PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION   **RESOLUTION T-17899**
                                             February 26, 2026

R E S O L U T I O N

Resolution T-17899: California Advanced Services Fund Broadband Adoption Account July 2025 application round grant approvals.

PROPOSED OUTCOME:
- This Resolution approves up to $3,288,342 in funding from the California Advanced Services Fund (CASF) Broadband Adoption Account (Adoption Account) for 18 digital literacy projects and three broadband access projects. Collectively, these projects will provide digital literacy training to 5,345 participants and broadband access to 10,800 participants.

SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS:
- These projects promote safe and effective use of digital technologies and of the information derived from such use.

ESTIMATED COST:
- $3,288,342 from the Adoption Account. CASF's accounts are funded through a surcharge whereby revenues are deposited to CASF Fund 3141 with the State's Treasury. The surcharge mechanism is a flat rate for each active access line that telephone corporations service in California levied at the surcharge rate of $0.90. The flat surcharge is divided among the six Universal Service Programs of which CASF receives a 28.50% share.[1] Pursuant to Public Utilities (Pub. Util.) Code section 270, subd. (b), money in the funds may only be expended upon appropriation in the Annual Budget Act or upon supplemental appropriation. For fiscal year 2025/2026, the Commission issued Resolution T-17884 which set an appropriation amount of $30 million for the Adoption Account. These

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[1] Resolution T-17818, adopted on April 4, 2025, established a new surcharge rate of $0.90 per access line for California's six Universal Service Public Purpose Programs (PPPs), effective May 1, 2025. The surcharge rate was previously set at $1.11 per access line.

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appropriations were adopted in the California Budget Act for the respective fiscal year.

SUMMARY

This Resolution approves up to $3,288,342 in funding from the California Advanced Services Fund (CASF) Broadband Adoption Account (Adoption Account) for 18 digital literacy projects from American GI Forum Education Foundation of Santa Maria, CA (AmGI) (one project), Cyber-Seniors (five projects), Daly City Peninsula Partnership Collaborative (DCPPC) (one project), Genesis Community Foundation (GCF) (eight projects), HOPE Center of Orange County (HCOC) (one project), the International Rescue Committee - San Jose Office (IRC-SJ) (one project), and the International Rescue Committee - San Diego Office (IRC-SD) (one project) and for three broadband access projects from the Monterey Bay Economic Partnership (MBEP) (three projects). Collectively, these projects will provide digital literacy training to 5,345 participants and broadband access to 10,800 participants in the counties of Alameda, Monterey, Orange, Riverside, Sacramento, San Benito, San Diego, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Barbara, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Ventura, and Yolo.

Table 1, (next page), lists the 21 recommended Adoption Account projects.

BACKGROUND

On October 15, 2017, Governor Brown signed Assembly Bill (AB) 1665 (Garcia) into law. This legislation amended the statutes governing the CASF program, Public Utilities Code sections 281, 912.2, and 914.7, and added the Adoption Account, which provides grants to increase publicly available or after school broadband access and digital inclusion and allocated $20 million to the account. Eligible applicants include local governments, senior centers, schools, public libraries, non-profit organizations, and community-based organizations with programs to increase publicly available or after-school broadband access and digital inclusion. The California Public Utilities Commission (Commission) is required to give preference to programs in communities with demonstrated low broadband access, including low-income communities, senior communities, and communities facing socioeconomic barriers to broadband adoption.

On June 21, 2018, the Commission issued Decision (D.) 18-06-032 which implemented provisions of AB 1665 and adopted rules and guidelines for the Adoption Account (Adoption Account Guidelines). On February 21, 2019, the Commission issued D.19-02-008, modifying and clarifying the Adoption Account Guidelines.

Table 1: Projects Addressed in Resolution T-17899

	APPLICANT NAME	PROJECT TYPE	FUNDING REQUEST	NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS	AGGREGATE FUNDING REQUEST
1	American GI Forum Education Foundation of Santa Maria, CA	Digital Literacy	$180,325	295	$180,325
2	Cyber-Seniors	Digital Literacy	$150,326	300	$751,780
3		Digital Literacy	$150,527	300	
4		Digital Literacy	$150,461	300	
5		Digital Literacy	$150,224	300	
6		Digital Literacy	$150,242	300	
7	Daly City Peninsula Partnership Collaborative	Digital Literacy	$231,050	400	$231,050
8	Genesis Community Foundation	Digital Literacy	$149,580	250	$1,196,640
9		Digital Literacy	$149,580	250	
10		Digital Literacy	$149,580	250	
11		Digital Literacy	$149,580	250	
12		Digital Literacy	$149,580	250	
13		Digital Literacy	$149,580	250	
14		Digital Literacy	$149,580	250	
15		Digital Literacy	$149,580	250	
16	HOPE Center of Orange County	Digital Literacy	$140,532	600	$140,532
17	International Rescue Committee - San Jose Office	Digital Literacy	$154,481	240	$154,481
18	International Rescue Committee, San Diego	Digital Literacy	$169,890	310	$169,890
19	Monterey Bay Economic Partnership	Broadband Access	$154,548	3,600	$463,644
20		Broadband Access	$154,548	3,600	
21		Broadband Access	$154,548	3,600	
			$3,288,342	16,145	

In 2021, the Legislature deleted the minimum cumulative appropriation for each of the CASF accounts and authorized the Commission to recommend to the Legislature these appropriation amounts.[2] Consequently, the Commission issued D.22-05-029 which set an appropriation amount of $20.024 million for fiscal year 2022/2023 for the Adoption Account. For fiscal year 2025/2026, the Commission issued Resolution T-17884 which set an appropriation amount of $30 million for the Adoption Account. These appropriations were adopted in the California Budget Act for the respective fiscal year.

In D.22-05-029, the Commission made further modifications and programmatic changes to the Adoption Account Guidelines. Key provisions of the Decision relevant to this Resolution include:

- *Moneys in the Adoption Account are available to the Commission to award grants to*

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[2] Public Utilities Code section 281, subdivision (d)(3).

increase publicly available or after-school broadband access and digital inclusion, such as grants for digital literacy training programs and public education to communities with limited broadband adoption, including low-income communities, senior communities, and communities facing socioeconomic barriers to broadband adoption.

- *Eligible applicants are local governments, senior centers, schools, public libraries, nonprofit organizations, and community-based organizations with programs to increase publicly available or after school broadband access and digital inclusion, such as digital literacy training programs.*

- *Projects eligible for grant funding include digital literacy projects and broadband access projects. Digital literacy projects may include digital literacy training programs and public education to communities with limited broadband adoption. Broadband access projects may include those that provide free broadband internet access in community training rooms or other public spaces.[3]*

- *The Commission assigned Commission Division (CD) staff (Staff) the task of approving applications that meet the criteria for ministerial review.*

- *Applications with grant requests that exceed $150,000 are not eligible for ministerial approval.*

- *Applications from nonprofit organizations that have not existed for one year are not eligible for ministerial review.[4]*

- *Applications from nonprofit organizations that do not have at least one year's experience conducting digital literacy training or have not completed at least one digital literacy training project are not eligible for ministerial review.[5]*

- *Applications that do not meet ministerial review criteria may be approved for a grant by the Commission via Resolution.*

DISCUSSION

a. Applicant Request

This Resolution considers the 21 projects submitted in the July 1, 2025, application round that do not meet one or more of the ministerial review criteria (see Table 1, above).

b. Project Evaluation Process

The Commission in D.22-05-029 states that all applications will be reviewed, and

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[3] See D.22-05-029, Slip. Op., at Section V (Appendix 2).
[4] See D.22-05-029, Slip. Op., at Section X (Appendix 2).
[5] See D.22-05-029, Slip. Op., at Section X (Appendix 2).

awarded based on completeness, overall quality, and project costs reasonableness.[6]

Overall Quality: All projects were reviewed based on how well they met the requirements and goals set out in D.22-05-029 that include increasing publicly available or after-school broadband access and digital inclusion in communities with limited broadband adoption.

Completeness: Consistent with D.22-05-029, all applicants are required to submit a complete application package that includes the project description, work plan, performance metrics, detailed budget, cover letter, curriculum (if applicable), as well as a notarized affidavit. Additionally, nonprofit applicants are required to provide tax documents showing their status as a nonprofit organization and documentation showing good standing with the United States Internal Revenue Service (IRS), the California Secretary of State, or the California Department of Justice. Staff reviewed each project's application to ensure that all the required information was submitted, and if incomplete, Staff requested further information per program requirements.

Budget: D.22-05-029 states the Commission may fund up to 85 percent of the total eligible program costs and may reimburse for education and outreach efforts, travel, computing devices,[7] printers, network routers, switches, modems, and cabling deployed for the purpose of establishing a space for broadband access or digital literacy that connects to an existing in-building broadband network such as Wi-Fi (inside network), mobile hotspots (only when no inside network is available), administrative costs (limited to 15% of the overall budget), staffing for instruction and technical support, desks, chairs, and the gathering, preparing, creating and distribution of digital literacy curriculum (see Appendix D).[8] Staff reviewed each project's budget to ensure that no more than 85 percent of eligible program costs were included and asked applicants to adjust their budgets to remove any ineligible expenses such as reimbursement for rent, utilities, internet service, lodging, and snacks.[9]

Staff further reviewed project budgets, cost reasonableness, and evaluated overall cost per participant. Staff evaluated the mean, median, minimum, and maximum request amount for each expense category and determined a reasonable cost for expenses and reviewed all expenses to ensure budgeted items were attributable to a required activity.

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[6] See D.22-05-029, Slip. Op., at Section VIII (Appendix 2).

[7] See D.22-05-029, Slip. Op. Section VI (Appendix 2)).

[8] See D.22-05-029, Slip. Op., Section V (Appendix 2).

[9] Project costs not authorized for funding by the Adoption grant must be funded by other sources (leveraged or self-funding). See D.22-05-029, Slip. Op., Section V (Appendix 2).

c.   Project Review and Recommendations for Funding

Staff recommends funding for the 21 projects based on the quality, completeness, and cost reasonableness of the application. See Appendix A, "Approved Project Budget and Performance Metrics," for per-project details of the approved budget and expected outcomes.

The 21 projects align with CASF's goal to increase publicly available or after-school broadband access and digital inclusion to serve communities with limited broadband adoption and recommends approval for these projects as discussed below.

American GI Forum Education Foundation of Santa Maria, CA - (one digital literacy project)

The American GI Forum Education Foundation of Santa Maria, CA (AmGI) is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt nonprofit organization founded and granted tax exempt status in 1992 for the specific purpose of increasing the financial resources available to needy and qualified students pursuing a higher education. The organization has provided scholarships to support the education of multiple students and veterans, advancing its mission to promote access to higher learning and personal development. The organization has offered critical assistance to homeless veterans and their families, helping to meet their immediate needs while supporting long-term stability and reintegration into the community.

AmGI has a background in providing digital literacy training and promoting broadband access. Beginning in 2016, AmGI partnered with the California Emerging Technology Fund (CETF) to enroll households for affordable Internet service. AmGI stated that in the period since 2016, they have signed up over 40,000 households for low-cost Internet services and provided over 4,000 computers to families. AmGI further stated that their team was trained to teach basic computer literacy classes through the School2Home program sponsored by CETF and have since taught over 4,000 persons basic computer literacy.

AmGI proposes to serve the veteran community in Santa Barbara and Ventura counties. AmGI looks to address the challenges that veterans face during their transition to civilian life. These challenges are exacerbated by difficulties in translating military skills, finding meaningful work, networking, and a lack of role models in highly sought careers, such as careers in data analytics and AI. To address these issues, the proposed project will implement an online skill development program focused on data fundamentals in analysis and visualization. AmGI looks to utilize the "Veterans in Data" learning platform. This learning platform was developed by Data Elevates (a

mission-driven social enterprise). AmGI is partnering with Data Elevates in implementing this program which is to be delivered virtually through ZOOM working sessions and online content. The goal of this AmGI project is to provide 295 individuals with a minimum of eight hours of digital literacy instruction.   AmGI aspires to subscribe 25 participants to new broadband internet services.

Therefore, Staff recommends awarding AmGI CASF funding in the amount of $180,325 for this project, at the cost of $476.27 per participant trained for program implementation costs (see Appendix A for information on the approved budget and performance metrics).

Cyber-Seniors – (five digital literacy projects)

Cyber-Seniors is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt nonprofit organization founded and granted tax exempt status in 2015. It's stated mission is to increase the digital skills and confidence of older adults by providing accessible technology training and fostering intergenerational connection. In this "connected communities" model, Cyber-Seniors equips young people with structured lessons and learning activities so they can serve as digital mentors, while seniors gain the knowledge, tools, and community support needed to stay socially connected, independent, and engaged.

Cyber-Seniors has a background in providing digital literacy training. Since its founding, Cyber-Seniors states that they have delivered thousands of hours of free and low-cost technology training, helping seniors navigate devices, online communication, telehealth, safety, and digital resources that support daily living. Specific to the CASF Adoption Account, Cyber-Seniors was awarded $1,572,270 for 15 grants serving seniors in 34 counties in May of 2024. Performance and reporting have been in line with expectations.

Cyber-Seniors proposes to expand its connected communities digital literacy efforts to five new California locations not presently being served by the ongoing projects: Alameda County, Orange County, Riverside, San Francisco, and San Jose. Across these four counties and in San Jose, Cyber-Seniors will offer structured digital literacy courses, one-on-one support, and community-integrated training for older adults at all skill levels. The goal of these projects is to provide (in total) 1,500 individuals with at least eight hours of digital literacy instruction and to connect 150 participants to new broadband services. Impact surveys will measure changes in technology use, social inclusion, well-being, and broadband adoption.

Therefore, Staff recommends awarding Cyber-Seniors CASF funding in the amount of $751,780 for all five projects, averaging 475.21 per participant trained for program

implementation costs (see Appendix A for information on the approved budgets and performance metrics including the per participant cost for each separate project).

Daly City Peninsula Partnership Collaborative - (one digital literacy project)

The Daly City Peninsula Partnership Collaborative (DCPPC) is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt nonprofit organization founded in 1995 and granted tax exempt status in April 2005 in order to foster collaborative solutions for community advancement. DCPPC's mission is to create transformative, multi-generational programs that empower families, seniors, and individuals to overcome barriers to success.

DCPPC has an extensive 30 year portfolio which includes flagship programs such as Our Second Home Family Resource Center, providing early childhood development and parenting support; the After School Academic Programs, advancing literacy and STEM skills for youth; Daly City Community Service Center, providing emergency financial assistance, shelter access, food, clothing, diapers, and other basic safety-net services; and the Healthy Aging Response Team, connecting seniors with essential resources. While bridging the digital divide, DCPPC has partnered with the Community Tech Network (CTN) and AT&T to deliver digital literacy programs that provide free devices, bilingual instruction, and culturally sensitive curriculum tailored to the community's needs. Most recently, DCPPC successfully implemented a digital equity initiative, serving over 250 residents in collaboration with CTN.

DCPPC in collaboration with CTN, proposes to address the digital divide in Daly City and Northern San Mateo County by focusing on key barriers such as limited broadband access, digital literacy, and inadequate access to affordable devices among underserved communities, including low-income, senior, and immigrant populations. Specifically, this project will be serving individuals and households ranging from students, seniors, and disabled-adult-focused digital skills workshops in low-income housing facilities. Additionally, one on one instruction for homebound seniors and bilingual instruction for English learners, foreign-born community members and newly arrived immigrants will be available.

The goal of the DCPPC project is to provide 400 individuals with a minimum of eight hours of digital literacy instruction. DCPPC aspires to subscribe 45 participants to new broadband internet services.

Therefore, Staff recommends awarding DCPPC total CASF funding in the amount of $231,050 for this project, at the cost of $434.50 per participant trained for program implementation costs (see Appendix A for information on the approved budget and performance metrics).

<u>Genesis Community Foundation – (eight digital literacy projects)</u>

The Genesis Community Foundation (GCF) is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt nonprofit organization founded on May 21, 2024 and granted tax exempt status on January 7, 2025. GCF states that their mission is to build resilient youth, empowered families, and thriving communities through culturally responsive, trauma-informed, and equity-driven programs.

Mr. Rivas is the Executive Director of GCF. Mr. Rivas has a background in managing public sector grants. Mr. Rivas was a grant award administrator for a $999,999 grant from the Federal Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) titled "Youth Violence and Prevention Program" that ran from October 1, 2022, through September 30, 2025. The purpose of this grant was to prevent youth violence and the conditions that lead to such violence in the Washington Unified School District (WUSD) (K-12) in West Sacramento through training and capacity building for school staff, through student education and prevention programs, and an overall effort to create a safe and supportive environment at school locations. Mr. Rivas stated that activities under this grant included digital literacy work with hundreds of high-need, at-risk youth in WUSD. This technology-centered instruction is referred to in a submitted letter of recommendation from the Director of Student & Family Services at WUSD.

Mr. Rivas is also a grant award administrator for an ongoing $1 million multi-state OJJDP grant for mentoring programs for at-risk children and youth (awarded October 1, 2023, ending September 30, 2026). Mr. Rivas's work was noted in a letter of recommendation from Roger Dickinson (City of Sacramento Councilmember, District 2) which stated that the statewide OJJDP Mentoring Programs "is a proven strategy for reducing recidivism and fostering positive life choices among justice-involved youth."

Mr. Rivas stated that he has an additional background in digital literacy in providing such training to justice-impacted individuals specifically at the Fruitridge Collaborative Center in Sacramento where computer classes are held. Mr. Rivas's mentoring work with foster and transitional-age youth coming out of the justice-system is noted in the letter from Councilmember Dickinson (above).

GCF currently has an ongoing digital literacy program named "The Golden Bridge Program" (presently self-funded) established after its founding in May of 2024. This program provides digital literacy with a focus on cybersecurity (using a standardized eight-hour curriculum), to older adults, low-income households, reentry adult populations, justice-involved youth, and other at-risk youth and has provided this instruction in a number of classes in four locations in the Sacramento area.

GCF proposes eight named projects in different locations and target populations. As a continuation of the Golden Bridge Program, these projects will deliver monthly workshops, and/or classes offering both basic training (eight hours) to build essential skills in internet use, email, and online navigation and advanced training that covers job readiness tools, digital financial literacy, and telehealth access as well as a focus on cybersecurity. Virtual training will be made available as needed, via Zoom or Teams meetings. Two of the proposed projects will serve low-income residents of Del Norte Heights and in the Gardenland / Northgate area of Sacramento. One of the projects will be hosted at the Hart Senior Center in Sacramento city center and will serve low-income seniors. Two of the proposed projects will serve low-income seniors at the Veteran Administration (VA) locations in the Commerce Gardens neighborhood and in Citrus Heights. The last three projects will serve students in three high-need Sacramento high schools (River City, Yolo, and Washington Middle College high schools).

The goal of the each of the GCF projects is to provide 250 individuals with a minimum of eight hours of digital literacy instruction (with a total of 2,000 for all eight projects). GCF aspires to subscribe 45 participants to new broadband internet services for each project (with a total of 360 for all eight projects).

Therefore, Staff recommends awarding GCF CASF funding in the amount of $1,196,640 for all eight projects, at $448.32 per participant served for program implementation costs (see Appendix A for information on the approved budgets and performance metrics).

HOPE Center of Orange County – (one digital literacy project)

The HOPE Center of Orange County (HCOC) is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt nonprofit organization founded and granted tax exempt status in 2023 for the purpose of providing centralized relief and resources to the homeless population in North Orange County. HCOC developed a dispatch program to manage non-emergency, homelessness-related 911 calls to reduce the strain upon police departments in participating cities. Through call responses and proactive site visits, HCOC has provided both short-term and long-term services including shelter referrals, bus passes, and housing documentation assistance.

While HCOC does not have one year or more of experience implementing a digital literacy project, HCOC has provided extensive training to its staff and city partners in utilizing their digital platform, Outreach Grid, to respond to calls, coordinate with clients, and document interactions. HCOC continues to onboard new cities into integrating the Outreach Grid platform.

HCOC proposes to serve the homeless population in North Orange County (including Anaheim, Brea, Buena Park, Cypress, Fullerton, La Habra, La Palma, Los Alamitos, Orange, Placentia, Stanton, and Yorba Linda). HCOC aims to provide unhoused individuals with digital literacy tools that are critical to long-term stability; these tools range from basic internet navigation and online safety to online document management and communication with case managers. To accomplish this, the proposed project will utilize HCOC's Outreach Grid Applicants platform, derived from the organization's existing Outreach Grid. Trained outreach staff will schedule weekly one-on-one training at participating shelters and public libraries. Additional instruction will be available through self-paced learning, tracked through the completion of Outreach Grid modules. The goal of the proposed project is to provide 600 individuals with a minimum of eight hours of digital literacy instruction.

Therefore, Staff recommends awarding HCOC CASF funding in the amount of $140,532 for this project, at the cost of $234.22 per participant trained for program implementation costs (see Appendix A for information on the approved budget and performance metrics).

International Rescue Committee

The International Rescue Committee or IRC (founded in 1933) is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt nonprofit organization providing relief, protection, and resettlement services for refugees and other victims of oppression or violent conflict around the globe, working in over 40 countries and in 28 cities in the United States. IRC's mission is to help people whose lives and livelihoods are shattered by conflict and disaster, including the climate crisis, to survive, recover and gain control over their future. The IRC is a federally designated resettlement agency that provides wraparound services to immigrant populations inclusive of education of life-skills, such as digital literacy instruction.

International Rescue Committee - San Diego Office - (one digital literacy project)

The International Rescue Committee - San Diego Office (IRC-SD) serves the San Diego communities of City Heights and El Cajon. As stated by the applicant, IRC-SD promotes economic mobility through a suite of empowerment programs which includes employment services, English language acquisition, vocational training, small business development, and asset-building initiatives. IRC-SD's integrated approach fosters long-term self-sufficiency, health, and prosperity, particularly among limited English-proficient and low-income populations.

IRC-SD's application states that it has a background in in providing digital literacy

training. Specifically, in 2019, the IRC-SD in partnership with Microsoft and with the IRC central office, deployed the Digital Literacy for New Americans curriculum in trainings in the San Diego area. This 13-module, workforce-aligned training program was tailored to the unique needs of refugees and immigrants. The IRC-SD launched its Digital Inclusion Project in 2020, providing individualized digital coaching and group training to over 1,500 households. In addition, IRC-SD has distributed nearly 1,200 digital devices and supported 555 clients secure affordable internet access.

IRC-SD proposes a digital literacy project that will serve at least 310 individuals and households primarily in the City Heights neighborhood of San Diego and the city of El Cajon. The project will deliver the following core services: basic digital literacy training, a workforce digital literacy training focused on professional digital tools and platforms (Microsoft Office, Google Workspace, LinkedIn, Indeed) with reinforcement of cybersecurity and responsible online practices, individualized digital coaching, and device distribution and set-up support. The project will target low-income individuals - particularly refugees and immigrants.

Therefore, Staff recommends awarding IRC-SD total CASF funding in the amount of $169,890 for this project, at the cost of $475.45 per participant trained for program implementation costs (see Appendix A for information on the approved budget and performance metrics).

International Rescue Committee - San Jose Office - (one digital literacy project)

The International Rescue Committee - San Jose Office (IRC-SJ) serves the South Bay (of the San Francisco Bay Area region). As stated by the applicant, IRC-SJ has provided resettlement wraparound services to more than 25,000 refugees, asylees, and other immigrants from over 50 countries. IRC-SJ's core services includes providing access to public benefits, helping secure affordable housing, providing financial literacy training, employment and career services, support services for business development, and assistance in obtaining citizenship.

IRC-SJ has a background in in providing digital literacy training. It received funding for a digital literacy project from the CASF Broadband Adoption Account in April of 2023 and completed that project successfully, training more than one and one-half times the number of projected participants. In addition, IRC-SJ partnered with the California Emerging Technology Fund starting in 2020 in promoting broadband adoption and in providing basic digital literacy training.

IRC-SJ will provide basic digital literacy training to low-income refugees and

immigrants residing in Santa Clara County and the greater South Bay. IRC-SJ will also assist this target population in acquiring a reliable and affordable broadband Internet connection. Altogether, IRC-SJ plans to provide digital literacy training to 240 participants.

Therefore, Staff recommends awarding IRC-SJ total CASF funding in the amount of $154,481 for this project, at the cost of $477.42 per participant trained for program implementation costs (see Appendix A for information on the approved budget and performance metrics).

Monterey Bay Economic Partnership – (3 broadband access projects)

The Monterey Bay Economic Partnership (MBEP) is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt nonprofit organization founded and granted tax exempt status in 2015. Per MBEP's mission statement, MBEP is dedicated to improving the economic health and quality of life across Monterey, San Benito, and Santa Cruz counties. As part of this mission, MBEP has supported affordable-housing production, it has run workforce and economic-mobility programs, it has supported broadband and digital equity (such as through broadband mapping and planning), and it has participated in regional planning around climate, transportation, and infrastructure.

MBEP has a background in expanding broadband access throughout its target region. Since 2018, MBEP has been serving as the Executive Director of the Central Coast Broadband Consortium (CCBC). The CCBC, founded in 1996, has facilitated broadband project development and has supported successful grant applications for federal and state funding. In this role, MBEP advances CCBC's broadband projects — giving MBEP direct oversight and responsibility in infrastructure efforts. MBEP helped found and was the initial Executive Director of the South Salinas Valley Broadband Authority (SSVBA) who mission is to deploy open-access municipal broadband across Soledad, Gonzales, Greenfield, King City, and unincorporated D3 Monterey County.

MBEP proposes three named "Connected Communities Hubs" broadband access projects each in a different county (~~Monterrey~~Monterey, San Benito, and Santa Cruz counties). For each project, MBEP will launch three inclusive, fully equipped broadband access hubs in high-need areas. Each site will provide access to reliable, free public Wi-Fi throughout the building using upgraded routers, extenders, and modems that connects to an existing in-building broadband Wi-Fi network. Four publicly available desktop computers will be installed at each site and will be preloaded with shortcuts to key online tools such as CalFresh, DMV services, telehealth, job search platforms, and the Google suite of office tools.   Staff with bilingual language skills will

be provided for general help and for assistance with enrolling in low-cost broadband internet. Altogether, MBEP plans to serve 10,800 participants.

Therefore, Staff recommends awarding MBEP CASF funding in the amount of $463,644 for all three projects, averaging $40.43 per participant served for program implementation costs (see Appendix A for information on the approved budgets and performance metrics including the per participant cost for each separate project).

d. Compliance Requirement

AmGI, Cyber-Seniors, DCPPC, GCF, HCOC, IRC-SJ, IRC-SD, and MBEP are required to comply with all the guidelines, requirements, and conditions associated with the grant of CASF funds as specified in D.22-05-029. Such compliance includes but is not limited to the items listed below.

Execution and Performance

AmGI, Cyber-Seniors, DCPPC, GCF, HCOC, IRC-SJ, IRC-SD, and MBEP must start the project within six months after submitting a consent form and complete the project within a 24-month time frame. The Commission may withhold, reduce, or terminate grant payments if the grantee does not comply with any of the requirements set forth in its application or the CASF rules. If the grantee fails to complete the project in accordance with the terms of approval granted by the Commission, AmGI, Cyber-Seniors, DCPPC, GCF, HCOC, IRC-SJ, IRC-SD, and MBEP must reimburse some or all the CASF funds it has received.

AmGI, Cyber-Seniors, DCPPC, GCF, HCOC, IRC-SJ, IRC-SD, and MBEP must complete all performance under the award by the termination date of the award.

Grantees may make modifications to line items within an approved project budget without prior authorization, so long as those modifications do not cause the project budget to exceed the overall adopted project budget and so long as the proposed budget modifications are unrelated to the budgets for classroom or take-home devices, including hotspots. Grantees may change milestone/activity timelines without prior authorization, so long as those modifications do not cause the project timeframe to exceed the overall adopted project timeframe. While prior approval is not required for these modifications, the applicant <u>must notify</u> the Communications Division by e-mailing CASF_Adoption@cpuc.ca.gov within 30 days of making such changes.

AmGI, Cyber-Seniors, DCPPC, GCF, HCOC, IRC-SJ, IRC-SD, and MBEP must sign a consent form within 30 days of the date of the award agreeing to the terms stated in the Resolution. A completed and executed consent form should be emailed to

CASF_Adoption@cpuc.ca.govCASF_Adoption@cpuc.ca.gov within 30 calendar days from the date of the award. The Commission will deem the grant null and void for failure to submit the consent form within 30 calendar days from the date of the award.

Material changes in the entries shown in the application, such as discontinuing operation or bankruptcy, or change of name (including DBA), change of address, telephone, fax number or E-mail address should be reported by a letter to the Commission Director of the Communications Division, 505 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94102 and CDCompliance@cpuc.ca.gov.

Project Audit and Reporting Requirements

See Appendix B.

e. Payments to CASF Recipients

Reimbursement payments will be made in accordance with, and within the time specified in the California Government Code, section 927, et seq. AmGI, Cyber-Seniors, DCPPC, GCF, HCOC, IRC-SJ, IRC-SD, and MBEP must notify the Director of the Communications Division as soon as they become aware that they may not be able to meet project deadlines. The Commission may withhold or reduce payment if AmGI, Cyber-Seniors, DCPPC, GCF, HCOC, IRC-SJ, IRC-SD, and MBEP fails to notify the Director of such changes. See Appendix C for payment details. AmGI, Cyber-Seniors, DCPPC, GCF, HCOC, IRC-SJ, IRC-SD, and MBEP must submit final requests for payments no later than three months after completion of the project.

COMMENTS

Public Utilities Code section 311(g)(1) provides that this Resolution must be served on all parties and subject to at least 30 days public review. Any comments are due within 20 days of the date of its mailing and publication on the Commission's website and in accordance with any instructions accompanying the notice. Section 311(g)(2) provides that this 30-day review period and 20-day comment period may be reduced or waived upon the stipulation of all parties in the proceeding.

The 30-day review and 20-day comment period for the draft of this resolution was neither waived nor reduced. Accordingly, this draft resolution was mailed to parties for comments on January 21, 2026. No comments were received.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

1. On or before July 1, 2025, staff received applications from eight applicants for the 21 projects considered here in this Resolution.

2. Staff reviewed the applications and recommended awards based on completeness, overall quality, and project cost reasonableness.

3. Based on its review, Staff determined that these 21 projects qualify for funding under D.22-05-029 and recommends funding as listed in Appendix A.

4. A notice letter was emailed on January 21, 2026**,** informing all parties on the CASF Distribution List of the availability of the draft of this Resolution for public comments at the Commission's documents website at http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/documents/. This letter also informed parties that the final conformed Resolution adopted by the Commission will be posted and available at the same website. No comments were received.

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED THAT:

1. The Commission shall award the following grant amounts:

    -   Up to $180,325 to AmGI for its Impacting Veterans Through Data (IVTD) program digital literacy project;
    -   Up to $751,780 to Cyber-Seniors for its Connected Communities digital literacy projects in Alameda County, Orange County, Riverside County, San Francisco, and San Jose;
    -   Up to $231,050 to DCPPC for its digital literacy in Northern San Mateo County project;
    -   Up to $1,196,640 to GCF for its Golden Bridge Program, Hart Senior Center, River City High School, Stanford Settlement , VA Citrus Heights, VA Sacramento, Washington Middle College HS, and Yolo High School digital literacy projects;
    -   Up to $140,532 to HCOC for its HOPE Center Applicants digital literacy project;
    -   Up to $154,481 to IRC-SJ for its digital literacy for its New Americans: Digital Inclusion for School and Careers (DISC) project;
    -   Up to $169,890 to IRC-SD for its IRC in SD's digital inclusion project;

- Up to $463,644 to MBEP for its Connected Communities Hubs broadband access projects in Monterey, San Benito, and Santa Cruz counties;

The total grant award is in the amount of up to $3,288,342. All awards are based on the descriptions of the projects as described herein and are predicated on commitments to provide adoption services as expressed in each application and in compliance with all guidelines, requirements and conditions associated with a CASF award, as specified in D.22-05-029, and this Resolution.

2. AmGI, Cyber-Seniors, DCPPC, GCF, HCOC, IRC-SJ, IRC-SD, and MBEP must complete all work and achieve all performance metrics identified in Appendix A of this Resolution and workplans submitted with its application.

3. AmGI, Cyber-Seniors, DCPPC, GCF, HCOC, IRC-SJ, IRC-SD, and MBEP must complete and execute the consent form (to be sent to grant recipients after this Resolution is adopted agreeing to the conditions set forth in this Resolution.

   A completed and executed consent form must be emailed to CASF_Adoption@cpuc.ca.gov within 30 calendar days from the date of the adoption of this Resolution. Failure to submit the consent form within 30 calendar days from the date of the adoption of this Resolution will void the grant.

4. By receiving a CASF grant, AmGI, Cyber-Seniors, DCPPC, GCF, HCOC, IRC-SJ, IRC-SD, and MBEP agree to comply with the terms, conditions and requirements of the grant and thus submit to the jurisdiction of the Commission with regard to disbursement and administration of the grant.

5. AmGI, Cyber-Seniors, DCPPC, GCF, HCOC, IRC-SJ, IRC-SD, and MBEP must maintain files, invoices, and other related documentation for three years after final payment and shall make these records available to the Commission upon request and agree that these records are subject to audit and review by the Commission at any time within three years after grant recipients incurred the expense being audited.

6. If AmGI, Cyber-Seniors, DCPPC, GCF, HCOC, IRC-SJ, IRC-SD, or MBEP fail to complete the project in accordance with the terms outlined in D.22-05-029 and this Resolution, they must reimburse some or all the CASF funds they have received.

This Resolution is effective today.

Commissioner Signature blocks to be added upon adoption of the resolution

The foregoing resolution was duly introduced, passed and adopted at a conference of the Public Utilities Commission of the State of California held on _____; the following Commissioners voting favorably thereon:

Dated _____, at _____, California

APPENDIX A

Approved Project Budget and Performance Metrics

Table 2: Approved Projects Performance Benchmarks

(Projects 1 through 18 are digital literacy projects, projects 19 through 21 are broadband access projects)*

#	Applicant Name	Project Name	Provide Digital Literacy Training to	Number of Sub-scriptions	Device Award	In-classroom Devices	Take-home Devices	Hot-spot Devices	Funds for Imple-mentation	Total Award	Funding per Participant
1	American GI Forum Education Foundation of Santa Maria, CA	Impacting Veterans Through Data (IVTD) program	295	25	$39,825	0	50	0	$140,500	$180,325	$476.27
2	Cyber-Seniors	Connected Communities - Alameda County	300	30	$ 7,793	20	0	0	$142,533	$150,326	$475.11
3	Cyber-Seniors	Connected Communities - Orange County	300	30	$ 7,793	20	0	0	$142,734	$150,527	$475.78
4	Cyber-Seniors	Connected Communities - Riverside County	300	30	$ 7,793	20	0	0	$142,668	$150,461	$475.56
5	Cyber-Seniors	Connected Communities - San Francisco	300	30	$ 7,793	20	0	0	$142,431	$150,224	$474.77
6	Cyber-Seniors	Connected Communities - San Jose	300	30	$ 7,793	20	0	0	$142,449	$150,242	$474.83
7	Daly City Peninsula Partnership Collaborative	Digital Literacy in Northern San Mateo County	400	45	$57,250	20	250	20	$173,800	$231,050	$434.50
8	Genesis Community Foundation	Golden Bridge Program	250	45	$37,500	30	70	25	$112,080	$149,580	$448.32
9	Genesis Community Foundation	Hart Senior Center	250	45	$37,500	30	70	25	$112,080	$149,580	$448.32

Table 2: Approved Projects Performance Benchmarks (continued)

#	Applicant Name	Project Name	Provide Digital Literacy Training to	Number of Sub-scriptions	Device Award	In-classroom Devices	Take-home Devices	Hot-spot Devices	Funds for Imple-mentation	Total Award	Funding per Participant
10	Genesis Community Foundation	River City High School	250	45	$37,500	30	70	25	$112,080	$149,580	$448.32
11	Genesis Community Foundation	Stanford Settlement	250	45	$37,500	30	70	25	$112,080	$149,580	$448.32
12	Genesis Community Foundation	VA Citrus Heights	250	45	$37,500	30	70	25	$112,080	$149,580	$448.32
13	Genesis Community Foundation	VA Sacramento	250	45	$37,500	30	70	25	$112,080	$149,580	$448.32
14	Genesis Community Foundation	Washington Middle College HS	250	45	$37,500	30	70	25	$112,080	$149,580	$448.32
15	Genesis Community Foundation	Yolo High School	250	45	$37,500	30	70	25	$112,080	$149,580	$448.32
16	HOPE Center of Orange County	HOPE Center Applicants Digital Literacy	600	0	$ -	0	0	0	$140,532	$140,532	$234.22
17	International Rescue Committee - San Jose Office	Digital Literacy for New Americans: Digital Inclusion for School and Careers (DISC)	240	160	$39,900	10	133	0	$114,581	$154,481	$477.42
18	International Rescue Committee, San Diego	IRC in SD's Digital Inclusion Project	310	90	$22,500	0	90	0	$147,390	$169,890	$475.45
	Totals for Digital Literacy Projects:		5,345	830						$2,824,698	

End of Appendix A

Table 2: Approved Projects Performance Benchmarks (continued)

#	Applicant Name	Project Name	Provide Broadband Access to	Number of Sub- scriptions	Device Award	In- classroom Devices	Take- home Devices	Hot- spot Devices	Funds for Imple- mentation	Total Award	Funding per Participant
19	Monterey Bay Economic Partnership	Monterey County Connected Communities Hubs	3,600	150	$ 9,000	12	0	0	$145,548	$154,548	$40.43
20	Monterey Bay Economic Partnership	San Benito County Connected Communities Hubs	3,600	100	$ 9,000	12	0	0	$145,548	$154,548	$40.43
21	Monterey Bay Economic Partnership	Santa Cruz County Connected Communities Hubs	3,600	150	$ 9,000	12	0	0	$145,548	$154,548	$40.43
	Totals for Broadband Access Projects:		10,800	400						$463,644	
	Grand Total:		16,145	1,230						$3,288,342	

* Performance for digital literacy projects is based on number of participants trained; performance for broadband access projects is the number of participants provided access

APPENDIX B
Reporting Requirements

Project Audit

AmGI, Cyber-Seniors, DCPPC, GCF, HCOC, IRC-SJ, IRC-SD, and MBEP (grant recipients) must maintain files, invoices, and other related documentation for three years after final payment. Grant recipients shall make these records available to the Commission upon request and agree that these records are subject to audit and review by the Commission at any time within three years after the grant recipients incurred the expense being audited.

Project Reporting Requirements

The grant award is contingent upon fulfilling reporting requirements during and after project completion as specified in D.22-05-029, Appendix 2, Section XIII.

A template for all necessary reports is provided in the CASF Adoption Program Administrative Manual, which is posted on the Commission's Adoption Account website and is also available directly from the website. Up to three reports will be required throughout the course of the project:

   i.   *Ramp-up period report*

A "ramp-up period report" is required after completion of the ramp up activities and when deployment is set to begin (if applicable). This report must be submitted by no later than 3 months after the completion of the ramp up activities. In this report, recipients will report on the completion of the ramp up activities per the work plan, milestones met, as well as request payment for relevant expenses to date. The ramp up period may not exceed 6 months from the time the application is approved.

   ii.   *Year 1 Progress Report*

The Year 1 progress report is required at the end of the first year of deployment. This report must be submitted by no later than 3 months after the end of the first year of deployment. In this report, recipients will report on the status of Year 1 milestones per the work plan, as well as request payment for relevant expenses to date.

  iii.   Year 2 Completion Report

The Year 2 completion report is required at the end of the 24-month period, or after the work plan milestones/deliverables have been accomplished if earlier than the 24-month period. This report must be submitted by no later than 3 months after completion of the project. In this report, recipients will report on the completion of the overall project, milestones met per the work plan, as well as request payment for final and remaining relevant expenses.

All required reports must be submitted via email to: CASF_Adoption@cpuc.ca.gov. The grant recipients must certify that each report submitted is true and correct under penalty of perjury.

End of Appendix B

APPENDIX C
Payments to CASF Recipients

- AmGI, Cyber-Seniors, DCPPC, GCF, HCOC, IRC-SJ, IRC-SD, and MBEP (grant recipients) may submit payment requests at 3 points throughout the project period. Payment requests may accompany the 3 reports noted above (Ramp Up Period, if applicable, Year 1, Year 2).
- Payment requests may also be submitted separately from and in addition to the Calendar Year reporting described above, provided that each payment request includes the information provided on the most recently submitted Calendar Year report and any additional information or costs incurred since the most recent Calendar Year report was submitted.
- Whether tied to Calendar Year reporting or outside of that reporting schedule, no more than three payment requests may be submitted.
- Payment request for the ramp-up period may not exceed 25% of the grant amount.
- No more than 90% of the grant amount will be reimbursed before the completion report and final payment request.
- All payments requests require documentation of project participation (number of participants trained or provided access and the number of participants that subsequently subscribe to a broadband Internet service provider to use a device in their home).
- Grant recipients shall submit final requests for payment no later than 3 months after completion of the project.
- Payment will be based upon receipt and approval of invoices and other supporting documents showing the expenditures incurred for the project are in accordance with their approved application and budget.
- Grant must notify the Director of the Communications Division as soon as they become aware that they may not be able to meet project deadlines. The Commission may withhold or reduce payment if the grantee fails to notify the Director of the Communications Division of such changes.
- Payment will be made in accordance with, and within the time specified in California Government Code § 927 et seq.
- The Commission has the right to conduct any necessary audit, verification, and discovery during project implementation to ensure that CASF funds are spent in accordance with the terms of approval granted by the Commission.
- The Grant recipients' invoices will be subject to audit by the Commission at any time within three years of final payment.

Grant recipients must certify that each report and payment request submitted is true and correct under penalty of perjury. All required reports and payment requests, including invoices and other supporting documents should be submitted via email to: CASF_Adoption@cpuc.ca.gov.

End of Appendix C

APPENDIX D

Allowable Costs per Decision 22-05-029

The Commission may fund up to 85 percent of the eligible program costs and may reimburse the following:

a. Education and outreach efforts (including travel, up to 10% of approved grant amount) and materials;
b. Acceptable computing devices (does not include smartphones) within budgetary limits and inclusive of computer warranty;
   - In-classroom computing devices
   - Take-home computing devices (for Digital Literacy Projects only)
c. Software (inclusive of licensing for online platforms);
d. Printers
e. Network routers, switches, modems, and cabling deployed for the purpose of establishing a space for broadband access or digital literacy that connects to an existing in-building broadband network such as Wi-Fi (inside network);
f. Mobile hotspots, only when no inside network is available;
g. Provision of technical support for the computing devices subsidized through this program;
h. Desks and chairs to furnish a designated space for digital literacy or broadband access;
i. For Digital Literacy Projects, gathering, preparing, creating, and distributing digital literacy curriculum;
j. Staff including digital literacy instructors, staff for monitoring the designated space, or staff for administering call centers (if applicable); and
k. Reimbursement for administrative costs,[10] (other than for excluded items, listed below) is limited to administrative costs representing 15% or less of the overall proposed budget.

Device technical support must be able to respond either by phone or in person within 24 hours. Refurbished devices must have at least a six-month warranty. New devices must have at least a 30-day warranty.

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[10] "Administrative costs" are defined here as "indirect overhead costs attributable to a project per generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) and the direct cost of complying with Commission administrative and regulatory requirements related to the grant itself," consistent with other CASF program rules.

Facility rent, utilities, internet service costs, food costs, lodging, marketing incentives for participation (gift cards, giveaways, etc.), certain classroom supplies and accessories, and other items not listed above are not eligible for reimbursement. All funding requests will be assessed for reasonableness and may be adjusted accordingly at the discretion of the Commission. Any remaining project costs not authorized for funding by the CASF Adoption grant must be funded by other sources (leveraged or self-funding).

End of Appendix D

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