



#Oakland Undivided

MEDIA ALLIANCE



California COMMUNITY Foundation

GPSN
CATALYZING EXCELLENCE
IN PUBLIC EDUCATION



Communities
In Schools®
Los Angeles

our VOICE
communities for quality education

The Children's
Partnership

HEALING AND
JUSTICE CENTER

LYNWOOD
UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

ELECTRONIC FRONTIER FOUNDATION

EDUCATORS
FOR EXCELLENCE

nextgen
california

DESTINATION
CRENSHAW

30 YEARS
COMMUNITY CLINIC ASSOCIATION
CELEBRATING THREE DECADES
OF ADVOCACY AND SERVICE

ABC
Alliance for a
Better Community

common
sense
media

BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF THE LOS ANGELES HARBOR

USC Annenberg
School for Communication
and Journalism
Center on Communication
Leadership and Policy

PARENT INSTITUTE FOR
QUALITY EDUCATION
PIQE
SINCE 1987

SELA
COLLABORATIVE
ITUP
Insure the Uninsured Project

the Y
YMCA

IILSR INSTITUTE FOR
Local Self-Reliance

GATEWAY CITIES
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS



PON
Parent
Organization
Network
Breaking Through Barriers

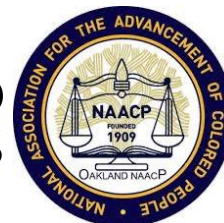
ARTS OF LA

Families
In Schools+



Innovate
Public Schools

CALIFORNIA
NATIVE VOTE
PROJECT



MICHELSON
CENTER FOR
PUBLIC POLICY

one
INSTITUTE



OAKLAND
THRIVES

LIGHTHOUSE
Community Public Schools
WHERE OAKLAND SHINES

INNERCITY STRUGGLE
Building a Movement in the Eastside

CITIZEN
SCHOOLS

hack the hood

KAPOR
CENTER

TEACH
+ PLUS



everyone on

END
POVERTY
IN
CALIFORNIA

CETF
CALIFORNIA EMERGING TECHNOLOGY FUND

NewStart Housing Corporation



DIVERSITY
IN LEADERSHIP
INSTITUTE



THE
GREENLINING
INSTITUTE



WATTS OF
POWER
FOUNDATION

Parent
Engagement
Academy

COFEM
CONSEJO DE FEDERACIONES
MEXICANAS

OAKLAND
PUBLIC LIBRARY

Tech
Exchange

THE
ANGELENO
PROJECT

FRESNO COALITION
FOR DIGITAL INCLUSION

GREATER SAN FERNANDO VALLEY
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



FAMILIES
IN ACTION
FOR QUALITY EDUCATION



UNITE LA
Education Innovation Through Collaboration

LATINO
EQUALITY
ALLIANCE

ALIANZA
LATINA POR
LA IGUALDAD

TURN
THE UTILITY REFORM NETWORK
Lower bills. Livable planet.

paRa los niños
for the childRen

C for AT
The Center For
Accessible Technology

United
PARENTS & STUDENTS



Re: Safeguarding the \$1.5B Middle-Mile Broadband Initiative Investment in 2024

We, the undersigned organizations and leaders, **invite you to work alongside us to safeguard the \$1.5 billion allocation for the Middle-Mile Broadband Initiative (MMBI) in the Governor's proposed budget.**

The middle mile is linked to the backbone of the internet, ensuring whole communities and regions can connect. Without a robust middle mile, last mile connections - those to homes, businesses, schools, libraries, clinics, etc. - range from impossible to impossibly expensive. There are myriad projects across the State already underway making use of this critical resource.

If the MMBI is completed as planned (which requires the \$1.5B in the Governor's proposed budget), California's MMBI will be a future-proof network supporting connectivity in every part of the State, in all kinds of communities - urban, rural, and tribal - for decades to come. Today, 1 in 5 Californians do not have fast, reliable, and affordable connectivity. The remaining pieces of the MMBI are critical to changing that reality.

The internet is essential as a vehicle for a community's economic growth and overall wellness. As referenced in the California Broadband Council Plan, this includes:

- **Individual benefits:** Broadband access enables individuals to work, study, communicate, apply for government services, operate home-based businesses, receive emergency information, and access health care.
- **Powering the state's critical systems:** Broadband powers the state's most critical systems, from its electrical grid to its water supply systems and its public safety and emergency response networks.
- **Enabling thriving businesses:** Broadband enables communities to build thriving economies by attracting talent and businesses. It powers California's advancement and success in industries from higher education to manufacturing and agriculture and in the service economy.

Previously allocated funding has provided for 80% of the MMBI network. By protecting the \$1.5 billion investment in the Governor's current proposed budget to fully complete it, the State protects the value of its existing, encumbered MMBI investments as well as the efficiency and effectiveness of other related Broadband for All programs. To delay the completion of the entire network risks depreciating the value of the existing infrastructure and limiting the State's return on investment. Moreover, the \$1.5 billion is a commitment to equity, giving the California Department of Technology the opportunity to prioritize historically marginalized communities and regions in completing the network, as is the legislative intent of the Federal dollars funding the MMBI.

As organizations and leaders that represent many of the most disconnected communities in California, we ask you to stand alongside us and call for the safeguarding of the

critical \$1.5 billion investment in the MMBI. By coupling the federal dollars put to use in 2021 in SB156 with additional state dollars this year, the State can stand by its commitment to closing the digital divide. There is no time to waste.

Sincerely,

Leaders

- Sheng Thao, Mayor, City of Oakland
- Emma Sharif, Mayor, City of Compton
- John Erickson, Mayor, City of West Hollywood
- Rita Soto, Mayor Pro Tem, City of Lynwood
- Janani Ramachandran, Councilmember, City of Oakland, District 4
- Noel Gallo, Councilmember, City of Oakland, District 5
- Treva Reid, Councilmember, City of Oakland, District 7
- Sam Davis, Oakland Board of Education President
- Cindy Chavez, Santa Clara County Supervisor, District 2
- Al Rios, Councilmember, City of South Gate
- Eddie Martinez, Councilmember, City of Huntington Park
- Kyra Mungia, CEO, TRiO Plus

Organizations

- California Alliance for Digital Equity
- Digital Equity LA
- #OaklandUndivided
- California Community Foundation
- GPSN
- Healing and Justice Center
- Media Alliance
- The Children's Partnership
- Communities in Schools of Los Angeles (CISLA)
- Common Sense Media
- Lynwood Unified School District
- Destination Crenshaw
- The Angeleno Project
- Electronic Frontier Foundation
- NextGen California
- Our Voice: Communities for Quality Education
- Boys & Girls Clubs of the Los Angeles Harbor
- Institute for Local Self Reliance (ILSR)
- Parent Institute for Quality Education
- Alliance for a Better Community
- USC Annenberg Center on Communication Leadership and Policy
- Community Clinic Association of Los Angeles County
- Insure the Uninsured Project (ITUP)

- Community Coalition of the Antelope Valley
- Innovate Public Schools
- California Native Vote Project
- YMCA of Metropolitan Los Angeles
- Hack the Hood
- Arts for LA
- Michelson Center for Public Policy
- Families In Schools
- Parent Organization Network (PON)
- One Institute
- The Greenlining Institute
- A Place Called Home
- Oakland Thrives
- Watts of Power Foundation
- Center for Powerful Public Schools
- Citizen Schools
- InnerCity Struggle
- Lighthouse Community Public Schools
- EveryoneOn
- NAACP Oakland
- Kapor Center
- COFEM
- Newstart Housing Corp
- Tech Exchange
- Parent Engagement Academy
- Greater San Fernando Valley Chamber of Commerce
- Diversity in Leadership Institute
- United Parents and Students
- Rural County Representatives of California
- Oakland Youth Commission
- Fresno Coalition for Digital Inclusion
- Para Los Niños
- Latino Equality Alliance
- Center for Accessible Technology
- SELA Collaborative
- The Utility Reform Network (TURN)
- California State Association of Counties
- UNITE-LA
- Access Humboldt
- The Oakland REACH
- Gateway Cities Council of Governments
- Teach Plus California
- Educators for Excellence, Los Angeles
- California Emerging Technology Fund

- Vermont Slauson Economic Development Corporation
- Oakland Public Library
- CA African American Chamber of Commerce
- Homies Empowerment
- End Poverty in California (EPIC)
- T5 Solutions Technology Services
- Families in Action