Promoting Digital Inclusion for All California Workers

April 28, 2021

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Skills for California/National Skills Coalition

Trish Kelly, Managing Director, Valley Vision

April 28, 2021

www.valleyvision.org

Valley Vision/CCABC Priorities

- Manages the Connected Capital Area Broadband Consortium, funded by the California Public Utilities Commission
- Capital Region Prosperity Strategy incorporates broadband as a regional priority; includes Strategic Broadband Corridors with Caltrans and CA Broadband Council
- Manages Sacramento Coalition for Digital Inclusion (SCDI)
- Conducts, in partnership with California Emerging Technology Fund:
  - Best Practices for Local Government Resource Guide
  - Preferred Scenarios Report
- Leads Capital Region Workforce Development projects /Future of Work
- Supports Policy:
  - CA Forward Broadband For All Work Group
  - Metro Chamber – Connected Capital Region

Proposed State Legislation

- 24 + Bills
- Covers: CPUC funding for bb infrastructure, bond funding, permit streamlining for infrastructure, Affordable Internet Programs, Telehealth, Public Housing, Distance Learning, others
- Hearings are underway, bills moving forward
- Speaker's Office has hosted meetings with legislators and key stakeholders to align broadband proposals
- Possibility of one-time state General Fund investment

Bills to Watch

- **AB 14 (Aguiar-Curry)** – prioritizes deployment of bb infrastructure in California's most vulnerable and unserved rural and urban communities by extending the ongoing collection of funds for California Advanced Services Fund (CASF), expands eligibility, would connect anchor institutions – strong collaboration with SB 4
- **SB 4 (Gonzalez)** – will establish the BB Bond Financing Securitization Account; implement critically needed reforms for future-proof infrastructure; facilitate ability for local governments to apply for grants and finance their own infrastructure

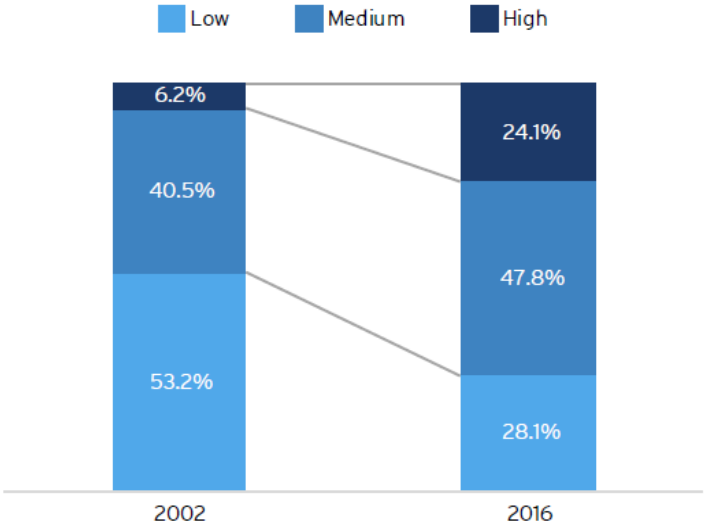
Bills to Watch

- **AB 34 (Muratsuchi)** - $10 billion General Obligation Bond for bb infrastructure in 2022 by public agencies
- **AB 41 (Wood)** - Expands “Dig Once” policy for Caltrans to expedite bb deployment in unserved/underserved communities
- **AB 1176 (Garcia)** - Affordable Internet - Establishes a California Connect Fund to subsidize high-speed home Internet service
- **AB 1425 (Gipson)** - CASF Public Housing Account - Declares state policy to get connected all residents of publicly-subsidized housing complexes, with CASF funding for connectivity, digital literacy training, and devices
- **SB 28 (Caballero)** – Requires state agencies to inventory assets to assist deployment of bb in unserved/underserved areas

Digitalization is growing at every level

Close to three-quarters of occupations in the region now require high or medium levels of digital skills

Share of occupations by digital skill level, the Sacramento region

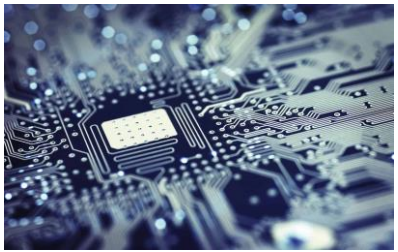


Source: 'Digitalization and the American Workforce', Brookings, 2017

Automation Risk for Jobs in the Capital Region

Supported by the Capital Region's four workforce boards:

- Sacramento Employment and Training Agency (SETA)
- Golden Sierra Job Training Agency
- North Central Counties Consortium (NCCC)
- YoloWorks



Report link

“There is no normal to go back to. What we ought to be doing is thinking about how we deal with transformational change.”

Rep. Rosa de Lauro, D-Conn.

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City of Long Beach
Digital Inclusion Initiative
Skills for California Promoting Digital Inclusion for All California Workers Webinar

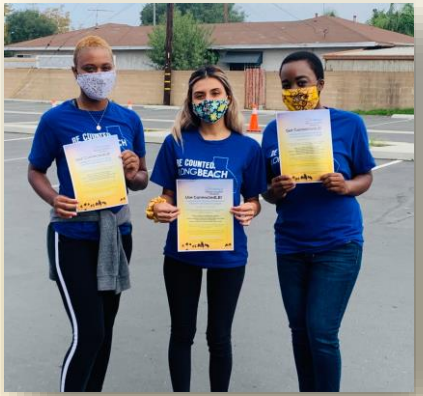
April 28, 2021

CITY OF LONG BEACH
Digital Inclusion Initiative

City of Long Beach
Digital Inclusion Initiative Overview

Digital Inclusion Initiative Vision

Every individual in Long Beach, regardless of background, neighborhood or identity has high quality, accessible, technology resources and services to be civically engaged and socially and economically empowered.



Digital Inclusion Initiative Focus Areas

Free multilingual computer literacy training and technical support.

Low-cost and free, high-speed, quality in-home Internet services and technical support.

Low-cost and free, quality, Internet-enabled technology devices and technical support.

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City of Long Beach CARES Act Digital Inclusion Programs Implementation

CARES Act Funding Overview

- The Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act was passed by Congress and signed into law on March 27, 2020.
- The CARES Act provides fast and direct economic assistance for American workers and families, small businesses and preserves jobs for American industries.
- The City of Long Beach received $40 million in CARES Act funding and $1 million was allocated towards digital inclusion efforts.

CARES Act Digital Inclusion Target Audiences

- Black/African-American residents
- Cambodian residents
- Latinx residents
- Limited and non-English speaking communities
- Low-income communities
- Older adults
- Parents
- People with different abilities
- Small business owners
- Students
- Underconnected individuals
- Unemployed individuals

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Free Internet Services and Computing Devices Program

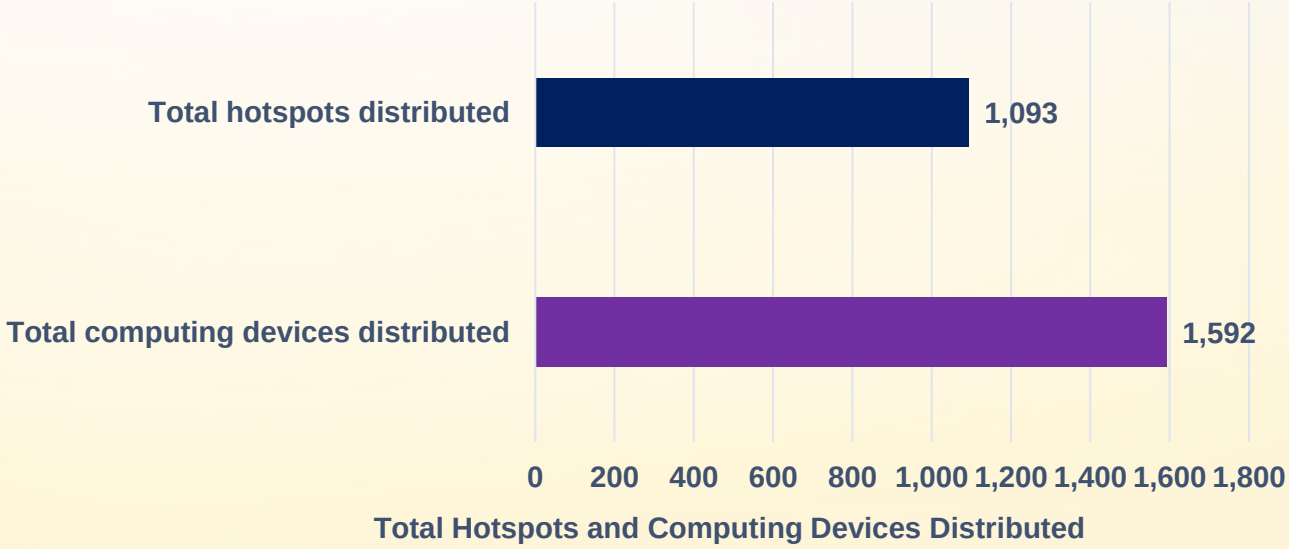
Free Hotspots and Computing Devices Distribution

- The City partnered with the Long Beach Housing Authority, the Long Beach Public Library, human-I-T and the nine CBOs from the community outreach activities, to help connect Long Beach residents to free digital inclusion resources during the COVID-19 pandemic.

- Through the Free Internet Services and Computing Devices Program (Program), the City provided free hotspots with paid one-year Internet service plans and computing devices (e.g. tablets, Chromebooks) on a first-come, first-served basis to qualified, low-income Long Beach residents with proof of income eligibility and a Long Beach City address, while supplies last.

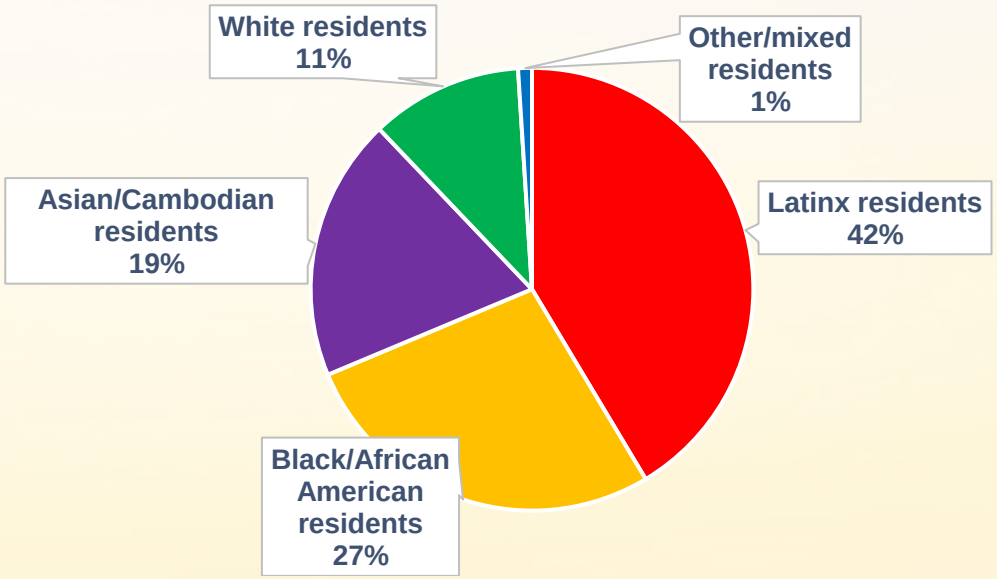
Free Hotspots and Computing Devices Distribution

Total Hotspots and Computing Devices Distributed



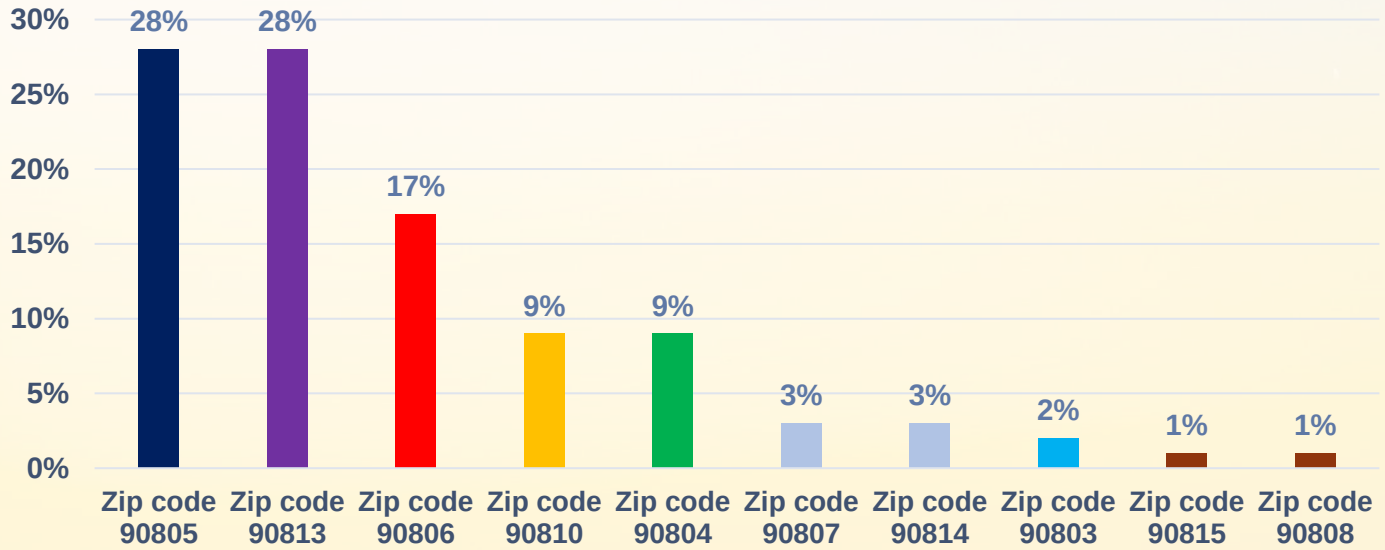
Free Hotspots and Computing Devices Distribution

Race/Ethnicity of Long Beach Residents



Free Hotspots and Computing Devices Distribution

Zip codes of Long Beach Residents



Free Hotspots and Computing Devices Distribution

Free Hotspots and Computing Devices Distribution

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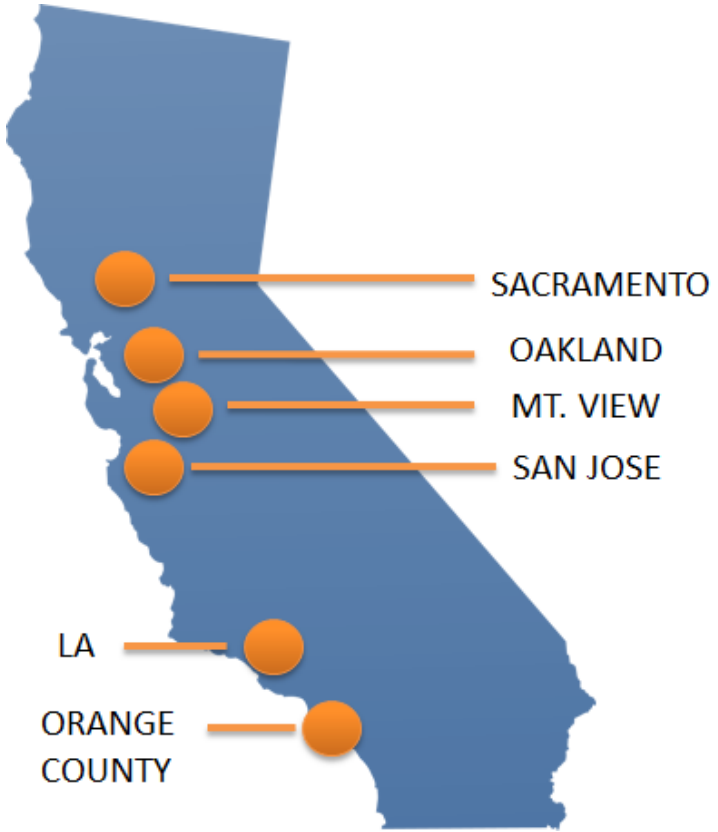
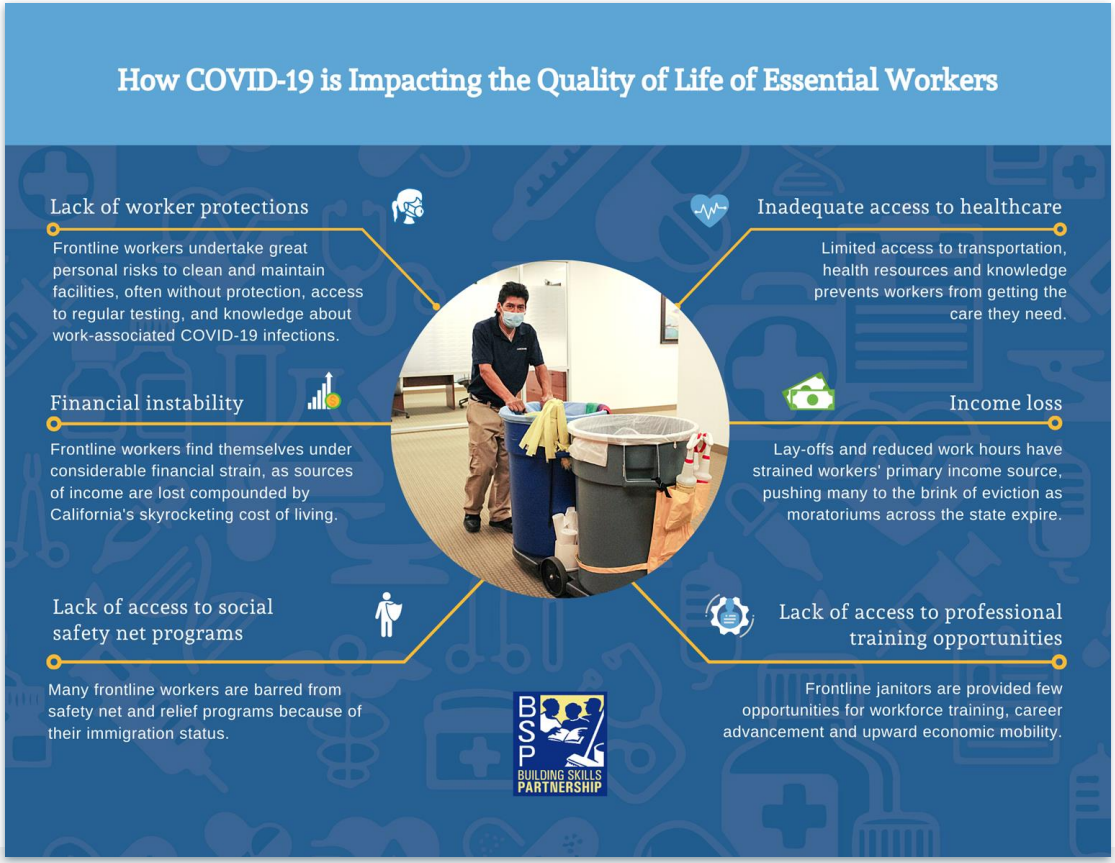
Who We Are

Building Skills Partnership (BSP) is a nonprofit collaboration between SEIU-United Service Workers West, janitorial employers, building owners, and community leaders.

Our mission is to improve the quality of life of property service workers in low-wage industries, as well as their families and communities, by increasing their access to education, leadership, and career advancement.



CA's Immigrant Janitors Serve at the Intersection of Myriad Crises



- Millions of low-income communities and workers across the nation are falling behind due to a lack of digital skills training, leaving them unable to keep up with our fast changing digital landscape.

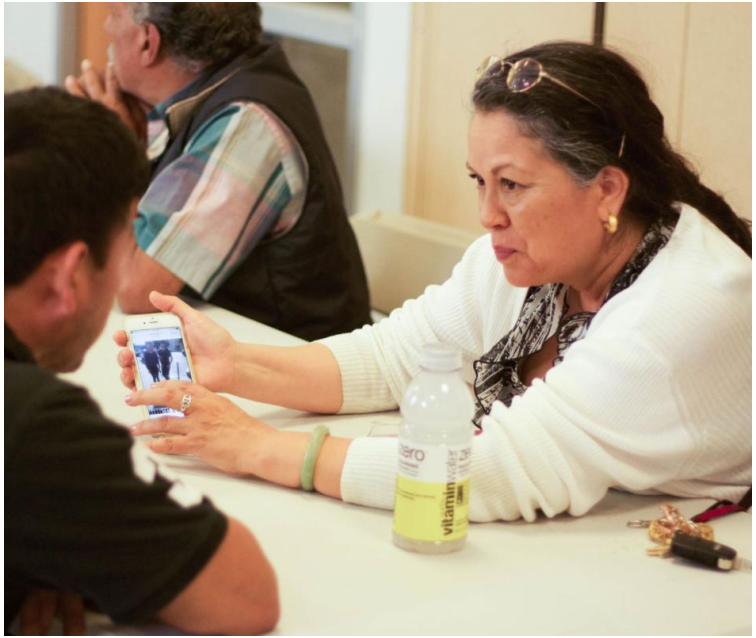
- Janitors serve at the intersection of myriad crises that range from financial instability due to income loss, to few opportunities for professional advancement that could help lift them out of poverty.

A Framework for Digital Equity

- A recent California poll found that 50% of low-income families in California lacked sufficient devices at home to access distance learning, and 38% of those families were concerned about not having a reliable internet connection.

- Improving digital equity is a holistic approach to ensuring that all individuals have access to participate in our high tech economy.

Instilling Confidence in Technology through Digital Skills Training



"Before BSP, I had never used Zoom. Our instructor taught us how to use it in a very basic and simple way. Now everything is on the computer, so the course has helped me a lot during the pandemic. Most people like me feel uncomfortable using tech, but I always felt motivated to practice during class. I didn't know anything about computers before, but now I know at least the basics thanks to the class. I hope to continue learning so I can grow my skills and do more things with technology."

-Aurora Camacho, Janitor & BSP Digital Literacy Student

Time for your questions!

Contact Us

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