



## Support the California Teleconnect Fund (CTF)

### What is the California Teleconnect Fund?

- ✓ A state program that provides a 50% discount on advanced telecommunications services to schools, libraries, health clinics, community technology programs offering access to and training in the internet and other technologies, and CBOs that provide health care, job training, job placement, and educational instruction
- ✓ Discount services include dial-up, ISDN, DSL, T-1, and higher services
- ✓ Over 6000 entities have qualified to receive the discounts
- ✓ On-going program expenditures for FY 04/05 is estimated at \$39 million
- ✓ Money from program comes from telephone surcharge

### Why support the California Teleconnect Fund?

- ✓ The discount reduces expenses on entities' telecommunications costs and makes it more affordable for qualified entities to use high speed networks
- ✓ The savings from discounts frees up monies that can be used to cover other program expenses
- ✓ This program is on-going and has a sustainable revenue source separate from the General Fund

### Examples of services provided by entities using CTF discounts:

- ✓ Academic enrichment—web-based applications that use multimedia to reinforce learning
- ✓ Workforce and professional development—online courses that develop workforce skills
- ✓ Telemedicine—patients receiving treatment by medical specialists hundreds of miles away
- ✓ Distance learning—online classes offered in subjects that are unavailable in school

### What's happening with the program?

- ✓ For FY 04/05, CPUC estimates a program budget of \$39 million
- ✓ The state budget proposes to give only \$5.3 million for the program, which is 13% of the amount needed to fully support this program
- ✓ Many organizations that currently receive the discount will have to pay higher costs on telecom services

### What needs to happen to save this program?

- ✓ Your legislator must support the full reinstatement of the fund
- ✓ There are two options to fully fund this program:
  - ✓ The state repays the \$150 million loan it borrowed last year from the CTF; or
  - ✓ The CPUC needs to exercise its authority and turn the CTF surcharge back on
- ✓ Budget language needs to be adopted to allow the money collected from the surcharge to be spent on the program

### What we need to communicate to our elected officials

- ✓ The California Teleconnect Fund is a vital program that must be fully funded so that schools, libraries, health clinics, and CBOs can continue to provide services using high-speed networks
- ✓ In a time of dire budget shortfalls, connection to a high speed network can increase efficiency and save costs through telecommuting, accessing information over the Internet, and using e-Government services to complete government transactions
- ✓ The California Teleconnect Fund must be saved by supporting the CPUC's intent to turn the CTF surcharge back on and adopting budget language that allows the money collected from the surcharge to be spent on the program

#### California Community Technology Policy Group

c/o Community Partners • 606 South Olive Street, Suite 2400 • Los Angeles, CA 90014  
Tel: 213-439-9640 • Fax: 213-439-9650 • Email: [info@cctpg.org](mailto:info@cctpg.org) • Web: <http://www.cctpg.org>