

Broadband Committee

September 21, 2021






California
Telehealth
Policy
Coalition

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California Legislative Developments (2/3)

Broadband Bills

Bill No.	Coalition Support?	Recent Developments	Brief Description
AB 14 (Aguiar-Curry et al.)		Senate amendments concurred in, to engrossing and enrolling (9/9)	Revises law regarding California Advanced Services Fund (CASF) <i>Amendments remove provisions related to definition of un/underserved areas (see standards in SB 156); make certain provisions effective only if SB 4 is passed; make bill an urgency statute.</i>
SB 4 (Gonzalez)		Assembly amendments concurred in, to engrossing and enrolling (9/9)	Revises law regarding California Advanced Services Fund (CASF) <i>Amendments remove VOIP surcharge provisions and deaf and disabled telecoms provisions (see AB 14); makes bill effective only if AB 14 is passed.</i>
SB 28 (Caballero)		Assembly amendments concurred in, to engrossing and enrolling (9/9)	Rural Broadband and Digital Infrastructure Video Competition Reform Act of 2021 <i>Amendments remove provisions requiring state agencies to identify resources for broadband networks; remove DIVCA provisions except for those related to collection of more granular franchisee data</i>
AB 537 (Quirk)		Enrolled and presented to Governor (9/10)	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 <i>Amendments remove provisions related to judicial review.</i>
SB 378 (Gonzalez)		Enrolled and presented to Governor (9/9)	Broadband: methods of fiber installation <i>Amendments make slight changes to the definition of “reasonable fee”</i>
SB 556 (Dodd)		Enrolled and presented to Governor (9/9)	Seeks to ensure local governments provide access and quickly permit approval of small wireless facility siting applications <i>Amendments clarify definition of “traffic signal pole,” clarify reasons for denials; reasons for levying fees</i>

SB 156 Middle-Mile Advisory Committee

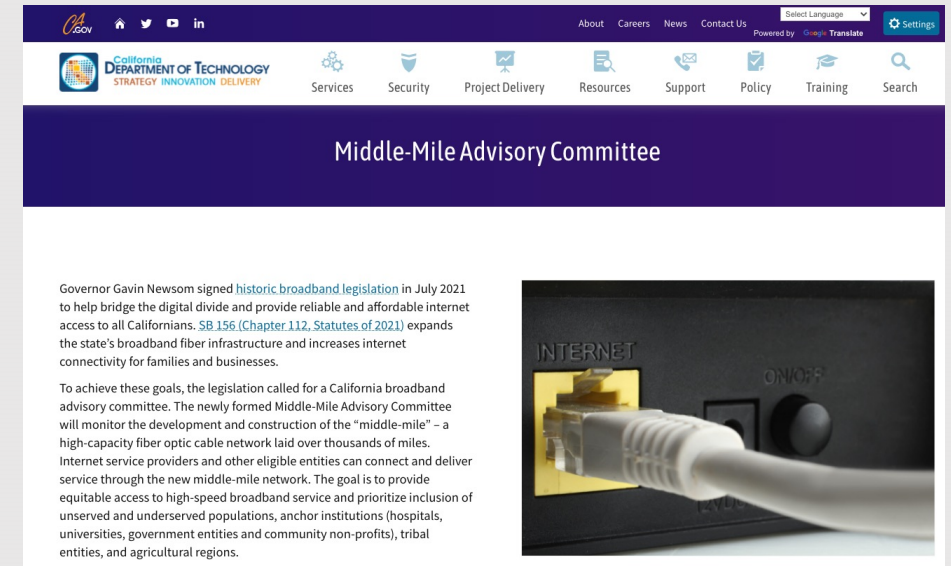
Meeting Cadence: The Committee meets every third Wednesday of each month for 12 months.

See CDT website: <https://cdt.ca.gov/middle-mile-advisory-committee/>

Next Meeting: October 20, 1-2:30 pm

Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83655394366>



The screenshot shows the website for the Middle-Mile Advisory Committee. The header includes the California Department of Technology logo and navigation links for Services, Security, Project Delivery, Resources, Support, Policy, and Training. The main content area features a purple banner with the title "Middle-Mile Advisory Committee". Below this, there is a paragraph of text explaining the committee's purpose and a photograph of a white Ethernet cable plugged into a network port labeled "INTERNET".

Governor Gavin Newsom signed [historic broadband legislation](#) in July 2021 to help bridge the digital divide and provide reliable and affordable internet access to all Californians. [SB 156 \(Chapter 112, Statutes of 2021\)](#) expands the state's broadband fiber infrastructure and increases internet connectivity for families and businesses.

To achieve these goals, the legislation called for a California broadband advisory committee. The newly formed Middle-Mile Advisory Committee will monitor the development and construction of the "middle-mile" – a high-capacity fiber optic cable network laid over thousands of miles. Internet service providers and other eligible entities can connect and deliver service through the new middle-mile network. The goal is to provide equitable access to high-speed broadband service and prioritize inclusion of unserved and underserved populations, anchor institutions (hospitals, universities, government entities and community non-profits), tribal entities, and agricultural regions.

SB 156 Middle-Mile Advisory Committee September Meeting (1/2)

Announced Ex-Officio Members of Committee:

- Senator Lena Gonzalez
- Senator Mike McGuire
- Assemblymember Sharon Quirk-Silva
- Assemblymember Jim Wood

Provided overview of agency roles and Leadership:

Middle-Mile Advisory Committee	Business Partner Working Group	Program Oversight And SLFRF Reporting
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• CDT: Chair• DOF• Caltrans• CPUC• GOV OPS• 2 Ex Officio – Senate• 2 Ex Officio – Assembly	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• CDT• DOF• Caltrans• CPUC• TPA	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• CDT• DOF

Procured third party administrator:

- Corporation for Education Network Initiatives in California (CENIC)

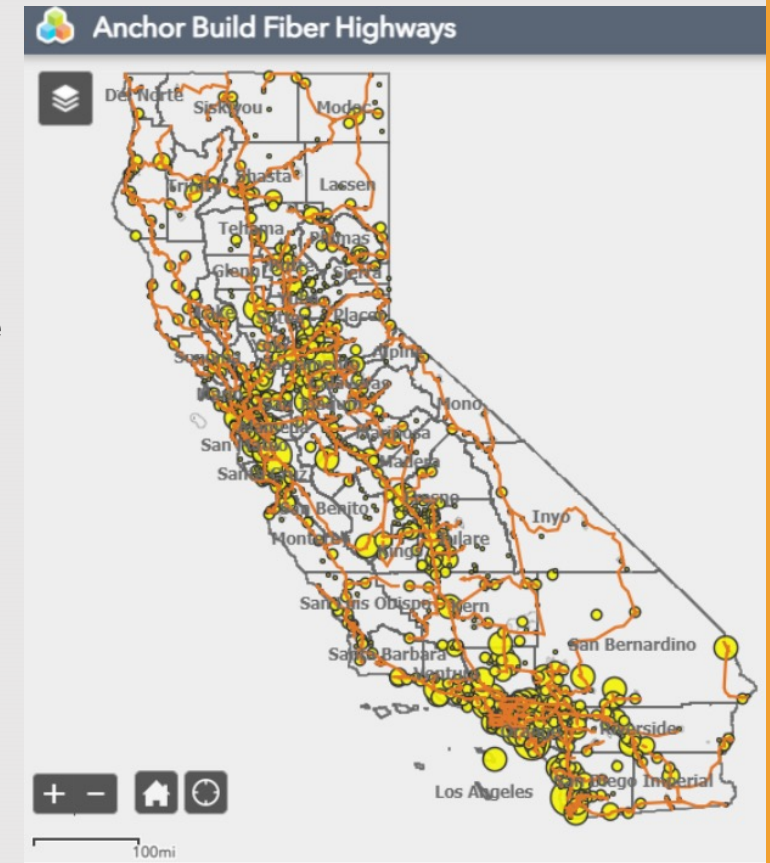
			
California Department of Technology	Department of Finance	California Public Utilities Commission	Caltrans
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Program, fund management, reporting and oversight• Acquire and oversee TPA• In collaboration with TPA and CPUC, facilitate high speed broadband access through last-mile connectivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Budget oversight and facilitation• SLFRF quarterly reporting to the federal government	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide data to identify unserved & underserved areas• Facilitate public comment• Recommend network placement	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Leverage existing transportation projects• Oversee acquisition and management of construction contracts for open-access middle-mile broadband network

SB 156 Middle-Mile Advisory Committee September Meeting (2/2)

- Published Statewide Middle Mile Network Initial Staff Proposal
 - 8,000 road miles
 - All state highways / rights of way
 - Connecting census designated places with households unserved by fixed internet service
 - CalTrans has also identified transportation projects that overlap with the middle mile locations and how broadband infrastructure could be added to these projects at various project phases
 - Committee collecting public comments until October 21, 2021

Adopted a set of guiding principles

- Provide affordable open-access middle-mile broadband infrastructure to enable last-mile network connectivity throughout the state
- Build the network expeditiously, leveraging existing infrastructure, networks and construction projects where feasible
- Prioritize connectivity to unserved and underserved communities, including community institutions



View interactive map here:

<https://www.arcgis.com/home/webmap/viewer.html?webmap=e17e4e1c88b04792ab0a2c50aa1a19a3&extent=-126.1445,34.5234,-113.5981,41.1113>

Upcoming Webinar: The Digital Divide & Telehealth

Description:

The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted how important internet-based technology is to access telehealth services and how the digital divide exacerbates existing inequities in access to health care. Many patients without adequate internet access have needed to rely on audio-only telehealth for their care. In response to the digital divide, Governor Newsom and the California Legislature have leveraged the state surplus to make a landmark state investment in broadband infrastructure in a bold attempt to close the digital divide.

Join our panel discussion on the current state of these digital inequities within California and how it affects patients and providers. Panelists will provide background on the fundamentals of broadband and how California's investment in broadband infrastructure will impact the digital divide.

Registration Link:

- https://cchpca-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_5zB7asd2Rpev3YirWdmsbw

Panelists:

- Fabiola Carrion, Interim Director, Reproductive and Sexual Health, National Health Law Program (moderator)
- Marissa Kraynak, Director of Health Policy Research, Insure the Uninsured Project
- Geoff Neill, Legislative Representative, California State Association of Counties
- Jorge Pacheco, Digital Equity Research & Advocacy Specialist, Community Health Partnerships
- Vinhcent Le, Legal Counsel & Policy Manager, Greenlining Institute

Join us on October 5 from 1:00-2:30pm!

News Item: Emergency Broadband Benefit still has \$2.7 billion out of \$3.2 billion available

The Emergency Broadband Benefit which provides a \$50/month discount on internet service for qualifying households is struggling to get the word out

- 5.5 million households have signed up but and only only \$378 million has been allocated so far
- The FCC has partnered with some community groups such as the YMCA, Boys and Girls club but there is no funding to promote the program

Learn more: <https://www.fcc.gov/broadbandbenefit>

News Item: Request for Notice of Inquiry into History of Systemic Racism in FCC Policy and Licensing

Federal Legislators and Various Advocacy Organizations pen letter to FCC chair. The letter:

- Calls on the FCC to investigate its own history of anti-Black racism in the policies it has adopted
- Calls on the Commission to issue a Notice of Inquiry and identify reparative actions it will take to redress the structural racism that exists in our media system due to those FCC policies.
- Notes that its internet policies have resulted in a digital divide where Black, Latinx and Indigenous households are far less likely to have adequate home-broadband services than white ones

View the full letter here: https://www.freepress.net/sites/default/files/2021-09/FCC_2070_Letter_Final_September_2021.pdf?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Newsletters&utm_source=sendgrid

Other State Agency Broadband Updates

California Broadband Council to host its next meeting in October



Upcoming Meetings

October 27, 2021
10:00 am – 12:00 pm
[ZOOM Meeting](#)

[Submit Public Comment](#)

<https://broadbandcouncil.ca.gov/>

CDT launches webpage for Broadband and Digital Literacy Office



California
DEPARTMENT OF TECHNOLOGY
STRATEGY INNOVATION DELIVERY



Services



Security



Project Delivery



Resources



Support

Broadband and Digital Literacy Office

Our Role

The Office of Broadband and Digital Literacy manages the statewide ecosystem of individuals and organizations dedicated to closing the digital divide.

Our Mission

Our Mission is to establish digital literacy throughout the state of California. By establishing statewide digital literacy, we will eradicate the inequalities in access, knowledge and skills needed to effectively utilize and communicate using various digital platforms, ultimately, enabling the skills and knowledge necessary for a digitally inclusive communities.

Our Vision

To establish 98% high speed internet access and 90% statewide adoption by 2023.

<https://cdt.ca.gov/broadband-and-digital-literacy-office/>

Closing Announcements

Save the Dates

Upcoming Meetings

Education Committee

October 13: 2-3pm

Legislation Committee

October 14, 1-2pm

Monthly Meeting

October 15, 1-2pm

Policy Briefing

October 15, 11am-12:30pm

Broadband Committee

October 19, 1-2pm

Please reach to staff if you have any questions

Mei Kwong: meik@cchpca.org

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2021 Annual Meeting “Bridge to a Stronger Health System”



- Tuesday, November 2, 2021
- 9am-2pm
- Virtual event
- Event information and registration forthcoming

Appendix

California Broadband Council: Executive Order Action Items Status (1/2)

Item	Description	Lead	Progress Report	AP Item
1	Pursue minimum broadband Speeds to guide infrastructure investments	CBC	In progress	1
2	Broadband Action Plan	CBC	Complete	All
3	Data & Mapping Efforts	CPUC	In progress	19
4	Convene private sector companies to understand/predict broadband demand	CDT/DGS/GO-Biz	In Progress	6
5	Catalogue State and Federal Funding opportunities	GO-Biz	Complete	2
6	State Contracting and procurement	CDT/DGS	In Progress	14
7	Installation of conduit and or fiber into all appropriate and feasible transportation projects along strategic corridors	Caltrans	In progress	4
8	Use existing State programs to accelerate broadband deployment and to leverage utility infrastructure to increase access to existing fiber and cost-effectively deploy new fiber	CPUC	In Progress	23c

California Broadband Council: Executive Order Action Items Status (2/2)

Item	Description	Lead	Progress Report	AP Item
9	Inventory of State property for State broadband infrastructure	DGS	In progress	7
10	Coordinate with jurisdictions implementing Next-Generation 9-1-1 to expand broadband infrastructure to enhance public safety and disaster preparedness.	CalOES	In Progress	8
11	Facilitate new broadband projects that support precision agriculture and food systems in rural communities; and inventory existing broadband connectivity at all fairgrounds.	CDFA	In progress	23d
12	Provide recommendations to the CPUC to increase free or low-cost broadband connectivity at all publicly subsidized housing communities for residential units.	HCD	In Progress	13
13	Coordinate outreach efforts of existing statewide programs and institutions to inform residents of affordable Internet service offerings.	GO-Biz	Complete	23
14	Lead statewide efforts to ensure that students have the computing devices and connectivity necessary for distance learning and online instruction.	CDE	In Progress	23f
15	Analyze the needs of people ages 60 and older for access to affordable, reliable , high-speed broadband, and to identify program and partnership opportunities.	CDA	In progress	15

Broadband Advocates 1/2




Organization	Description
<u>Media Justice</u>	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.
<u>New America's Open Technology Institute</u>	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.
<u>California Forward</u>	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.
<u>One Million New Internet Users</u>	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.

California Legislative Developments (1/3)

Telehealth-Related Bills

Bill No.	Coalition Support?	Recent Developments	Brief Description
AB 32 (Aguiar Curry et al.)		In Sen. Health (Hearing cancelled; bill no longer moving)	Makes permanent Covid-19 telehealth flexibilities
SB 365 (Caballero)		Passed Asm. Health (7/6), referred to Approps.	Requires Medi-Cal e-consult reimbursement
SB 371 (Caballero)		In Asm. Health	Creates a Deputy Secretary for Health Information Technology to coordinate health information technology efforts regarding hie, broadband, and telehealth
AB 457 (Santiago)		Passed Sen. Health 6/24; amended 6/28, re-referred to Approps	Creates Protection of Patient Choice in Telehealth Provider Act
AB 523 (Nazarian)		Referred to suspense file (7/5)	Requires DHCS to make all COVID PACE program changes permanent, including telehealth flexibilities
SB 801 (Roth)		Amended (7/7), re-referred to Asm. Comm. On B&P	For purposes of telehealth, defines health care provider to additionally include an associate clinical social worker and an associate professional clinical counselor

California Legislative Developments (2/3)

Telehealth-Related Bills- Two-Year Bills

Bill No.	Coalition Support?	Recent Developments	Brief Description
AB 1264 (Aguiar-Curry)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Two-year bill	Creates CHHS Agency Project ECHO grant program for children's hospitals
AB 410 (Fong)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Two-year bill	Nurse Licensure Compact
AB 552 (Quirk-Silva)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Two-year bill	Integrated School-Based Behavioral Health Partnership Program
AB 935 (Maienschein)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Two-year bill	Requires health plans and insurers to provide access to a telephone mental health consultation program for children and pregnant/post-partum women
AB 1117 (Wicks)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Two-year bill	Establishes Healthy Start: Toxic Stress and Trauma Resiliency for Children Program
AB 1131 (Wood)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Two-year bill	Requires participation in statewide health information exchange network
AB 1252 (Chau)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Two-year bill	Defines privacy protections for personal health record information
SB 508 (Stern)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Two-year bill	Authorizes a local education agency (LEA) to provide mental health services and includes telehealth as an approved modality

Biden Executive Order Targets Broadband Competition

To “promote competition, lower prices, and a vibrant and innovative telecommunications ecosystem”, the Executive Order on Promoting Competition in the American Economy, signed on July 9, encourages the Chair of the FCC to work with the rest of the Commission, as appropriate and consistent with applicable law, to consider:

- Adopting “Net Neutrality” rules
- Conducting future spectrum auctions under rules that are designed to help avoid excessive concentration of spectrum license holdings in the United States,
- Providing support for the continued development and adoption of 5G Open Radio Access Network (O-RAN) protocols and software,
- Prohibiting unjust or unreasonable early termination fees for end-user communications contracts, enabling consumers to more easily switch providers;
- Requiring broadband service providers to display a broadband consumer label, to give consumers clear, concise, and accurate information regarding provider prices and fees, performance, and network practices;
- Initiating a rulemaking to require broadband service providers to regularly report broadband price and subscription rates to the Federal Communications Commission for the purpose of disseminating that information to the public; and
- Initiating a rulemaking to prevent landlords and cable and Internet service providers from inhibiting tenants’ choices among providers.

Read the Executive Order here: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/07/09/executive-order-on-promoting-competition-in-the-american-economy/>

SB 156 - Broadband Trailer Bill

Status: Signed by Governor Newsom on July 20

This bill implements the first year of a three-year \$6 billion investment in the broadband. Funding appropriated in SB 129 (Skinner) as amended by AB/SB 164 provides \$4.372 billion (\$3.25 billion General Fund) in 2021-22 to begin this project. This includes:

Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure: (\$3.25 billion)

Broadband Last Mile Support: (\$2 billion)

Loan Loss Reserve: (\$750 million)

Technical Assistance Grants (\$50 million)

AB 156 Language –: https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220AB156