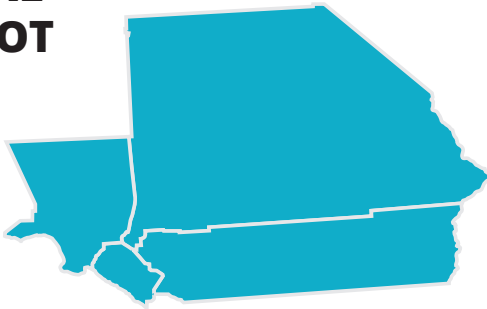


# CLOSING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE IN AD-56

## PROBLEM

We won't close the Digital Divide unless we prioritize network investments for California's hardest to reach communities.

### REGIONAL SNAPSHOT



# 13%

of **Inland Empire** residents are unconnected or underconnected<sup>1</sup>

# Bottom 1/3

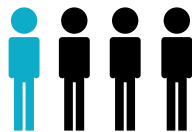
**Imperial County** ranks in the **bottom third** of CA Counties for household connectivity<sup>2</sup>

### Imperial



# 27.4%

In **Imperial County** 27.4% of residents are **unconnected or underconnected**<sup>3</sup>



Nearly 1 in 4 Latino Californians Remain **Unconnected** or **are smartphone-only**<sup>4</sup>

# UNSERVED CITIES IN AD-56

Unserviced at 25/3	100%	>90%	>50%
City	Desert Center	Mesa Verde Desert Edge Oasis Thermal	Blythe North Shore Sky Valley

## SOLUTIONS

Amend SB 156 to make unserved communities the priority will help close the Digital Divide.



### REACH Unserved Households

Require the CPUC to prioritize middle mile projects that enable last mile connections to California’s households unserved at 25/3 mbps



### ENSURE CPUC Accountability

Hold CPUC accountable for its progress on funding projects and closing the Digital Divide



### MODERNIZE CASF Program

Streamline and simplify CASF to use federal ARPA funds before they expire EOY 2024



### ADVANCE Digital Inclusion

Allocate an additional \$10 million in state resources to promote digital literacy and broadband adoption

1 CETF 2021 Survey <https://www.cetfund.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Statewide-Survey-on-Broadband-Adoption-CETF-Report.pdf>

2 “2020 Annual Report California Advanced Services Fund.” California Public Utilities Commission, Apr. 2021, <https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/industries-and-topics/internet-and-phone/california-advanced-services-fund/casf-performance-and-financial-audit-reports>

3 “2020 Annual Report California Advanced Services Fund.” California Public Utilities Commission, Apr. 2021, <https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/industries-and-topics/internet-and-phone/california-advanced-services-fund/casf-performance-and-financial-audit-reports>

4 “CETF-USC Statewide Broadband Adoption Survey.” California Emerging Technology Fund, March 2021, <https://www.cetfund.org/action-and-results/statewide-surveys/2021-2/>