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August 2021



New Consortium Forms to End the Digital Divide for Good in L.A. County

Reliable and affordable broadband internet access can serve as an engine of economic mobility, educational opportunity, civic engagement and better health care. As our reliance on the internet continues to grow, we are also leaving behind many individuals and communities who have limited or no internet access at all. It is time we eliminate the digital divide.

In August, the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) approved funding for the L.A. County Economic Development Corporation and UNITE-LA to serve as the CPUC's Rural and Urban Regional Broadband Consortium leads for the L.A. region. Launched earlier this year, the **LA Digital Equity Action League** (LA DEAL), is an inclusive and collaborative regional broadband consortium employing a community-driven process to assess and address the broadband infrastructure, affordability and adoption gaps that exist in communities across the L.A. region. We can't fully meet our L.A. Compact goals if we don't close the digital divide, which is why the Compact is joining forces with the LA DEAL to support this effort.

[Read More](#)

Collective Impact in Action



In Search of Equitable Employment Opportunities for Foster Youth

The L.A. Opportunity Youth Collaborative (OYC) is excited to share a **new case study** with lessons learned from the implementation of a coordinated referral process for foster youth to workforce centers across the county. Workforce services are essential footholds to foster youth as they age out of the child welfare system and climb towards their education and career goals. Yet the case study identifies many systemic barriers that prevent youth from enrolling in these programs after a referral is made. On Aug. 10, the L.A. County Board of Supervisors approved a **motion sponsored by Supervisor Kathryn Barger** adopting several recommendations drawn from the OYC case study and directing county agencies to develop an implementation plan and fiscal analysis.



New State Budget Will Help Advance Compact Goals

On July 12, Gov. Newsom signed the 2021-22 State Budget Act, California's largest budget to date. The L.A. Compact and its signers applaud the California Legislature and Governor for passing and signing a historic \$262.6 billion budget that includes record spending on programs that will uplift our most vulnerable Californians. This budget will also help advance the L.A. Compact's work to increase access to high-quality early care and education, further develop career pathways in high-growth industries, improve college access and success, and ensure workforce readiness. **Read more.**



Helping Foster Youth Access the L.A. College Promise

The L.A. College Promise has shown promising outcomes in increasing college enrollment, persistence and completion for first time students at the L.A. Community College District. Yet, few foster youth enroll in the program, and only 46 percent of foster youth in L.A. County overall enroll in college within 12 months of high school graduation. The L.A. Opportunity Youth Collaborative is now partnering with LACCD, LAUSD, and the L.A. County Office of Education and Department of Children and Family Services to increase direct college enrollment of foster youth into the L.A. College Promise, utilizing a design-thinking approach. [Read more.](#)



L.A. Unified's Board of Education Commits to the Success of Community Schools

In June, the L.A. Unified Board of Education unanimously passed a **resolution** to increase the capacity and infrastructure to expand the district's Community Schools Initiative (CSI) from 30 to 70 schools by 2025. This \$63 million investment also calls for the hiring of a CSI director and additional community school coaches to support schools in their first years of implementation. We are excited to see the **Community Schools Initiative** grow and expand, and thank Board President Kelly Gonez and Board Member Jackie Goldberg for spearheading this effort. This investment recognizes that sufficient and sustained funding is needed to support and successfully scale the community schools model.

Partner Highlights



Compact Partner Appointed to Oversee L.A. City's Youth Development Department

Long-time Compact partner and Stewardship Group member, Lisa Salazar, was **appointed** as Interim Executive Director of the City of L.A.'s newly formed Youth Development Department. **Championed** by Councilwoman Monica Rodriguez, this new department will bring the needs of youth to the forefront and serve as a one-stop-shop for youth services. In her previous role as Director of Workforce Development and Economic Opportunity, Lisa advanced key initiatives, like the L.A. College Promise, to remove employment and education barriers for young Angelenos. We look forward to partnering in new ways to improve the lives of young people across the region. Congratulations, Lisa!

Youth Voice is at the Center of County's First-Ever Youth Commission

Back in February 2020, the L.A. County Board of Supervisors approved a measure to establish the County's first-ever **Youth Commission**. The Commission was established to assist the Board of Supervisors in improving the youth-serving systems in the county, guided and co-designed by the voice of youth with lived experiences in the child welfare or juvenile justice systems. Fast forward to today, the Commission has a new Executive Director, **Alain Datcher**, and, in June, the Board of Supervisors **appointed** five of the 15 youth commissioners. In the coming months, these young leaders will analyze and provide recommendations on L.A. County policies, programs and systems that impact youth. We look forward to partnering with the Commission.

Our Corner

Welcome, Matthew Moor!



We are excited to have Matthew (Matt) Moor join the L.A. Compact team as our new Postsecondary Initiatives Manager. In this role, Matt will support the L.A. Compact's Postsecondary Transitions workgroup, L.A. College Promise, including our new College Promise Foster Youth initiative, and Let's Go to College LA. He will also be supporting our L.A. Cash for College team. **Read more.**

What We're Reading

[Harnessing the Power of Data for California's Educational and Economic Recovery](#)
[[Linked Learning](#)]

[Advancing Equity Through Community Schools](#)
[[Greater L.A. Education Foundation](#)]

[America is heading back to school. Teachers are looking for thousands of missing kids](#)
[[Yahoo News](#)]

[Universal basic income could help the most vulnerable in LA, according to 2 emancipated foster youth](#)
[[KCRW](#)]

[LAUSD Rolls Out New Early Education Programs Ahead Of State Expansion](#)
[[LAist](#)]



The L.A. Compact is convened primarily by UNITE-LA. Select workgroups are convened by other partner agencies.



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