

# Broadband

## July 2024

### **Team Members**

- Kate Fosburgh, Digital Access Analyst
- Katherine DiPasqua, Director

### **Infrastructure & Deployment**

#### Broadband, Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Funding

- The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) is hosting a Challenge Process to accurately identify internet service levels for locations around the state of California. Challengers, including local governments, tribal nations, nonprofits, and internet service providers, can submit evidence to have the status of a location changed (e.g. from served to unserved). This process will ultimately decide which locations are eligible for BEAD funding and which are not. The Sonoma County Broadband Team is conducting outreach to engage residents in unserved and underserved areas in this process. Residents will submit evidence to a consumer challenge website, which will then be reviewed by EDB staff before being submitted to the CPUC.

#### AT&T Application: Relief of Carrier of Last Resort Obligation- AB 2797 (McKinnor)

- The AT&T Relief of Carrier of Last Resort Obligation legislation (AB 2797), which Sonoma County opposed, was pulled and AT&T is no longer pursuing it this year. AT&T has stated that they intend to “work with counties” on a solution for potential legislation in 2025. The Sonoma County Broadband Team will continue to stay informed and engaged on this issue as ensuring that rural communities have reliable access to landline services is a priority for us.

### **Advanced Adoption**

#### CA Emerging Technology Fund (CETF) Digital Equity Best Practices Grant

- The Sonoma County Economic Development Board applied for a \$20,000 grant from CETF to advance digital equity in Sonoma County. This grant opportunity includes participation in a statewide Digital Equity Best Practices Learning Community comprising of local government leaders throughout the state working to close the digital divide. If awarded, we will use this funding to further support our broadband mapping development and advanced adoption programming.