



## Frequently Asked Questions

### Federal Funding Account – Post Award Information

February 2025

The following Frequently Asked Questions document is intended to provide guidance on the Federal Funding Account Post Award rules and requirements set forth in the California Public Utilities Commission [Decision \(D.\) 22-04-055, Appendix A](#). The answers provided here are informational only and do not modify the requirements set forth in the program rules or award documents. Further questions may be sent to: [FederalFundingAccount@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:FederalFundingAccount@cpuc.ca.gov).

- **Award Overview**
- **Project Activities**
- **Changes to the Project Work Plan or Budget**
- **Payment Requests**
- **Project Deadlines**
- **Reporting**

### Award Overview

#### 1. What forms will an awardee need to submit upon receiving an award letter?

Awardees need to complete and submit two types of forms: (1) a Consent Form, and (2) either a [STD 204 - Payee Data Record](#) or a [Government Agency Taxpayer ID Form](#) through the California Public Utilities Commission's (Commission) [Broadband Grant Portal](#).

#### 2. How long does an awardee have to submit the consent form?

A completed and executed Consent Form should be submitted through the [Broadband Grant Portal](#) within 30 calendar days from the date of the Award Letter. Where the Consent Form is not submitted in 30 days the award can be invalidated.



## **Project Activities**

### **1. When can an awardee begin project activities?**

Typically, the effective date of the award (start date) is the date the Commission approved the resolution. Project activities may begin when the Commission awards the project.

### **2. Can awardees change their effective date?**

Awardees seeking to modify their effective date must submit a request and justification to the Communication Division's Director of Broadband Initiatives and a copy to: [FederalFundingAccount@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:FederalFundingAccount@cpuc.ca.gov).

### **3. When can awardees begin construction?**

Awardees may begin construction once the awardee receives approval to start the project and all applicable California Environmental Quality Act requirements have been approved by the Commission. Depending on the location, additional approvals from multiple entities may be needed.

### **4. How long does an awardee have to complete the project?**

Projects exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act are to be completed within 18 months of the effective date. All other projects are to be completed within 24 months of the effective date.

### **5. Where can I get more information on permitting for my project?**

Federal, state, and local permits may be required. Environmental reviews are generally conducted pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act, where the CPUC is a lead or responsible agency, and as further specified by the CPUC's California Environmental Quality Act related rules. For more information see the CPUC [California Environmental Quality Act](#) webpage. Further, the [resources for broadband projects](#) webpage includes information on permitting and rights-of-way.

### **6. Do the Build America, Buy America Act requirements apply to awardees?**

The Build America, Buy America Act requirements do not apply to Federal Funding Account awardees.



**7. Are awardees required to comply with the State of California prevailing wage requirements?**

Yes. Awardees are required to comply with the State of California's prevailing wage requirements. Federal Funding Account Awardees are considered the "Awarding Body" and must register the project with the California Department of Industrial Relations. Construction contractors hired for Federal Funding Account projects must comply with prevailing wage requirements by paying proper wages, providing training and / or apprenticeship programs, and submitting certified payroll information.

Additional information regarding prevailing wage requirements is available on the California Department of Industrial Relations [Public Works](#) website.

## **Changes to the Project Work Plan or Budget**

**1. How does an awardee request changes to a project's work plan or budget?**

Any requested changes to a last mile Federal Funding Account award (as specified in the Resolution or Ministerial Award Letter) must be communicated in writing to the Communication Division's Director of Broadband Initiatives and a copy to: [FederalFundingAccount@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:FederalFundingAccount@cpuc.ca.gov).

**2. How much notice is required to request changes to the project's work plan or budget?**

Awardees are expected to request changes to the project's work plan or budget at least 30 days before the anticipated change. The requested change to the project's work plan or budget may be subject to approval by Commission resolution before becoming effective.



## Payment Requests

### 1. When can an awardee request project expense reimbursement?

All required reports need to be submitted in order for a reimbursement request to be processed. Requests for payments should be submitted through the Broadband Grant Portal at five milestones of the project completion. The project completion is measured by the percentage of project costs expended. The milestones are:

- 10 percent
- 35 percent
- 60 percent
- 85 percent
- 100 percent

## Project Deadlines

### 1. What is the deadline to expend the award funds?

Awardees must spend funds by the project deadline (e.g., 18-24 months unless formally updated by the process outlined in the [Awardee Administrative Manual](#)). All federal funds must be expended by December 31, 2026.

### 2. What should an awardee do if the project is not making progress towards the grant required deadline?

Awardees should maintain regular contact with Federal Funding Account staff throughout the project. If an awardee anticipates or encounters circumstances that could impact the project, they should immediately contact staff and copy [FederalFundingAccount@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:FederalFundingAccount@cpuc.ca.gov).

### 3. What if an awardee fails to notify the Communications Division of any delays in the project completion or the project fails to meet the approved completion date?

Delays or omissions may subject a project to penalties including but not limited to rescinding a grant.



## Reporting

### 1. What are the reporting requirements for awardees?

Awardees are required to submit:

- a) Monthly Contractor Report – due on the last day of the month following a month in which the awardee enters into a contract with a contractor licensed with the State Contractors Licensing Board. No Monthly Contractor Reports are required for months in which the awardee does not enter into any new contracts.
- b) [Construction Progress Reports](#) – the first Construction Progress Report is due within six weeks after the Award Letter. Subsequent reports are due on a monthly basis.
- c) Quarterly Reports - details progress of the project. It is separate and in addition to the Construction Progress Report.
- d) Annual Reports – use of funds and outcomes and impacts of the project.
- e) For projects that include middle mile infrastructure, the annual report must include the number of interconnection requests and executed service agreements. Awardees must submit these reports for the life of the middle mile infrastructure.
- f) Completion Report – filed with the final payment request.

### 2. How does an awardee submit the required reports?

Awardees may only submit the required reports through the [Broadband Grant Portal](#).

### 3. My award has been identified as being funded from the federal Capital Projects Fund. Are there additional reporting requirements?

Awardees that expend \$1 million or more in federal awards during their fiscal year, must have a single audit conducted for that year. The single audit requirement does not apply to for-profit organizations (2 CFR §200.501 (i)). For additional information, refer to Title 2 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 200, Subpart F.

### 4. Are certain types of communications equipment not allowed or banned?

The [Federal Communications Commission](#) (FCC) bans authorization of telecommunications and video surveillance equipment deemed to pose a threat



to national security, such as telecommunications and video surveillance equipment owned by Chinese state-owned enterprises. For additional information, please review the Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau's list of communications equipment and services ([Covered List](#)) that are deemed to pose an unacceptable risk to national security and FCC's related [news release](#).

**5. Are there restrictions on construction contractors that can be hired for Federal Funding Account projects?**

Yes. All construction contractors hired to perform work on Federal Funding Account projects must be licensed and registered with the California Department of Industrial Relations.