



EMPLOYMENT &
HUMAN SERVICES

MEMORANDUM

Kathy Gallagher, Director

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To: All Staff, Code 2A

Date: September 16, 2020

From: Kathy Gallagher

Subject: Low Cost Internet and Computer Offers for Digitally Disadvantaged

I am pleased to announce that the Employment and Human Services Department (EHSD) is partnering with the California Emerging Technology Fund (CETF) on an outreach campaign to distribute information about **affordable internet and equipment offers for low-income Contra Costa residents**. Early next week, we will be texting approximately 35,000 active Medi-Cal, CalFresh and CalWORKs recipients (only those who opted in to receive texts) with links to an EHSD flyer ([English](#)) ([Spanish](#)) that describes the program. By filling in a zip code and checking boxes with eligibility criteria, people can view the discount options that may be available to them.

In addition to reaching out to our customers participating in benefit programs, we posted a [Get Connected, Contra Costa page](#) with more information on EHSD.org. We are also promoting through our social channels, traditional media, and our partners. *Feel free to forward the flier and webpage links to individuals and organizations that you believe may benefit from discounted digital access.*

Contra Costa County supports digital equity for all – this means ensuring that everyone has access to affordable home internet and computers so individuals and families can stay connected. This goal is especially important in light of COVID-19. As you know, many students are in stay-at-home/remote learning modes, telemedicine is sometimes replacing medical office visits, job seekers must apply for work online, and employees are often working from their homes.

Under these circumstances, many low-income community members are at a significant digital disadvantage in sustaining critical elements of their lives and livelihoods. Through EHSD's partnership with CETF, we can share information about a number of internet service providers and equipment distributors that are offering special promotions to support individuals and families who might not otherwise have adequate digital access.

Last month, Governor Newsom signed a new [Executive Order](#) aimed at accelerating improved connectivity around the state, particularly within the context of COVID-19. As developments unfold, EHSD will continue to pursue partnership opportunities that focus on enhancing digital equity and access for every individual and family in our community.