CETF

CALIFORNIA EMERGING TECHNOLOGY FUND

Communicate ✦ Connect ✦ Compete

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

CETF Letters of Interest Deadline:
Friday, Nov. 2 at 5 PM

Grant Calls and Webinars 10 AM PT: Wednesday, Oct 24, 2018

California Advanced Services Fund Application Deadline:
Tuesday, January 1, 2019

NEW:
2018 Grants To Serve People With Disabilities

More Information On Grant Opportunities.

Learn About Low-Cost, Affordable Broadband Offers:
Internet For All Now
844-841-4636

CETF News

Chromebook Initiative Parent Orientation
Sept 6, 2018

CETF Finds Broadband Shortcomings
Aug 28, 2018

Bridge The Broadband Gap
Aug 7, 2018

Let's Talk Broadband!

Welcome to the Fall 2018 edition of *Let's Talk Broadband!* Did you know that an estimated 13 million Californians are unconnected or underconnected to the Internet at home? As school gets into full swing, please read our story of Oakland High School sophomore Jesus Toscano. Jesus's family learned about discount Internet service through Tech Exchange of Oakland, a partner of the California Emerging Technology Fund (CETF). Jesus is now in a college prep program at Oakland High School with dreams of working at Pixar. Jesus's success story can be replicated throughout California.

Many organizations and civic leaders are stepping up as Digital Champions and we have lots of good news to report:

CUE (founded as Computer Using Educators) sponsored Assembly Concurrent Resolution 268 (Thurmond) to establish education technology as a priority for the Legislature and to convene a statewide summit involving all stakeholders, including CETF. The Resolution provides a foundation for a major event in 2019 to collaborate with policymakers to discuss the effective use of technology in teaching, learning, and parent engagement. Congratulations to CUE and a hearty "thank you" to John Cradler who spearheaded the effort.

The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), led by assigned Commissioner Martha Guzman Aceves, has diligently pursued rulemaking for implementation of the Internet For All Now Act of 2017 (AB1665) for the California Advanced Services Fund (CASF). Rules for the new CASF Adoption Account were adopted in time to accept applications starting July 1. The results: As of the August 31 first-round deadline, for which $5 million in CASF funds were available, 57 applications applied for $8.4 million. The initial 2019 grant requests for the Adoption Account will be accepted in January 2019. The CPUC is currently finalizing rules for the Infrastructure Grants and Regional Consortia Accounts.

As the school year kicks into gear, it is especially timely to underscore the relevance of technology in education as a critical tool to help all California students achieve academic excellence. It also is especially timely to promote affordable Internet offers so that all students and their families can be online at home and make the most opportunity of technology in school. Please enjoy reading about School2Home and seeing all of the work of our dedicated educators in photos.

Sincerely,

Sunne Wright McPeak

Sunne Wright McPeak, CEO and President
California Emerging Technology Fund

Getting More Students and Families Online

Armando Toscano and son Jesus are regular volunteers at Tech Exchange's Free Computer Pop-Ups.

How Home Internet Is Changing Jesus Toscano's Life

Imagine going weeks without high-speed Internet at home. Jesus Toscano can tell you what it's like. His family would take turns signing up on a waitlist at the Oakland Public Library to rent an Internet modem for their home. At times, the wait was weeks.

Then Armando, Jesus's father, learned that discount Internet and computers are available for qualified families through Tech Exchange, an Oakland non-profit. It changed Jesus's life, and by the time he got to high school, he was well prepared for a rigorous academic path.

Today, Jesus is a sophomore at Oakland High School, and he participates in the Video Arts and Academic Magnet Program, a college-prep curriculum that inspires students to become globally minded advocates of the arts.

"I'm trying to get better at art and learn about animation. I want to digitize my drawings and create tutorial videos to show people how to draw," Jesus says. Asked what his goal is, he responds, "I want to work at Pixar".

Armando and Jesus regularly volunteer at Tech Exchange events to help families learn about the benefits of getting online, and how to obtain discount Internet and a free computer. Armando says families living on limited incomes often tell him they are torn between paying for home Internet or for food and school supplies. "It causes a lot of stress. People without Internet lose access to assistance to get their food, housing, or their kids involved in certain programs and activities – the Internet is that doorway now," he says.

What can you do:

We reached out in 2018 to participants in the 2017 Statewide Broadband Adoption Survey. The results revealed that there is a lot of churn when evaluating how disadvantaged households access the Internet. The 2018 updated survey found that a vast majority of eligible residents are not aware of discount offers. Join CETF and its partners to call on ISPs to sponsor more targeted advertising outreach to the most needy communities and publicly report data that details ISP outreach, sign-up and churn information to help better target public and private resources. View the 2018 survey highlights.

Back2School With School2Home

Students at Robert Louis Stevenson Middle School in East Los Angeles are excited to be getting computers for home use and access to discount Internet services.

Digital Citizenship is a critical part of integrating technology in education. School2Home convenes Regional Learning Academies for School2Home partner schools. Recently Allison Jonas (standing left) and Dr. Vanessa Monterosa (speaking) of the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) Instructional Technology Initiative led a Digital Citizenship workshop. Eighteen School Leadership Teams in the Los Angeles Region participated, including those from LAUSD and Inglewood and Long Beach Unified School Districts. More information on Digital Citizenship resources for educators.

State Superintendent Takes a Bold Step

In September, Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson took the unprecedented step of sending more than 1,000 letters to California education leaders explaining how lower-income students and their families may qualify for discount Internet service at home. He included a link to the CETF-sponsored IFAN website that explains how to apply.

He wrote that too many students "still lack affordable Internet access at home to do their homework or continue their studies outside the classroom. And, their parents are unable to fully access school websites and student information systems."

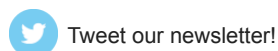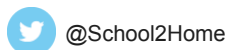CETF commends Superintendent Torlakson and the California Department of Education.

What can you do:

Help us get the word out to low-income families that they may be eligible for discount high-speed Internet service at home. Offers are available from AT&T, Charter (Spectrum), Comcast, Cox, and Frontier. To find out if a household qualifies, call INFO line 844-841-INFO(4636) or visit the IFAN website.

If you know a community-based organization or school that might benefit from learning how to connect students and low-income families to discount Internet, please distribute information at your community events and in your organization newsletters. You can find flyers in English and Spanish here. You are welcome to use the ads, flyers and access the Educators' Toolkit. Through the toolkit, educators can request banners for their individual school sites.

The Best Trip Is a Virtual Trip

The California Broadband Council (CBC), chaired by Department of Technology Director Amy Tong, convened a historic meeting in September with State Agencies and stakeholders to identify strategic corridors and conduit specifications for broadband deployment in transportation rights-of-way. State Agencies included the California Transportation Commission (CTC), Department of Transportation (Caltrans), California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), Office of Emergency Services (OES), and California Department of Food and Agriculture. U.S. Department of Agriculture also participated. Internet Service Providers (ISPs) included AT&T, California Cable and Telecommunications Association (CCTA representing Charter, Comcast, Cox and other cable companies), Frontier, Inyo Networks, and Race Communications. Broadband Regional Consortia, California Association of Councils of Government (CALCOG), California State Association of Counties (CSAC), and Rural County Representatives California (RCRC) also participated. Sunne Wright McPeak, President and CEO of CETF and a member of the CBC, told participants, "When I was Secretary of the California Business, Transportation and Housing Agency, I always used to remind transportation officials that the best trip is a virtual trip". Read about the event in Techwire News.

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