

# UNIVERSAL SERVICE



The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) administers six legislatively mandated programs to ensure safe, reliable, affordable, and universal access to telecommunications services. These programs connect Californians to essential services such as public safety, public health, and education.

## 1. California Advanced Services Fund

Provides grants and revolving loans to bridge the “digital divide” in unserved and underserved communities in rural and urban areas (PU Code Sec. 281)

Connecting high-cost rural communities in **12 counties** to service **58,175 households and businesses**

Benefitting **291,882 households** and **4,024 public housing units**

## 2. California High Cost Fund A

Provides financial assistance to 13 small independent telephone companies serving “high cost” rural areas to keep rates affordable (PU Code Sec. 275.6)

Connecting **127,205 households** in high-cost rural areas

Connecting **3,245 schools**  
**419 libraries**  
**7,334 community groups**  
**152 hospitals and clinics**  
**96 community colleges**  
**1 telehealth network** connecting to almost **300 rural sites**

## 3. California High Cost Fund B

Provides financial assistance to “carriers of last resort” to keep basic telephone service affordable in rural areas (PU Code Sec. 276.5)

Connecting **1.48 million relayed calls** to support **6.11 million conversation minutes** annually

Providing a **\$12.65** discount in addition to **\$9.25** from Federal Lifeline, connecting **1,542,944 wireless** and **694,193 wireline** customers

## 4. California Teleconnect Fund

Provides discounted communications services to schools, community colleges, libraries, public hospitals and non-profit organizations (PU Code Sec. 280)

## 5. Deaf & Disabled Telecom Program

Provides relay service and discounted assistive equipment to customers with hearing, vision, speech, cognitive, and mobility disabilities (PU Code Sec. 2881)

## 6. California LifeLine Program

Provides discounts on basic wireline or wireless phone service to qualified low-income customers (PU Code Sec. 871 et seq)

