



CA Alliance for Digital Equity



Mission

Advocating for equitable, affordable access to the connected world.

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

Our legislative, budgetary, and regulatory advocacy addresses all aspects of the digital divide—and we want to work with you.

2023 Priorities

1. **AB 41 (Holden) - Oppose**
The Digital Equity in Video Franchising Act of 2023
2. **AB 286 (Wood) - Support**
Broadband Infrastructure Mapping
3. **Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) & Digital Equity Act (DEA) Implementation**

AB 41 – The Digital Equity in Video Franchising Act of 2023

Author: Assemblymember Chris Holden

We were wholeheartedly in support of AB 41 prior to amendments that effectively gutted it. Several of our members were co-sponsors of the bill. We worked tirelessly to support AB 41 (and AB 2748 and SB 28 before it) to make long overdue and much-needed reforms to the Digital Infrastructure and Video Competition Act (DIVCA), the 2006 law that eliminated all local input and control over cable franchises and nested the authority instead with the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC).

In short, AB 41 as amended makes California franchise policy worse for communities, worse for localities, and harder for the state to address the digital divide. Much like DIVCA before it - which, for nearly two decades, has failed to produce the more competitive, thriving market for broadband service it promised - AB41 will move the state further from digital equity with these amendments. AB 41 as amended diminishes equity at the expense of the communities our coalition is dedicated to representing.

AB 286 – Broadband Infrastructure Mapping

Author: Assemblymember Jim Wood

Publicly available broadband maps fail to fully illustrate the digital divide preventing millions of Californians from receiving broadband. This is because existing providers have an incentive to overrepresent the depth and breadth of their service territory. Whether it is dense forest in rural California or 'digital doughnuts' in urban California, we know Californians are not fully represented in our broadband maps today.

AB 286 improves broadband mapping resources and efforts on the publicly available California Interactive Broadband Map. This legislation would ensure households have the ability to share address level data directly with the CA Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) on internet speeds, costs, and more.

Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program & Digital Equity Act (DEA) Implementation

CADE partners are working at the state and federal levels to advocate for the equitable implementation of two important funding opportunities for California's broadband build out. We are engaged in listening sessions and public comment periods guiding program planning to ensure California is prepared to effectively allocate resources and funding to the communities that need it most.

[CA State Digital Equity Plan](#)

[CA Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program](#)

Regulatory Engagement

The CA Public Utilities Commission, CA Department of Technology, and many other state agencies are committed to the CA Broadband for All initiative—an effort to bring access to affordable, high-quality internet service to all regions of and communities in our state. Many of the CADE founding partners have been engaged with implementing this initiative since before its inception.

We are working closely with the state agencies involved in this effort to increase participation in their public workshops and public comment periods, as well as ensure that existing funding programs support the CA Broadband for All initiative in the most equitable, effective, and accountable manner.

Join Us

Add your organization to the growing list of California stakeholders dedicated to equitable access to:

- Fast, reliable, and affordable internet
- Digital literacy and navigation support
- Public digital equity programs and subsidies