

California's Commitment to Broadband for All

California is bridging the digital divide by facilitating equitable, affordable access to high-speed internet service in every corner of the state. New initiatives funded in the 2021-22 state budget build on and coordinate with existing efforts that began with the California Broadband Council.

The California Broadband Council

The [California Broadband Council](#) was established in 2010 to promote broadband adoption and deployment in unserved and underserved areas of the state. The Council identifies state resources, encourages public and private partnerships, and recommends strategic policy to establish effective structures for providing world-class, high-speed internet access throughout California to support emergency response and increase affordability and digital literacy.

Governor Newsom's Broadband Executive Order

In August 2020 Governor Newsom issued Executive Order [N-73-20](#) to take action to close the digital divide in California by improving connectivity around the state. The Executive Order also directed the Broadband Council to develop a new [Statewide Broadband Action Plan](#) to promote digital equity throughout California.

The 2020 Broadband Action Plan

Within four months of the Executive Order, the Broadband Council released the Action Plan to achieve three long-term goals for all Californians:

- Create access to high-performance broadband at home, schools, libraries, and businesses everywhere in the state.
- Make available affordable broadband and the devices necessary to access the internet.
- Provide avenues for training and support to enable digital inclusion.

To achieve these goals, the Council is leveraging the state's full range of tools, including policy, programs, funding, partnerships, and collaborations with federal, local, and tribal governments.

2021 Middle-Mile Broadband Initiative

As part of the state's 2021-22 Budget, SB 156 ([Chapter 112, Statutes of 2021](#)), California made a historic \$6 billion multi-year investment that will give more Californians access to broadband coverage. The legislation provides for construction of a state-owned open access middle-mile network.

A nine-member [Middle-Mile Advisory Committee](#) will monitor the development and construction of this broadband infrastructure so service providers, anchor institutions, and tribal entities can create connections that facilitate high-speed broadband service for all Californians.

**All of the state's broadband efforts serve the same purpose,
to close the digital divide and prioritize connectivity for all Californians.**