



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
 - [Seattle Digital Equity Framework](#) developed from the [Digital Skillsets for Diverse Users](#)
 - **Anson Green** at Fortune 100 company **Tyson Foods** - [read about how he is helping to upskill](#) some of Tyson's 120,000 frontline workers with digital skills.
 - Federal [Digital Resilience in the American Workforce \(DRAW\)](#) research project for adult education -- tons of very practical free resources, such as this piece on [assessing and validating digital skills](#) and the [Digital Skills Library](#) with 2,000 pieces of curricula.

- **Tooele (Utah) Public Library** example of "Digital Me" program that provides recognition in the form of buttons such as "Time Alchemist" or "Digital Ninja" to help adult library users signal the digital skills they have earned. Written about in [NSC's recent comments to US Dept of Labor](#) -- just search for Tooele.
- **World Education's Ed Tech Center** [short](#) [posts](#) on the pros and cons of AI/Chat GPT and related tools in an adult education context
- **Researchers who are doing cutting-edge work on privacy, ethics, race, and equity vis-a-vis technology:** [Dr. Safiya Noble](#), [Dr. Ruha Benjamin](#), [Dr. Timnet Gebu](#).
- [Northstar Digital Literacy Assessment](#)
- 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: aurretia@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](#)