



CA Alliance for Digital Equity

Advocating for equitable, affordable access to the connected world.



Join the growing list of California organizations dedicated to and advocating for digital equity:



Fast, Reliable, and Affordable Internet



Digital Literacy and Navigation Support



Public Benefits and Programs

Background

Access to and facility with the internet is a fundamental requirement to engage in today's world. Work activities, school coursework, social interactions, job searches, and medical appointments all demand reliable high-speed internet. Average broadband usage has significantly increased over the last few years, with household and business internet usage continuing to dramatically increase. However, quality, reliable service, affordable pricing, and access to broadband remain inequitable in various parts of our state, leaving too many of our communities on the wrong side of the digital divide.

Americans can expect to pay more for internet on average than other consumers abroad.¹ Even though the cost of providing internet services is rapidly diminishing, the prices for high-speed broadband are going up. Californians do not enjoy equal access to connections that meet today's needs (let alone tomorrow's). Rural, suburban, tribal, and urban communities across the state have been left behind.

Summary

Every Californian deserves access to fast, reliable, and affordable internet service, as well as the opportunity to learn how to effectively navigate the digital world. We believe a fast connection without bandwidth or data limitations, coupled with technical support, is a civil right—not a luxury.

The California Alliance for Digital Equity (CADE) is a dedicated group of local and statewide advocates focused on all forms of digital equity, from **device acquisition** to **broadband access** to **digital literacy**.

California policies, programs, and taxpayer dollars must prioritize closing the digital divide. This means putting communities first and empowering them to tackle the barriers to broadband access.

¹ New America, *The Cost of Connectivity 2020: Focus on the United States* (July 2020). <https://www.newamerica.org/oti/reports/cost-connectivity-2020/conclusion/>

Join the Alliance: cade.nextgenpolicy.org