



fresno county superintendent of schools

Dr. Michele Cantwell-Copher, Superintendent

Broadband for All in Fresno County Overview

The Vision

The Fresno Coalition for Digital Inclusion (FCDI) builds on 15+ years of work by multiple local actors who have deep knowledge of the challenges and solutions needed for countywide internet access. This cross-sector coalition is deep and has multiple members including leaders from the City and County of Fresno, Fresno Unified, Cradle to Career (C2C), Fresno Housing, Valley Children's Hospital, Fresno County Superintendent of Schools, San Joaquin Valley Regional Broadband Consortium, State Center Community College District, United Way Fresno Madera Counties, The Children's Movement, and 12 Community-Based Organizations serving urban and rural areas. FCDI is aligned with C2C values and C2C supports its ongoing convening. FCDI works together with the eight San Joaquin Valley Regional Broadband Consortium counties.

The Challenge

Fresno County is extremely diverse, with a tapestry of races, ethnicities and languages as complex as any place in California. The fuel for economic prosperity lives in every neighborhood, city and town. There is talent in every household, yet the potential is sidelined and poverty endures because many children and families in urban and rural areas do not have access to healthcare, education, banking, employment, social services and more. In 21st century America, this lack of opportunity is made infinitely worse when there is no access to the digital foundation that supports modern life -- the internet.

The Solution

Digital Inclusion requires internet access, devices, support and literacy training. Equitable access must be available and affordable across peoples' daily journeys – a continuity of connectivity made available by last-mile services like wireline broadband and wireless services. Affordable last mile becomes possible when middle-mile pathways reach underserved communities. This is the digital foundation that students, families, and the workforce need to live productive lives now and as they become future-ready.