

California Public Utilities Commission (Commission)
Broadband Public Housing Account
Requirements and Frequently Asked Questions
June 7, 2022

1. What is the purpose of the Broadband Public Housing Account?
 - a. *Pursuant to Public Utilities (Pub. Util.) Code section 281, the Broadband Public Housing Account provides grants and loans to build broadband networks offering free broadband service for residents of low-income communities including but not limited to, publicly supported housing developments, and other housing developments or mobile home parks with low-income residents. In Decision (D.) 22-05-029, the Commission made programmatic changes to the Broadband Public Housing Account per SB 156.*

See the [Broadband Public Housing Account, Background and History](#) for more information.
2. Are Adoption/Digital Literacy projects still funded by the Broadband Public Housing Account?
 - a. *No. Adoption Projects/Digital Literacy are now funded through the CASF Broadband Adoption Account. For more information please see the [Broadband Adoption Account website](#).*
3. How much funding is available?
 - a. *The allocated funding for Broadband Public Housing is \$15 million for fiscal year 2022-2023 to provide grants to finance up to 100 percent of the costs to install inside wiring and broadband network equipment.*
4. Who is eligible to apply for funding?
 - a. *Beginning with the July 1, 2022, application round, eligible applicants include low-income communities including publicly supported housing developments and farmworker housing.*

“Publicly supported housing development” is a publicly supported multi-unit housing development that is wholly owned by either of the following:
 - (i) *A public housing agency that has been chartered by the state, or by any city or county in the state.*
 - (ii) *An incorporated nonprofit organization as described in Section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code (26 U.S.C. Sec. 501(c)(3))¹² that is exempt from taxation under Section 501 (a) of that code (16 U.S.C. Sec. 501(a)) and that has received public funding to subsidize the construction or maintenance of housing*

occupied by residents whose annual income qualifies as “low” or “very low” income according to federal poverty guidelines.

“Farmworker housing” is housing that is consistent with the definition of “farmworker housing” set forth in California Health and Safety Code Section 50199.7 (h), which includes the requirement that “farmworker housing” means housing in which at least 50 percent of the units are available to, and occupied by, farmworkers and their households.

Further eligibility rules for other housing developments and mobile home parks with low-income residents will be considered by the Commission in Rulemaking proceeding R.20-08-021.

5. How will projects be evaluated?

- a. *Applications will be reviewed and evaluated based on Broadband Public Housing Account Rules and Guidelines established in D.22-05-029, Appendix 1. Projects meeting the ministerial review criteria in D.22-05-029 may be approved by the Communications Division staff. Applications not meeting ministerial review may be approved by the Commission via Resolution.*

For a full list of criteria for projects that may be approved through ministerial review, please refer to [D.22-05-029, Appendix 1, Rules and Guidelines](#).

- b. *Applications may be rejected for the following reasons:*
 - i. *The applicant submitted an incomplete application and did not respond to inquiries from Staff to provide missing information.*
 - ii. *The applicant has previously had a Commission grant award rescinded for violation of Commission or program rules.*
 - iii. *The applicant has made false statements to the Commission or to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC).*

6. What types of costs associated with the projects are eligible for reimbursement?

- a. *The Commission will finance up to 100 percent of the costs to install inside wiring and broadband network equipment **but will not finance operations and maintenance costs through this program.***
 - i. *All broadband networking equipment (hardware and software), wireless access points, wireless bridge(s), modem(s), switches, router(s), and firewall(s) for network security **but not personal computers, laptops, handheld or human interface devices.***
 - ii. *Low voltage contracting work including the installation of inside wiring, network cabinets, NEMA boxes,2 conduits, patch panels, cable tray or ladders, and other cabling requirements to provide power and connectivity for the broadband network equipment funded as part of the*

project. Major rehabilitation, demolition or construction work will not be funded.

- iii. *Broadband network engineering and designing documentation.*
 - iv. *Hardware warranty of broadband network equipment as needed. Education and outreach efforts (including travel, up to 10% of grant amount) and materials.*
 - v. *Installation, provisioning, and configuration labor costs at the Minimum Point of Entry (MPOE), MDFs (Main Distribution Frame), IDFs (Intermediate Distribution Frame), WAPs (Wireless Access Point), Wireless Bridges such as P2P and P2MP (Point to Point and Point to Multi-point) Radios, Switched Ethernet, and xDSL (Digital Subscriber Line) modems.*
 - vi. *Taxes, shipping and insurance costs (if applicable) that are directly related to broadband network equipment deployed under the BPHA. Acceptable computing devices (does not include smartphones) within budgetary limits and inclusive of computer.*
7. Is there a limit to how much funding an applicant can request?
- a. *Applicants can request up to \$150,000 per projects and be approved by ministerial review. Funding requests above \$150,000 s may be approved by the Commission via Resolution.*
8. Is there a limit to the number of projects an applicant can apply for?
- a. *No.*
9. Is there a time limit between the awarding of funds and project completion?
- a. *Yes. Grantees must start the project within six months after submitting a consent form accepting the terms stated in the Broadband Public Housing Account Award Letter or Resolution (after the ramp-up time if applicable) and complete the project within a 12-month timeframe or earlier*
10. What are the reporting requirements once funding for a project is granted and when can payment requests be made?
- a. *Grantees must submit a project status report within six months of the project award date if the project has not been completed, irrespective of whether the grantee requests reimbursement or payment.*
 - b. *Grantees must submit a project completion report with all required supporting documentation in order to receive final payment. The project completion report contains, total project cost, project cost summary breakdown, project milestone deployment details, CalSPEED15 test results, bill of materials (BOM), invoices supporting BOM, network and low-voltage engineering and design documentation, installation and commissioning checklist, provisioning and*

configuration files, as-built documentation with pictures showing labels and annotations, and project expenses summary.

11. How can I apply?
 - a. *Please see the [Broadband Public Housing Account Application Instructions](#).*
12. When are the application deadlines?
 - a. *Please refer to the [website](#) for the current schedule.*
13. How will applicants find out if their application has been approved or denied and what is the process for accepting the award?
 - a. *Applications meeting the criteria for ministerial review will be notified via letter of an approval or denial of an award. Applications approved via resolution will be in the Commission voting meeting results.*
 - b. *Applications approved by award letter or Resolution will be provided a consent form. By signing the consent form the grantee agrees to the terms stated in the approving Commission Resolution or award letter and authorizes the award. In the consent agreement the grantee will provide the name of the grantee organization and names of officers, and the form must be signed by an authorized representative of the organization. Should the grantee not accept the award through failure to submit the consent form within 30 calendar days from the date of the award, the Commission will deem the grant null and void.*