



**Grant Opportunities:**

[California Complete Census CBO Grant Opportunity](#)  
**Deadline: Thurs, Jan. 31**

CPUC, California Advanced Services Fund  
Next Application Deadline:  
**Fri, March 1 at 5PM**

[Grants To Connect People With Disabilities](#)  
**Deadline: Fri, Feb. 1 at 5PM**

[More Information On Grant Opportunities](#)

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**Learn About Low-Cost Broadband Offers:**

[Internet For All Now](#)  
844-841-4636 (INFO)

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**Events:**

[School2Home Leadership Academy 2019](#)

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**In Case You Missed It:**

New York Times  
[The Digital Divide Is Wider Than We Think](#)

Los Angeles Times  
[Facing Childhood Poverty in LA and Our Own Conflicting Emotions](#)

## Let's Talk Broadband!

Happy New Year and welcome to the Winter 2019 newsletter. In this issue, we've got information about Internet For All Now Act of 2017 grants and how you can help ensure a fair 2020 Census. We also have news of a timely discussion on how to tap advanced networks to help spot and track wildfires before they consume communities by installing emergency communications capabilities at county fairgrounds.

We caught up with Oakland Mayor Libby Schaaf, a Digital Inclusion Champion who is working creatively to close the Digital Divide in her city's most underserved neighborhoods.

**More news you can use:**

The California Census Complete County Committee is working to ensure that all Californians are prepared for the first-ever online-only national Census in 2020. The Committee seeks Requests For Proposals from large foundations and community-based organizations (CBOs) with the administrative capacity and experience to help count the hardest-to-reach Californians. Learn about [California Complete Census CBO Grant Opportunities](#). The deadline is January 31st.

CETF highlights Delhi Center, one of our newest grantees in Southern California that is signing up residents for reduced-cost Internet services.

Of course, CETF has a list of 2019 Resolutions – all designed to close the Digital Divide in California. Make them your resolutions, too!

Sincerely,

Sunne Wright McPeak, President and CEO  
California Emerging Technology Fund

## Oakland Mayor Schaaf is on Frontlines of Closing the Digital Divide



*Oakland Mayor Libby Schaaf is a strong advocate for equity and inclusion. She supports Oakland CBOs that help residents in need of access to discount home broadband, digital literacy training and low-cost computers. At the start of 2018, CETF relocated from San Francisco to Oakland. We are excited to hear from The Town's mayor and learn her plans to improve digital equity.*

### **The Digital Divide denies affordable broadband and digital tools to underserved communities and impacts their access to educational, career and civic opportunities? What is your vision for improving digital equity in Oakland?**

The challenges facing our most vulnerable populations can be overwhelming. Lack of affordable broadband impacts their ability to improve their skill sets, complete homework assignments, apply for jobs, access city services, and in general, seek and obtain information about the world in which they live. Furthermore, with the enormous influence of social media, lack of Internet access can also lead to feelings of isolation. More importantly, it mutes the voices of the diverse population that shape the communities of Oakland; it extinguishes dialogues of difference.

Many organizations provide access to resources and work to help the youth of Oakland learn STEM skills, including Black Girls Code, Hack the Hood, the Hidden Genius Project, and the Kapor Center, to name a few. We support the vision statement of SMASH, a STEM education initiative supported by Kapor Center: "Every student, regardless of the zip code they grew up in, has the opportunity to participate in and thrive in the tech innovation economy."

### **What are your plans for realizing this vision?**

Our aim is to provide a no-cost broadband service via OAK Wi-Fi, a citywide initiative born out of the desire to help close the Digital Divide. The build-out is focused on the underserved, economically disadvantaged communities, especially Oakland's underserved school-age population in the east and central parts of the city.

A key component of our buildout strategy is our MOU with AC Transit Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project. It's important to have BRT in tandem with OAK Wi-Fi because the core paths of AC Transit buses traverse a large number of the underserved neighborhoods. The BRT project will provide fiber optic cable from Oakland City Hall down International Blvd to the City of San Leandro. Read more about the OAK Wi-Fi vision [here](#).

Oakland must also digitally transform the various services it provides so that they may be accessible via the Internet. To this end, we have created [OAK APPS](#) – an application hub/portal of digitally transformed city services. This project is in its infancy, but we are making steady progress, continuously adding new apps.

### **You are successfully building a sustainable economic engine in Oakland. How is Oakland's revitalization helping realize digital equity?**

Oakland is working with many of its corporate residents in efforts to address Digital Inclusion. Programs such as the Civic Design Lab (Citibank) and Resilient Cities (Rockefeller Foundation) are examples of current projects aimed at using technology to help address homelessness, affordable housing, citizen complaints, and digital service delivery. We are also in discussions with AT&T, Verizon, Bloomberg, Comcast, and several others) around developing additional efforts to systemically address issues of Digital Inclusion.

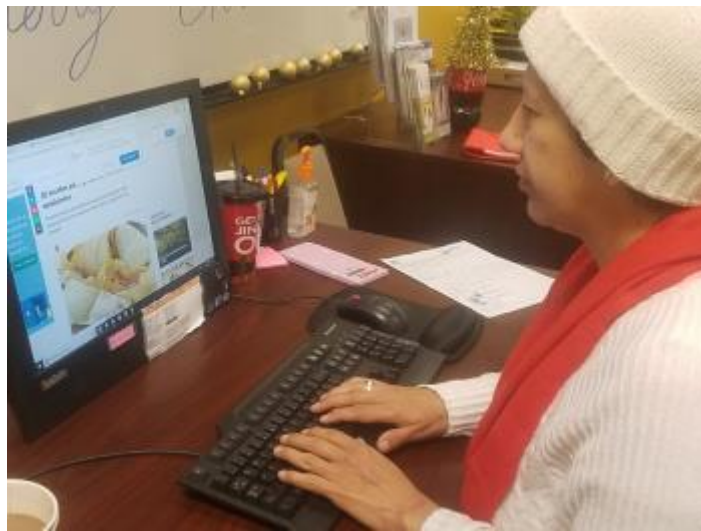
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## Delhi Center: Promoting Neighborhood Startups

To start a business, all you need is the Internet and a good idea. Santa Ana's [Delhi Center](#) assists families through the Family Economic Stability Initiative (FES) with job preparation, financial budget development and startup business support.

### Check out these Delhi Center stories:

Guisela Fuentes is currently taking computer classes and recently set up her first email address. Through the FES program, she gained entrepreneurship skills and now, after adopting a reduced-cost home Internet plan, she is ready to start an online business based on one of her favorite hobbies: homemade desserts.



*Guisela Fuentes is building her digital skills at Delhi Center's free computer classes.*

Mayra Sanchez, Delhi Center Member Advocate, had been helping residents assess their utility bills and establish appropriate budgets. Then, she encountered residents with similar challenges paying their Internet bills, and she now helps them sign up for reduced-cost Internet. Mayra tells *Let's Talk Broadband*, "We have to think creatively and plan for a transitional process that can take as long as a month. But it's worth the wait when you can lower your Internet bill."

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## CETF Board of Expert Advisors Design “Digital Revolution”

In December, the Board of Expert Advisors (BEA) discussed the development of emerging technologies and how to tap advanced networks to help communities during disasters.

They focused on the success of the Corporation for Education Network Initiatives in California (CENIC) in supporting WIFIRE, a wildfire mapping system funded by the University of California, San Diego. Using the CENIC network, data gathered from real-time weather sensors is relayed to emergency agencies working to track and halt blazes. CENIC uses layered networks to rapidly execute, examine and then revise to fill critical broadband gaps that play a key communications role during disasters.



*Carlos Ramos (standing center), Principal Consultant at Maestro Public Sector and former State Chief Innovation Officer and BEA Member, encouraged collaboration to solve communication challenges.*



*BEA members met in small groups to discuss opportunities to collaborate and invest where broadband expansion challenges exist. From left to right: Janet Salisbury, Manager of the City of Oakland IT Finance and Contracts, Cynthia Mackey, CEO of Winning Strategies, Phillip Deneef, Chief Strategy Officer for GeoLinks, David Witkowski, Founder and CEO of Oku Solutions, Catherine Sandoval, former CPUC Commissioner and Associate Professor of Law at Santa Clara University, and Sonja Harris, Corporate Director at Conifer Communications.*



*From left to right: Joy Sterling, Partner and CEO of Iron Horse Vineyards, Glenna Barrett, Executive Director of Southern Border Broadband Consortium, and Jarrid Keller, Assistant Director of Infrastructure at the Sacramento Public Library, exchange ideas about planning broadband use in emergencies*

Joy Sterling, Chair of the Rural Caucus of the California Democratic Party, member of the California State Food & Agriculture Board and BEA member, said, "We need to get permanent, emergency-level communications connectivity urgently placed at all fairgrounds, our most critical staging and evacuation centers in a disaster." The BEA Work Groups will report recommendations at a CETF Public Policy Forum in March 2019.

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## Make These Your 2019 Resolutions

**Send this newsletter to your network, and spread the news about how everyone can help close the Digital Divide in California.**

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 the toll free INFO line 844-841-INFO (4636) or visit the [Internet For All Now](#) (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 discounted Internet, please distribute information at your community events and in your organization newsletters. You can find flyers in English and Spanish and access detailed information on the [Affordable Home Internet Offers](#) on the IFAN website.

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## Meet CETF Board of Directors

View videos and read [bios](#) to learn why they are working passionately to close the Digital Divide in California.

<p><a href="#">Dr. Barbara O'Connor, Ph. D.</a> <i>Co-Chair and Secretary</i> Professor Emeritus California State University, Sacramento Retired, National Board of Directors AARP</p> <p><a href="#">Richard Motta</a> <i>Co-Chair and Treasurer-CFO</i> Retired Vice President AT&amp;T</p> <p><a href="#">Jeff Campbell</a> Vice President, The Americas Global Government Affairs Cisco Systems, Inc.</p> <p><a href="#">The Honorable Martha M. Escutia</a> Former California State Senator Vice President Government Relations University of Southern California</p> <p><a href="#">Barb Johnston</a> President, The Castleton Group</p> <p><a href="#">Jim Kirkland</a> General Counsel, Trimble Inc.</p> <p><a href="#">Renée D. Martinez</a> President Emeritus, Los Angeles City College</p>	<p><a href="#">Tim J. McCallion</a> Adjunct Professor, California State University, Los Angeles Retired President - West Region, Verizon</p> <p><a href="#">Pedro Noguera, Ph.D.</a> Distinguished Professor of Education Center for the Study of School Transformation University of California, Los Angeles</p> <p><a href="#">Darrell J. Stewart</a> Public Sector Manager Intel, Americas</p> <p><a href="#">Dorian Traube, Ph. D.</a> Associate Professor Dworak-Peck School of Social Work University of Southern California</p> <p><a href="#">Melinda White</a> CEO Transit Wireless Retired Region President Frontier Communications</p> <p><a href="#">Carol Whiteside</a> Partner California Strategies, LLC</p>
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