Notes from March 26 ADRC Fridays

Notes from Breakout Sessions:

- Cannot use a cookie-cutter approach for addressing digital divide:
- Kern County developed and conducted assessments for each individual and offered resources (AT/device, broadband, and training) based on the individual's specific needs and comfort level.
- Rural area issues:
    - Rural areas do not typically have broadband availability, only satellite internet which costs ~$200/month to receive a decent connection.
        - FCC's "Companies Near Me" tool can provide consumers with information about participating companies in their area: https://data.usac.org/publicreports/CompaniesNearMe/Download/Report
        - The FCC Broadband Deployment Map is also searchable: https://broadbandmap.fcc.gov/#/
        - Rural areas typically do not have strong cellular phone coverage, people have to buy extenders to install on their roofs to receive cell phone reception.
- Culture plays a part in how comfortable someone would be open/receptive to learning and using devices.

From the Panelist Presentations:

- Links regarding Ability Tools and device loans that were shared by DOR and CFILC's Ability Tools program:
    - California's Ability Tools Program: https://abilitytools.org
    - California's Ability Tools Device Lending Library/Demo Centers: https://abilitytools.org/services/device-lending-library.php
    - California's Assistive Technology Portal, including device loans and AT reutilization: https://testing.myatprogram.org/home/6
    - Freedom Tech, providing low-interest loans for Assistive Technology in California: https://freedomtech.org/