Local Agency Technical Assistance

Live Webinar for Grant Applicants

Presented on August 2, 2022
Communications Division, Broadband Deployment Team
Today's Agenda

- Legislation and Timeline
- Program Overview
  - Eligible Entities, Uses, Amounts
- Grant Process and Resources
- Reimbursement and Reporting
- Q & A

Break (five minutes)

- Application Breakdown
- Q & A
- Adjournment
- Contact Information
Moderated Q&A
(After intro and application sections)

• Please ask general questions in the chat as we go along
  • Will be read and answered by staff, either orally or via email

• Please send specific questions about your application via email to:
broadband.techassist@cpuc.ca.gov
"Oh no! Applications opened yesterday and mine's not in!"

DON'T PANIC

Applications will be analyzed in monthly batches, not necessarily first-in, first-out.

We're more likely to approve a well put-together application than a rushed one.
Governor Newsom Signs SB 156 (and other) Broadband Legislation to Help Bridge the Digital Divide

Middle Mile, $3.25 billion
- Build, operate and maintain an open-access, state-owned middle mile network.

Last Mile, $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.

California Advanced Services Fund (CASF) program changes
Wide-ranging changes to the CASF Public Utilities Code section 281 statute
Established the Local Agency Technical Assistance grant program
• $50 million for eligible local governments and Tribal governments* to facilitate deployment of last-mile broadband infrastructure projects.
• "These grants will support local agencies and Tribes in their efforts to expand broadband to families and communities where sufficient service and Internet access are lacking."
• "Commission ... intends to periodically review and adjust the program via resolution, including the scope of reimbursable activities, to ensure that the funds are efficiently and effectively disbursed."

* 10 Percent of the program is reserved for Tribal governments, plus if that reserve is exhausted, 10 percent of the unawarded remainder will also be reserved.

Decision (D.)  22-02-026 (approved Feb. 24, 2022)

California Public Utilities Commission
Legislature passed & Governor Newsom signed SB 156/AB 164

Staff proposal with program rules released Sept. 17, 2021
Opening stakeholder comments submitted two weeks later
Stakeholder reply comments in October

CPUC analyzed stakeholder comments & drafts a Proposed Decision (PD) with program rules
Technical Assistance PD released Jan. 21
Stakeholder comments were accepted until Feb. 15

CPUC adopted final program rules in Decision 22-02-026 on Feb. 24
CPUC requested public input and conducts outreach with localities & tribes

CPUC to accept applications & begin awarding funds

• Formal public process and venue for CASF Public Housing, Infrastructure, Consortia, and Adoption Accounts as well as Technical Assistance and Loan Loss Reserve Account. CPUC California Advanced Services Fund (CASF) Proceeding (R. 20-08-021)
• Local Agency Technical Assistance Funds to be awarded by December 31, 2024, unless demand for funds is exhausted sooner.
Who is Eligible for Technical Assistance?

A “local agency” is any local government entity authorized by law to provide broadband internet access service, including:

a) city;
b) county, including a county service area;
c) community service district;
d) public utility district:
e) municipal utility district;
f) joint powers authority;
g) local educational agency (as defined by Education Code section 47640);
h) sovereign tribal government; and
i) electrical cooperative (as defined by Public Utilities Code section 2776)

What about Metropolitan Planning Organizations, Councils of Government, etc.?

- It’s complicated. Decision specifically declined to declare them as eligible entities, so we recommend a member jurisdiction be the official applicant. A MPO/CoG can be contracted party.
Eligible Uses of Technical Assistance

**Pre-construction costs** towards developing broadband network projects that benefit unserved and underserved* Californians. Examples:
- Environmental, feasibility, engineering design studies or reports
- Needs assessments, market studies, broadband plans, business plans
- Forming a Joint Powers Authority

**Reimbursement** for work products that support local agencies in providing broadband service to communities. Examples:
- Consultant and community-based organization services secured to complete reimbursed work products.
- Local agency staff may also conduct work if incremental to regular roles.

* “Unserved and underserved” means one or more households or businesses that are not currently served by a wireline connection that reliably delivers at least 25 Mbps download speed and 3 Mbps of upload speed.
How much can be awarded, and by whom?

$50 million total budget, to be awarded by Dec. 31, 2024.
  • Awards up to $1 million per agency per fiscal year

**CPUC staff** determination (aka “ministerial review” in the CPUC Decision)
  • Up to $500,000 per local agency or tribal government per fiscal year
  • Staff may recommend any application for resolution

Commission determination via **resolution** after public comment
  • Up to $1 million, via a Commission vote on a formal resolution
  • 30-day public comment period
Funding Decisions & Kick-Off

• Decisions are communicated via email

• Submit required forms within 30 days of award
  • Consent Form (accepts grant)
  • Payee Data Record (for taxes)
  • Assurances with Title IV of the Civil Rights Act (federal)

• Begin work!
Grantee Reporting

Reporting is required for pre-construction technical assistance in service of "developing broadband network projects that benefit unserved and underserved Californians."

- Work Product Payment Requests with Invoices
- Final Report / Final Work Product
- Final Payment Request and Completion Report

How Reimbursement Works

• LATA funding is for reimbursable work products.
• Provide invoice with work product so we can approve payment.
• Work product examples:
  • Engineering or Feasibility Study
  • Broadband Plan
  • Network Design
Grant Process

**Step 1. Proposal**
- Download application at https://bitly.CPUCLATA
- Complete application and supporting documents
- Submit materials to Broadband.TechAssist@cpuc.ca.gov

**Step 2. Review**
- Staff review applications
- May request incomplete Items via email
- Approve/deny grants, inform applicants, post online

**Step 3. Project**
- Sign and return forms
- Conduct project with a consultant and/or staff
- Submit work products with payment requests
- Final report and reimbursement

**Applicant**
**CPUC Staff**
**Grantee**
Application & Resources

(case sensitive)

- Application
- Grantee Manual
- Pre-Recorded Webinars
- CPUC Guidelines
- More
Grantee Administrative Manual

Guidance for applicants and grantees:

• Application Spreadsheet
• Supplemental Application Materials
• Application Review and Approval Process
• Program Contact and Submission Process
• Payment and Reporting Requirements
• Other Requirements
Q&A Session

• Please ask general questions in the chat
  • Will be read and answered by staff, either orally or via email

• Please send specific questions about your application via email to:
  broadband.techassist@cpuc.ca.gov
See you back in five minutes!
Technical Assistance Application
Application Form

- Click link to prompt/start download
- Application walkthrough webinar

Important Information for Grantees

The LATA program will begin accepting grant applications on August 1, 2023. Please see the following important information:

- Grantee Administrative Manual
- Grant Application (spreadsheet download)
- Grant Program Overview Pre-Recorded Webinar: Webinar Recording | Presentation
- Grant Application Demo Pre-Recorded Webinar: Webinar Recording | Presentation
- Notarized Affidavit (submit with Application)
- Live Webinar on Tuesday, August 1, 2023 from 10-11 a.m. PDT. Link here.

Please join us for a one-hour informational webinar introducing the LATA program and highlighting eligibility requirements, acceptable uses, and the application process. Register here.

The following entities are eligible to apply after the funding program opens:

- Local government agencies in California are authorized by law to provide broadband service.
- California tribes with or without federal recognition. Tribes may also continue to apply to the CPUC’s existing Tribal Assistance broadband grant program, which is being maintained as a separate program.

Please submit LATA applications, required supplemental materials and questions via email to broadband.techassistant@cpuc.ca.gov.

Resources and More Information
Application Components

Fillable spreadsheets (4 tabs):

- Part 1 – Application Checklist
- Part 2 – Project Summary
- Part 3 – Budget Summary
- Part 4 – Geography
Application Checklist Tab

Checklist of required documents and other information to include:

- Fillable fields
- Boxes to check
- Attachments (orange text)

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<td><strong>Local Agency Technical Assistance Application</strong></td>
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<td><strong>PART 1. GRANT APPLICATION CHECKLIST</strong></td>
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<td><em>Instructions:</em> To assist the CPUC Communications Division in verifying the completeness of your application, mark the box to the left of each item to indicate you provided the requested information and uploaded required additional materials with your application spreadsheet. For more details about these requirements, please review CPUC Decision D.22-02-026, Appendix 1.</td>
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<td><strong>Grant Project Description</strong></td>
<td>Provide information below:</td>
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<td><strong>Brief Description</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Letter of Support</strong></td>
<td>Submit as separate attachment(s) and check box to indicate included.</td>
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<td><strong>Project Proposal (if planning to use in-house staff) or</strong></td>
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<td>Must include: (1) the project scope of work for a consultant and/or staff to carry out the Local Agency Technical Assistance; (2) detailed cost estimate including hourly</td>
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Project and Budget Summary Tabs

- Fillable fields
- Summary of Project Proposal and/or proposed contract(s)
Geography Tab

- Application must specify where you are proposing funding.
- Include as much geographic information as possible.
  - County/Counties, City/Cities, Zip Codes, Census Blocks, etc.
- Applications with overlapping jurisdictions -> resolution
- Excludes cities in county/counties, and tribes

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<td>Type of Local Agency</td>
<td>Choose from drop down on right.</td>
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<td>Describe Project Location</td>
<td>Provide a short description of the intended geographic location(s) (e.g. city limits, county limits, utility service area) to assist in the review of this application.</td>
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<td>Submit as separate document and note the file name in this field (if submitting via email).</td>
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The 'Data Query Tool' on CPUC's California Interactive Broadband Map can be used to...
Supplemental Materials to Upload

1. Proposal:
   - **Project Proposal** — if your staff is performing the work
   - **Proposed Contract** — if a consultant is performing the work
     - Must include detailed scope of work, cost estimates, timeline(s)

2. Team Resumes/Qualifications

3. **Letters of Support** — demonstrating collaboration with geographically overlapping agencies

4. **Notarized Affidavit**
Technical Assistance Lifecycle

Grant Applicants

Obtain Application from the CPUC website

Complete Application and Collect Supporting Documents

Submit Application with Supporting Documents to Broadband.TechAssist @cpuc.ca.gov

CPUC Staff

Review Application, Documents and Completeness

Inquire about Incomplete Items via Email

Approve or Deny Grants, Inform Applicants, Post Online

Grant Recipients

Sign and Return the Consent Form and Payee Data Record

Implement Technical Assistance with a Consultant and/or Staff

Submit Work Products, Completion Report and Payment Requests
Links

• Local Agency Technical Assistance Webpage
  (Application and instructional materials are here)

• Broadband Deployment Website

• Tribal Technical Assistance (additional funding for tribes)
Application Q&A

• Please ask general questions in the chat
  • Will be read and answered by staff, either orally or via email

• Please send specific questions about your application via email to:
  broadband.techassist@cpuc.ca.gov
California Public Utilities Commission

LOCAL AGENCY TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
Broadband.TechAssist@cpuc.ca.gov

Website: