



**For Immediate Release**

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**California Emerging Technology Fund  
Honored with California Housing Consortium Award**

San Francisco and Los Angeles, CA – May 12, 2016 – The California Housing Consortium (CHC), a non-partisan advocate for the production and preservation of housing affordable to low- and moderate-income Californians, is honoring the California Emerging Technology Fund (CETF) with an award in recognition of CETF’s work to close the Digital Divide in publicly-subsidized housing projects. The “Public Sector Award” will be given to CETF CEO Sunne Wright McPeak and accepted by CETF Associate Vice President Raquel Cinat, at 11:30 am on May 12 at the Fairmont Miramar Hotel in Santa Monica.

CETF’s public housing work has focused on a “Smart Housing Initiative,” a powerful strategy to provide broadband (high-speed Internet) connectivity to disadvantaged Californians in all publicly supported housing. Statewide, only 65% of households with an average income of \$20,000 per year or less subscribe to broadband. Residents in low-income households frequently state that the cost of high-speed Internet access is a significant barrier to adopting the technology. Thus CETF has worked to leverage the combined buying power of each household within an affordable housing project by aggregating all Internet access onto a single property-owned network, and reduce the cost burden to all users.

Smart Housing received a major endorsement from the Legislature and Governor with the passage in 2013 of AB 1299, which added \$25 million to the California Advanced Services Fund (CASF), making California the first state to fund broadband installation and digital literacy training in publicly-subsidized multi-family housing statewide. CETF is supporting and assisting with the implementation of AB 1299 by working with non-profit affordable housing organizations, and has invested \$300,000 into the Smart Housing Pilot Partnership with the Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles (HACLA). AB 1299’s aim is to connect 300,000 California public housing units to broadband, a goal that can be met, should the Legislature refund CASF through the [Internet for All Now Act of 2016](#).

“Affordable Internet access is critical to helping families break out of poverty and access the resources and training necessary to transform their lives with new educational and economic opportunities,” said Sunne McPeak. “I appreciate the hard and essential work of the California Housing Commission to make the Internet accessible to low-income communities across California, and we at CETF are grateful for this award.”

**About the California Emerging Technology Fund**

Established in 2007 by the California Public Utilities Commission as a result of two corporate

mergers, CETF's mission is to close the Digital Divide. CETF is on target to reach 98% of all California residences with broadband infrastructure and to achieve 80% home adoption by 2017. This statewide goal can only be accomplished if the following hard-to-reach target communities achieve at least a 70% adoption rate: low-income populations, Latino households, rural communities, and people with disabilities. For more information, please visit [internetforallnow.org](http://internetforallnow.org) and [www.cetfund.org](http://www.cetfund.org).

**Available for Interviews**

[Sunne Wright McPeak](#), President and CEO, California Emerging Technology Fund

Raquel Cinat, Associate Vice President, California Emerging Technology Fund