

Federal Funding Account

Webinar for Prospective Grant Applicants

Presented on July 6, 2023

Communications Division, Broadband Deployment Team



California Public
Utilities Commission

Agenda

- Welcome
- Legislation and Decision
- Program Overview
 - Eligible Entities, Projects, Amounts
- Application Process and Resources
- Post-application and Reporting
- Q & A

Break (five minutes)

- Introduction to Applicant Tool and Grant Portal
- Q & A
- Adjournment
- Contact Information



Fiber Installation in Quincy

Moderated Q&A sessions



- Please ask general questions in the chat as we go along
- Please send specific questions about your application via email to:
FederalFundingAccount@cpuc.ca.gov

Application Window is open!

First Federal Funding Account Application Window:

Opened: June 30, 2023

Close: September 29, 2023, 4 p.m. PDT

Applications to be analyzed as a group during the window.

Broadband for All Investments in SB 156 to Bridge the Digital Divide



Last Mile Federal Funding Account, \$2 billion

- Set up last-mile broadband connections that will connect homes and businesses with local networks.

Loan Loss Reserve, \$750 million

- Loan loss reserve fund to enable local governments and nonprofits to secure financing for broadband infrastructure.

Local Agency Technical Assistance, \$50 million

- Technical assistance to local governments to prepare for broadband implementation.

Middle Mile, \$3.25 billion

- Build, operate and maintain an open-access, state-owned middle mile network.

California Advanced Services Fund (CASF) program changes

- Wide-ranging changes to the CASF Public Utilities Code section 281 statute

Last Mile Federal Funding Account

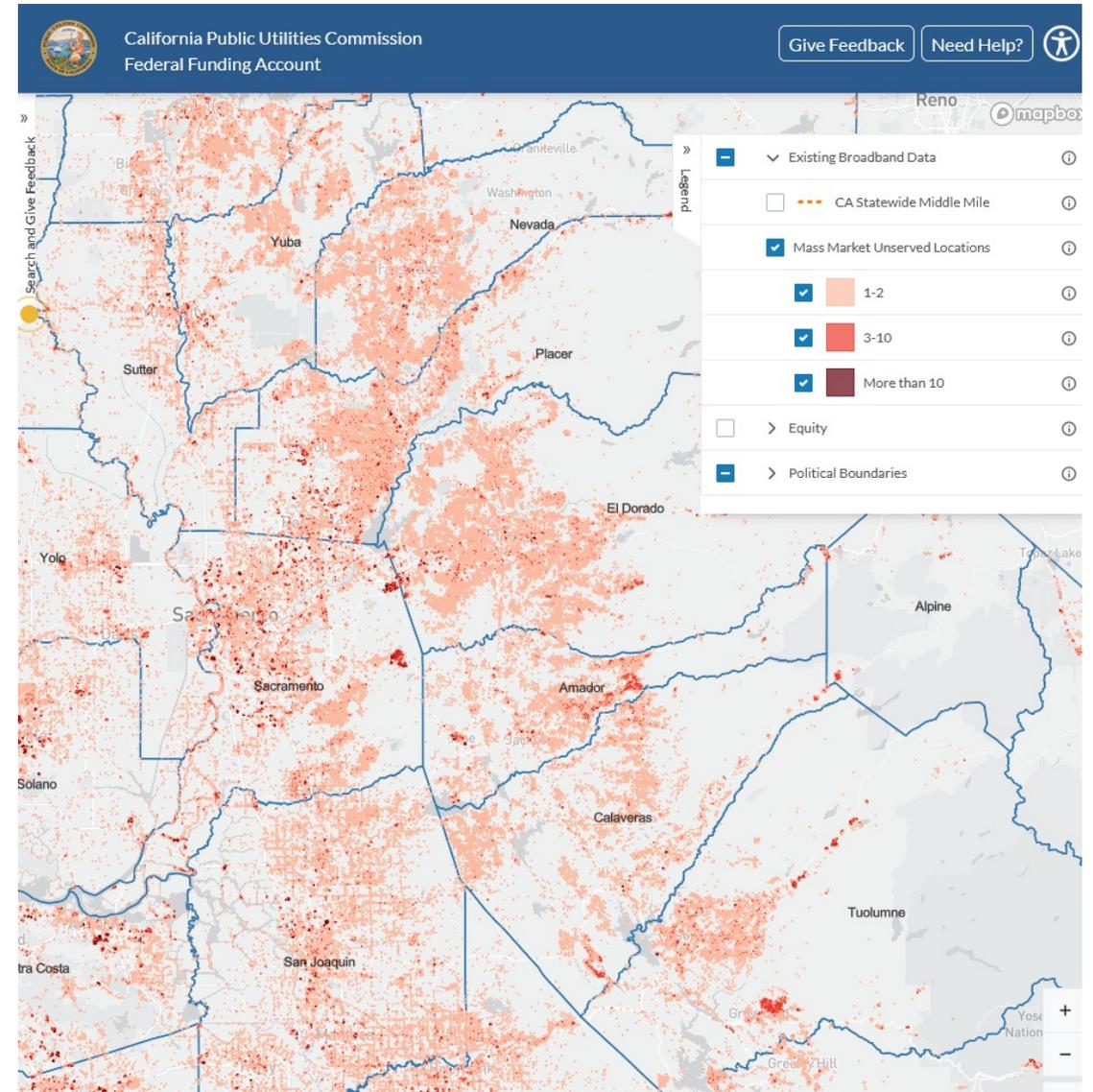
\$2 billion to facilitate deployment of last-mile broadband infrastructure projects

- \$1 billion for rural counties and \$1 for urban counties

To build broadband Internet infrastructure in communities without access to Internet service at sufficient and reliable speeds.

- Projects must provide minimum 100 Mbps download **and** upload

Adopted in Decision 22-04-055



Eligible entities for Federal Funding Account grants

The following entities are eligible:

- Facilities-based broadband providers
- Local government agencies
- Electric utilities
- Non-profit organizations
- Entities with a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN)
- Co-operatives
- California Tribes
 - including their wholly-owned tribal corporations and non-profit organizations

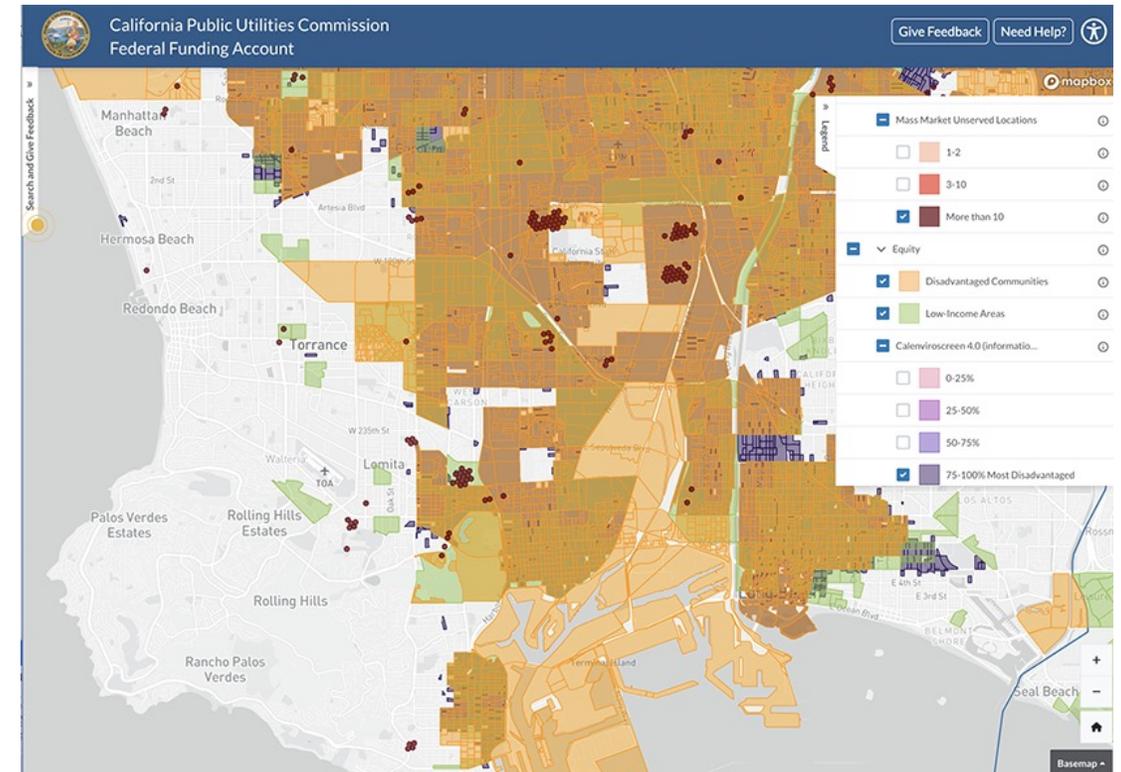


Eligible areas for the Federal Funding Account

- Locations (households and businesses) that lack access to a *wireline* Internet service connection capable of reliably delivering minimum speeds of 25 Mbps download and 3 Mbps upload.
- Projects tracked by Census Blocks
- Treasury Final Rule notes
 - service can be provided to "served" locations as part of a "holistic approach" that provides service to a wider area, for example, in order to make ongoing service of certain households or businesses within the service area economical.

Project Scoring

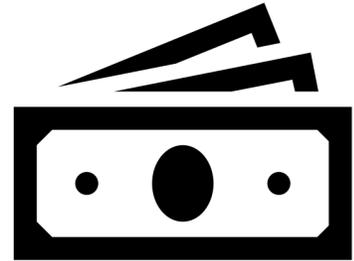
- Up to 130 points to be awarded in the [scoring rubric](#)
- Points scored for specific criteria
 - For example, type of partnership, offering California LifeLine, low-cost plans, low-income areas, *etc.*
- Rural/Urban allocation can be found on Pages 33-35 of the decision ([Decision 22-04-055](#)).
- Use the applicant tool to determine disadvantaged status.



Who will approve the grants?

CPUC staff determination (aka “**ministerial review**”):

- Per-location costs of \$9,300 or less
- Total project is \$25 million or less
- Exempt from California Environmental Quality Act



Commission determination via **resolution** after public comment:

- Does not meet ALL THREE criteria for ministerial determination
- Staff may recommend *any* application for resolution

Application Process

- Start on the federal funding account website
 - Use public map and applicant tool (top right)
- Gather resources
- All applications submitted via online portal: broadbandportal.cpuc.ca.gov.
- The Broadband Grant Portal (bottom right) enables eligible entities to:
 - Apply for Federal Funding Account,
 - Submit payment requests, and,
 - Submit required reports using a web-based system.

CPUC Federal Funding Account Applicant Tool

Applicants can use this tool to prepare and develop applications for the Federal Funding Account (FFA). The tool enables applicants to create project areas by selecting Census Blocks. The tool includes mass market unserved locations, quality indicators, and political boundaries to inform applicants' development of their project areas.

Use the buttons below to add or subtract census blocks to your project area. Submission counts as one project and part of a contiguous network build for cover three Census Blocks, all three as one submission.

County	Census Block ID	Total Locations	Within Tribal Area	Household Median Income	CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Score	Mass Market Unserved Locations	Disadvantaged Community Category
Yolo	061120115002002	73	No	\$75,952	14	73	
Yolo	061120115002017	1	No	\$75,952	14	1	
Yolo	061120115002026	80	No	\$75,952	14	80	
Yolo	061120115003000	50	No	\$59,380	14	50	

Results

- Total Locations (Sum): 234
- Within Tribal Area (Count): 4
- Household Median Income (Average): \$75,952
- CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Score (Average): 14
- Mass Market Unserved Locations (Sum): 234
- Socioeconomic Vulnerability Index (Average): 47

Project Area Submission

At this time, applicants are only able to save and modify their project area selections. Applicants will be able to submit current or saved project plans once the Federal Funding Account starts accepting applications.

Buttons: Reset, Save Draft, Submit

Home Funding Opportunities LOG IN

Broadband Grant Portal

California Public Utilities Commission

Broadband Implementation for California

In July 2021, Governor Gavin Newsom signed [Senate Bill 156](#) into law. It is historic broadband legislation that aims to bridge the digital divide and provide reliable and affordable internet access to all Californians.

Senate Bill 156 amended California Public Utilities Code section 281 to fund the [Last Mile Federal Funding Account](#) and [Local Agency Technical Assistance](#) grants, and the [Loan Loss Reserve Fund](#).

Last Mile Federal Funding Account

The Federal Funding Account provides \$2 billion in grants for last mile broadband infrastructure projects to connect unserved and underserved Californians with high-speed broadband service.

The California Public Utilities Commission will begin accepting applications for last mile broadband infrastructure projects at the end of June.

Eligible entities may begin working on their applications in the Broadband Grant Portal. To get started, register for an account in the Broadband Grant Portal by clicking on the button below.

Once your account has been established, you will receive an email confirmation with your username and instructions on logging in.

REGISTER

Grant Process

Step 1. Apply

- Review the [Federal Funding Account website](#)
- Explore the [Public Map](#)
- Visit FFA [Application Resources page](#)
- Register for the [Applicant Tool](#), then use it to design and save your project
- Apply in the [Broadband Grant Portal](#)

Step 2. Review

- Review applications
- Request information for incomplete materials
- Approve/deny grants, inform applicants, post online
- Six-month timeline to award

Step 3. Award

- Sign and return forms
- Get permits, begin construction
- Submit reports and payment requests
- Completion report and final reimbursement

Applicant

CPUC

Grantee

Grantee Reporting

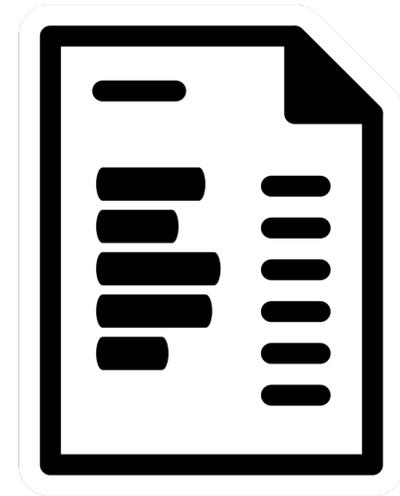
The grantee must provide the Communications Division with multiple reports following project approval. These reports include:

- Contractor reports (monthly)
- Quarterly reports (January, April, July & October)
- Payment (minimum 10%, 35%, 60%, and 85% of funds expended)
- Completion reports

Full reporting requirements are in [Decision 22-04-055](#), Appendix A, section 14.

Reimbursement Process

- Funding is on a reimbursable basis.
- At intervals of 10%, 35%, 60%, 85%, and completion
 - Measured by percentage of award spent
- Completion report required for final payment
- Payments are based on:
 - Submitted receipts
 - Invoices
 - Other supporting documentation



Application Resources

- Application Checklist
- Map and Tool links
- FAQs
- CPUC Decision & Rules
- Administrative Manual
- Reporting Templates
- More!

The screenshot shows the California Public Utilities Commission website. The header includes the CPUC logo, social media icons, and navigation links like 'Contact Us', 'Translate', and 'Settings'. A search bar contains the text 'Search example: How can I reduce my bill?'. The breadcrumb trail reads: 'Home > Industries and Topics > Internet and Phone > Broadband Implementation for California > Last Mile Federal Funding Account > Federal Funding Account Application Resources'. The main heading is 'Federal Funding Account Application Resources' with the sub-heading 'Information for applying to the FFA Program'. The content is organized into sections: 'How to apply for the Federal Funding Account program' with a bulleted list of steps; 'Application Windows' with a paragraph about the application period and criteria; 'CONTACT' with an email address; 'OTHER PAGES' with links to the main page, public map, and application resources; and 'RELATED DIVISIONS' with a link to communications.

<https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/FFAApplicationPage>

Questions and Answers

- Please ask general questions in the chat
- Please send specific questions about your application via email to:

federalfundingaccount@cpuc.ca.gov





See you back in five minutes!

Overview of the Broadband Grant Portal and Application Tool



The screenshot shows the homepage of the Broadband Grant Portal for the California Public Utilities Commission. The header includes a logo, navigation links for 'Home' and 'Funding Opportunities', and a 'LOG IN' button. The main title is 'Broadband Grant Portal California Public Utilities Commission'. Below this, there is a yellow section titled 'Broadband Implementation for California' with text about Governor Newsom's actions in July 2021 and the 'Last Mile Federal Funding Account'. A photo of a woman and a child looking at a laptop is positioned to the right of the text. At the bottom of the yellow section is a 'REGISTER' button.

Home Funding Opportunities LOG IN

Broadband Grant Portal California Public Utilities Commission

Broadband Implementation for California

In July 2021, Governor Gavin Newsom signed [Senate Bill 156](#) into law. It is historic broadband legislation that aims to bridge the digital divide and provide reliable and affordable internet access to all Californians.

Senate Bill 156 amended California Public Utilities Code section 281 to fund the [Last Mile Federal Funding Account](#) and [Local Agency Technical Assistance](#) grants, and the [Loan Loss Reserve Fund](#).

Last Mile Federal Funding Account

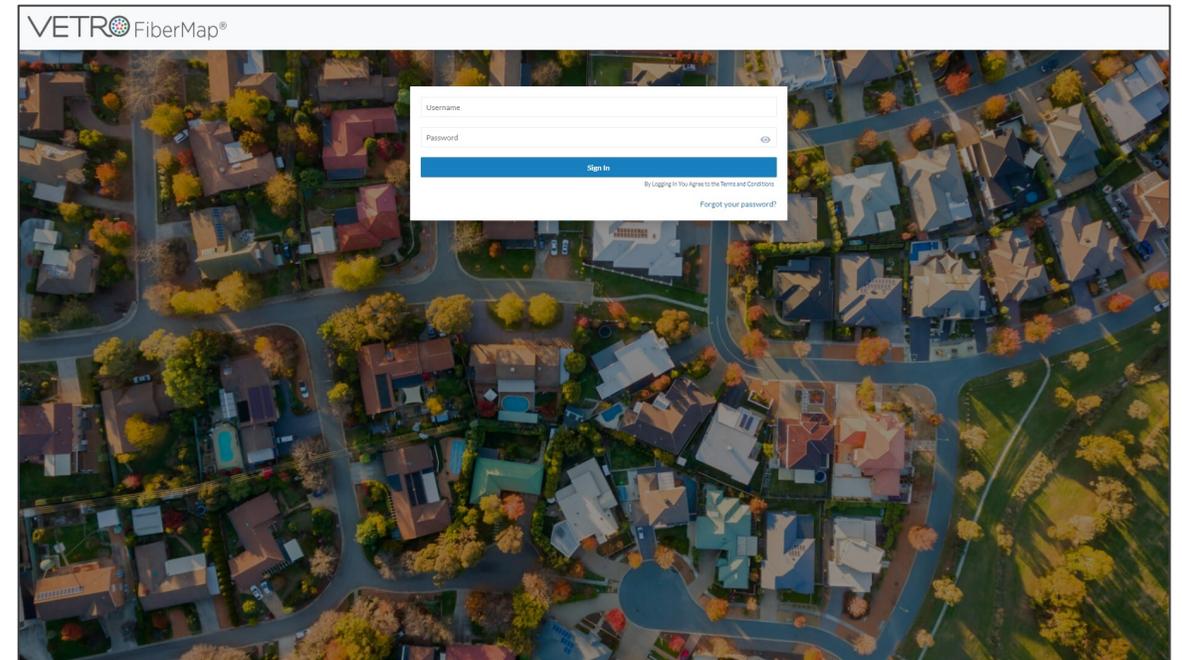
The Federal Funding Account provides \$2 billion in grants for last mile broadband infrastructure projects to connect unserved and underserved Californians with high-speed broadband service.

The California Public Utilities Commission will begin accepting applications for last mile broadband infrastructure projects at the end of June.

Eligible entities may begin working on their applications in the Broadband Grant Portal. To get started, register for an account in the Broadband Grant Portal by clicking on the button below.

Once your account has been established, you will receive an email confirmation with your username and instructions on logging in.

REGISTER



The screenshot shows the VETRO FiberMap login interface. It features a white login form with fields for 'Username' and 'Password', a 'Sign In' button, and links for 'By logging in you agree to the Terms and Conditions' and 'Forgot your password?'. The background is a 3D-rendered aerial view of a residential neighborhood with houses, trees, and streets.

VETRO FiberMap®

Username

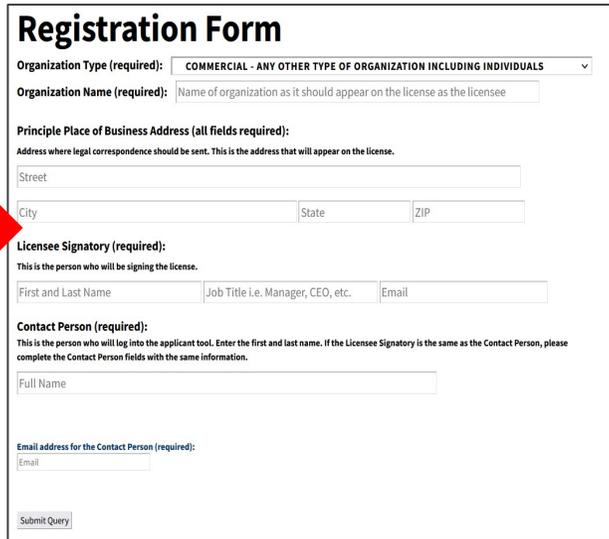
Password

Sign In

By logging in you agree to the Terms and Conditions

Forgot your password?

Register for the Applicant Tool



Registration Form

Organization Type (required):

Organization Name (required):

Principle Place of Business Address (all fields required):
Address where legal correspondence should be sent. This is the address that will appear on the license.

Street

City State ZIP

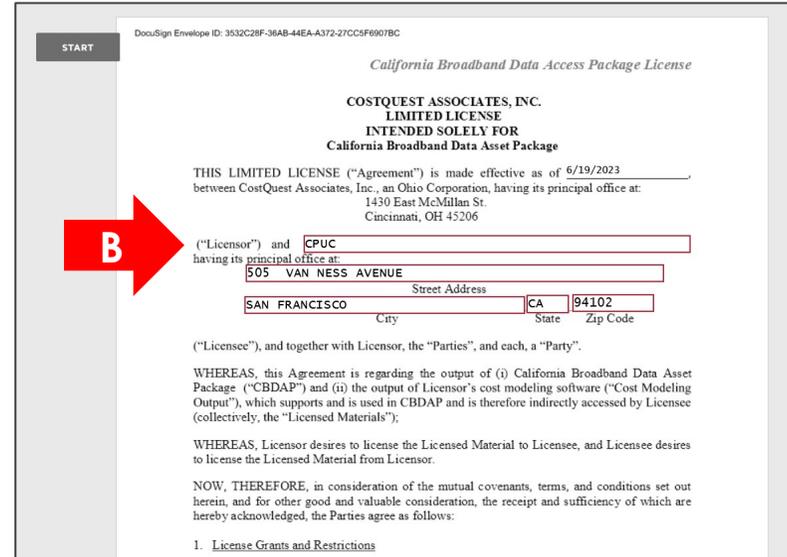
Licensee Signatory (required):
This is the person who will be signing the license.

First and Last Name Job Title I.e. Manager, CEO, etc. Email

Contact Person (required):
This is the person who will log into the applicant tool. Enter the first and last name. If the Licensee Signatory is the same as the Contact Person, please complete the Contact Person fields with the same information.

Full Name

Email address for the Contact Person (required):
Email



DocuSign Envelope ID: 3532C28F-36AB-44EA-A372-27CC5F6907BC

California Broadband Data Access Package License

**COSTQUEST ASSOCIATES, INC.
LIMITED LICENSE
INTENDED SOLELY FOR
California Broadband Data Asset Package**

THIS LIMITED LICENSE ("Agreement") is made effective as of 6/19/2023
between CostQuest Associates, Inc., an Ohio Corporation, having its principal office at:
1430 East McMillan St.
Cincinnati, OH 45206

("Licensor") and CPUC
having its principal office at:
505 VAN NESS AVENUE
Street Address
SAN FRANCISCO CA 94102
City State Zip Code

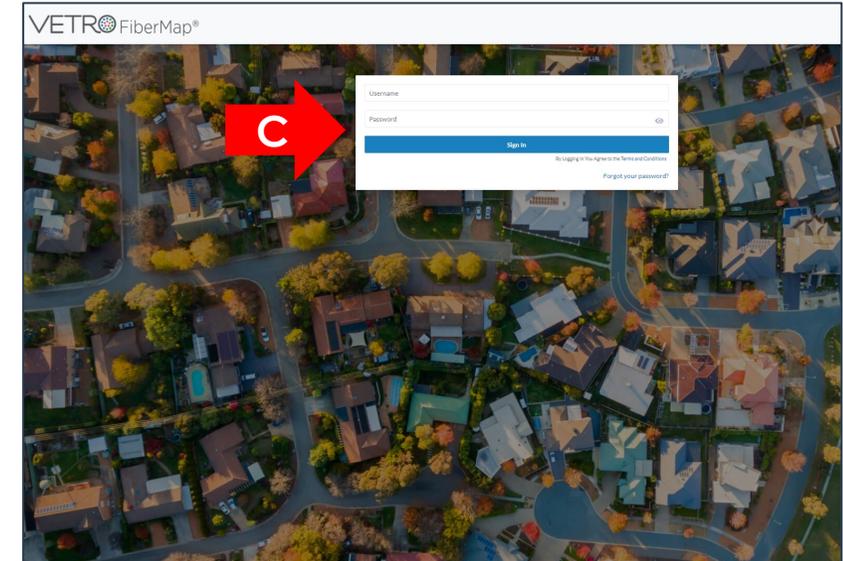
("Licensee"), and together with Licensor, the "Parties", and each, a "Party".

WHEREAS, this Agreement is regarding the output of (i) California Broadband Data Asset Package ("CBDAP") and (ii) the output of Licensor's cost modeling software ("Cost Modeling Output"), which supports and is used in CBDAP and is therefore indirectly accessed by Licensee (collectively, the "Licensed Materials");

WHEREAS, Licensor desires to license the Licensed Material to Licensee, and Licensee desires to license the Licensed Material from Licensor.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual covenants, terms, and conditions set out herein, and for other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, the Parties agree as follows:

1. License Grants and Restrictions



VETRO FiberMap®

Username

Password

By logging in you agree to the Terms and Conditions. [Forgot your password?](#)

A. Fill out an online registration form

B. Sign end-user license agreement (EULA)

C. Log into account

Develop project areas in the Applicant Tool

The screenshot shows the 'CPUC Federal Funding Account Applicant Tool' interface. On the left, there are navigation tabs for 'AREA SELECTION' and 'SUMMARY'. Below these are sections for 'Select Project Area' with add/subtract buttons, a 'Key Data Summary' table, and a 'Submit Project Plan' section with 'Reset', 'Save Draft', and 'Submit' buttons. The main area is a map of California with a yellow project area highlighted. On the right, a legend panel lists various map layers like 'California Census Blocks', 'Political Boundaries', and 'County Boundaries'. Red arrows labeled A through H point to specific UI elements: A (Create a New Plan), B (Add/Remove buttons), C (Map area), D (Legend), E (Key Data Summary), F (Map area), G (Submit button), and H (Open an Existing Plan dropdown).

A Create a New Plan | Open an Existing Plan

B + | -

C [Map Area]

D Legend

- California Census Blocks
- Political Boundaries
- Cities and Census Desig...
- Senate Districts
- Assembly Districts
- County Boundaries
- Tribal Lands
- Equity
 - Disadvantaged Commu...
 - Low-Income Areas
 - CalEnviroScreen 4.0 (l...
- 0-25%
- 25-50%

E Key Data Summary

Total Locations (Sum)	1,578
Est. Subsidy Need (Sum)	\$5,251,243
Within Tribal Area (Count Yes/No)	0
CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Score (Average)	16
Mass Market Unserved Locations (Sum)	1,453

F [Map Area]

G Reset | Save Draft | Submit

H Open an Existing Plan

Register for the Broadband Grant Portal

Broadband Implementation for California

In July 2021, Governor Gavin Newsom signed [Senate Bill 156](#) into law. It is historic broadband legislation that aims to bridge the digital divide and provide reliable and affordable internet access to all Californians.

Senate Bill 156 amended California Public Utilities Code section 281 to fund the [Last Mile Federal Funding Account](#) and [Local Agency Technical Assistance](#) grants, and the [Loan Loss Reserve Fund](#).

Last Mile Federal Funding Account

The Federal Funding Account provides \$2 billion in grants for last mile broadband infrastructure projects to connect unserved and underserved Californians with high-speed broadband service.

The California Public Utilities Commission will begin accepting applications for last mile broadband infrastructure projects at the end of June.

Please visit the CPUC's [Application Resources webpage](#) for more information on how to apply for Federal Funding Account grants.

Eligible entities may begin working on their applications in the Broadband Grant Portal. To get started, register for an account in the Broadband Grant Portal by clicking on the button below.

Once your account has been established, you will receive an email confirmation with your username and instructions on logging in.



Broadband Grant Portal California Public Utilities Commission

B Register as: Objector Applicant

* First Name

* Last Name

* Email

Organization Name

* Contact Number

* Street

* City

* State

Broadband Grant Portal California Public Utilities Commission

C * Email Address

* Verification Code
Please Enter Verification Code received your Email.
 [Resend Verification Code](#)

Broadband Grant Portal California Public Utilities Commission

C Criteria:
 Minimum 8 characters
Also include at least 3 of the following:
 1 uppercase letter
 1 lowercase character
 1 number
 1 special character

* New Password

* Confirm Password

Apply for funding in the Broadband Grant Portal

A Funding Opportunities Public Applications LOG IN

Funding Opportunity
Last Mile Federal Funding Account

B Start Application

Status	Requested Funding Available	Application Due Date	Type
Accepting Applications	\$2,000,000,000.00	9/29/2023	Open/Competitive Solicitation

Information

Funding Opportunity Title
Last Mile Federal Funding Account

Application Due Date
9/29/2023

Type
Open/Competitive Solicitation

Description

In 2021, California Governor Gavin Newsom signed historic broadband legislation, Senate Bill (SB) 156 (Chapter 112, Statutes of 2021), to help bridge the digital divide and provide reliable and affordable internet access to all Californians. SB 156 was enacted to expand the state's broadband fiber infrastructure and increase internet connectivity for families and businesses. In accordance with SB 156, the California Public Utilities Commission established the Federal Funding Account with funding from the federal American Rescue Plan Act. SB 156 provides for \$2 billion in grants for last mile broadband infrastructure projects to connect unserved and underserved Californians to high-speed broadband services.

There will only be one award for each proposed project area. The Last Mile Federal Funding Account website has several tools available to assist applicants develop their project areas and complete their applications:

- Applicant Checklist – provides an overview of fields required in the grant portal and required documentation.
- Scoring Matrix – provides an overview of how the Commission will evaluate eligible project applications based on specified criteria.
- Public Map – shows eligible unserved locations for the Federal Funding Account. The public map may be used by applicants to plan last mile broadband project proposals.
- Applicant Tool – applicants will be able to select proposed project areas for their grant application.
- Administrative Manual – provides details of the application process and required documentation.

Applicants should review Decision 22-04-055, [Appendix A: Federal Funding Account Rules and Guidelines](#) and the Administrative Manual for details about the documents you will need to complete an application. To begin the application process, click on the "Create Application" button above.
For additional information about this program, please visit [Last Mile Federal Funding Account](#).

A. Select Last Mile Federal Funding Account

B. Start an application for funding

C. Create Plan ID in the Applicant Tool and Enter it in the Broadband Grant Portal.

Home Funding Opportunities My Applications Public Applications

Enter Plan ID

Welcome Federal Funding Account applicant!

To create a Plan ID, applicants must register to access the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) Federal Funding Account Applicant Tool. The applicant tool enables applicants to develop and submit project areas. Go to the CPUC website and fill out the online webform. Once your registration has been accepted, you will be sent an email to reset your password.

Please visit the CPUC's [Application Resources webpage](#) for more information on how to apply for Federal Funding Account grants.

Follow the instructions in the applicant tool to develop your project areas. Once you create your project area with the applicant tool, your Plan ID will be displayed. Write down your Plan ID and enter it in the field below.

* Plan ID
220

Save for Later **Next**

Steps

- 1 Enter Plan ID
- 2 Plan Details
- 3 Basic Information
- 4 Applicant Entity Information
- 5 Description of the Applicant's Current Broadband Infrastructure and Existing Infrastructure in the Area
- 6 Project Location Data
- 7 Median Income
- 8 Project Eligibility
- 9 Deployment Schedule
- 10 Proposed Project Expenditures
- 11 Letter of Credit Requirement
- 12 Pricing Commitment
- 13 Marketing/Outreach Plan
- 14 Government and Community Support
- 15 Funding Sources
- 16 Financial Qualifications
- 17 Project Viability
- 18 Providing Voice Service

Key Links

- **Federal Funding Account**

<https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/federalfundingaccount>

- **Application Resources Page**

- <https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/FFAApplicationPage>

- **Broadband Grant Portal**

<https://broadbandportal.cpuc.ca.gov/s/>

- **Sign up to our mailing list**

<https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/industries-and-topics/internet-and-phone/broadband-implementation-for-california/subscribe-to-our-mailing-lists>

Application Tool and Portal Q&A



- Please ask general questions in the chat
- Please send specific questions about your application via email to: federalaccount@cpuc.ca.gov



California Public Utilities Commission

Program questions:

federalfundingaccount@cpuc.ca.gov

Website:

cpuc.ca.gov/federalfundingaccount