



Government Innovation California

Post Event Report

Thursday, January 29, 2026 | Sheraton Grand Sacramento



Event Overview

32
Speakers

372
Registrations

37
Partners

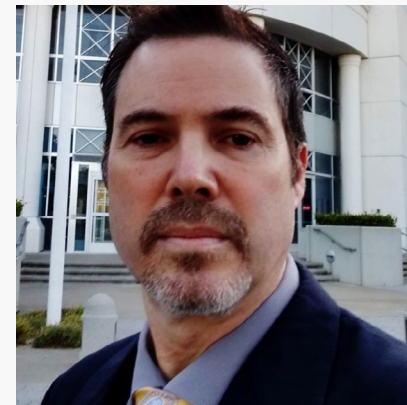
Featured Speakers



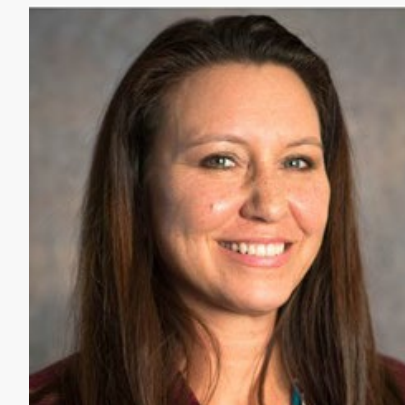
Sarah Soto-Taylor
Deputy Secretary of Strategic
Development, California
Government Operations Agency



Chris Rouse
Chief Technology Officer (CTO),
California Department of Human
Resources (CalHR)



Douglas Leone
Chief Information Security Officer,
Employment Development
Department



Angela Shell
Chief Procurement Officer,
Department of General Services
(DGS)



Thomas Boon
Chief Information Officer, CA
Governor's Office of Business and
Economic Development



Serenity Thompson
Deputy Director, Digital Services
Division, California Department of
Motor Vehicles



Chris Given
Deputy Director, Digital Services
Division, California Department of
Motor Vehicles



Thea Man
Chief Information Security
Officer, Office of Data and
Innovation

“Love the innovation and seeing it all come to life to impact those who we serve. Thank you for paving the way and bringing all the talent in the room come together for solutions.”

Department of Rehabilitation

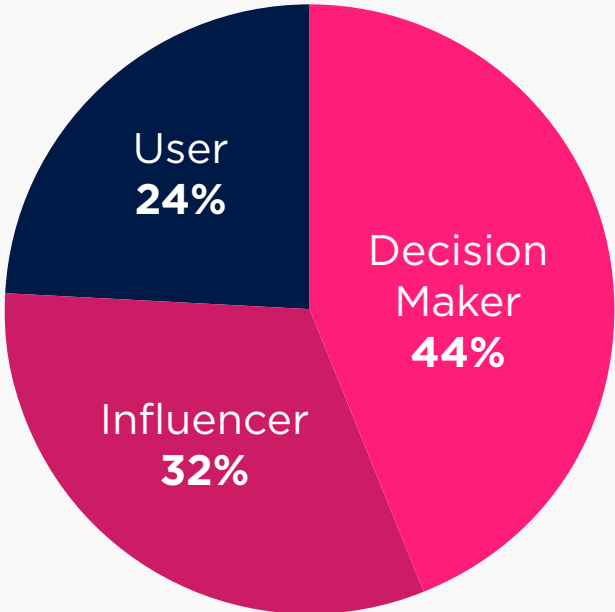


Delegate Profile

Tier of Government

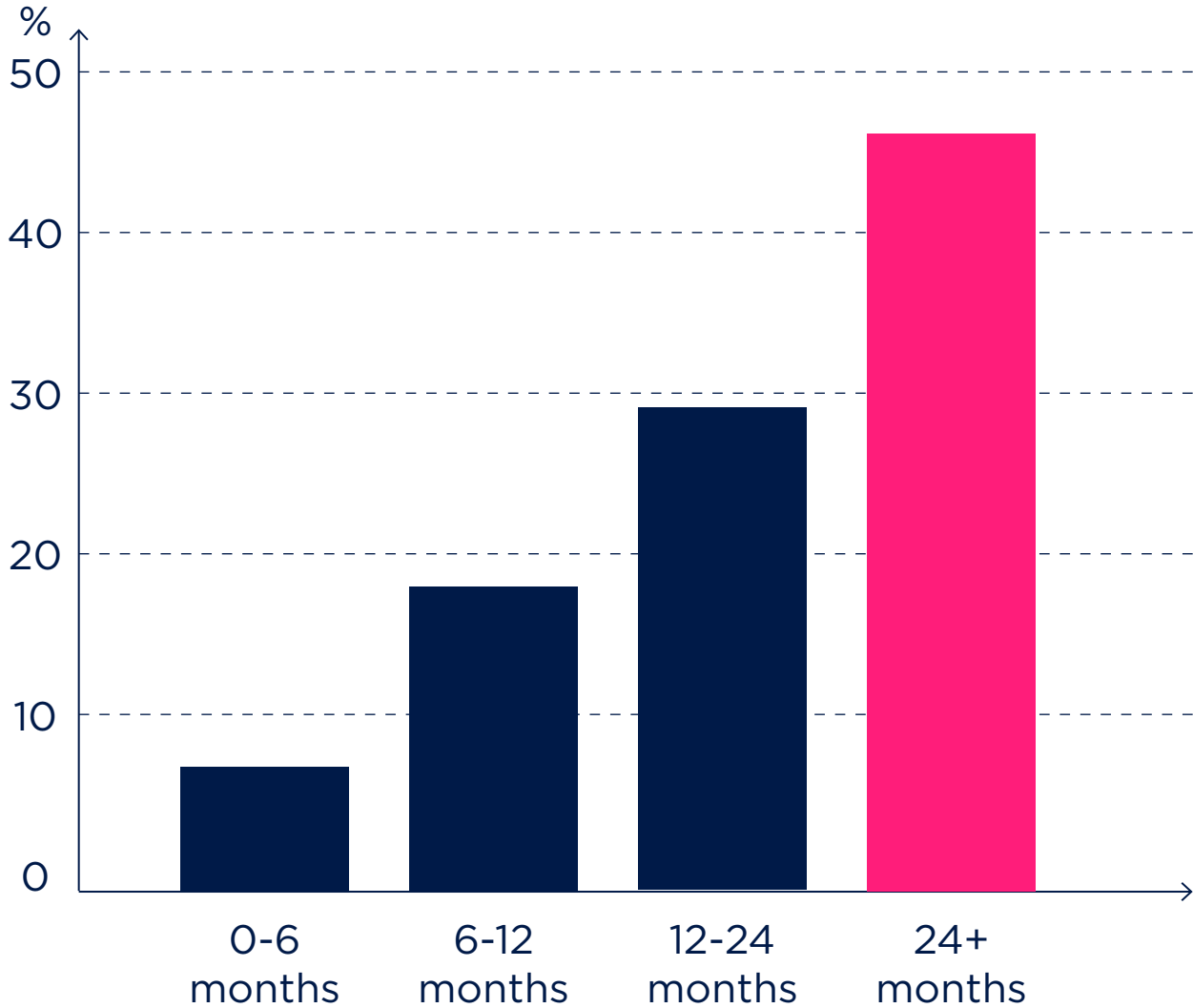


Attendee Role

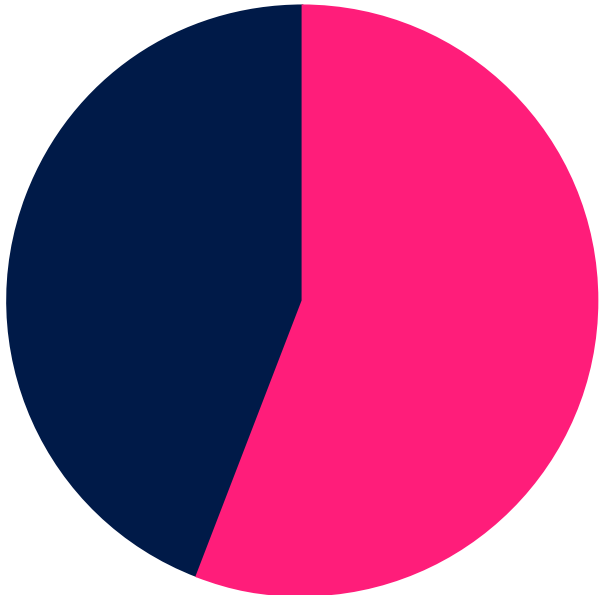


76% of attendees were decision makers or influencers

Investment Timeframe

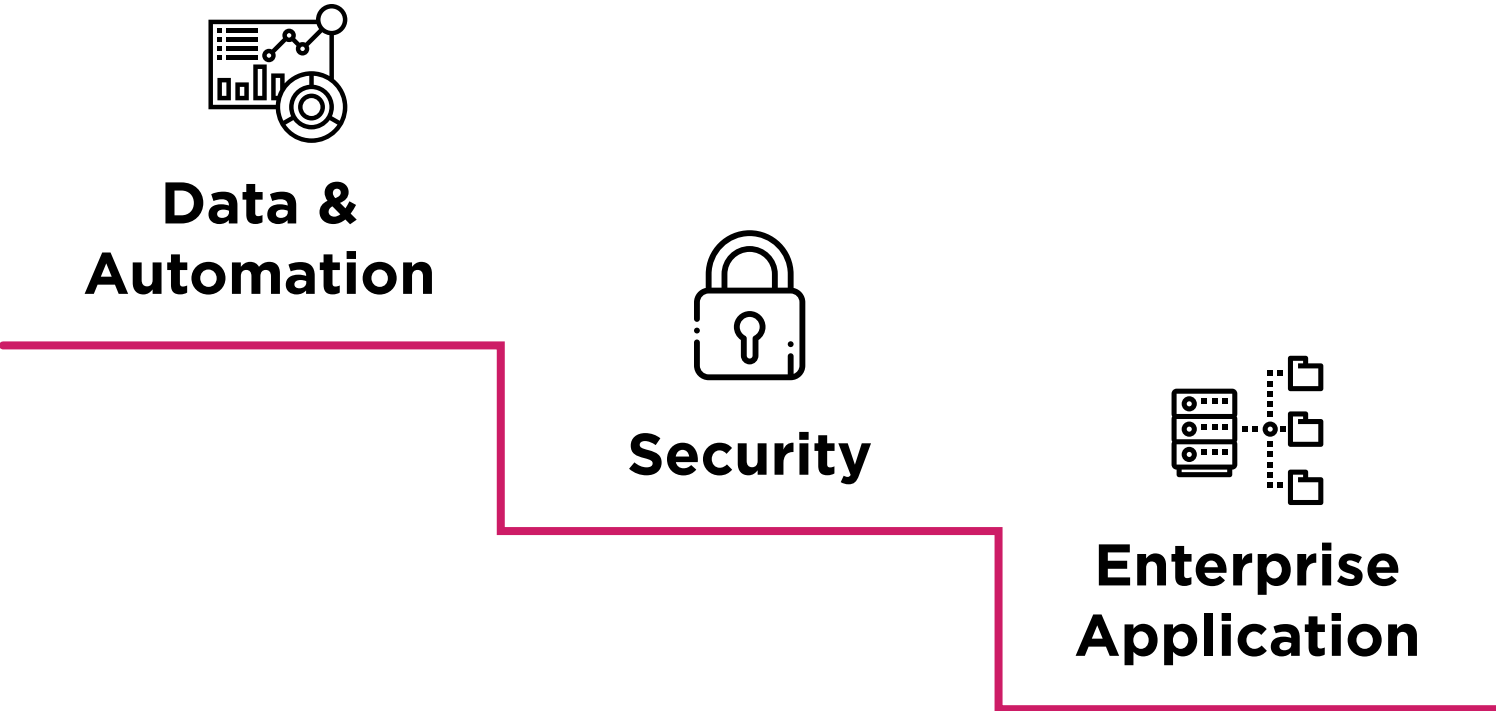


Considering New Technologies or Solutions

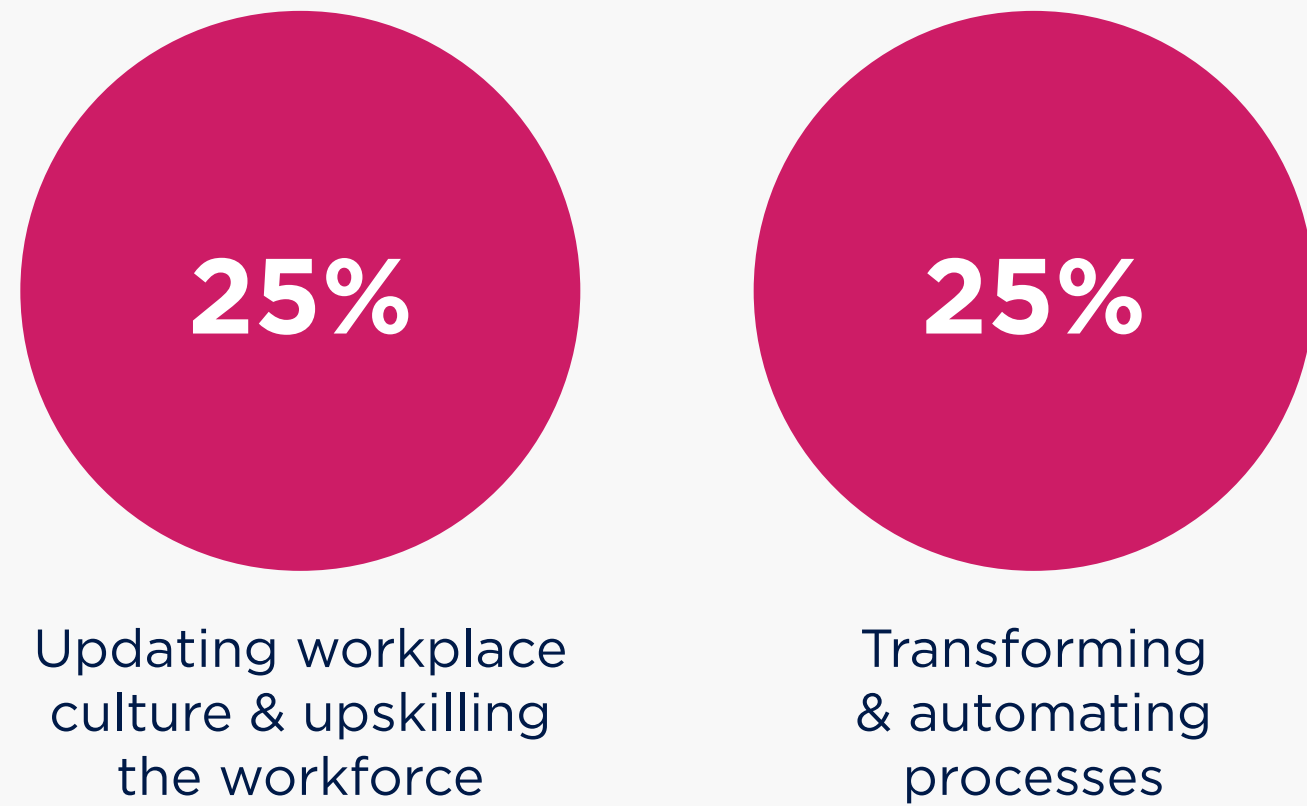


56% are actively exploring options

Top 3 Focus

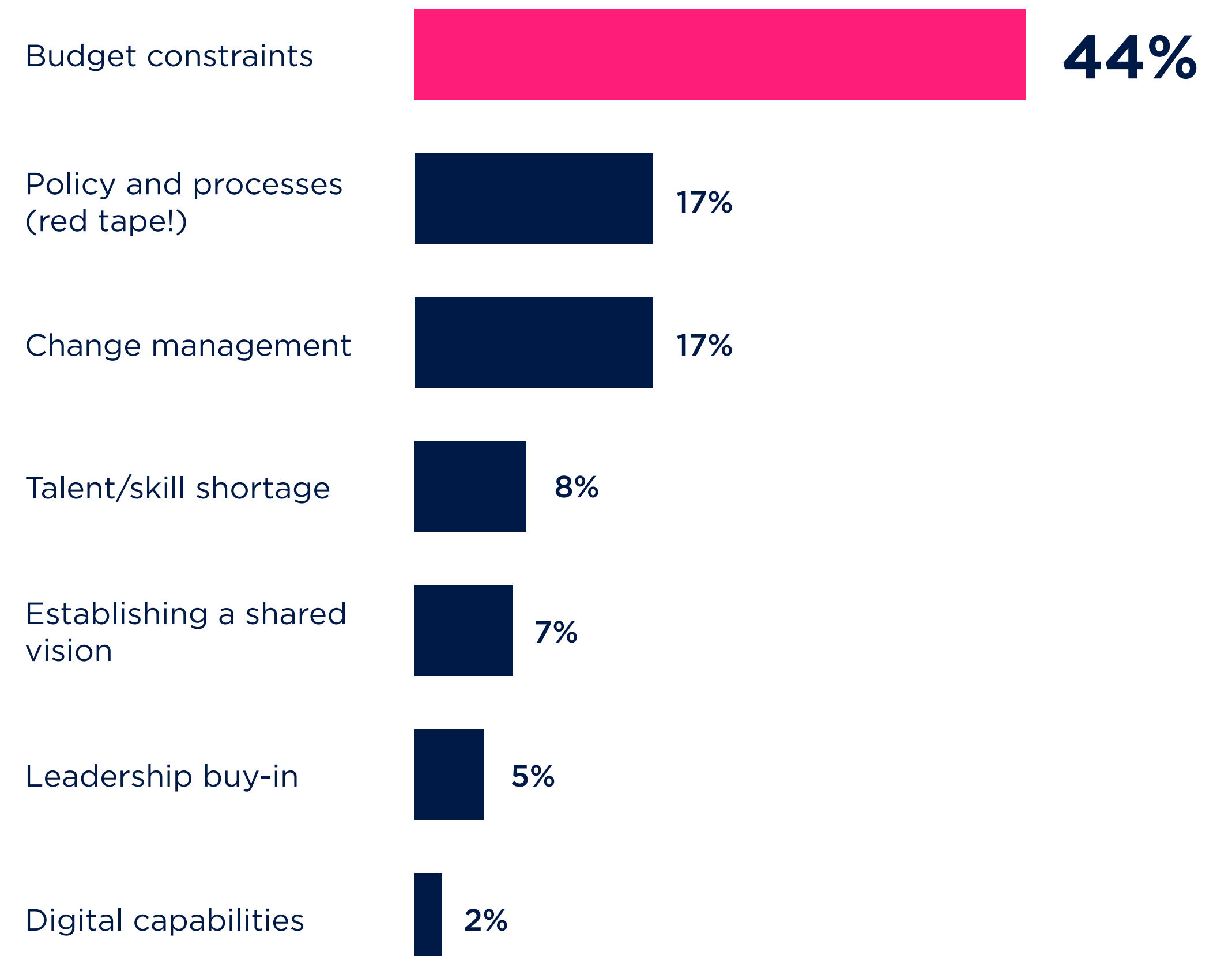


Organization, department, or function's top priority over the next 12-24 months



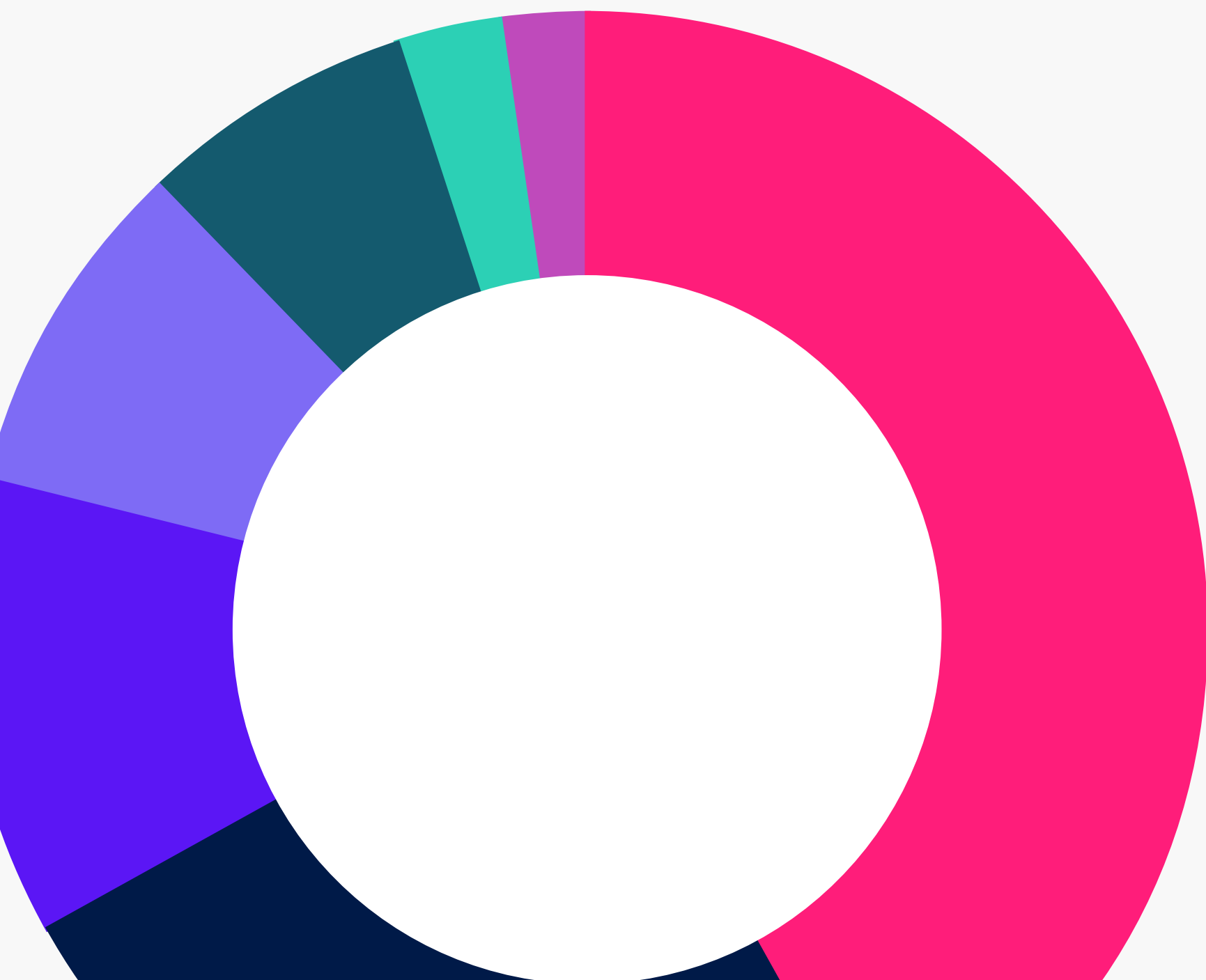
11%	Building resiliency & improving business continuity plans
11%	Collaborating with other departments/tiers of government
10%	Investing in new technology & digital services
10%	Modernizing data & cyber security processes
8%	Becoming more data driven in decision making

Biggest barriers to building a culture of continuous innovation within the agency/department



Biggest challenge facing the Public Sector in California

● Economic - budgets & competing priorities	42%
● Workforce - talent attraction & retention	25%
● Technological - digital divide & rate of change	12%
● Demographic - population expectations & citizen trust	9%
● Social - accessibility & equal access for all	7%
● Security - cybersecurity & information security	3%
● Environmental - metro/rural divide	2%



42% said economic challenges

Ways to overcome the talent challenge across government

47% Focusing on career paths & upskilling

We're not, but we should be **20%**

Aligning with employee values **15%**

Improving the government brand **8%**

Not a current priority for us **5%**

Expanding talent pools with flexible working **3%**

Offering nontraditional benefits & individualized rewards **2%**

The #1 change that can help Government meet expectations

3%
Other

32%
Talent attraction & retention strategies


23%
Cross agency & cross sector collaboration

20%
Workforce upskilling

12%
Expanding digital services

10%
Improved data democratization & utilization



A photograph of two women seated in a panel discussion. The woman on the left is wearing a light beige suit and has long, dark, curly hair. She is holding a microphone and looking towards the woman on the right. The woman on the right is wearing a teal blazer and glasses, and is speaking into a microphone. Both women have name tags. The background is a blue wall with large, colorful geometric shapes. A dark blue diagonal graphic is overlaid on the left side of the image.

“ I found this to be very engaging and super informative. One of the best conferences I have been to.”

State Water Board

Top 10

Job Titles

Assistant Chief Deputy Director

Assistant Deputy Director

CEO

CFAO

Chief AI Officer

Chief Deputy Director

Chief Enterprise Applications

Chief Financial Officer

Chief Human Resources Officer

Chief Information Officer

Organizations

California Department of Motor Vehicles

California Department of General Services

California Department of Transportation

California Department of Toxic Substances Control

California Employment Development Department

California Office of Traffic Safety

California Department of Human Resources

County of Sacramento

California Department of Health Care Services

California Department of Water Resources

“ I especially like the relevance of the topics and that you have selected speakers with experience on the front lines.”

State of California Department of Technology



Our Speaker Line-up



Sarah Soto-Taylor
Deputy Secretary of Strategic Development, California Government Operations Agency



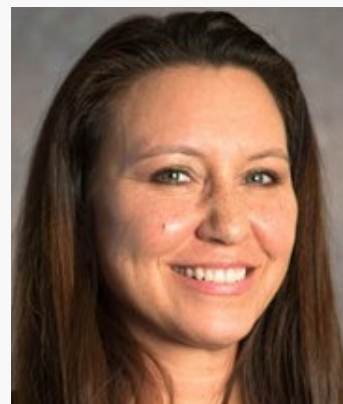
Chris Rouse
Chief Technology Officer (CTO), California Department of Human Resources (CalHR)



Serenity Thompson
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Chris Given
Deputy Director, Digital Services Division, California Department of Motor Vehicles



Thea Man
Chief Information Security Officer, Office of Data and Innovation



Fredrick Gomez
Agency Chief Information Officer, Director of Information Technology Services, California Department of Food and Agriculture



Alicia Wong
Senior Vice President, Enterprise Project Services, State Compensation Insurance Fund



Bradley Ponce
Chief Information Security Officer, Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation



Gregory Nelson
Chief Information Security and Privacy Officer, California Department of Social Services



Albert Lam
Agency Deputy Chief Information Security Officer, California Health and Human Services



Steve Nash
Chief Information Officer, California Department of Child Support Services



Jimmie K. Ramos
Chief Information Security, Child Welfare Digital Services, Office of Technology and Solutions Integration

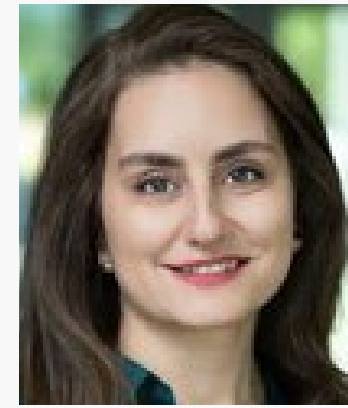


Joseph Taylor
Department Chair, Information Systems and Business Analytics, California State University-Sacramento

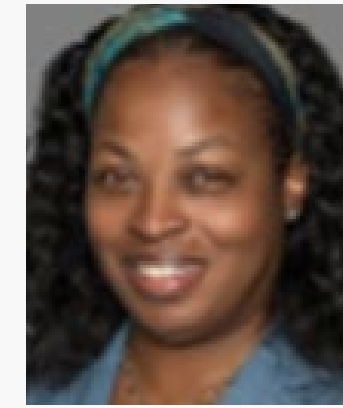
Our Speaker Line-up



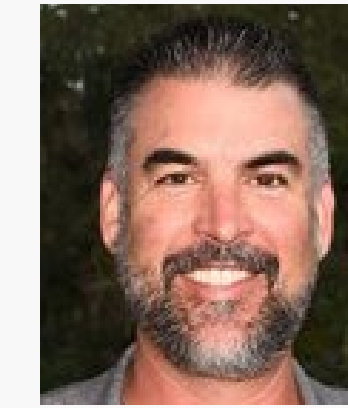
Yoshimasa Masuda
Professor, Graduate school
of Keio University, School
of Management, Tokyo
University of Science



Sadaf Ashtari, PhD, MPH
Associate Professor of
Information Systems,
California State University,
Sacramento



Linda Dangerfield
Deputy Chief Procurement
Officer, Office of State
Procurement, Maryland
Department of General
Services



Brad Bussie
CTO & CISO, e360



Anne Crew-Renzo
Chief Innovation Training
Officer, Office of Data and
Innovation (ODI)



Jennifer Uyeda Issertell
Deputy Transformation
Officer and Assistant
Deputy Director, California
Department of Technology
(CDT)



Nikki Hatcher
Contracts and Procurement
Services Branch Manager,
Division of Business Services,
Department of Water
Resources (DWR)



Jeremiah Oakden
Business Taxes Administrator
III, California Department of
Tax and Fee Administration
(CDTFA)



Jarrett Krumrei
Lead Product Manager,
Office of Data and Innovation



Ganesh Rao
Senior Director, CCM
Strategic Alliances, Quadient



Darrel Lewis
Sr. Director and Architecture
Lead, Delinea



Keith Nelson
Senior Strategist, Public
Sector, OpenText



Carm Taglienti
Chief Technology Officer,
Insight



Chad Haftorson
Senior Director - Product
Management, Freshworks



Nick Stohlman
CJIS Program Strategy VP,
Imprivata



Nick Whitney
Co- founder and Chief
Information Security Officer,
MTX

Our Speaker Line-up



Dhananjay Bapat
Principal Product Marketer,
Simplr



Shaw-chin Chiu
Managing Client Partner,
State of California, IBM
Consulting



Mike Rockenstein
Business Development
Leader (State of California),
IBM



Chris Petterson
Field Engineer, Chainguard



Bradley Fischer
Account Executive - State of
California, Cohesity



Karl Hamel
Senior Systems Engineer -
NorCal, Cohesity



Chris Macias
Public Sector Sales Director,
Semperis



Mike Carlson
Principal Solutions Architect,
Semperis



Ben Ault
Senior Director, Solution
Engineering, Salesforce



Alex Welsh
Head of California Public
Sector Strategy, Outsystems



Don Ingle
Industry Executive Advisor,
State and Local Government,
Education, SAP



Our 2026 Partners

carahsoft.



 freshworks

 imprivata®

MTX




e360

SIMPPLR

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PUBLIC SECTOR

 outsystems

 semperis

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COHESITY

 opentext™

 Chainguard

quadient
Because connections matter.

zoom
for Government

HPE

NUTANIX

 rubrik

 HYLAND™

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celonis

Magic Notes
powered by beam

LILT

Medallia

ClearPath
WEB ACCESSIBILITY

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SAVE THE DATE

**See You at
Government Innovation
California Next Year**

Thursday, January 28, 2027

Book a Meeting to Become a Partner



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Public Sector Network connects government organizations across the globe.

Our mission is to give public sector professionals a single place to come together, share ideas, and get free, unlimited access to the latest information about critical topics that are transforming the government landscape.

Our government-only network helps members find relevant international content and case studies that are critical to your work and can help you save time, and money. For those who are looking to network at a deeper level, we hold insightful online and in-person events, ranging from conferences and exhibitions, to intimate training courses and forums across major cities around the world.

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About Us

Connecting Government

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