

# Local Agency Technical Assistance

## *Information for Grant Applicants*

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California Public  
Utilities Commission

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Source: <https://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/reports/2020/02/how-states-are-expanding-broadband-access>

# Governor Newsom Signs Historic 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



# Local Agency Technical Assistance Timeline



- 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.

# Decision (D.) 22-02-026

“..the Commission established the Local Agency Technical Assistance grant program to leverage a total of \$50 million for eligible local governments and Tribal governments (Tribes) 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.”

# Who is Eligible for Technical Assistance

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

- 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](#)

# 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.

# How much can be awarded, and by whom?

\$50 million total budget, to be awarded by Dec. 31, 2024, or sooner

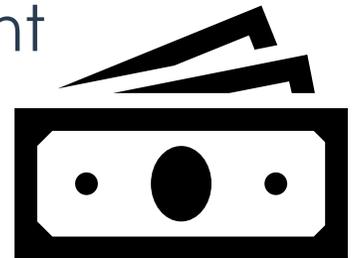
- Awards up to \$1 million per agency per fiscal year

**CPUC staff** determination (“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



# Grantee Manual

*Guidance for LATA funding applicants and recipients:*

- Application Spreadsheet
- Supplemental Application Materials
- Application Review and Approval Process
- Program Contact and Submission Process
- Payment and Reporting Requirements
- Other Requirements

# Grant Process

## Step 1. Proposal

- Obtain Application from the CPUC website
- Complete Application and Collect Supporting Documents
- Submit App with Supporting Documents to
- **Broadband.TechAssist@cpuc.ca.gov**

***Applicant***

## Step 2. Review

- Review Application, Documents and Completeness
- Inquire about Incomplete Items via Email
- Approve or Deny Grants, Inform Applicants, Post Online

***CPUC Staff***

## Step 3. Project

- Sign and Return the Consent Form and Payee Data Record
- Conduct Project with a Consultant and/or Staff
- Submit Work Products, Completion Report and Payment Requests

***Grantee***

# Applications

# Application Components

*Fillable spreadsheet with 4 tabs:*

**Part 1 – Application Checklist**

**Part 2 – Project Summary**

**Part 3 – Budget Summary**

**Part 4 – Geographic Information**

# Geographic Information & Coordination

- Application must specify where you are proposing funding.
- Include as much geographic information as possible.
- Identify city and county.
- Include census blocks.
- Multiple agencies in the same area must coordinate.
  - D.22-02-026 term for this is “overlapping jurisdictions”
- Letters of support required to show coordination.
  - Tribes do not have overlapping jurisdictions with other local agencies.
  - Cities do not have overlapping jurisdiction with their counties

# Supplemental Materials to Upload

## 1. Proposal:

- **Project Proposal** — if your staff is performing the work
- OR
- **Proposed Contract** — if a consultant is performing the work

## 2. Team Resumes/Qualifications

## 3. Detailed Scope of Work & Cost Estimate

# Funding Awards

# Funding Decisions & Kick-Off

- Funding decisions communicated via email
  - Applicants who are denied are encouraged to revise their proposal
- Submit required forms within 30 day of award date
  - Consent Form (accepts grant)
  - Payee Data Record (for taxes)
  - Assurances with Title IV of the Civil Rights Act (federal)
- Grantees should begin projects

# Reporting and Record-Keeping

Documentation of pre-construction costs in service to "developing broadband network projects that benefit unserved and underserved Californians." Will include:

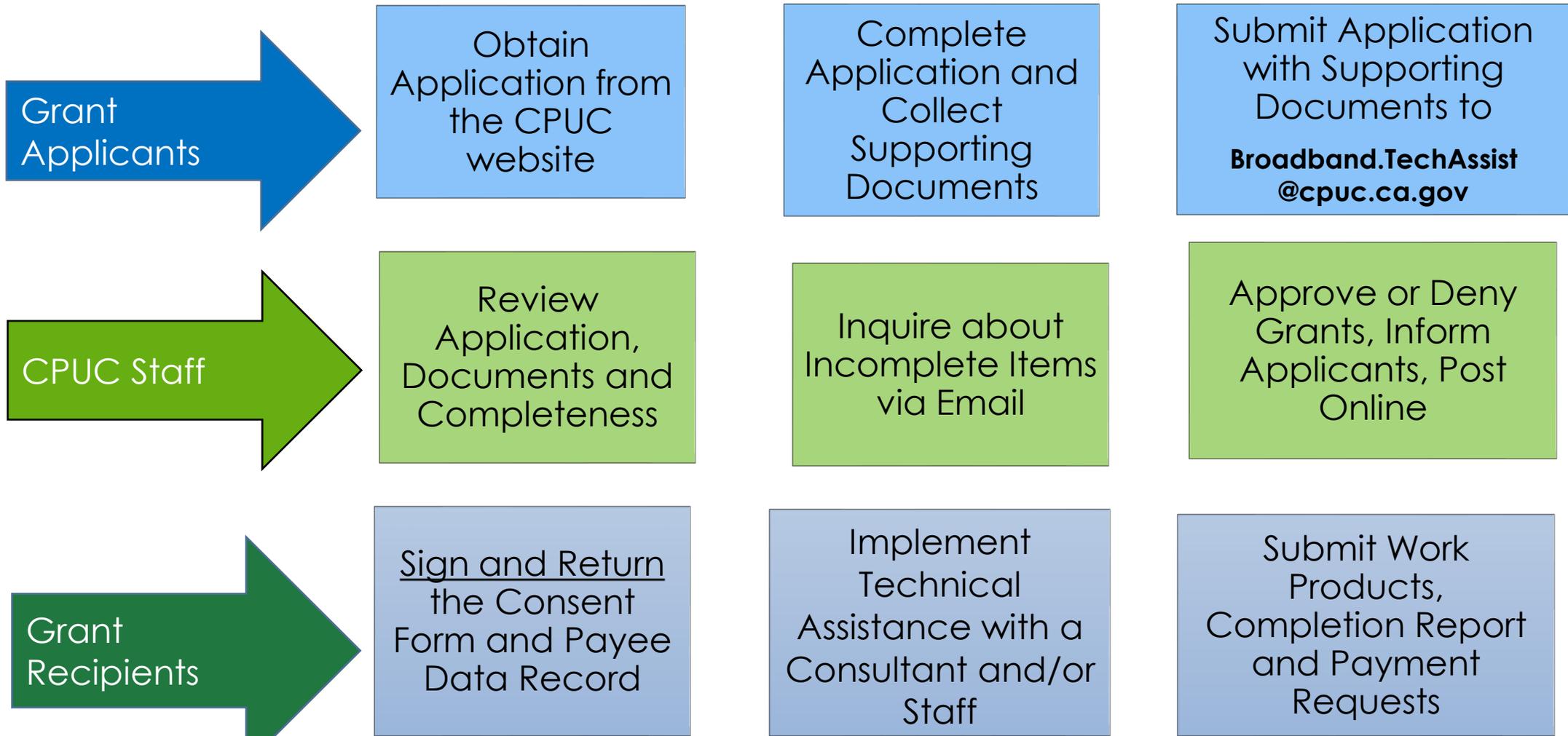
- Work Product Payment Requests with Invoices
- Final Report(s) and Work Products
- Final Payment Request and Completion Report

Recordkeeping to comply with rules as outlined in LATA Grantee Manual, CPUC Decision 22-02-026, and U.S. Treasury Rules for State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds.

# Reimbursement Requirements

- LATA funding is for reimbursable work products.
- Provide the product so we can approve the payment.
- Work product examples:
  - engineering or feasibility study
  - broadband plan
  - network design
- **Must submit the work product with the invoice**

# Technical Assistance Lifecycle



# References

- **Local Agency Technical Assistance Webpage**

(Application and instructional materials are here)

<https://bit.ly/CPUCLATA>

- **Broadband Deployment Branch Website**

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

- **Tribal Technical Assistance (additional funding for tribes)**

<https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/industries-and-topics/internet-and-phone/california-advanced-services-fund/tribal-technical-assistance>

# Local Agency Technical Assistance PROGRAM CONTACT

[Broadband.TechAssist@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:Broadband.TechAssist@cpuc.ca.gov)

- Applications
- Questions
- Administration



# California Public Utilities Commission

LOCAL AGENCY TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

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