

SCDI: March Meeting (3/19)

- **New Investment from Workforce Boards**
 - Speaker: Roy Kim, Deputy Director, Sacramento Employment and Training Agency
 - SETA submitted application to the State Workforce Board for regional planning funds
 - SCDI was awarded funds, now subcontracting with Valley Vision

- **Connected Capitol Area Broadband Consortium**
 - Funded by the California Public Utilities Commission/California Advanced Services Fund, Rural and Urban Regional Broadband Consortia Grant Account
 - Scope of Work:
 - Broadband Service Coverage:
 - CA Standard (6/1 Mbps)
 - FCC Standard (25/3 Mbps)
 - CA State Plan (100/20 Mbps)
 - FCC Gigabit Standard
 - CalSPEED App
 - The CalSPEED app is a professional-level broadband testing tool used to measure the quality and speed of mobile data connection

- **State and Federal Legislation**
 - Proposed State Legislation
 - 17 Bills
 - Covers: CPUC funding for broadband infrastructure, bond funding, permit streamlining for infrastructure, Affordable Internet Programs, Telehealth, Public Housing, Distance Learning, others
 - Input welcome on certain bills, hearings will begin in April
 - Speaker's Office is hosting meetings with legislators and key stakeholders to align broadband proposals
 - Possibility of a one-time state General Fund investment
 - Bills to Watch
 - AB 14 (Aguiar-Curry) - extends collections for California Advanced Services Fund (CSAF) for broadband infrastructure to PUC-identified unserved households,

expands eligibility, would connect anchor institutions, extend service to underserved urban neighborhoods

- SB 4 (Gonzalez) - Extends collections for CASF, other reforms; AB 14 proposed amendments to SB 4, could become joint bill
- AB 34 (Muratsuchi) - \$10 billion General Obligation Bond for broadband infrastructure in 2022 by public agencies
- AB 41 (Wood) - Expands “Dig Once” policy to expedite broadband deployment in unserved and underserved communities
- AB 1176 (Garcia) - Affordable Internet - Establishes a California Connect Fund to subsidize high-speed home internet service
- AB 1425 (Gipson) - CASF Public Housing Account - Declares state policy to get connected all residents of publicly-subsidized housing complexes, with CASF funding for connectivity, digital literacy training, and devices
- AB 32 (Aguiar-Curry) - Telehealth - makes reimbursements permanent for telehealth visits for MediCal patients and plans

○ **Federal - FCC**

- \$3.2 billion program to help lower cost of high-speed internet for eligible households during the COVID-19 pandemic (2020 COVID relief bill)
- Up to \$50/month for broadband services - far more than current low-income households are receiving
- One-time discount of up to \$100 for laptop, computer, or tablet (No cell phones); funding extends for 6 months
- Program anticipated to be open before end of April
- Eligible Households will enroll through participating broadband providers
- Providers have until March 22nd to sign up
- AT & T, Verizon, Charter have signed up

○ **Federal - American Rescue Plan Act of 2021**

- Creates Emergency Connectivity Fund - \$7.171 Billion to reimburse school and libraries for providing free broadband service (and connected devices) to students and library patrons at their homes.

- Infusion into FCC's E-Rate Program which makes telecom services available more affordable for schools & libraries
- Law allows these community anchor institutions to extend service further into the community
- FCC must issue new E-Rate rules for implementation
- Eligible devices include: laptop and tablet computers, wi-fi hotspots, modems and routers
- Funding for at least 1 year after COVID emergency ends

Accessible, Affordable Internet for All Act

- Congressman James Clyburn and Senator Amy Klobuchar reintroduced legislation - \$94 Billion to bring service where none exists, improve speeds, and help families with monthly bills:
 - \$80 billion to deploy resilient bb infrastructure communities (ISPs must ensure affordable internet service)
 - \$5 billion for low-interest financing
 - \$6 billion for FCC Emergency BB Benefit Program
 - \$1 billion for 2 new grant programs for digital skills
 - \$2 Billion for Emergency Connectivity Fund
 - Build out over 3-4 years

Requesting Resources for Students and Adult Learners

- Tamara Armstrong (Los Rios Associate Vice Chancellor, Information Technology) presenting:
 - Looking to find resources for students now, and for students who will enroll in the Fall term
 - K12 School Districts set to receive additional stimulus funding - not yet determined what this funding will be set for