

### California Teleconnect Fund (CTF) Program Application Process & ECAP Demo

Presented by CTF Staff





The program aims to bring every Californian direct access to advanced communications services in their local communities, particularly those with lower rates of internet adoption and greater financial need. -California Teleconnect Fund

### **Agenda Items**

- Background
- Entities, criteria, and timelines
- eCAP demonstration
- Required documentations
- Qualifying services worksheet
- Deficiencies
- Determination
- Conclusion



### CTF Background

#### CTF Backgound

- The CTF provides discounts of up to 50% off on eligible telecommunication services.
- Since it's inception in 1996, the CTF has supported over 14,000 participants by bridging the Digital Divide through access and adoption to broadband services at discounted rates in their community.
- Entities eligible for the CTF are California schools, libraries, community colleges, Government Owned and operated hospitals, community-based organizations and members of the California Telehealth Network.
- Prior to 2023, entities would apply for CTF by completing and filling out an application form specific to their entity and mailing the form to the Commission.



# CTF- Application Entities, Criteria, Eligibility, & Timelines

#### **Application Entities & Criteria**

#### Schools

Public Schools-No requirement Private Schools- must be a verifiable non-profit organization

Public Schools- None Private Schools- \$50 Million Endowment Cap

**Services:** Elementary, preschool, or K-12 academic instruction

CDS Code



Libraries

Certified by the CA State Library

No Revenue Cap

**Services:** Direct broadband access to community members

N/A



Government Hospitals & Clinics

Operated by municipal or local government

No Revenue Cap

**Services:** Only locations in CA that provide direct healthcare services to the community

CDPH/ Healthcare License Number



Community Colleges

N/A

No Revenue Cap

**Services:** Educational services to community members

MIS Code



#### **Application Criteria Cont.**



www.cpuc.ca.gov/cff

Community Based Organizations (CBOs)

501-c3 Organization

\$5 Million Revenue Cap

Performs Qualifying Services per CTF rules

Majority Board members in CA

Not a religious organization



Healthcare CBO's

501-c3 Organization

\$50 Million Revenue Cap

Provides direct licensed healthcare services to public

Majority board members in CA

Licensed Healthcare Personnel on site

CDPH/ Healthcare License Number



2-1-1 Service Providers

501-c3 Organization

None

Offers 2-1-1 services as the primary function

Majority board members in CA

Be a designated 2-1-1 service provider by the CPUC via an adopted Resolution.



#### **Application Timeline**

CTF Analyst
Receives
Application

CTF Analyst
Reviews
Application

CTF Analyst
Issues
Deficiency
Requests
\*\*if required

Approves or Rejects
Application

0

Applicant
Submits
Application in
ECAP

Applicant
Awaits During
Review Process

Applicant
Receives Deficiency
Notices and Re-submits
Application

Applicant
Receives Notification of
Approved or Rejected
Application



### CTF- Application ECAP Demonstration



eCAP Web Portal: https://ecap.cpuc.ca.gov/

Organizations must utilize eCAP to manage their participation in the CTF program, including for submitting applications, maintaining contact information, and completing eligibility recertifications.

#### HOW TO FILE APPLICATIONS IN ECAP

The following will be CTF staff presenting live demonstrations for applicants submitting CTF applications.



Community-Based
Organizations (CBOs)
CTF staff will provide a live

demonstration



Healthcare Community-Based Organizations (HCBOs)

CTF staff will provide a live demonstration



Public and Private Schools
CTF staff will provide a live
demonstration



Libraries, Community Colleges, Government Hospitals, 2-1-1 Service Providers

For these remaining entities, CTF staff will go through screenshots of how to file an application.

#### **General Information**







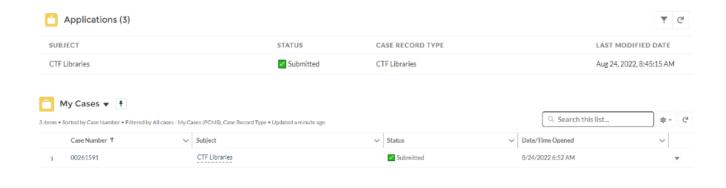


#### Welcome to eCAP Portal

1	
Password     Password	
Email Address	

## List of submitted applications/cases

- Applications in applicant queue are called "cases"
- Each application is assigned a case number
- To begin a new application, applicant will click "New CTF Application" button.



**New CTF Application** 

#### Libraries

- The system will present a series of questions
- Select "No" until you see the question that best describes your organization and select "Yes"
- When selected, click "Next" to continue to the Instructions tab.
- The Instructions tab provides information and indicates the required documents to submit with the application.

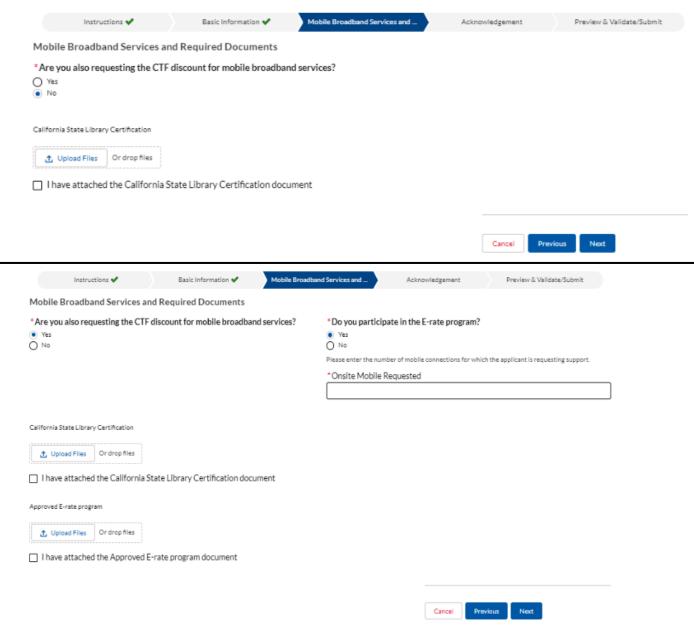
*Is the applicant a library of California State Library?  Yes No	outlet currently cert	ified by the		
Instructions	Basic Information	Mobile Broadband Services and Required	Acknowledgement	Preview & Validate/Submit
nstructions				
<ul> <li>Review the CTF program's <u>Applicant and Partici</u> to the community. Other sites, such as administ</li> <li>A library can apply for eligibility at one of its library in a community of the program of the library outlet locations.</li> <li>Applicants must submit a separate application of A list of service providers that participate in the teleconnect-fundservice-providers.xlsx.]. Refer als the icon of the house, entering your address, and</li> </ul>	trative sites, are not eligible to particip rary outlet locations (i.e., places when for each location (service address). • CTF Program is available for downloa to to the California Interactive Broadba	pate in the CTF program.  The library services are provided to the community of the communi	nunity). Alternatively, a library district or oth	her aggregator can apply on behalf of one its
I Agree				
			Cancel Next	

#### **Libraries: Basic Information**

Instru	uctions 🗸	Basic Information	Mobile Broadband Services and Required	A	cknowledgement	Preview & Validate/Submit	
Basic Information							
*Name of Library							
*Service Address : This is y	your library outlet address						
*Country							
United States							<b>‡</b>
*Street							
Q							
*City					State		
City					California		<b>4</b>
					Camornia		•
*Zip Code							
Confirm Address							
					Cancel Previous	Next	

#### Libraries: Mobile Broadband Services

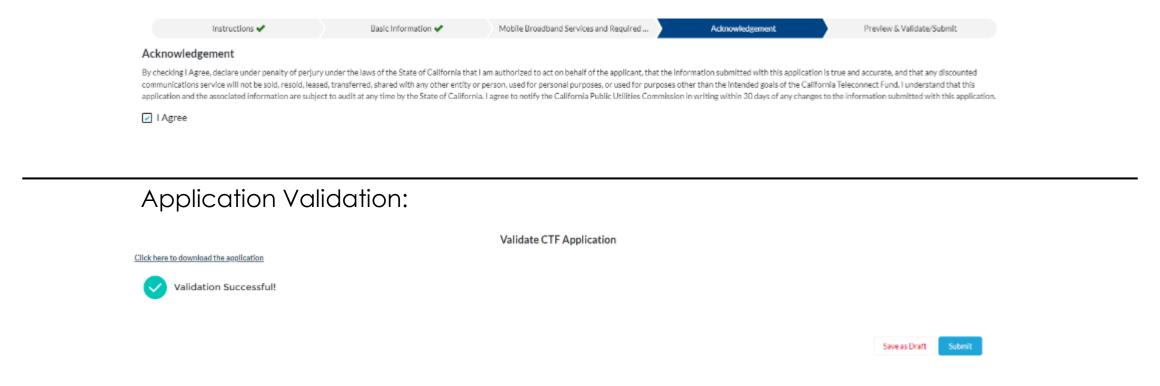
- The next tab will ask if the Applicant is requesting the CTF discount for mobile broadband services
- If "No" select it, upload the library certification document and click 'Next'
- If "Yes," indicate if the organization participates in the E-rate program, enter the # of onsite mobile connections requested, and upload all required documents
- Click Next to continue.



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#### Libraries: Terms & Conditions and Submission

#### Acknowledging Terms & Conditions:



#### Libraries: "Save for Later"

- If the application is saved for a later submittal, it will appear in the list of applications with a status of Draft and will be assigned a Case Number
- To submit the application, click the Case Number link to navigate to the Details page
- ❖ To add a document, click on the Edit Application Button
- ❖ The tabs for the Application process appear again. From here you can go to the appropriate tab if changes to the application are needed, or you can click the "Preview & Validate/Submit" tab.



#### Libraries: Submission

- Once submitted, a confirmation message will appear, and the application's status will change to Submitted.
- ❖ An email will also be sent to the email address(es) of all users listed in the account.
- ❖ To return to the homepage, click the Home link in the upper left-hand corner.

Thank you for submitting your application. CPUC will review the information you have submitted and will notify you of the results via email. Please monitor your email and portal home page for any updates regarding your application.

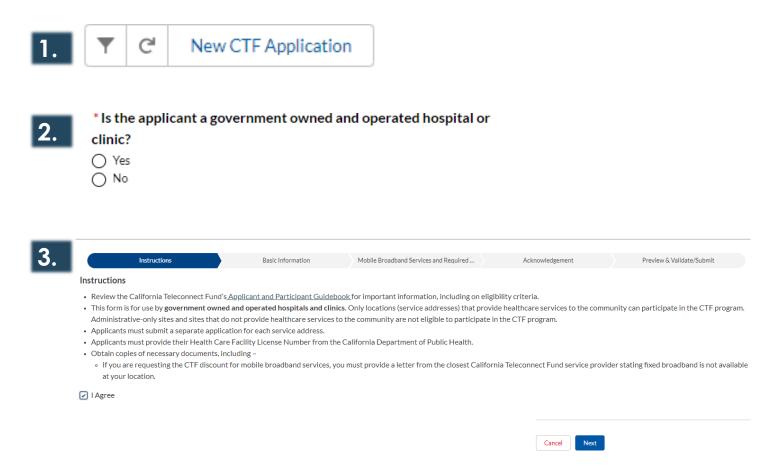
❖ To view details of the case, click the Case Number on the homepage.





#### **Government Hospitals-Clinics**

- Click New CTF Application
- The system will present a series of questions
- Select "No" until you see the question that best describes your organization and select "Yes"
- When selected, click "Next" to continue to the Instructions tab



#### Government Hospitals-Clinics: Basic Information

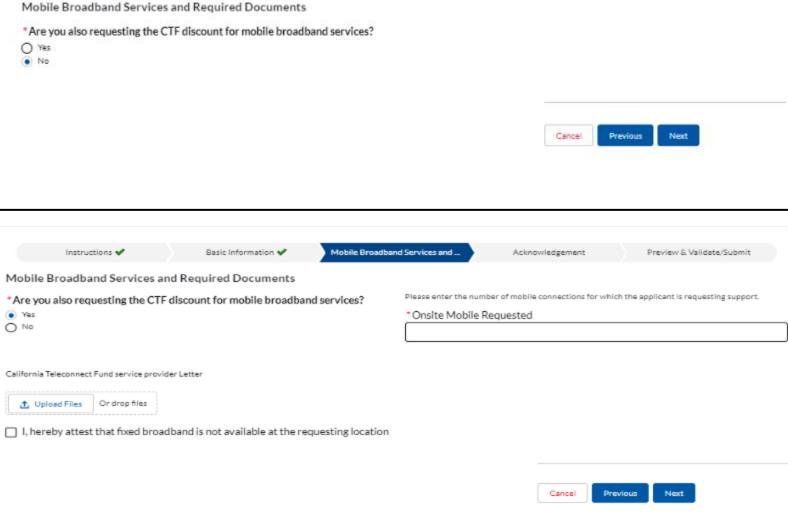
Instructions 🗸	Basic Information	Mobile Broadband Services and Required	Acknowledgement	Preview & Validate/Submit
Basic Information				
Name of the Hospital/Clinic	additional Hospital N  Certi Check the Network, I	box if the hospital/clinic is certified as a Critical Access Hospital. Information on Critical Access Hospitals, refer to the Critical Access Hospitals, refer to the Critical Access Hospitals.  Ified Critical Access Hospital  box if the hospital/clinic is a member of the California Telehealth For additional information on the California Telehealth Network, iffornia Telehealth Network website.	ess Editorina Departmen	t of Public Health License Number
	☐ Calif	ornia Telehealth Network Member		
Service Address : This is your hospital/clinic address				
Country				
United States				
*Street				
*City			State California	<b>‡</b>
*Zip Code				

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Confirm Address

#### Government Hospitals-Clinics: Mobile Broadband Services

- The next tab will ask if the Applicant is requesting the CTF discount for mobile broadband services
- If "No," select it and click Next.
- If "Yes," enter the # of onsite mobile connections requested, and upload the required document.
- Click Next to continue.



Mobile Broadband Services and ...

Acknowledgement

Preview & Validate/Submit

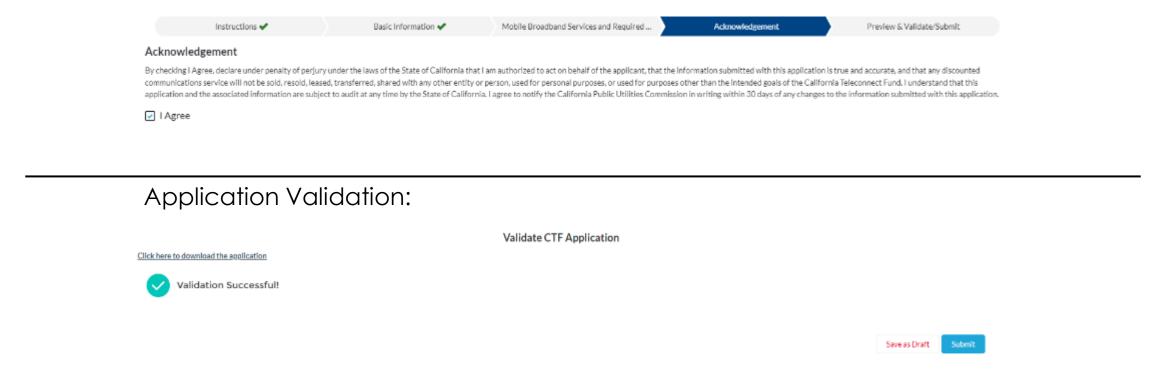
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Instructions &

Basic Information 💞

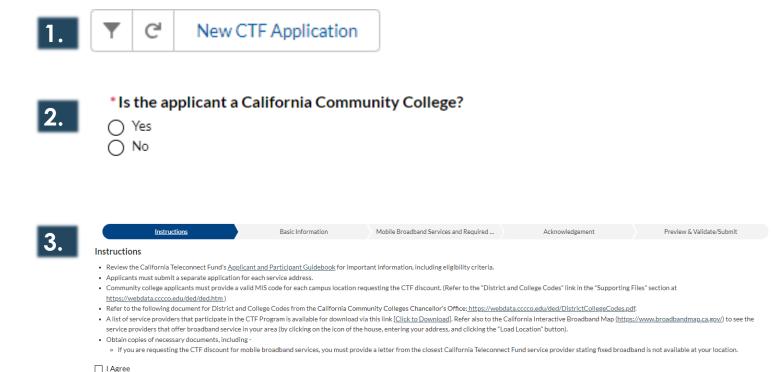
## Government Hospitals-Clinics: Terms & Conditions and Submission

Acknowledging Terms & Conditions:



#### **Community Colleges**

- Click New CTF Application
- The system will present a series of questions
- Select "No" until you see the question that best describes your organization and select "Yes"
- When selected, click "Next" to continue to the Instructions tab

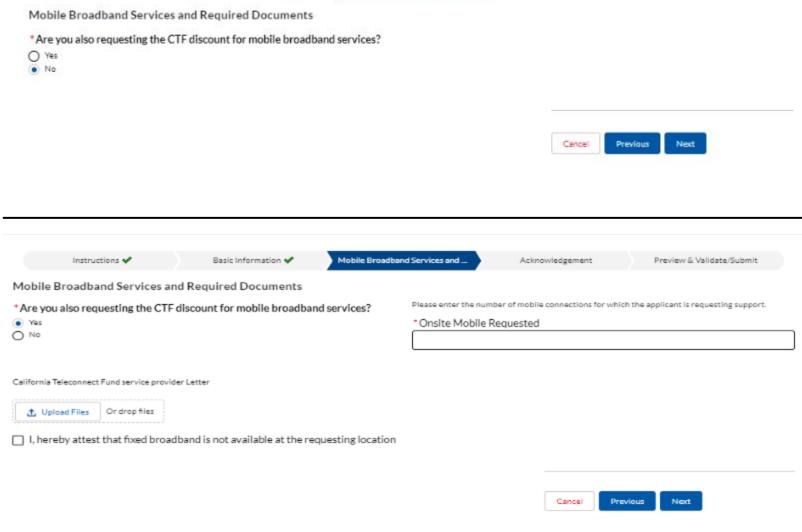


#### Community Colleges: Basic Information

Instructions 🗸		Basic Information	Mobile Broadband Services and Required	Acknowledgement	Pre	view & Validate/Submit
Basic Information						
*Name of Community Colleg	ge		* District Code And Co	ollege Code		
	-					
*Service Address : This is your com	munity college campus add	iress				
*Country						
United States						<b>A</b>
*Street						
Q						
*City				State		
				California		*
*Zip Code						
Canfirm Address						
Confirm Address						
				Cancel	Previous Next	
				5555		

#### Community Colleges: Mobile Broadband Services

- The next tab will ask if the Applicant is requesting the CTF discount for mobile broadband services
- ❖ If "No," select it and click Next.
- If "Yes," enter the # of onsite mobile connections requested, and upload the required document.
- Click Next to continue.



Mobile Broadband Services and ...

Acknowledgement

Preview & Validate/Submit

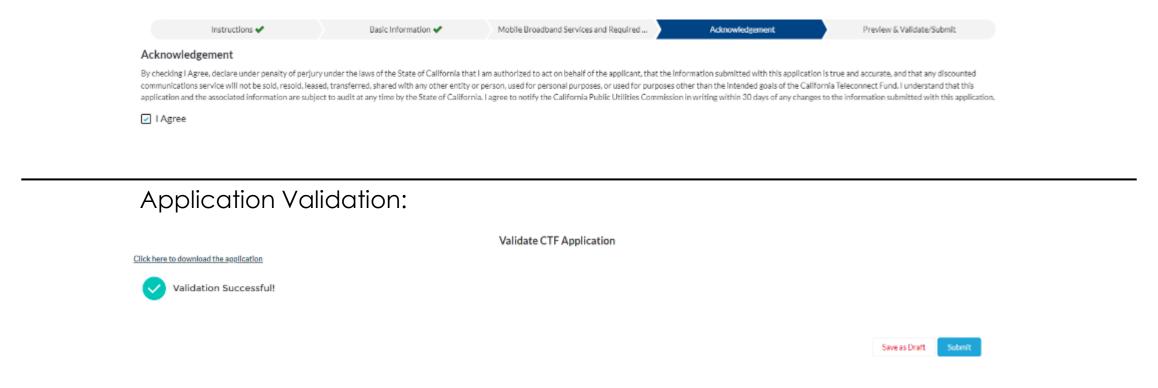
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Instructions 💞

Basic Information 💞

## Community Colleges: Terms & Conditions and Submission

Acknowledging Terms & Conditions:

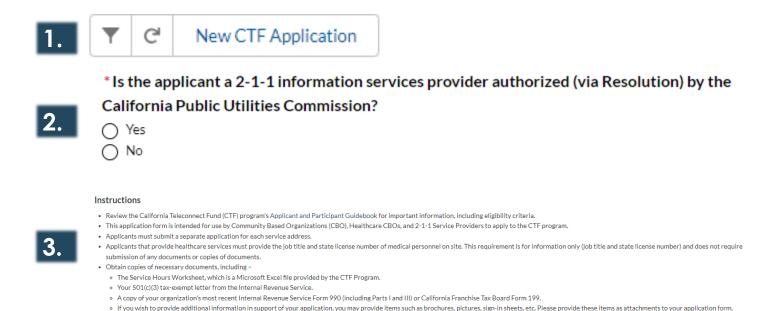


#### 2-1-1 Service Provider

for your mobile broadband services

| Agree

- Click New CTF Application
- The system will present a series of questions
- Select "No" until you see the question that best describes your organization and select "Yes"
- When selected, click "Next" to continue to the Instructions tab



broadband is not available at your location. If necessary, submit the documentation as an attachment to your application form

• If you are requesting eligibility for the CTF discount for mobile broadband services and you participate in the E-rate program, you must provide documentation from the E-rate program verifying the approval of E-rate support

• If you are requesting eligibility for the CTF discount for mobile broadband services and you do not participate in the E-rate program, you must provide a letter from the closest CTF-participating service provider stating fixed

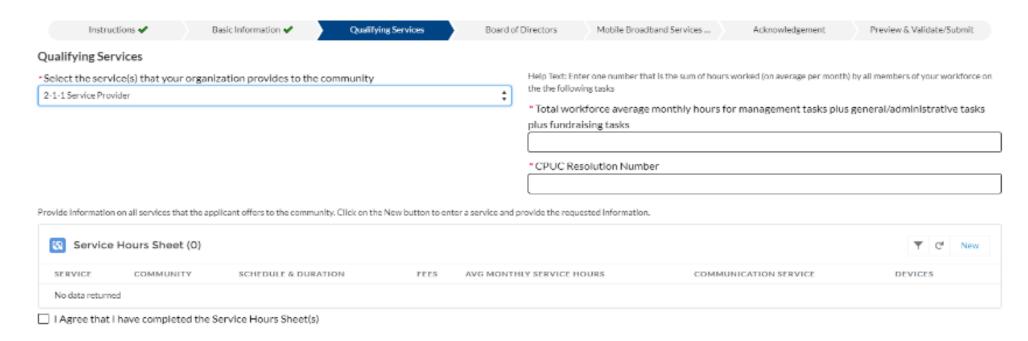
• If your organization provides healthcare services, you must provide documentation to verify which of the following insurance you accept, if any: Medicare, Medical, and/or Department of Veteran Affairs Insurance

#### 2-1-1 Service Providers: Basic Information

Instructions 🗸	Basic Information	Qualifying Services	Board of Directors	Mobile Broadband Services	Acknowledgement	Preview & Validate/Submit
Basic Information						
*Name of Organization			Doing-Bu	ısiness-As (dba) Name of Organi	zation	
*Federal Employer Identificati	on Number (FEIN)		Website			
Service Address						
*Country						
United States						<b>+</b>
*Street						
Q						
*City				State		
,				Californ	ia	A .
*Zip Code						
Confirm Address						
				Cano	el Previous Next	

#### 2-1-1 Service Provider: Qualifying Service Tab

- ❖ The Qualifying Service tab asks for specific information related to services provided.
- ❖ From the drop-down menu, the user selects "2-1-1 Service Provider." Enter the information in the field on the right-hand side.



#### 2-1-1 Service Provider: Service Hours Sheet

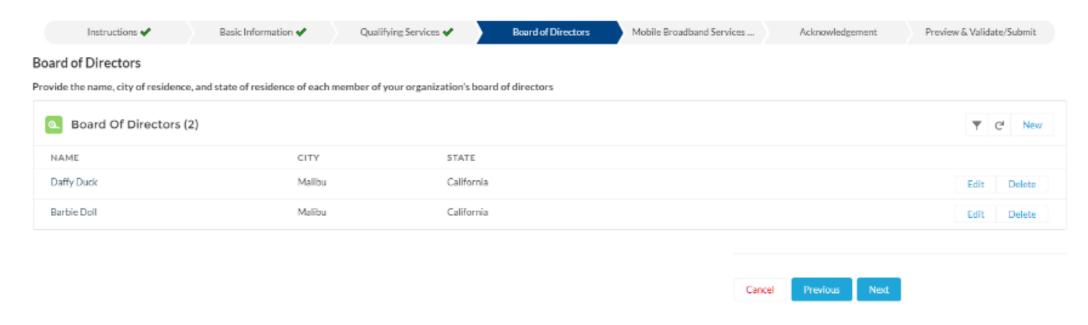
- ❖ For Service Hours Sheet section, click on the "New" button and provide the requested information on the populated sheet and click 'Save.'
- ❖ Complete a new Service Hours Sheet for each service. After submitting this sheet (see screenshot below), you can enter additional services by clicking the New button again

#### Service Hours Sheet Complete a new Service Hours Sheet for each service the applicant provides to the community. After submitting this form, you can enter additional services by clicking the New button. Click here to download the instructions for completing this webform. \*Service Location \*Service Community \*Schedule & Duration \*Avg Monthly Service Hours \*Fees Communication Service \*Devices

Save

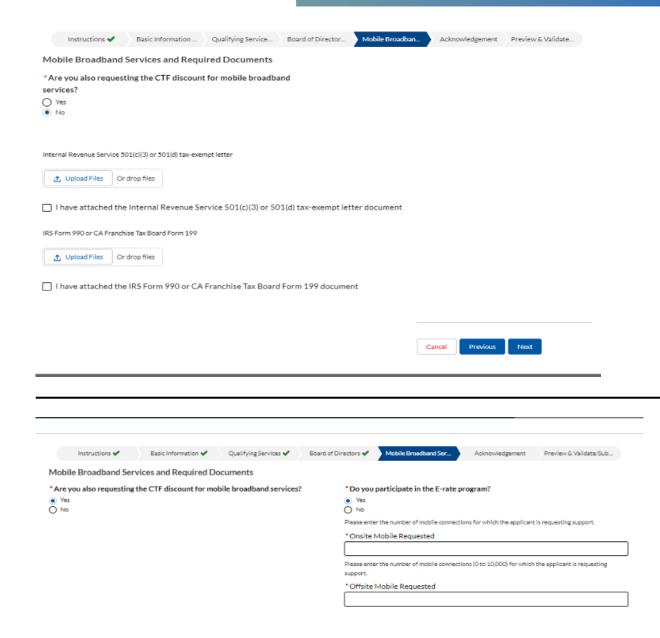
#### 2-1-1 Service Providers: Board of Directors

- Provide information on the organizations' Board of Directors
- Click "New" to add that information (at least one member must be added)
- Enter additional names by clicking the "New" button again



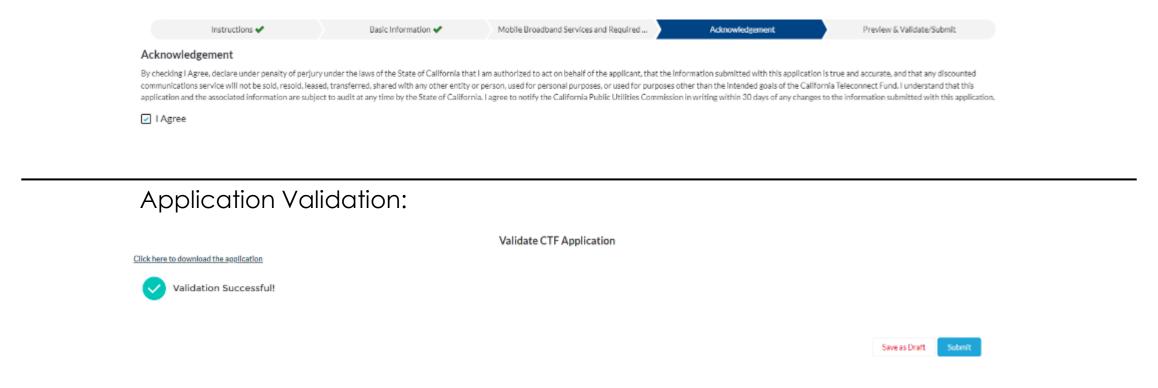
### 2-1-1 Service Providers: Mobile Broadband Services

- For Mobile Broadband Services and Required Documents Tab, indicate if this organization is requesting the CTF discount for mobile broadband services
- If No, select 'No,' and upload the required documents. Click Next to continue.
- ❖ If Yes, indicate if the organization participates in the E-rate program, enter the # of onsite and/or offsite mobile requested, and upload all required documents. Click Next to continue



## 2-1-1 Service Providers: Terms & Conditions and Submission

#### Acknowledging Terms & Conditions:



### Live Demonstration



### CTF- Application Required Documentation

#### **Documentation**

- ❖ Public and Private K-12 Schools
  - ☐ County District School (CDS) code
  - ☐ Form 501(C) 3- IRS Tax Exempt (Private School)
  - ☐ Form 990 (Private School)
- Libraries
  - ☐ Letter from State Librarian
- Community Colleges
  - ☐ Management Information System (MIS) code
- Government Hospital and Clinics
  - ☐ A valid healthcare license and identification number

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## **Documentation (cont.)**

- Community Based Organization (CBO)
  - ☐ Form 501(C) 3 or Form 501(d)
  - ☐ Form 990
  - Qualifying Service Worksheet
- HealthCare Community Based Organization
  - ☐ Form 501(C) 3 or Form 501(d)
  - ☐ Form 990
  - Qualifying Service Worksheet
  - ☐ Healthcare Insurance document or Healthcare fee document
  - ☐ California Department of Public Health License Number
  - □ Name, titles, and license numbers for all Licensed Medical Personnel on site.

#### **Completeness in Documentation**

- All documents submitted through eCAP must be updated/most recent and accurate.
- Submit your applications under the correct category.
- All required fields in eCAP must be completed.
- Participants must keep their contact information current and up to date.
- Participants must respond to CTF staff's inquiry and/or requests for supporting documents.
- \* Failure to submit a completed application under the correct category with complete and accurate documents will result in rejection of your application.

## **Best Ways to Gathering Documents**



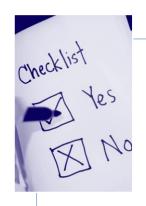
Understanding the requirements



Organize your documents

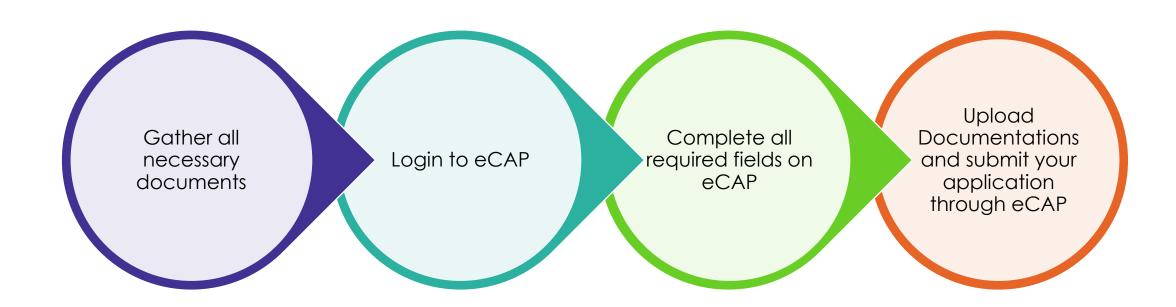


Verify for accuracy



Create a checklist

## **Submitting Documentation**





## CTF- Application Qualifying Services Worksheet

## Purpose of Qualifying Services Worksheet



Determination of eligibility



Calculation of discounts

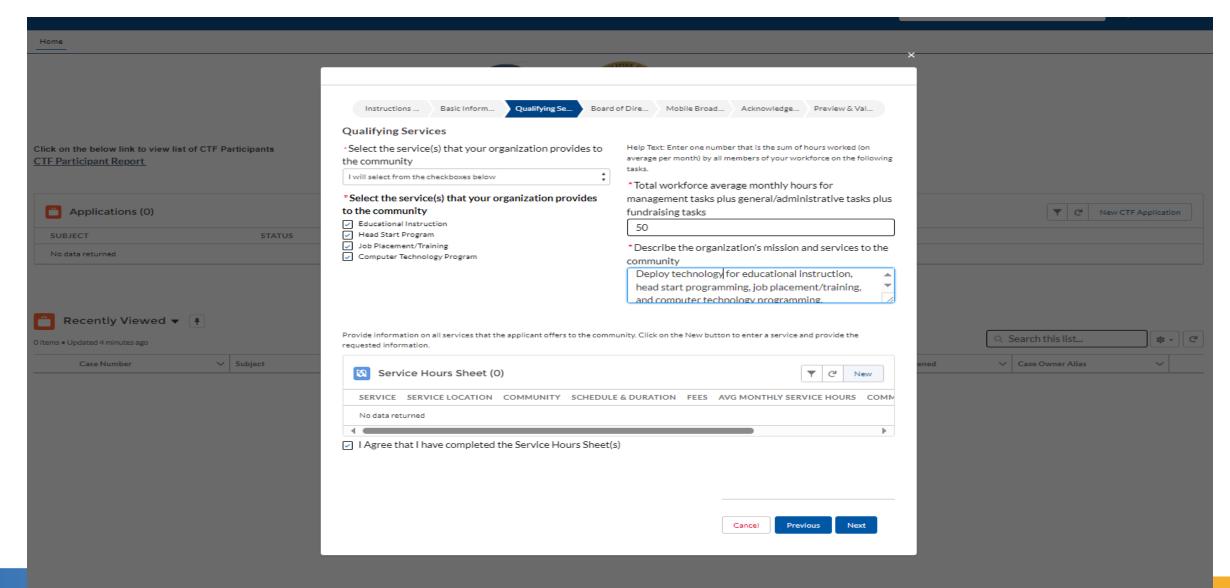


Application process

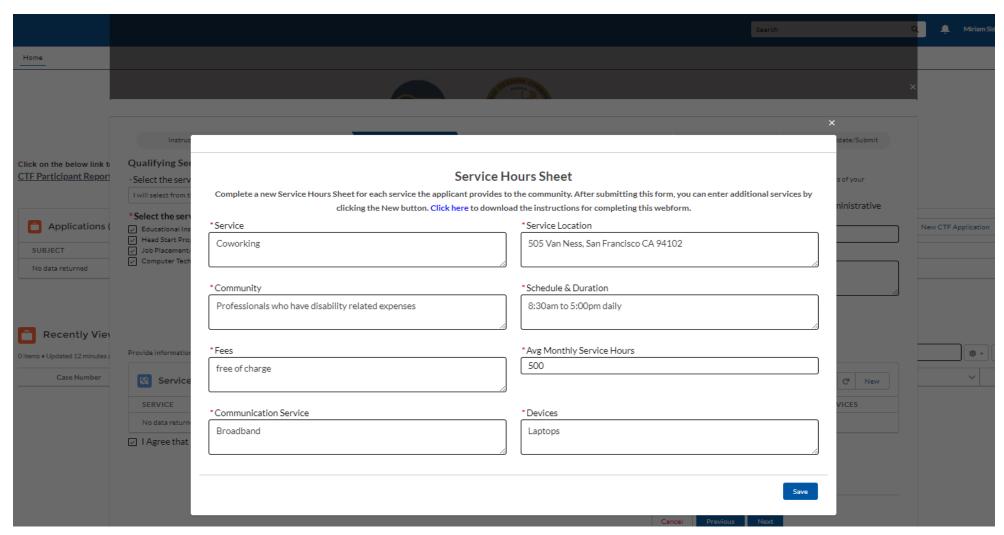


Compliance

#### How To Fill Out The Worksheet Accurately



#### How To Fill Out The Worksheet Con't



#### **Common Qualifying Services**



Internet Access



Data Transmission Services



Integrated Services
Digital Network



## CTF- Application Deficiencies

## **Deficiencies and Delays**









Incomplete information

Incorrect or inaccurate information

Eligibility issues

Failure to provide supporting documents

## **Deficiencies and Delays Con't**







Service provider approval Noncompliance Incomplete cost details



## CTF- Application Determination

#### CTF's Determination

#### Eligibility Criteria

- Organizational type
- Non-profit status

## Application Submission

- Completed application
- Accurate supporting documents

## Approval and Determination

- Documents verifications
- Determination approval/ineligible/rejection
- Notification

#### **Application Review Process**





## Conclusion

#### Conclusion

- CTF accepts applications from nonprofit CBOs, schools, libraries, healthcare CBOS, government hospitals and clinics, and community colleges.
- Applicants to the CTF program must login to eCAP and submit a completed application with update and accurate supporting documents.
- Once application is submitted, staff is notified and starts its review and evaluation of the application and supporting documents.
- CTF program will make a determination of approved, ineligible, or rejected.



## Questions?



## Resources

Information on the previous webinar is Available at:

**Program Outreach and Education** 

For more information:

https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/CTF

CTF Applicant & Participant Guidebook

Available on our website in English, Spanish, and Chinese

E-CAP Frequently Asked Questions:

Help - FAQs (ca.gov)



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For questions regarding the CTF program and application process, please reach out to us at <a href="https://creativecommons.org/line">CTFHelp@cpuc.ca.gov.</a>