Local Best Practices Check List Project

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Local Government and Regional Leadership Best Practices Learning Community Project

- The Local Government Best Practices Check List was developed based on the Local Government and Regional Leadership Resource Guide updated in 2021 in collaboration with Valley Vision, and posted on the California Department of Technology Broadband For All website
- The Best Practices Check List was vetted and endorsed by all Regional Broadband Consortium and distributed by mail to all 58 Counties and 482 Cities.

Local Government Best Practices Check List Project

- CETF invested $1.135 million in the Local Government Best Practices Checklist Project.
- The project demonstrated how collaboration among Local Governments, Regional Broadband Consortia (RBCs), and Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) can accelerate broadband deployment and adoption, and Digital Equity capacity.
- Participating jurisdictions engaged in a focused Learning Community model of just three workshops over one year.
- Results showed that a modest, structured engagement process can generate meaningful progress in planning, partnerships, policy development, and broadband implementation.

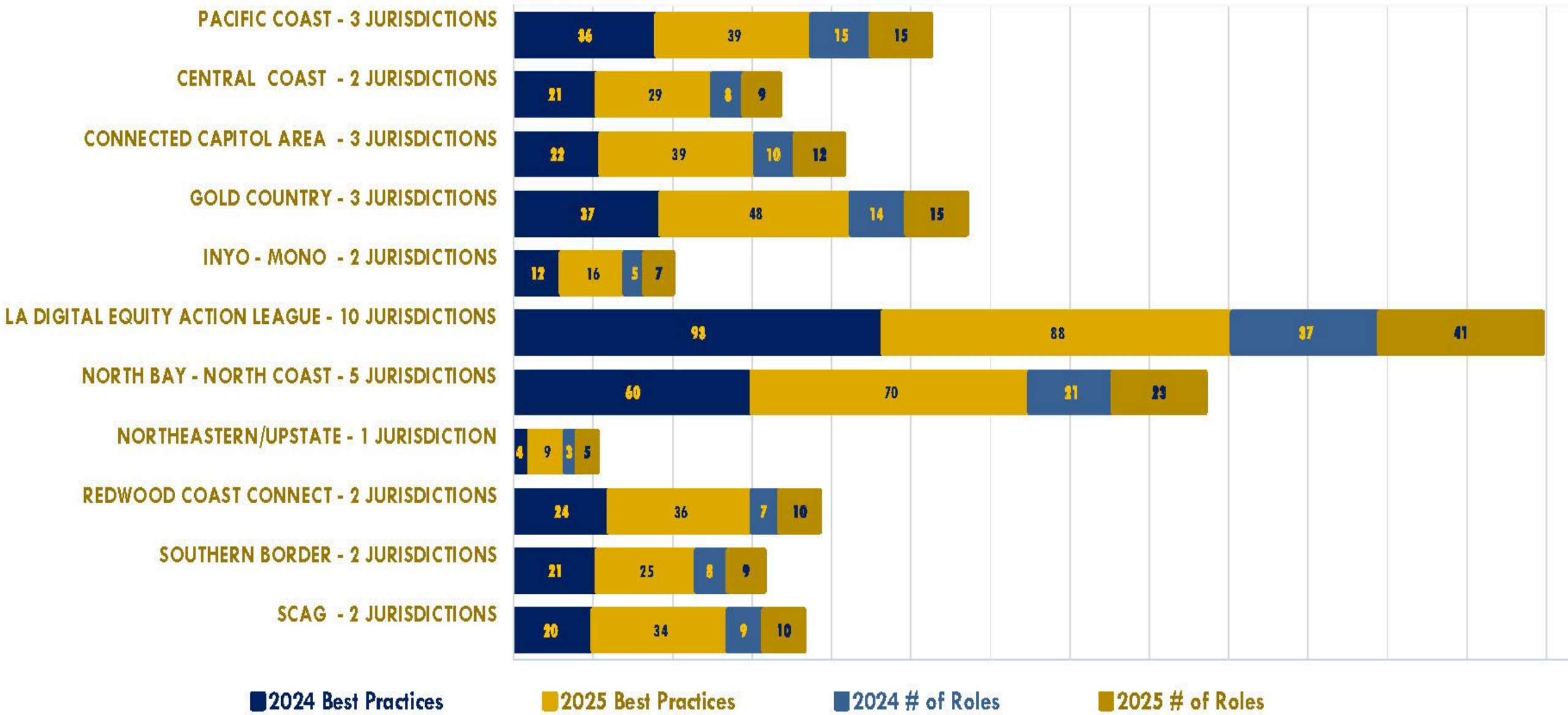
Learning Community Leadership Participation Model

- 46 California Cities and Counties completed Best Practices Check List and 45 submitted a simple proposal around local Digital Equity priorities, 35 jurisdictions elected to participate in the Learning Community.
- Jurisdictions only were required to report how grant funds were used to help close the Digital Divide in their communities.
- RBCs and MPOs received $10,000 per participating Local Government in their respective regions to support engagement, technical assistance, and coordination.

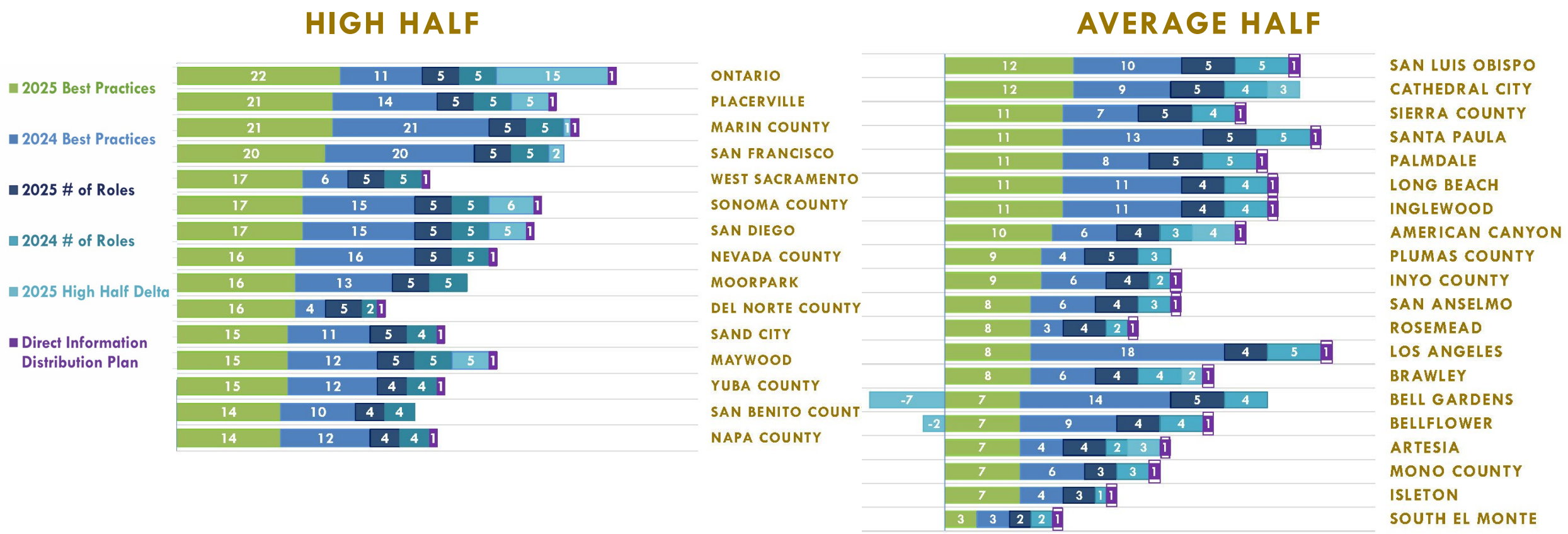
Key Finding: Learning Communities Demonstrated Significant Impact

A small number of intentionally designed and well-facilitated Learning Community sessions can produce outsized impact when engagement is focused, practical, and action-oriented.

BEST PRACTICES IMPACT By Regional Leadership



LOCAL GOVERNMENT BEST PRACTICES BY IMPLEMENTED BEST PRACTICES AND ROLES



GETCONNECTED! CALIFORNIA

School 2 Home

- $1,135,000 from T-Mobile MOU $5M Obligation
  - 46 Local Governments (LCs) submitted Check Lists and received $1,000.
  - 35 Local Governments applied for Learning Community Grant and received $20,000.
  - 11 RBCs + 2MPOs received $10,000 per participating Local Government in region.
- Best Practices Check List Project Engaged and Facilitated Collaboration
  - 3 Learning Community Workshops completed: September; February; April.
  - 2 Optional Workshops conducted on CPUC CASF Grants: December; May.
  - 35 Action Plans collected from Local Governments to distribute information about affordable Internet offers and Digital Literacy Training.
  - LC Final Reports are being compiled and analyzed by RBCs and CETF.
  - Project Summary Report will be prepared by September for publication.
- Participants Appreciated the Learning Community Process and Experience

Regional Leadership Grantees played a pivotal Best Practices Check List role

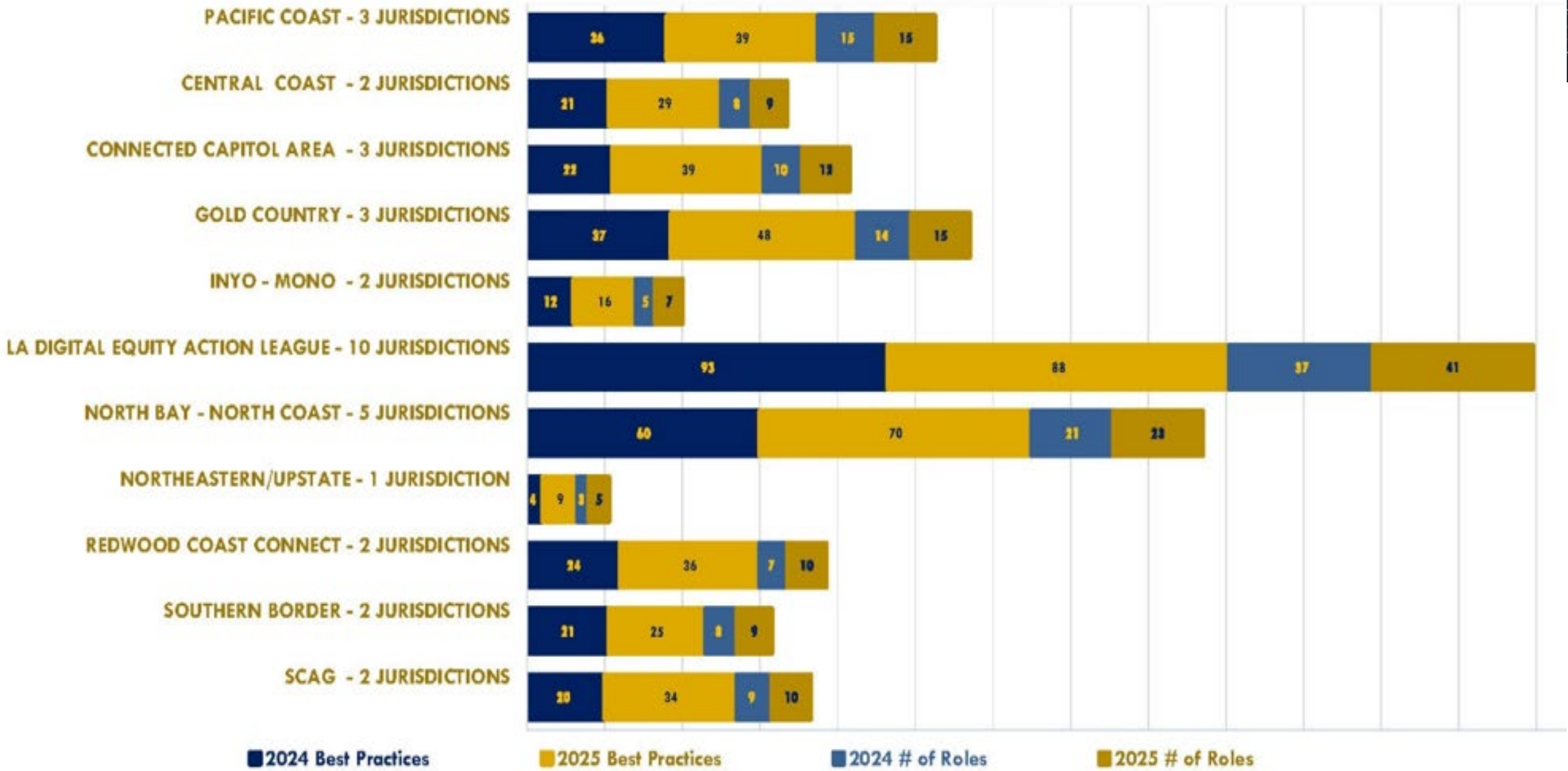
- 83% (29 of 35) Local Governments shared Direct Information Distribution Plans and
- 100% jurisdictions completed Final Reports and follow-up Check Lists.
- 12 RBCs-MPOs conducted comprehensive evaluations of all Local Governments.

Concentrated Leadership But Broad-based momentum

2025 Local Governments results reviewed by Regional Leadership revealed:

- Jurisdictions trended toward increases of 3 to 7 Best Practices in 1 to 2 Roles.
- The Learning Community outcomes advanced a strong Best Practices increase for Policy Leaders; the average mean increased from 2.8 to 3.3; followed by Service Providers - average mean improved from 2.5 to 2.8.
- Many jurisdictions moved into higher tiers: “High Half Delta” positive in multiple cases (e.g., Sonoma +2, Ontario +11, Placerville +7)

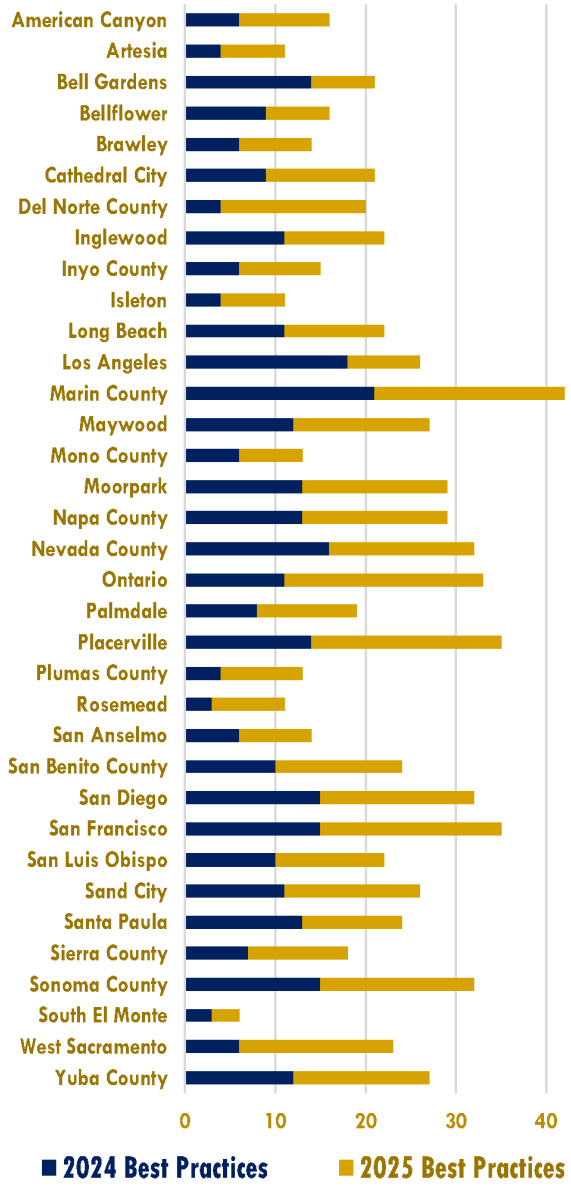
REGIONAL LEADERSHIP IMPACT: EXPANDED LOCAL GOVERNMENT ADOPTION
2024–2025 BEST PRACTICES and ROLES



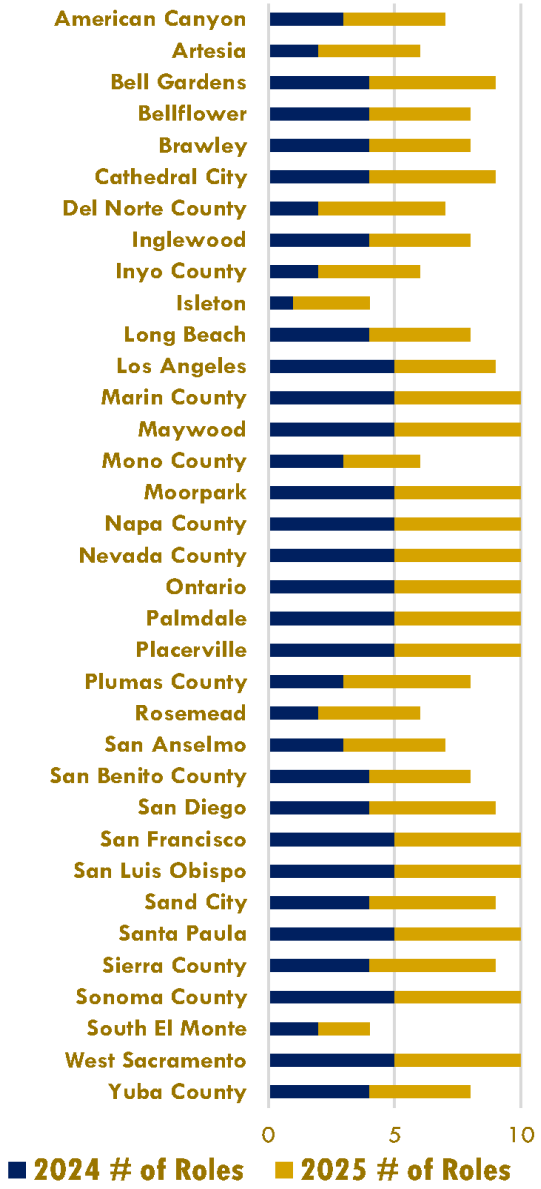
The Best Practices Learning Community Impact and Outcomes:

- +79 Best Practices | 2024: 356 → 2025: 435 | ~18.5% growth
- Advanced Digital Equity Plans from implementation to execution
- Elevated real-time opportunities for Policy Leaders to adopt and expand Digital Equity public-purpose policies across departments
- Boosted Learning Community participation, with the greatest gains among Policy Leaders, followed by Service Providers
- Broadened and accelerated systems performance progress across mid- and average jurisdictions— not just top performers.
- Leveraged Learning Community insights, translating strategy into actionable results
- Positioned for sustained progress, supported by scalable practices and regional coordination

TOTAL BEST PRACTICES (1-25) BY LOCAL GOVERNMENTS 2024 vs 2025



TOTAL BEST PRACTICE ROLES (1-5) BY LOCAL GOVERNMENTS 2024 vs 2025

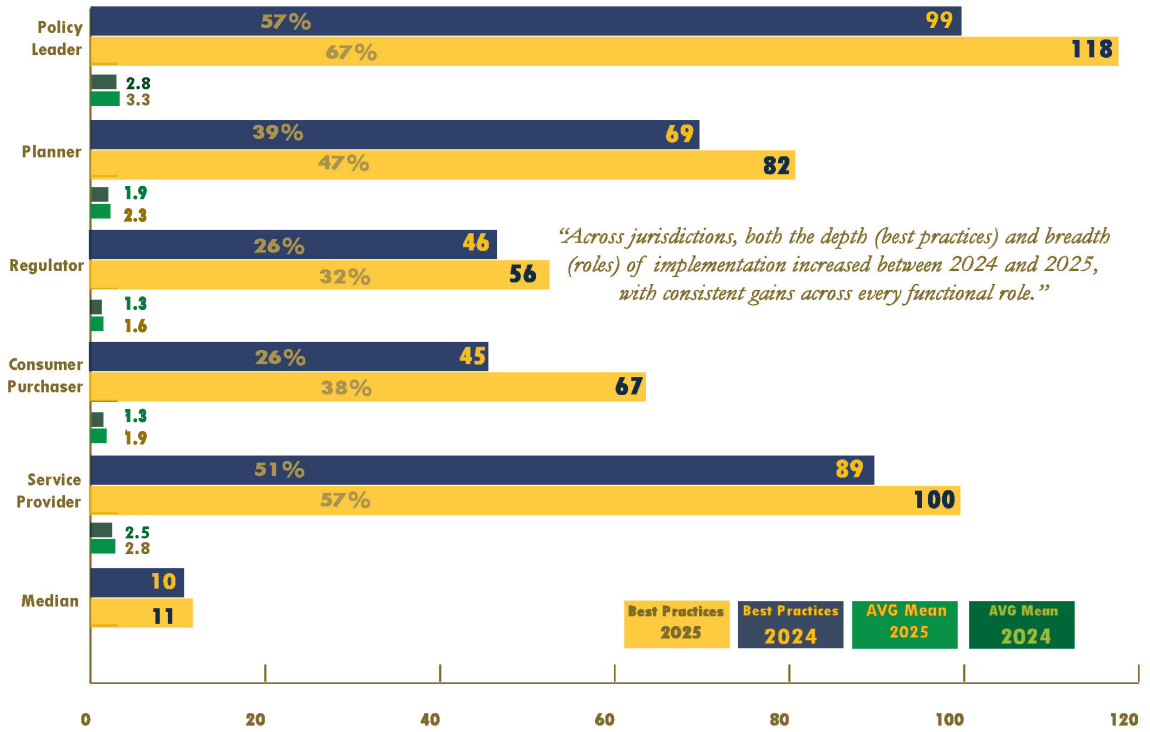


LOCAL GOVERNMENT TOTAL BEST PRACTICES

ROLES IMPLEMENTED AND AVG MEAN

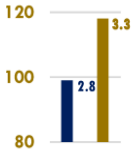
2024 VS 2025

Best Practice adoption grew 23.7% (350 to 433), demonstrating strong year-over-year improvement.



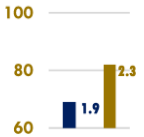
"Across jurisdictions, both the depth (best practices) and breadth (roles) of implementation increased between 2024 and 2025, with consistent gains across every functional role."

Policy Leader
AVG MEAN
2024-2025



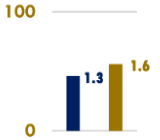
Policy Leader 2024 (2.8 avg mean)
Policy Leader 2025 (3.3 avg mean)

Planner
AVG MEAN
2024-2025



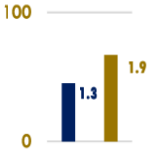
Planner 2024 (1.9 avg mean)
Planner 2025 (2.3 avg mean)

Regulator
AVG MEAN
2024-2025



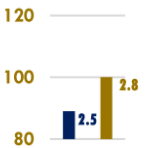
Regulator 2024 (1.3 avg mean)
Regulator 2025 (1.6 avg mean)

Consumer Purchaser
AVG MEAN
2024-2025



Consumer Purchaser 2024 (1.3 avg mean)
Consumer Purchaser 2025 (1.9 avg mean)

Service Provider
AVG MEAN
2024-2025



Service Provider 2024 (2.5 avg mean)
Service Provider 2025 (2.8 avg mean)

Strategic Guidance from Regional Leaders Inspired Local Government Engagement

- Discussed, identified collaborative approaches for effective Digital Equity strategies.
- Empowered Local Leaders to streamline permitting and engage service providers, and
- Advanced public-purpose Policies, Digital Inclusion into local planning processes

What Works

- **Invest in Leadership Capacity Through Learning Communities** –Encourage more investment in developing Local Leadership with structured Learning Community models, shared resources, and Regional Policy alignment.
- **Expand Technical Assistance and Policy Support** – Provide ongoing Technical Assistance, Policy Guidance, and funding opportunities to help Local Governments adopt more Roles and implement Best Practices with fidelity.
- **Integrate Broadband into Planning for Long-Term Sustainability** – Continue advancing Broadband Deployment and Adoption by embedding Digital Equity goals into Local Government General Plans and MPO Regional Plans.

Key Recommendation Highlights

- Formalize governance and accountability across stakeholders
- Standardize performance metrics, reporting, and benchmarking
- Integrate broadband and Digital Equity into long-term planning
- Strengthen regional coordination and implementation alignment
- Invest in local leadership capacity through learning communities, coaching, and shared resources
- Advance broadband deployment and adoption in General Plans and MPO Regional Plans
- Expand grants and partnerships to drive equitable access, affordability, and Digital Inclusion