg Lucas		X

Governor’s Office of the Tribal Advisor	Christina Snider		X	
Member of the Senate	Ben Hueso	Sarah Smith	X	
Member of the Assembly	Mike Gipson	Dr. Angelo Williams	X	

\*Mr. Winkler arrived immediately after Roll Call.

Mr. Rogers transitioned the meeting to California Public Utilities Chair Robert Osborn to fill in as Chair in Ms. Tong’s absence.

Mr. Osborn provided an overview of the status of federal broadband funding and reviewed the meeting agenda.

Mr. Rogers announced that California Department of Technology Deputy Director for Broadband and Digital Literacy Stephanie Tom would be leaving her current position. He expressed his and Chair Tong’s appreciation for her work. Mr. Rogers, Adelina Zendejas, an Ellen Ishimoto will be filling in for Ms. Tom until there is a replacement for her role. Council members thanked Ms. Tom for her service. Ms. Tom thanked the Council members, staff, partner agencies, and stakeholders for their commitment and sharing their expertise.

**Agenda Item 2 – California Broadband For All Action Plan Dedication**

Anne Neville-Bonilla and Dr. Angelo Williams presented the [Broadband for All Action Plan](#) dedication [Action Plan Page 1] to the late Honorable Gwen Moore. They thanked Ms. Moore’s former staff members and colleagues for attending the meeting to hear the dedication and spoke about Ms. Moore’s visionary commitment to justice, equity, and affordability, as well as how those principles guide the work of the Broadband Council.

Carolyn Veal-Hunter, Thurman White, and Senator Steven Bradford acknowledged the importance of Ms. Moore’s work; noted their appreciation for the Council’s recognition of Ms. Moore and her efforts on justice, equity, and affordability; and urged the Council to continue to work in the spirit of equitable access that Ms. Moore championed throughout her life and career.

**Agenda Item 3 – Action Plan Execution**

Stephanie Tom provided an update on the implementation of the Broadband Action Plan.

Council staff is working with the agencies/departments assigned Action Plan items. Short-term Action Plan items are those which are expected to be completed within two years and long-term items are those expected to be completed within five years. It is expected that all the items will be initiated during this calendar year.

Ms. Tom thanked staff and partner agencies/departments for their work.

#### **Agenda Item 4 – CDT Statewide Technology Procurement (STP) initiative updates impacting broadband**

State Parks and Recreation and California Department of Technology representatives Patrick Dennis and Tiffany Angulo provided an overview of, and answered questions about, the Statewide Rural Connectivity Invitation for bid, with the goal of expanding broadband connectivity to rural areas to expand services to the public. Questions should be directed to [raman.pabla@state.ca.gov](mailto:raman.pabla@state.ca.gov).

Council members thanked Mr. Dennis and Ms. Angulo, commented on their presentation, and asked questions.

#### **Agenda Item 5 – Closing the Digital Divide for the Aging Population**

California Department of Aging Chief Deputy Director Mark Beckley provided an overview of the status of [Executive Order N-73-20](#) Item #15: The California Department of Aging, in partnership with CDT and CPUC, is directed to analyze the needs of people ages 60 and over for access to affordable, reliable, high-speed broadband, and to identify program and partnership opportunities to close the digital divide among older Californians. The Department has identified gaps and is actively engaged in partnerships to close the digital divide for people ages 60 and over in the state, focusing on social isolation and access to telehealth. Mr. Beckley thanked the Council and its staff for their work and answered questions.

Council members thanked Mr. Beckley, commented on his presentation, and asked questions.

#### **Agenda Item 6 – Public Comment**

Public comments/questions were made by:

- Patricia L Jones.
- Kevin Hostert.
- Greg Cook.
- Louise.

The meeting adjourned at 11:40am.

Attachments:

- Zoom meeting comments.
- Statewide Rural Connectivity Invitation for Bid presentation.
- Closing the Digital Divide for the Aging Population presentation.
- June 2020 Declaration of Gwen Moore.

## Zoom Comments

10:01:11 From Stephanie Tom : Good Morning Everyone! Thank you for attending this morning.

10:02:44 From Joy Atkinson : Want to thank the Ca Broadband Council for honoring the late, great Assemblywoman Gwen Moore.

10:07:24 From Marcie Kahbody : Thank you Stephanie for all your hard work!

10:08:12 From Mike Hewitt : Congrats Stephanie!

10:09:24 From Dr. Angelo Williams : Congrats Stephanie

10:10:14 From Laura Sasaki : Thank you, Stephanie, for all your hard work on broadband and for the Council. Congrats!

10:13:05 From Stephanie Tom : Dedication to Asm. Gwen Moore on page 1 of the Broadband for All Action Plan:

This Broadband for All Action Plan is dedicated to the memory of the late Honorable Gwen Moore. She was the fourth African American woman elected to the California Legislature in 1978. Assemblywoman Moore led transformative changes to California's telecommunication policies during her 16-year career in the legislature, 12 of which were as Chair of the Utilities and Commerce Committee. Assemblywoman Moore not only crafted the state's Universal Service Act, bringing affordable telephone access to all Californians—she also imagined a California in which residents could all benefit from access to the internet, even proposing a statewide ISDN network in 1993. In a state that has led the world's technology innovations, the California Broadband Council remains grateful to a leader who believed and left a legacy of work to ensure all Californians should have equal and equitable access to these innovations and opportunities.

10:51:44 From Stephanie Tom : Thank you Patrick and Tiffany for your leadership! This is the type and level of engagement and focus we need to move the needle forward.

11:21:00 From CLINT : some folks are simply going to prefer calling in

11:24:51 From Patricia L Jones : Are the power point presentations going to be available after the meeting is concluded?

11:25:43 From Kevin Hostert : I have a quick comment

11:26:38 From Jules : Council web site <https://broadbandcouncil.ca.gov/>

11:30:00 From Jules : CDT procurement contact [raman.pabla@state.ca.gov](mailto:raman.pabla@state.ca.gov)

11:33:59 From Jacqueline Kinney : local governments can apply for CASF grants

11:36:22 From Louise : @Gregg Cook - for CASF Inquiries, send questions to "CASF\_Application\_Questions@cpuc.ca.gov", one of my staff will get back to you.

11:37:20 From Louise : CASF Infrastructure Grant Account info:  
<https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/General.aspx?id=8246>

11:38:38 From Louise : CPUC Consortia Info at:  
<https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/General.aspx?id=870>



California  
DEPARTMENT OF TECHNOLOGY



# Statewide Rural Connectivity (SRC) Invitation For Bid

Presented by

Tiffany Angulo (CDT Statewide Technology Procurement– Assistant Deputy Director)

Patrick Dennis (DPR- Chief Information Officer)

February 18, 2021

# CDT & DPR Partnership on Procurement Support



- › Identify opportunities to promote broadband deployment in unserved and underserved areas of the state consistent with Broadband Executive Order, and Broadband Action Plan.
- › Multi-departmental collaboration to target applicable IT/Telecom solicitation categories/programs by leveraging the State's buying power.
- › Provide for vendor incentive to participate in promotion of broadband.



# Business Need (Challenges)

## Challenges

- › State Agencies/departments share similar challenges supporting their administrative, operational and public safety applications throughout rural areas of the state based on major bandwidth limitations in their existing networks.
- › In order to drastically improve the current rural network inefficiencies, it would cost agencies/departments millions of dollars in up-front capital expense major construction activity, and years to build out traditional network infrastructure to those rural areas throughout the state.





# Project Background

In early 2020, CA Parks and CDT initiated discovery process in looking at options other than traditional terrestrial landline based technologies to deliver broadband services into remote areas of the state. The team used the following criteria to research companies in helping solve the shared business and technical challenges.

- › **No up-front cost**
  - › Benefit: no capital expense required by agency/departments
- › **Monthly managed service fee includes installation of all H/S, 24/7 helpdesk, technology refresh, restoration of services, ongoing maintenance, and a web-based reporting/analytical tool**
  - › Benefit: model meets operational budget goals and helps departments stay under their delegated spending authority
- › **Fixed wireless technology**
  - › Benefit: less disruptive than installing traditional terrestrial landline services (i.e., trenches, etc.)
- › **Provide broadband minimum speeds of 25Mbps download and 3Mbps upload defined by the Federal Communication Commission (FCC)**
  - › Benefit: supports new telework initiatives, video arraignments, public safety initiatives, virtual incident command centers, etc.
- › **Installation of service within 6 – 8 weeks**
  - › Benefit: service delivery is much faster than traditional terrestrial custom design-built networks

# Statewide Collaboration



DPR was nominated as the sponsor department to lead the procurement efforts and stakeholder findings/meetings.

DPR assembled the workgroup of interested state entities, scheduled a series of stakeholder meetings that were co-hosted by DPR/CDT and included representation from the following state entities:

CA Department of Parks and Recreation	Cal Fire
CA Conservation Corp.	CA Fish & Wildlife
CA Recycle	CA Natural Resources Agency
CA Highway Patrol	CA Dept. of Transportation
CA Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation	CA Correctional Healthcare Services
CA Office of Emergency Services	CA Employment Development Department
CA Environmental Protection Agency	CA Judicial Council



# IFB Development Process/Activities

## CA Parks Sponsor Agency

- › Led the discovery process and Market Research
- › Worked with CDT to draft the IFB and incorporated the stakeholder functional requirements (business and technical) from discovery
- › Manages the business and technical requirements reviews

## Stakeholder Workgroup

Several meeting were held over several months to discuss and refine;

- › IFB goals/expectations
- › Procurement process & Statewide Methodology
- › Shared use cases
- › Refined functional/technical requirements



## Outcomes & Availability

Expanded broadband connectivity to rural areas to expand services to public.

### Examples Include:

- › Access to Public Safety Services
- › Expanded Point of Sale Function in rural State Parks locations
- › Rural Connectivity for Fire Command Camps

Available to all public Sector Entities.



# IFB Highlights

## › Project name

- › Statewide Rural Connectivity

## › Procurement type

- › Invitation to Bid (IFB) – PCC 6611
- › Multiple vendor award
- › 8-year base term with (2) one-year options to renew at States request

## › Key action dates

- › Release of IFB: January 29th, 2021
- › Final bids due: March 19th, 2021
- › Contract execution: On or before May 3rd, 2021

## › IFB Evaluation

- › Administrative – pass/fail
- › Technical – pass/fail
- › Cost Evaluation - points
- › End goal to procure a fully managed statewide “Fixed Wireless Broadband” connectivity service with a multiple vendor award.



# IFB Questions

- › Direct any question to CDT Procurement:

Raman Pabla

Senior Procurement Officer

Email: [Raman.Pabla@state.ca.gov](mailto:Raman.Pabla@state.ca.gov)

**THANK YOU**



# **California Department of Aging's Approach to Bridging the Digital Divide**

**Mark Beckley**  
**Chief Deputy Director**  
**California Department of Aging**



# CDA Digital Divide: Background

Governor Newsom issued Executive Order N-73-20 on August 14, 2020

- “The California Broadband Council is requested to create a new State Broadband Action Plan”
- “The California Department of Aging, in partnership with CDT and CPUC, is directed to analyze the needs of people ages 60 and older for access to affordable, reliable, high-speed broadband, and to identify program and partnership opportunities to close the digital divide among older Californians.”



## **CDA Digital Divide: Background**

The Humana Foundation, in partnership with Older Adults Technology Services (OATS), released a report in January 2021 finding that nearly 22 million older Americans still lack wireline broadband access at home, representing 42 percent of the nation's over-65 population.

<https://agingconnected.org/report>

# CDA Digital Divide: Background

## Other Key Findings from the Humana/OATS Report:

### Lack of Internet Access and Income

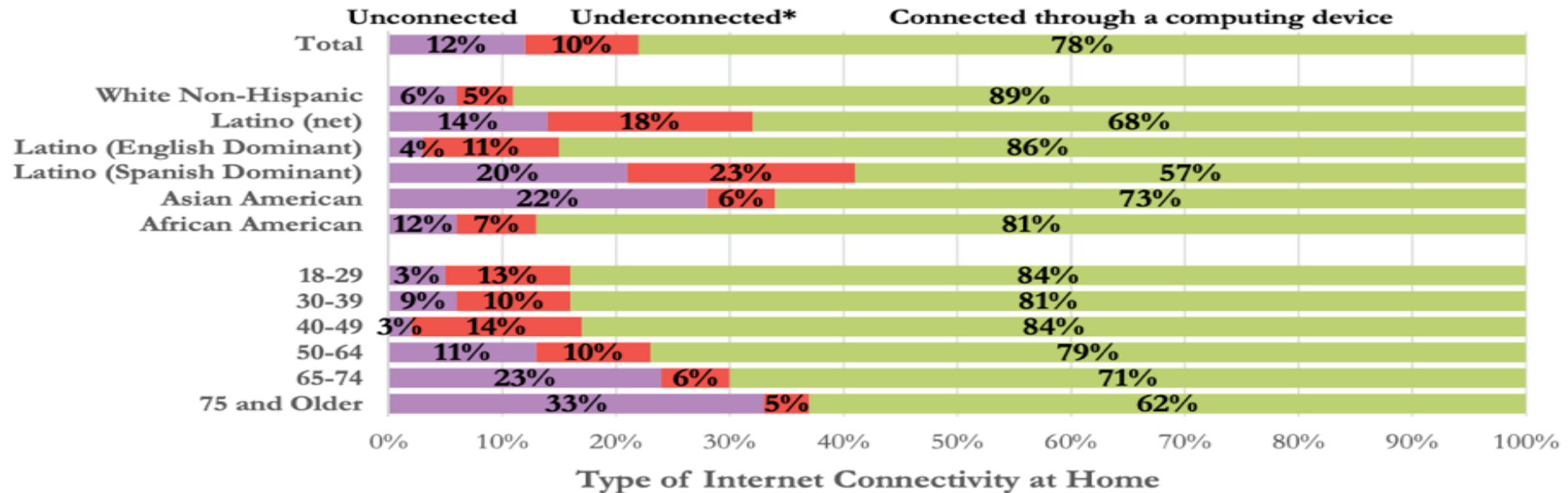
- Medicaid enrollees are 2.7 times more likely to be offline
- Older adults with less than a high school diploma or incomes below \$25K are 10 times more likely to be offline

### Lack of Internet Access and Equity

- Those with functional impairments are twice as likely to be offline.
- Black and Latino seniors are 2.5 and 3.3 times, respectively, to be offline.

# CDA Digital Divide: Background

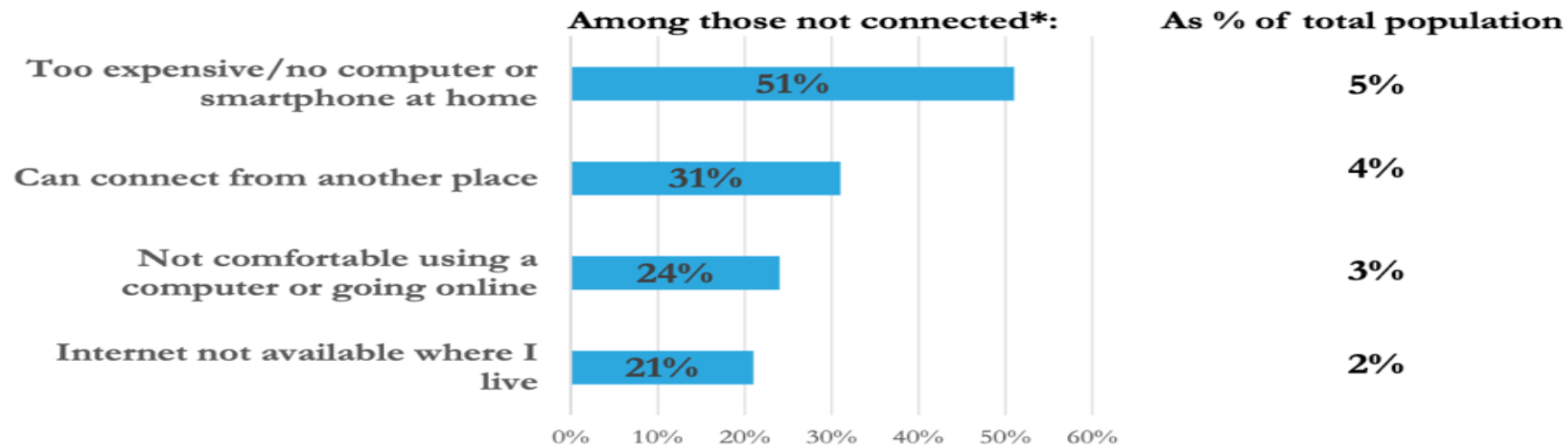
Table 4a  
**Type of Internet Connectivity within California Households across Demographic Subgroups: (1) Age and Race/Ethnicity**



\*Connected through a smartphone only

# CDA Digital Divide: Background

**Table 6**  
**Self-Reported Reasons for Lack of Internet Connectivity at Home**

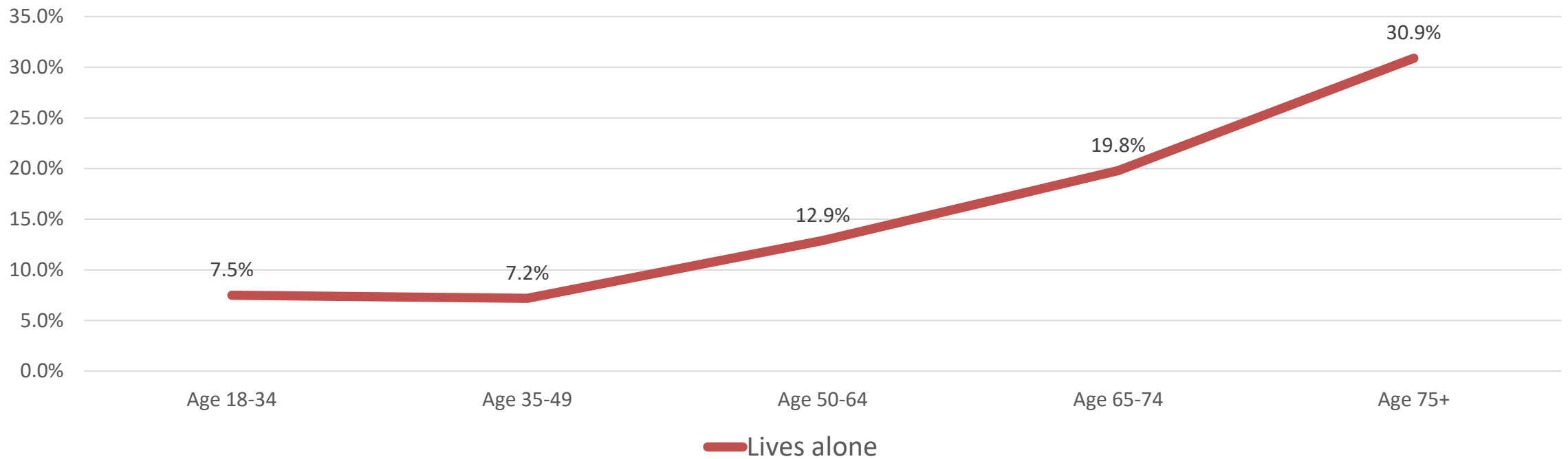


*\*Percentages add to more than 100% due to multiple mentions*

# CDA Digital Divide: Background

## Percent of CA Adults Who Live Alone, by Age Group

Source: California Health Interview Survey, 2018



# CDA Digital Divide Project #1: Google Smart Speakers

- Google donate 8,573 smart speaker devices to CDA
- Devices distributed to local Area Agencies on Aging and Multipurpose Senior Services Sites
- Devices will be distributed to low income older adults
- Devices will help with phone calls, calendaring, reminders, music and more
- Evaluations will measure success of project in reducing feelings of loneliness and isolation and providing assistance with daily tasks

# CDA Digital Divide Project #2: iPad Tablet Pilot

4,000 iPads purchased from AT&T using CARES Act Funding

Includes:

- 2 year data plans
- Dedicated AT&T training and technical support to device recipients

Tablets Distributed to low income older adults who live alone and do not own a device.

CDA partnering with USC Graduate School of Gerontology to measure isolation reduction through readiness assessment, pre and post evaluations

## CDA Digital Divide: Service Delivery Transition

- March 2020 - CDA services rapidly pivoted from congregate settings to remote options
- April 2020 – CDA worked with our local service providers to provide information and trainings to providers and families to assist older adults and caregivers to get online
- Information and resources are available on CDA's Digital Divide Page: [https://aging.ca.gov/covid19/Digital\\_Divide/](https://aging.ca.gov/covid19/Digital_Divide/)



# CDA Digital Divide: Service Delivery Transition

- Services transitioned from in-person to virtual delivery for two of the programs CDA oversees: Community Based Adult Services (CBAS) (Adult Day Health Centers) and Multipurpose Senior Services Program (MSSP) (In-Home Health Support).
- The federal government allowed health services for these programs to be delivered via telehealth, with exceptions, during the COVID pandemic.
- The federal government also allowed social and physical activities related to CBAS centers to be delivered virtually via online audio and web conferencing platforms.
- This model has proven to be effective and CDA and DHCS are requesting that the federal government allow for a hybrid service delivery model post the COVID pandemic.


## Other Projects/Partnerships to Bridge the Digital Divide

- Partnering with a foundation on a digital education/literacy project
- Continuing to seek additional philanthropic opportunities for device donations
- Exploring low-cost data plans and plan subsidies for low-income older adults
- Exploring other technology and partnerships such as electronic pets, fall detection devices, and partnerships with local access tv stations to produce more age-friendly content.



**Thank you!**

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## DECLARATION OF GWEN MOORE

1. My name is Gwen Moore, President CEO of GeM Communications Group. I proudly served as an elected Assembly member in the California State Legislature from 1978 to 1994 representing the 49<sup>th</sup> District. During the time I served as an Assembly member, I chaired the Utilities and Commerce Committee for 12 years, During that time I authored the Moore Universal Telephone Service Act (the “Moore Act”) which passed into law in 1987.
2. The purpose of the Moore Act was to ensure that high-quality basic telephone service at affordable rates to the greatest number of citizens is available. The Act put into California law a means to achieve universal service by making basic telephone service affordable to low-income households through the creation of a LifeLine class of service. The Act also instructed the California Public Utilities Commission (“Commission”) and telephone providers to ensure that every household qualified to receive LifeLinee telephone service is informed of and given the opportunity to subscribe to that affordable telephone service. Finally, the Act provided that the furnishing of LifeLine telephone service is in the public interest and should be supported fairly and equitably by every telephone company and the Commission was responsible for the administration of the program. Since the Moore Act was passed 33 years ago in 1987, an era well before Internet usage being available to the general public, it did not include advanced information technologies like broadband.
3. I am providing this declaration to provide support to the position of the parties such as the California Emerging Technology Fund and others that are advocating for the addition of broadband Internet access service (“broadband”) to the California LifeLine program. I understand that some broadband providers have objected to this proposal, arguing that the Moore Act requires single-minded focus --or prioritization --on the provision of only basic telephone service. Also, some parties including the largest telephone companies and some of the large cable providers have argued that offering broadband should be on a voluntary basis only.
4. At this point 33 years after the Moore Act passage, it is my opinion that broadband has become an essential utility for residents to obtain necessary services: perform work; participate in distance learning; obtain health care and information; look for employment;

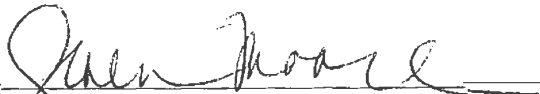
apply for higher education; express their political views; and participate in society and the economy. In my mind, without question, it is time that the LifeLine program acknowledge the central role broadband plays in our economy and our society and enable disadvantaged, low-income communities to obtain this essential utility. Thus, along with continuing support for voice service, I urge this Commission to immediately add broadband as a supported service option in the LifeLine program, not only for wireless providers but also for wireline providers like the incumbent telephone companies and the cable providers, all of whom provide the bulk of the wireline broadband services in the state.

5. For statutory support, I suggest that the Commission refer to California Public Utility Section 281(a) which established the California Advanced Service Fund and provides grants for rural broadband infrastructure and broadband adoption grants for those who are unconnected to the Internet. In that Public Utilities code section, the Legislature encouraged this Commission to deploy “high-quality advanced communications services to all Californians” including “the substantial social benefits of advanced information and communications technologies.” The reference to “all Californians” provides legal support for bringing broadband to participants of the California LifeLine program. Further the reference to “advanced information” technologies clearly encompasses broadband service. In my mind, this indicates a clear direction to this Commission to make advanced communications services available to all, which includes our most disadvantaged, low-income residents. This should include modern advanced information technologies such as broadband, and not be limited to dated traditional telephone technology.
  6. In 2016, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has already added broadband to the federal Lifeline program. In doing so, the FCC found that like telephone service in the last century, a broadband connection has become an essential tool for participating in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century economy. What is California waiting for? The Commission should follow the FCC’s lead, while ensuring that the values of our state of inclusion, affordability, and digital equity are upheld. There is ample data showing low-income households do not connect to the Internet due to affordability, lack of digital literacy, and the lack of a computing device.
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7. In closing, I point out that in light of the current pandemic emergency which may extend a number of months if not years, the disparity in Internet access at home has made the misery of the current situation far worse for those who are unconnected to the Internet. For the unemployed with school age children, a home Internet connection is a must for job search, for the children to connect to their teachers for home distance learning, and to obtain health information and instructions from the government during this serious health emergency. A mere telephone connection is inadequate for these functions. Connectivity and computer devices are essential for low-income persons during this unprecedented time. It is further well reported in the press that the pandemic has disproportionately impacted low-income persons and people of color.
8. I hereby make this declaration in support of the position by the California Emerging Technology Fund and others supporting adding broadband to the LifeLine program. I offer this declaration based on my own personal knowledge. I have conducted sufficient due diligence to be informed regarding these facts based on information from individuals from CETF with personal knowledge, I believe the facts presented in this Declaration are true and correct.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the facts represented herein are true and correct.

Executed this 25 day of June, 2020, at Los Angeles, California

  
Gwen Moore