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CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GIVES EVERYONEON \$175,000 TO FUND ITS FIRST-EVER DIGITAL EQUITY ADVOCACY PROGRAM

EveryoneOn will use funds to train community members to advocate for digital inclusion policies and initiatives in under-resourced communities

Los Angeles, CA, August 25, 2023 - EveryoneOn - a national digital inclusion organization with local impact - is investing its first-ever digital advocacy grant to train community members in how to advocate for fair digital inclusion policies to close the digital divide in their communities. The grant is part of California Community Foundation's (CCF) Digital Equity Initiative - a multi-year project that is seeding a digital equity movement in Los Angeles County to advocate for fast, reliable and affordable broadband for all Angelenos. The grant to EveryoneOn is part of CCF's move to provide larger grants to organizations that are active partners in its Digital Equity LA coalition.

During the one-year grant period, EveryoneOn will develop and implement an advocacy curriculum to train a corps of volunteer digital equity ambassadors from communities disproportionately affected by the digital divide in Los Angeles County. Class participants will learn how to engage in digital advocacy activities, like making public comments, calling local electeds, and attending meetings and events. Specific areas of Los Angeles County where EveryoneOn will concentrate efforts are Central Los Angeles, Gateway Cities, San Fernando Valley and Boyle Heights.

"We are grateful to California Community Foundation's investment to create a society of digital inclusion advocates, which aligns directly with EveryoneOn's advocacy strategy," said Norma Fernandez, CEO, EveryoneOn. "Our digital skills training participants often express the desire to apply their new skills to help lift others in their communities. Our advocacy training will give them that opportunity."

"EveryoneOn is an established force with deep roots in LA and an understanding of its communities," said Shayna Englin, digital equity initiative director, California Community Foundation. "We are thrilled to support their expansion into advocacy at this critical moment for broadband equity and community engagement."

According to the U.S. Census¹, 11% of households in LA County do not have an internet subscription. Furthermore, low-income residents often pay more for slower speeds than their wealthier neighbors².

About EveryoneOn

Since 2012, <u>EveryoneOn</u> has helped people in underserved communities unlock social and economic opportunity by connecting them to low-cost internet and devices, and providing digital skills trainings. In that time, EveryoneOn has connected over 1,000,000 people to the internet, provided more than 6,000 devices and delivered digital skills trainings to thousands of participants nationwide in the past three years. The organization collaborates across sectors with government, community organizations, nonprofits, foundations and corporations to deliver services that give individuals and families the power and skills to use the internet. To learn more, visit <u>www.everyoneon.org</u>, and follow on Twitter, Linkedin, Facebook, Threads and Instagram @EveryoneOn.

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¹ https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/losangelescountycalifornia,US/PST045222

² https://www.calfund.org/wp-content/uploads/Pricing-Disparities-Report.pdf