Broadband Committee

June 15, 2021

Contents

Welcome and Introductions	5 min.
SB 28 Presentation	10 min.
Policy Updates	10 min.
Broadband Advocates Discussion	15 min.
ITUP Fact Sheet	10 min.
Next Steps and Wrap-Up	10 min.

Peter Ansel, Senior Policy Advisor, Office of Senator Caballero:
SB 28 (Caballero) - Rural Broadband and Digital Infrastructure Video Competition Act of 2021

- Requires the Department of General Services, the Department of Transportation, the Department of Education, and the Department of Technology to identify all state real properties, rights of way, and other resources suitable for a public / private partnership for broadband network development.

  - Agencies will develop a template agreement that enables any broadband network developer to utilize the identified state assets in its network development planning and deployment plans.

  - Without any new taxes or fees, this simple step makes the state a valuable partner in closing the Digital Divide.

- SB 28 reforms the Digital Infrastructure Video Competition Act of 2006 (DIVCA) in order to ensure that licensees are meeting their obligations under DIVCA.

Read the full bill: https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220SB28

Broadband in Governor's May Revision

Governor Newsom has proposed a **$7 billion investment to expand broadband infrastructure and enhance access.**

- Using ARPA funds and state funds to build out statewide "middle-mile networks"

- $500 million Loan Loss Reserve Account to assist local governments, tribes and non-profits to secure private financing for new municipal fiber networks

- Creation of technical assistance teams tasked with helping communities plan their fiber rollouts

- $500 million of one-time federal ARPA funds to entities serving rural areas with telephone service to expand their services to include broadband

- One-time federal ARPA funds within the California Advanced Services Fund to incentivize existing and new providers to fund infrastructure for "last mile" service to the state's remaining unserved households.

- An increase of $6 million one-time General Fund to support the Broadband Connectivity Initiative.

May Revise available here: http://www.ebudget.ca.gov/

More Details on the plan available here: *https://esd.dof.ca.gov/Documents/bcp/2122/FY2122_ORG8660_BCP4901.pdf*

Legislative response on Broadband

Legislature released preliminary budget plan which approves the $7 billion:

"Appropriates $7 billion over a multi-year period for broadband infrastructure and improved access to broadband services throughout the state. Details will continue to be worked out through third-party negotiations. Administrative flexibilities will enable the appropriated funds to be accelerated to ensure they are available as needed to fund the expansion and improvements."

*Final budget must be passed by **midnight tonight***

To learn more about the Governor's Broadband Plan: https://esd.dof.ca.gov/Documents/bcp/2122/FY2122_ORG8660_BCP4901.pdf

State Health and Human Services Leaders Issue Joint Statement on Release of California's $5.2 Billion Medicaid Home and Community Based Services Spending Plan

Addressing Digital Divide for Adults with HCBS - Funding: $4.7M enhanced federal funding ($9.5M TF) One-time

- Older adults and adults with disabilities eligible for Medi-Cal tele-health services and participating in HCBS will be provided tablets or other appropriate devices for telehealth, along with broadband and tech support (including expanded language access for tech support).

- This initiative leverages a new CDA digital divide initiative with Older American Act providers to increase the number of older adults and adults with disabilities receiving HCBS who are connected to tele-health and to other digital services and supports that prevent isolation and support well-being, while furthering the goals of the Master Plan for Aging.

Nursing Home Recovery & Innovation - Funding: $50M enhanced federal funding ($50M TF) One-time

- California's priorities include revisiting and expanding the pilot for Small Home facilities, for both quality of care and quality of jobs; facilitating in-room broadband access for residents; and disaster readiness improvements for facilities and systems, to respond to wildfires, earthquakes, and other emergencies where residents are especially vulnerable, among other innovations.

California Legislative Developments (3/3)
Broadband Bills

Bill No.	Coalition Support?	Recent Developments	Brief Description
AB 14 (Aguiar-Curry et al.)	☑	In Senate. Read first time. To Com. on RLS. for assignment. (06/03)	Revises law regarding California Advanced Services Fund (CASF)
SB 4 (Gonzalez)	☑	In Assembly. Referred to Com. On C. & C. (06/02)	Revises law regarding California Advanced Services Fund (CASF)
AB 34 (Muratsuchi)	*Recommended by Broadband Committee*	Held in Approps. Committee 5/20	Authorizes the issuance of bonds in the amount of $10,000,000,000 pursuant to the State General Obligation Bond Law to support the 2022 Broadband for All Program
AB 537 (Quirk)		In Senate. Read first time. To Com. on RLS. for assignment. (6/2)	Requires that the time period for city/county approval of collocation or siting applications for wireless telecommunications facilities be deemed approved if the city/county fails to approve within the standard set by the FCC
SB 28 (Caballero)		Asm Communications and Conveyance – Hearing set 6/23	Rural Broadband and Digital Infrastructure Video Competition Reform Act of 2021
SB 378 (Gonzalez)		Passed L. GOV on 6/9 – Now in C. & C.	Broadband: methods of fiber installation
SB 556 (Dodd)		Passed L. GOV. on 6/9 – Now in C. & C.	Seeks to ensure local governments provide access and quickly permit approval of small wireless facility siting applications

Broadband Advocates 1/2

Organization	Description
Media Justice	MediaJustice is building a powerful grassroots movement for a just and participatory media, fighting for racial economic and gender justice in the digital age. Open and affordable internet is one of their main focus areas.
New America's Open Technology Institute	OTI brings together advocates, researchers, organizers and innovators to work at the intersection of technology and policy to ensure that every community has equitable access to digital technology and its benefits.
California Forward	California Forward (CA FWD) leads a statewide movement, bringing people together across communities, regions and interests to improve government and create inclusive, sustainable growth for everyone. Connecting California to broadband is one of its eight action-areas.
One Million New Internet Users	Non-profit training English-learners in central and southern California to adopt technology and use broadband. Spoke at California Broadband Council May meeting.

Broadband Advocates 2/2

Organization	Description
Electronic Frontier Foundation	Non-profit organization based in San Francisco, defending civil liberties in the digital world through policy analysis, litigation, grassroots activism.
Benton Institute for Broadband and Society	Non-profit that supports legal and policy experts with the goal of bringing open, affordable high-capacity broadband to all people in the US.
Greenlining Institute	Non-profit working toward a future where communities of color can build wealth, live in healthy places filled with economic opportunity. Uses multifaceted advocacy efforts to address the root causes of racial, economic and environmental inequities. Focus areas include health, economic, energy environmental and technology equity.
Center for Democracy and Technology	Non-profit advocacy organization that brings together thought leaders working to promote democratic values by shaping technology policy and architecture with a focus on the individual. Focus areas include open internet.
California Emerging Technology Fund	CETF has been established as a non-profit corporation pursuant to orders from the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) in approving the mergers of SBC-AT&T and Verizon-MCI in 2005. Its mission is to Provide leadership statewide to close the "Digital Divide" by accelerating the deployment and adoption of broadband to unserved and underserved communities and populations.

Broadband Council Update

California Broadband Council held its second meeting of 2021 on May 19 where state agencies provided updates on executive order items:

- #3 CPUC lead data aggregation and mapping efforts with CalSTA to address: locations without broadband, info on public and private broadband network infrastructure, rights of way, deployment costs, information to support development of local broadband infrastructure

- #5 GO-Biz to identify funding opportunities for broadband deployment and adoption

- #6 CDT and DGS to seek opportunities to leverage the State's contract authorities as resources to further statewide broadband access and adoption

- #7 CalSTA and Caltrans to work with CTC to identify and incorporate the installation of conduit and fiber into all appropriate and feasible transportation projects along strategic corridors

- # 10 CalOES to coordinate implementation of implementing Next generation 9-1-1 to expand broadband infrastructure to enhance public safety and disaster response capabilities

- #12 HCD to provide recommendations to CPUC to increase free or low-cost broadband connectivity at all publicly subsidized housing communities

- #13 GO – BIZ to coordinate the outreach efforts for existing statewide programs and institutions to inform residents of affordable internet service offerings

- #14 CDE to continue leading statewide efforts to ensure students have the computing devices and connectivity necessary

- #15 California Department of Aging to analyze the needs of people ages 60 and older for access to affordable, reliable high-speed broadband

Next meeting will feature updates on the Broadband Action Plan short-term goals

View recorded meeting: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zz0uADV_dik
View executive order: https://www.gov.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/8.14.20-EO-N-73-20.pdf

Emergency Broadband Benefit Program – DHCS announcement

Eligible households can receive:

- $50 discount per month towards broadband service for eligible households ($75 per month if on tribal lands)

- One-time discount of $100 to purchase a laptop, desktop or tablet if consumer contributes more than $10 and less than $50

Eligibility:

- Income at or below 135% of Federal Poverty Line or on certain assistant programs (SNAP, Medicaid or Lifeline)

- Received a Federal Pell Grant
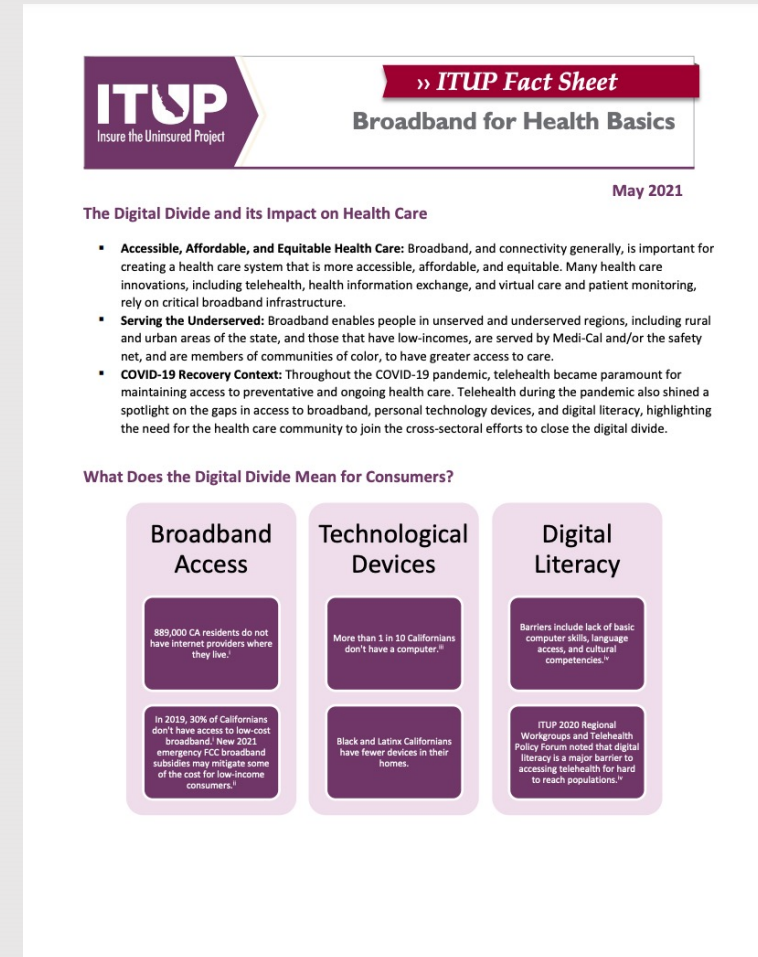
- Free or reduced school lunch

How to Apply:

- Contact your preferred participating broadband provider

- Go to getemergencyBroadband.org

- Use a Mail-in application

Consumer Outreach Toolkit

ITUP Fact Sheet on Broadband and Health

Covers:

- The Digital Divide's Impact on Health Care

  - Accessible, Affordable, and Equitable Health Care

  - Serving the Underserved

  - COVID-19 Recovery Context

- Background on Broadband Infrastructure

- Key definitions

Read the full fact sheet: https://www.itup.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Broadband-and-Health-Basics-FINAL-V1.pdf

Closing Announcements

Save the Dates
Upcoming Meetings

Monthly Meeting
June 18 from 1-2pm

Please reach to staff if you have any questions

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