To: California Adult Educators  
From: Dr. Carolyn Zachry

The CDE, OTAN, and CAEP TAP recently participated in the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) workshops happening throughout CA. Several topics were discussed and recommended strategies to address the needs of different populations and outcome areas. Strategies included providing technical support and funding for devices, training and deploying Digital Navigators, partnering with existing services and organizations, investing in digital literacy training for incarcerated individuals, veterans, individuals with disabilities, and those with language barriers, supporting ethnically diverse hires and partnerships, prioritizing rural areas for infrastructure development, promoting opportunities for women and LGBTQI+ individuals, transforming schools into community centers, investing in telehealth and healthcare training, expanding digital literacy programs, supporting workforce development and economic growth, improving essential services accessibility and civic engagement, and collaborating with tribal communities.

The purpose of the State's Digital Equity Plan is to ensure equal access to digital technologies, services, and resources for all individuals and communities within the state. The goal is to bridge the digital divide and promote digital inclusion, thereby reducing disparities in digital access, skills, and opportunities. Another goal is to address barriers to digital equity and develop strategies to provide affordable broadband access, promote digital literacy and skills development, and support the use of digital technologies in various sectors such as education, healthcare, workforce development, and civic engagement.  
The California Department of Technology (CDT) has developed two comprehensive digital equity surveys. These surveys aim to identify the barriers and needs of individuals in unserved and underserved communities, informing the State's Digital Equity Plan.

**PLEASE DISTRIBUTE THE DIGITAL EQUITY SURVEY** – *for individuals*

The Digital Equity Survey is intended to identify the digital equity barriers and needs of California’s residents (everyone, including our students). The survey can be taken online or via mobile phone. It is accessible in 14 different languages and includes audio functionality for limited English proficiency and limited literacy residents. Below are links to the survey and an outreach toolkit to promote to your clients, customers, and constituents.

[Digital Equity Survey](https://broadbandforall.civilspace.io/en/projects/california-department-of-technology-broadband-digital-equity-survey/engagements/california-state-digital-equity-plan-public-survey-10-15-minutes/sections/1)  
[Digital Equity Survey Outreach Toolkit for Partners](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1ytZAZHmV7O5qECwwoDiFJZjCgNwrqicV)

Your feedback is crucial in designing solutions to ensure equitable access to internet service, devices, skills training, and support for all residents in California. When you contribute to identifying barriers to internet access, affordability, and adoption, you are helping close the digital divide in the state. The survey is available in multiple languages, completely anonymous, and designed to represent all neighborhoods and demographic groups, making it inclusive and accessible for everyone. Approval of this plan would qualify California for additional funds to ensure all residents have access to affordable internet, devices, and skills training.

**PLEASE COMPLETE AND DISTRIBUTE THE DIGITAL EQUITY ECOSYSTEM MAPPING (DEEM) TOOL** – *for agencies*

We are asking partners to map their digital equity work and help us develop an inventory of organizations, programs, funding, and other resources that are, or can be, leveraged to promote digital equity and support implementation of the Digital Equity Plan. Please take a moment to fill it out for your organization and encourage others in your network or community to do so as well.

[DEEM Tool](https://broadbandforall.civilspace.io/en/projects/california-department-of-technology-broadband-digital-equity-survey/engagements/digital-equity-ecosystem-mapping-deem/sections/1)  
[DEEM Tool (Spanish)](https://broadbandforall.civilspace.io/es/projects/california-department-of-technology-broadband-digital-equity-survey/engagements/digital-equity-ecosystem-mapping-deem/sections/1)  
[DEEM Outreach Toolkit for Partners](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1o9PAB_yq_ohBN1_r06PHET3PCQqqrENe)

By providing your feedback, you will help the California Department of Technology (CDT) understand the programs, services, and their reach in addressing digital equity. Your organization will also be recognized as a supporter of digital equity initiatives in the state. It only takes around 10 minutes to complete the survey, and your input will inform the state's Digital Equity Plan and its funding decisions.

Adult Education was present and attended the Sacramento and Grass Valley workshops. There were many agencies present that represented adult ed. Have you attended? Please see where the nearest event might be and participate! <https://broadbandforall.cdt.ca.gov/events/#sdep>

What are CDE and OTAN doing to contribute to the conversation?  
CDE and OTAN met with a researcher from the CA Department of Technology. Dr. Zachry and the team shared what the state and our agencies are doing around digital equity and access. The data from our intake surveys and teacher assessments were presented. Attached are data graphics from our surveys; shared with BEAD leaders.

The data obtained from our annual intake survey holds significant importance. It is essential to reiterate that the intake survey is a requirement for all agencies to fulfill. Allocate and plan time for students to complete the survey at the beginning of the new year. The data derived from the intake survey plays a crucial role in enabling you to make well-informed decisions at the local level for your learners, as well as for us at the statewide level.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Zachry, Ed.D.  
Education Administrator and State Director  
Adult Education Office  
California Department of Education  
916-322-2175  
[adulteducation@cde.ca.gov](mailto:adulteducation@cde.ca.gov)