

CETF MERGERS
PUBLIC BENEFIT AGREEMENT UPDATES

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California Emerging Technology Fund (CETF)

Verizon Public Benefit MOU

CETF-Verizon Public Benefit MOU

$40M Digital Inclusion + $1M Small Business

- Get 100,000 low-income HHs online and digitally proficient.
- Help small businesses access $500M in Verizon small business programs (qualify for $150M more – $650M total).
- Workforce and suppliers that reflect California's population (Inclusion-Diversity-Equity).

2 Tracks of Listening Sessions: 18 Events

Engaged: CDT, CPUC, Stakeholders

March–April 2026

1. Digital Inclusion: Thursdays, 2-4 PM

   161 Organizations Registered; 122 Participated

2. Small Business: Fridays, 12-2 PM

   459 Businesses Registered; 245 Participated

May: Draft Action Plans released.

June: Action Plans approved by CETF Board.

Common Themes from Listening Sessions

Digital Inclusion Listening Sessions

- Community-based organizations (CBOs) need more support and funding for Adoption services.
- CBOs are “trusted messengers” to reach digitally-disadvantaged households.
- CBOs want assistance for Digital Navigator services, such as through the Digital Equity Ecosystem.
- There is a need for access to affordable computing devices and technical assistance.
- Processes for enrollment in affordable Internet subscriptions need to be streamlined.

Small Business Listening Sessions

- Small businesses don’t have time for online learning if there are not prospective contracts.
- Small business networks are valuable intermediaries for members to use Verizon resources.
- Higher incentives for Digital Ready and Small Business Accelerator would increase participation.
- Programs need to be available in multiple languages and accessible for PWD owners.
- Networks and small businesses support goal of workforce and suppliers that reflect population.

Digital Inclusion Action Plan: Phase 1 Goals

Phase 1: Infrastructure and Partner Selection (July – September 2026)

Key Activities:

- ➢ Launch the CETF CRM system for grantee use.
- ➢ Enter into grant agreements with experienced grantees ready to deliver services.
- ➢ Schedule and begin Digital Navigator training for grantee staff.

Deliverables:

- ✓ CRM operational and streamlining reporting for grantees
- ✓ Grant agreements in place with experienced CBOs and promising regional partners.
- ✓ First cohort of Digital Navigators trained.

Digital Inclusion Action Plan: Progress to Date

Digital Literacy Grants

- **30 of 36** Digital Literacy Grant Agreements awarded; 6 still under discussion.
- **33** Digital Navigators trained and certified.
- **58** more currently in training (FY26-27 Goal: >300).
- **1 grantee has already met its goal of training 100 HHs!**

Call Center Grants

- **18** Call Center Grant Agreements awarded.
- **68** Digital Navigator Customer Service Reps trained and certified.
- **10** more currently in training.
- **47,385** calls answered in FY26-27 Q1.
- **12,386** Enrollments in affordable Internet since February 2026 toward 100,000-HH Goal.

Small Business Action Plan: Progress to Date

12 small business networks engaged, working individually and jointly

Action Plan Themes	What the Action Plan Recommends	Small Business Network Collaborative Grant Goals
Addressing Procurement Challenges	Pre-RFP events, matchmaking, and direct pathways to contracts.	• **10** procurement fairs. • Secure Verizon contracts for **<20** businesses.
Meeting Operational and Capacity Needs	Digital Literacy, AI readiness, and technology adoption training.	• **10** Digital Ready briefings. • **10** Small Business Accelerator briefings. • Assist **>500** businesses.
Filling Engagement and Relational Gaps	Regular convenings, networking events, and regionally tailored outreach.	Engage **>3,000** businesses in forums.
Providing Accessible Tools and Resources	Timely information through trusted messengers; disability-accessible content.	• Distribute information to **>6,000** businesses. • **National Disability Institute** provides accessibility consultation and support to all networks.
Partnering with Existing Networks	Invest in trusted intermediaries such as chambers, colleges, and workforce boards.	**12** networks serve as trusted intermediaries to their members.

Charter Public Benefit MOU

CETF-Charter Public Benefit MOU

$30M Digital Inclusion + $7M California Communities and Workers

- **Adoption:** Get another 100,000 low-income HHs online and digitally proficient (200,000 combined with Verizon); expand the California Green Technology Initiative.
- **Affordable Internet:** $20/month for standalone 100/20 Mbps service for 5 years.
- **Free Community Internet:** 500/20 Mbps public WiFi at 50 anchor institutions for 5 years.
- **Enrollment and Outreach:** Trained Charter call center agents + $300K/year in in-language media.
- **California Communities and Workers:**
  - $5M through CDFIs to expand capital for small businesses in disadvantaged communities.
  - $2M to expand VetConnect workforce training to two more California military bases.

Digital Inclusion Action Plan Phase 2: Goals

Phase 2: Scaled Implementation (9 Months, October 2026 – June 2027)

Includes CETF-Charter Public Benefit MOU commitments

Key Activities:

- Launch statewide Direct Notification and organize outreach and community events.
- Train 300+ Digital Navigators with certification.
- Scale up enrollment and Digital Literacy Training.
- Expand the Green Technology Initiative with partners.
- Establish regular learning communities and consultations with regional partners.

Deliverables:

- Full implementation of the 2-year Digital Inclusion investments in this Action Plan.
- Performance dashboards to support grantee implementation.
- Regional collaboratives recruiting Green Technology Initiative partners to increase donated retired computers for non-profit refurbishers and the CETF-Revivn partnership.