CETF BOARD OF EXPERT ADVISORS

October 15, 2026

Human Intelligence Ahead of the Wave

AI Work Group Update

THE EQUITY CHALLENGE

Digital Equity Now Requires Ai Readiness and Agency

Connectivity remains essential. Communities also need the skills and safeguards to use AI.

HUMAN AGENCY

Protection Gap

Human oversight, accountability, and the ability to challenge automated decisions.

AI READINESS

AI Readiness Gap

Computing resources, data literacy, and the skills to evaluate and use AI.

FOUNDATIONAL ACCESS

Traditional Gap

Broadband access, affordable devices, and basic digital literacy.

OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLE

People Belong at the Center

The Future We Want

Every community, worker, and child can benefit from AI within CETF's digital equity mission.

Human judgment from the outset

People shape AI design, deployment, and equity safeguards before systems reach communities.



Five Thematic Lenses Focus the Work

Each grouping has a ceiling of two research briefs. CETF's charter defines the boundary.

NO.	THEMATIC GROUPING	STRATEGIC DIRECTION
1	Protection and Agency	**Govern Before Deployment** Human-centered safeguards before launch.
2	Access and Capability	**Build AI Capability** Adoption, tools, and literacy beyond broadband.
3	Economic Mobility	**Protect Economic Mobility** Keep earning power within reach as work changes.
4	Community Benefit	**Expand Equitable AI Learning** Tools and training for under-resourced schools.
5	Infrastructure and Grid	**Safeguard Affordable Access** Protect low-income ratepayers as AI load grows.

THE DECISION CHALLENGE

AI Opens Many Possibilities.
CETF Must Focus Its Effort

01 GATHER AND SCOPE

Two Briefs per Grouping

Member input organizes concerns across five thematic lenses and bounds the research.

02 TEST THE CHARTER

Reach, Mandate, Leverage

Who benefits? Can CETF act now? Would our intervention change the outcome?

03 SCORE WITH RICE

3–5 Priorities Advance

Compare benefit, evidence, and effort. Keep other ideas under review without resources.

October 16: review voting and RICE results before confirming priorities.

RICE Focuses Resources on 3–5 Recommendations

RICE = (Reach × Impact × Confidence) ÷ Effort SCORE EACH FACTOR 1 2 3 4 5 (LOWEST – HIGHEST)

R

Reach

How many people could benefit?

SCORES HIGHEST
Most unserved Californians, across regions.

SCORES LOWEST
A few hundred people in a few communities.

I

Impact

How meaningful is the change for each person?

SCORES HIGHEST
Sustained, independent use.

SCORES LOWEST
Awareness rises, but daily use changes little.

C

Confidence

How strong is the evidence that CETF can help?

SCORES HIGHEST
Strong evidence and a clear CETF contribution.

SCORES LOWEST
Thin evidence or work others would do anyway.

E

Effort

What staff time and funding does the work require?

LIFTS THE SCORE
Fits current staff, funding, and partners.

DRAGS IT DOWN
A new program with new staff and a multi-year effort.

Five Applied Committees Test the Priorities

Accessibility informs all 5 Committees. Work Group members may join any Committee.

NO.	APPLIED COMMITTEE	CO-CHAIRS TO CONFIRM
1	AI Digital Literacy	Jarrid Keller Claudia Wiedeman
2	Education and Workforce	Rae Fearing Mike Lawrence
3	Healthcare	Barb Yellowlees Anisa Abeytia
4	Research	Raul Rincon Francesca Caparas
5	Data Centers	Cynthia Mackey David Witkowski

COMMITTEE ACCOUNTABILITY

Every Recommendation Needs Evidence and an Owner

THE EQUITY GAP
People and Evidence

- Identify the affected population and the specific equity gap.
- Assess the quality and strength of the evidence.
- Consult affected communities and partners closest to the issue.

CETF'S DISTINCTIVE ROLE
CETF Role and Feasibility

- Map existing efforts and identify the gap that remains.
- Explain why CETF's role would change the outcome.
- Assess feasibility and key risks, including accessibility.

THE BOARD'S DECISION
A Clear Recommendation

- Advance, decline, or research further.
- Name a lead, milestones, and a measurable 12-month outcome.
- State unresolved questions and what it would take to answer them.

Thematic categories frame the questions. Applied Committees test priorities in practical settings.

NEXT STEPS

Four Milestones Lead to a Possible 2027 Posture

October 16

Review RICE results and confirm participation.

Set bounded scopes.

October 30

Map existing efforts and consult communities.

Share initial reports.

November 13

Recommend an action and a measurable outcome.

Flag open questions.

December 11

Refine recommendations and consider 2027 options.

Choose a policy path.

Your Expertise can Shape What Comes Next

Today, the BEA can confirm mission alignment, surface material blind spots, and commit expertise to a committee.

Confirm Mission Fit | **Flag Blind Spots** | **Contribute Expertise**