



Capital Region Coalition For Digital Inclusion Quarterly Meeting Notes

March 10, 2023

Closing the Digital Divide

- *Amanda Bergson-Shilcock, Senior Fellow at National Skills Coalition*
 - [Closing the Digital Divide](#) - National Skills Coalition February 2023 report which found that over 92% of jobs in the U.S. labor market require digital skills
 - Digital Skills is part of the digital divide - beyond broadband and hardware
 - California employers are more likely on average to require definitely digital skills (51% versus 47% national average)
 - Nationally, the percent of job ads requiring digital skills ranges from 77% to 99% depending on industry sector
 - Sectors such as manufacturing (93%), construction (91%), utilities (91%) and accommodation and food services (85%).
 - High need for digital skills with jobs at all education levels
 - Digital skills development is needed for all workers - including various age ranges
 - Small businesses also need workers with digital skills - but does not have the bandwidth to support resources for training similar to large businesses
 - Dependent on public and community partners to provide workers with foundational and industry-specific digital skills
 - Jobs that require digital skills pay more; with each additional digital skill required, median wage rises
 - Foundational skills are not enough
 - 43% of HS diploma-level jobs require industry-specific skills, 68% for associate degree-level jobs; 80% for Bachelor's degree and above.
 - Important: workers need digital flexibility and resilience
 - Technology changes quickly; learning should be focused on transferable skills and developing a sense of agency and self-efficacy - rather than focusing on one specific piece of software

- Recommendations:
 1. Get involved with state digital equity efforts to ensure portion of Digital Equity Act and BEAD funding goes towards access to digital skills training;
 2. Make sure Digital Equity plan takes full advantage of federal guidelines allowing for “basic, applied and advanced” digital skills training;
 3. Invest in industry sector partnerships that bring employers together with education and training providers to create upskilling programs;
 4. Combine Census data with these findings to identify gaps in digital skill-building opportunities for DE Act covered populations.
 5. Invest in the supportive services that equip workers to succeed in upskilling programs.
- Contact: AmandaBS@NationalSkillsCoalition.org / 215-285-2860 mobile (available 7am-5pm PST)
- Other NSC Resources:
 - [Applying a racial equity lens to digital literacy](#)
 - Industry Digital Skills fact sheets: [Manufacturing](#) / [Retail and Hospitality](#) / [Health and Social Work](#) / [Construction, Transportation, and Storage](#)
 - [The New Landscape of Digital Literacy](#)
 - [NSC Principles](#)
 - [2023 National Skills Summit](#)
- Q&A Resources
 - Individuals’ English language skills do not determine their proficiency in digital skills
 - [Northstar Digital Literacy Assessment](#)
 - Department of Education, [Digital Resilience in the American Workforce \(DRAW\)](#)
 - Valley Vision - Artificial Intelligence (AI) Integration advisory & key findings:
 - <https://losrios.edu/campus-life/news/intel-ai-for-workforce-program>
 - <https://www.valleyvision.org/resources/workforce-needs-assessment-information-and-communications-technology/>
 - Contact: Renee.John@valleyvision.org

City of Sacramento Internet Survey

- *Manuel Martinez, City of Sacramento*
- The City of Sacramento is developing their broadband strategic plan and conducting an internet survey to collect primary information on gaps of service and underserved areas
- Survey is online only, but the City plans to develop additional outreach efforts
- [Survey](#)

Introducing Byte Back's Digital Navigator Program in the Sacramento Region

- *Andy Urrutia, Program Coordinator at Byte Back*
- Byte Back's mission is to close the digital divide for communities which are under-resourced through providing an equitable pathway in the digital economy
- Goal for Byte Back in Sacramento: Connect and partner with organization in the Sacramento region, training digital navigators
- *Contact:* aurrutia@byteback.org

State and Federal Funding

- Federal funding for Broadband to California through: Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD), and State Digital Equity Planning Grant (SDEP)
 - California has been awarded \$8,998,027: \$4,996,502 for BEAD managed by CPUC, \$4,001,525 for Digital Equity managed by CDT
- State funding managed by California Department of Technology (CPUC) and California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC)
 - CPUC managed the California Advanced Services Fund (CASF)- opportunity for ISPs and other organization to receive funding related to broadband infrastructure and adoption efforts
- *Scott Adams, Deputy Director for Broadband and Digital Literacy, CDT*
 - CDT and CPUC are coordinating on the digital equity and BEAD plan development to achieve Broadband for All

- Extends invitation to all organizations to get involved and participate in the planning process
- [Broadband for All](#)

EVENT: State Digital Equity Planning Event

- As part of the State Digital Equity Planning Event, CDT will be hosting 20 engagement events across the state in all regions
- **Valley Vision through the Connected Capital Area Broadband Consortium (CCABC) will be collaborating with CDT to host the State Digital Equity Planning Event for the Greater Sacramento Region**
 - Details TBA / in-person event in Sacramento planned for mid-May
 - [Interest form](#)
- State Digital Equity Plan to address barriers for identified covered populations
 - Individuals who live in covered households (as defined by IJJA); Aging individuals; Incarcerated individuals, other than individuals who are incarcerated in a Federal correctional facility; Veterans; Individuals with disabilities; Individuals with a language barrier, including individuals who are English learners; and have low levels of literacy; Individuals who are members of a racial or ethnic minority group; and Individuals who primarily reside in a rural area.
- Get Involved with the [State's Outcome Area Working Groups Events](#)
 - opportunity to share your expertise with and to learn from others across the state
 - Outcome areas: Education; Digital Literacy and Inclusion; Workforce and Economic Development; Health; Essential Services, Accessibility, and Civic Engagement; Tribal Collaboration

Next Quarterly Meeting

- Friday, June 9th from 11:00-12:30 P.M. PST
 - [Meeting Registration](#)