

California Advanced Services Fund



Public Workshop
April 22, 2026



California Public
Utilities Commission

Agenda

10:00-10:10	Introduction, Welcome and CASF Program Highlights
10:10-10:20	Commissioner Darcie L. Houck, Opening Remarks
10:20-10:30	Director's Remarks – Maria Ellis, Director for Broadband Initiatives
10:30-11:00	Status of Federal Funding Programs (BEAD and FFA)
11:00-12:00	CASF Program Updates and Stakeholder Discussion (Public Housing, Broadband Adoption and Line Extension)
12:00-1:15	Lunch Break
1:15-2:00	CASF Program Updates and Stakeholder Discussion (Consortia and Tribal Consortia)
2:00–2:30	Q&A
2:30 PM	Adjourn

The CASF Workshop is intended for informational purposes only and is held in compliance with Pub. Util. Code section 281(f)(2). Panelists are not endorsed by the CPUC. Their statements and perspectives are their own and should not be interpreted as representing the views of any organization, Tribe, Tribal government, or community, nor those of the CPUC. Participation in the workshop does not confer any advantage in the grant application process. All applications are evaluated independently based on established program criteria.

Introduction, Welcome and CASF Program Highlights

Selena Huang
Program Manager
Broadband, Video & Market Branch



Opening Remarks



**Commissioner
Darcie L. Houck**



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Director of Broadband Initiatives Maria I. Ellis



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Modernized Broadband is an Essential Service

Public Safety and Carrier Oversight

- License companies, oversee compliance, and address consumer complaints
- Service quality standards to protect consumers and ensure reliable service, including timely restoration, compensation for outages, and enforcement for poor performance
- Network resiliency rules (e.g., backup power) ensure disaster preparedness.

Universal Service

Public Purpose Programs ensure affordability, equity, and access:

1. California LifeLine Program
2. California Teleconnect Fund
3. California Connect (*formerly the Deaf and Disabled Telecommunication Program*)
4. California Advanced Services Fund
5. California High-Cost Fund A
6. California High-Cost Fund B

Carrier of Last Resort obligation ensures access.

Broadband Deployment and Adoption

Develop, implement, and administer three major broadband deployment program:

- (1) California Advanced Services Fund
- (2) Federal Funding Account
- (3) Broadband Equity Access and Deployment

Broadband Programs & Investment Overview

	Broadband Equity Access and Deployment (BEAD)	California Advanced Services Fund (CASF)	Loan Loss Reserve Fund (LLR)	Last Mile Federal Funding Account (FFA)
Amount	~\$1.86 billion	\$136 million for 2025-26	\$50 million	~\$2 billion total thru Fiscal Year 27-28 ~\$550 million appropriations outstanding
Summary	Funds for planning, infrastructure and adoption starting in 2026	Funds broadband infrastructure and adoption in low-income housing, Tribal communities, and unserved areas	Provides collateral to local government, Tribes, and nonprofits to finance their own broadband Infrastructure	Funds for last-mile broadband infrastructure projects in every county
What's Next?	BEAD Final Proposal	Infrastructure, Line Extension, Tribal Tech Assistance, Adoption and Public Housing grant cycles	Awarded \$50 million	Statewide Fiber Deployment

Federal Funding Account



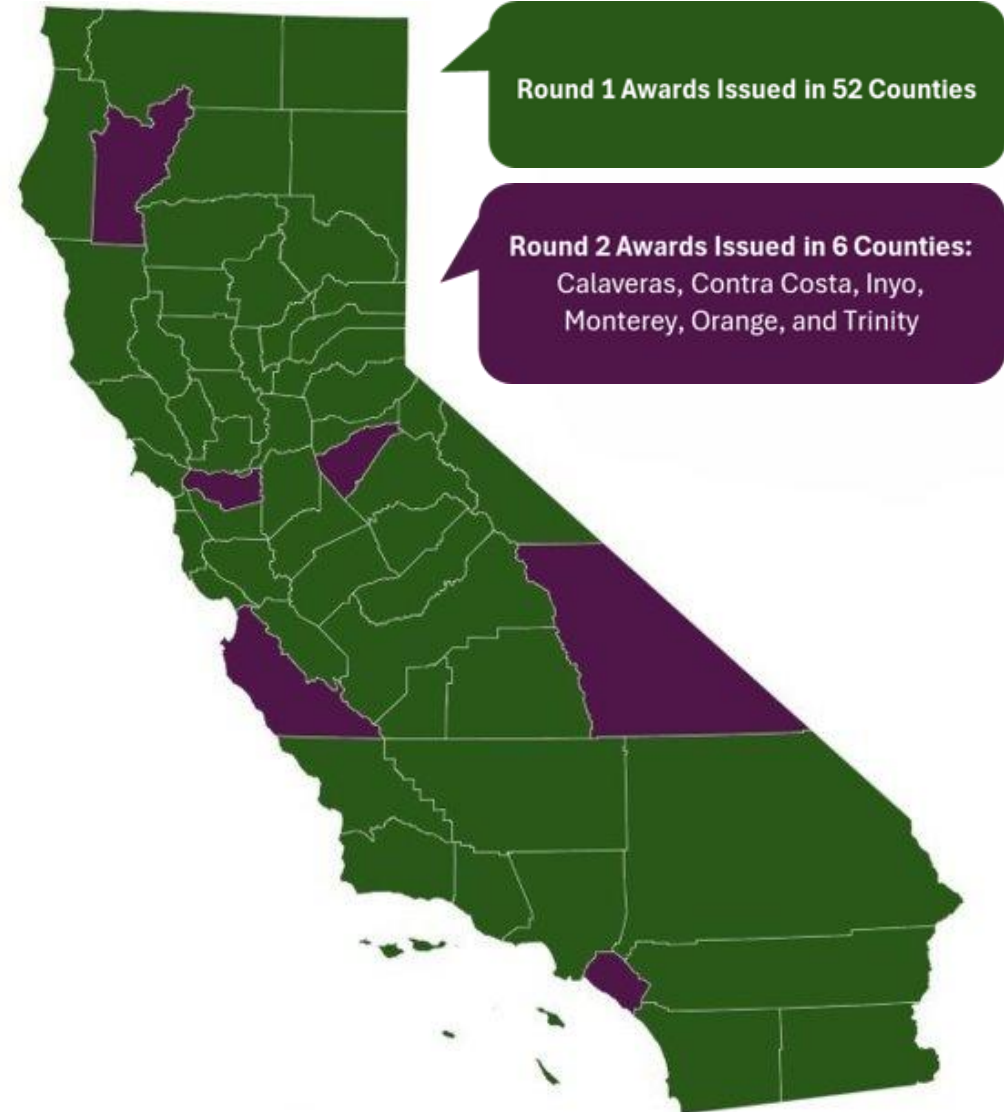
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Last Mile Federal Funding Account

106 Technical Assistance Grants

122 Projects Across California

- **\$1.23 billion** in grants awarded
- **58** counties with awarded grants
- **2.1 million** Californians benefitting from investments
- **4,000** Community Anchor Institutions benefitting
- **7,500** fiber miles deploying
- **120** projects include an affordable broadband offer



Federal Funding Account Grantee Spotlight



Chumash Fiber Network in Santa Barbara County Federal Funding Account

Total Award: **\$4.7 million**

Completed thus far:

- **13 Miles** of tribally-owned resilient underground fiber
- Project size **6 square miles**

Project Outcomes:

- High-speed internet connections to about **~300 locations**
- Benefitting **~850 People** on their Tribal lands and surrounding parts of Santa Barbara County
- "develop it ourselves, but not alone"

[California Connectivity Stories](#)

Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD)



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Key BEAD Accomplishments to Date

\$42.45B

National BEAD Grant

\$1.86B

California's Allocation

~340K

Locations to Be Served

“Benefit of the Bargain” Outcomes

- Administered by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA).
- Highest number of unserved and underserved locations of any other state or territory.
- Doing more with less.
- Implemented changes per NTIA's Restructuring Policy Notice (June 2025).
- Negotiated cost reductions for many projects.
- CPUC approved submission of Final Proposal Dec. 18, 2025.
- Achieved 100% coverage for all eligible locations.
- Awarded \$1.57B for 325 projects across 58 counties (338,567 locations).

Current Activities

1

Curing the Final Proposal

Multiple rounds of “curing” in which NTIA provides change requests on proposed projects, subgrantees, costs, and other components.

2

Ratify NTIA-Approved Final Proposal

After NTIA approves the Final Proposal, Staff will submit any revisions made during “curing” via resolution to the Commission for ratification.

3

Subgrantee Agreement

Undergoing internal review to ensure accuracy, compliance, and alignment pending Final Proposal Approval.

CASF Program Updates and Stakeholder Discussion

- Public Housing
- Broadband Adoption
- CASF Line Extension Program
- CASF Consortia Account



An aerial photograph of a modern residential development. In the foreground, a large array of solar panels is being installed on a flat roof. The buildings are multi-story, with light-colored stucco walls and dark roofs. A paved courtyard with a bench and trash bins is visible between the buildings. In the background, a suburban neighborhood with similar houses stretches out under a clear blue sky, with mountains visible in the distance.

California Advanced Services Fund Broadband Public Housing Account

Taylor Cheim, Analyst
Alvin Lee, Analyst
Steven Oh, Sr. Telecom Engineer
Wayne Ly, Sr. Telecom Engineer
Communications Division

Program Overview

The Broadband Public Housing Account (BPHA) funds grants and loans to finance projects to connect broadband networks for residents of low-income communities for which the residents do not pay out of pocket costs and all residents have access

FY 2025-2026 \$30.1 Million Funding

- Assembly Bill (AB) 1299 established the account; extended by SB 745
- SB 156 made significant changes to the BPHA rules and eligibility

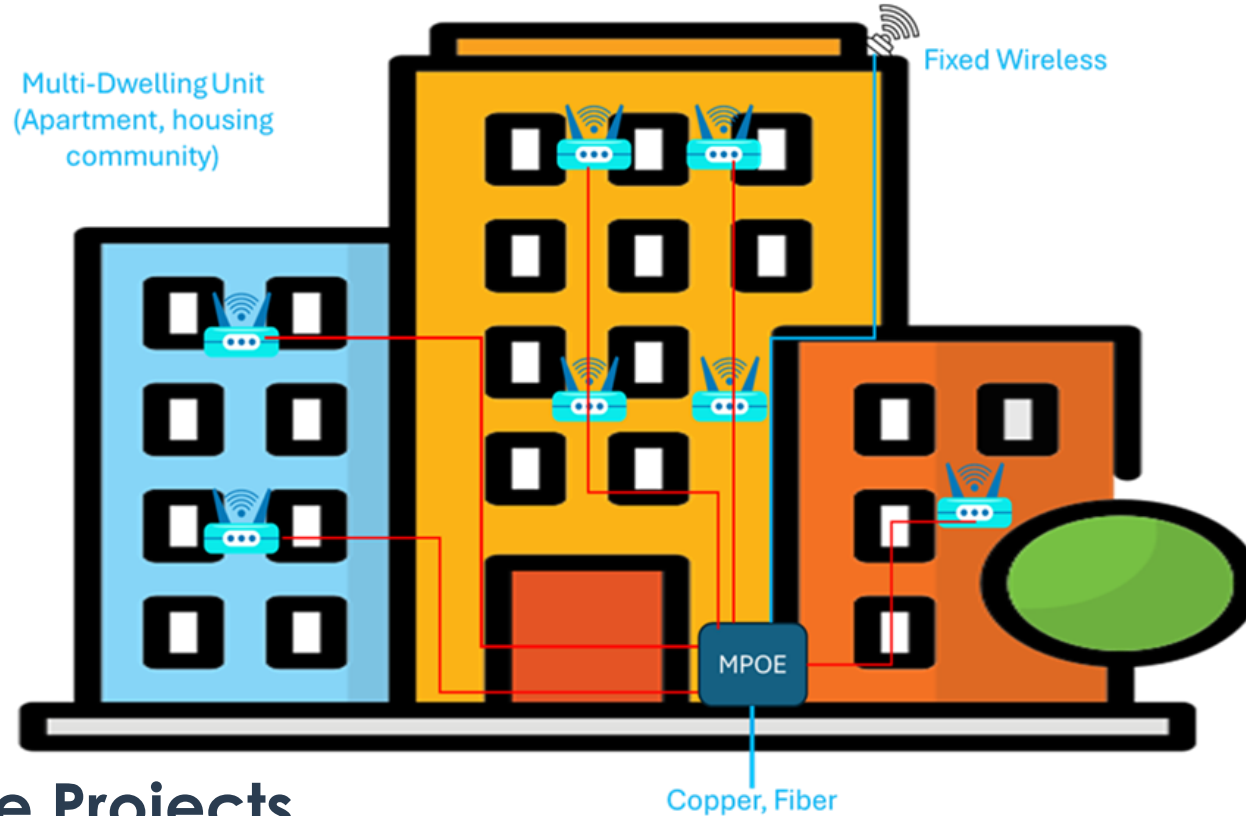
Eligibility

- Publicly supported housing development
- Farmworker housing
- Tribal Housing
- Other housing developments
- Mobile home parks
- Census Block Group Projects (low-income)
- All projects must be California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Exempt

Project Types

- BPHA Infrastructure
- BPHA Internet Extension
 - The Commission will award grants to finance up to 100 percent of the costs to install last mile infrastructure, inside wiring and broadband network equipment but will not finance operations and maintenance costs through this program.

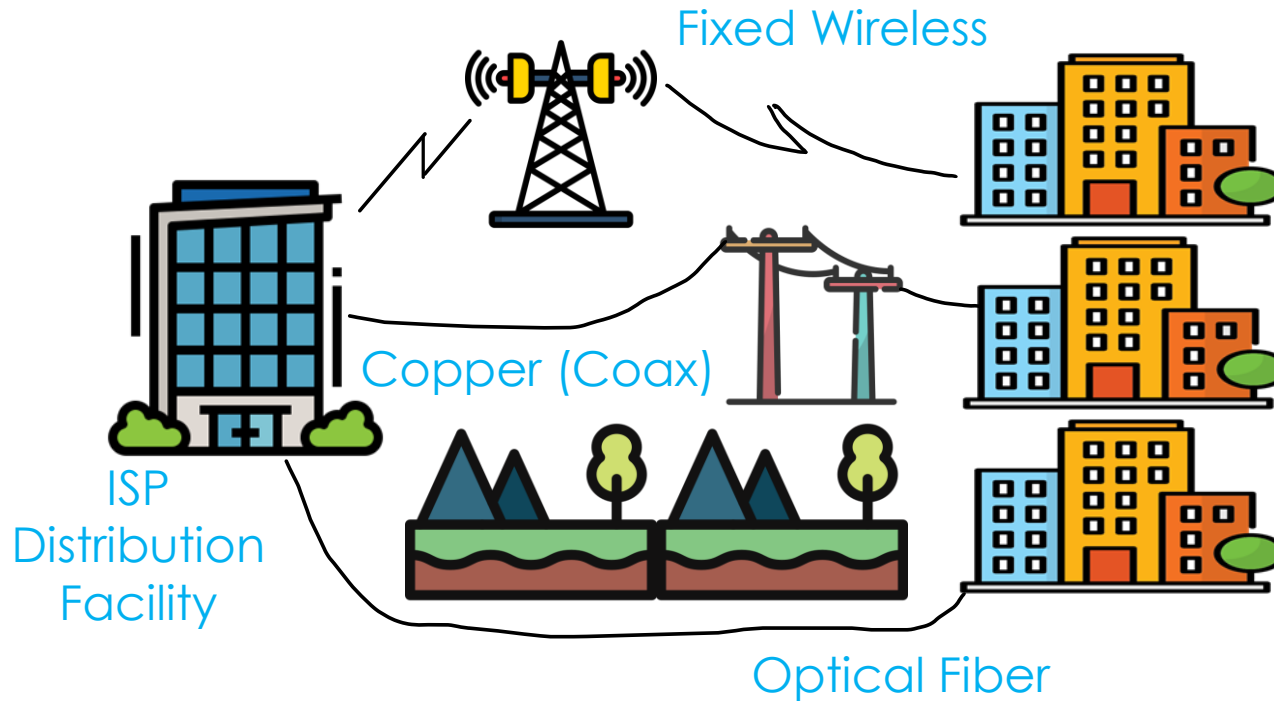
Funding Overview



BPHA Infrastructure Projects

- Costs to connect networks *within* the Minimum Point of Entry (MPOE) and property lines
- Parts and Labor Costs
- We *do not* pay for Operations and Maintenance Costs, including internet subscription costs
- Projects must be CEQA Exempt

Funding Overview



BPHA Internet Extension Projects

- Costs to connect networks beyond the MPOE
- Parts and Labor Costs
- We do not pay for Operations and Maintenance Costs, including internet subscription costs
- Projects must be CEQA Exempt

A Little More on the Internet Extension

- When a low-income community is struggling to connect with an Internet Service Provider (ISP), or an ISP can not provide the bandwidth necessary for a BPHA Infrastructure bandwidth, an Internet Extension grant can help offset the cost of connection from another ISP.
- In cases where a City or County owns a network it can use Internet Extension funds to connect to the City or County owned Public Housing Developments.

Opportunities for Funding

- Applications must be received on or before the following dates to be considered:
 - July 1, 2026
 - January 1, 2027, and so on until funds are exhausted.
 - Any deadline falling on a holiday, or a weekend will be extended to the following business day.



Why It Matters



Broadband Public Housing Account Accomplishments

**\$22 Million
Awarded**

Since inception



565 Projects

Connecting 28,332
low-income
households across 35
counties.



**7 Extension
Grants**

- 7 Extension grants awarded since the creation of the Internet Extension Grants
- Connecting 7 properties also taking advantage of the BPHA Infrastructure Grant



Broadband Public Housing Account Contact Info

Please refer to the **CASF Broadband Public Housing Account website** for the following information (and much more):

- Information on how and when to apply for funds
- The BPHA Guidelines (these Guidelines detail what can be funded and details program rules)

<https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/industries-and-topics/internet-and-phone/california-advanced-services-fund/casf-public-housing-account>

- Please email CPUC_Housing@cpuc.ca.gov with any questions regarding the BPHA Account

California Advanced Services Fund Broadband Adoption Account

Bill Goedecke, Senior Regulatory Analyst

Andrew Aliabadi, Analyst

Ling Mu, Analyst

Alvin Lee, Analyst



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Broadband Adoption Account

Pursuant to Public Utilities Code section 281, moneys in the CASF Adoption Account are available to the Commission to award grants to increase publicly available or after-school broadband access and digital inclusion.

Eligibility

- Local governments, senior centers, schools, public libraries, nonprofit organizations, and community-based organizations
- Project Types
 - Digital Literacy
 - Broadband Access
 - Broadband Call Centers

Funding

\$78M has been authorized since program inception in 2018 for 672 projects serving up to 470,000 participants

Next application window on July 1, 2026

Program Changes in Decision D.25-11-003

Staff proposed and implemented changes to program and administrative rules and requirements

- To provide clarity and transparency
- To make the program more effective



Program Changes (continued)

Organization Eligibility & Rules



- A nonprofit with gross receipts over \$50,000, or a nonprofit with gross receipts at \$50,000 or less and who has successfully completed a digital inclusion grant can apply under their own tax ID. Otherwise, they must apply under a fiscal sponsor.
- Local governments can include a Tribal government, which is a California Tribe with or without federal recognition, that demonstrates tribal leadership support.

Program Changes (continued)

Project Eligibility & Eligible Program Costs

- The terms "Digital Literacy", "Broadband Access", and "Call Center" are defined. Only projects that fit into those definitions are eligible to be funded.
- Eligible program costs are explicitly laid out. Any item not listed will not be funded.



Device provision Great Harvest Community Center

Program Changes (continued)

Ministerial Review Criteria

In addition to the current rules -

Qualification criteria:

- Funding request is 50% or less of their total revenue and/or net assets.
- Current assets exceed current liabilities.

Denial criteria:

- An application submission is not complete as defined in the definitions section
- The application requests funding for the construction of a network of any kind outside of a building.



EveryoneON East Bay DL Project

Program Changes (continued)

Reporting and Clarifications of Terms

Geeks without Frontiers DL



- A ramp up report is no longer required unless payment is requested.
- Progress reports are required with each payment.
- Year 1 and Final reports are required; if not provided after six months of the reporting period the grant may be rescinded after contact with the grantee.
- Additional definitions provided; common terms clarified.



Please refer to the **CASF Adoption Account website** for the following information (and much more):

- Information on how and when to apply for funds
- The Adoption Account Guidelines (these Guidelines detail what can be funded and details program rules)

<https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/industries-and-topics/internet-and-phone/california-advanced-services-fund/casf-adoption-account>

- Please email casf_adoption@cpuc.ca.gov with any questions regarding the Adoption Account



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Adoption Account Panel

Kori Cordero
Telecom Managing Attorney
TURN - The Utility Reform Network



Paulina Chavez
Director of Programs
EveryoneON



Line Extension Program - Introduction

Louise Fischer, Program & Project Supervisor



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Line Extension Program Program Changes in Decision D.25-11-003

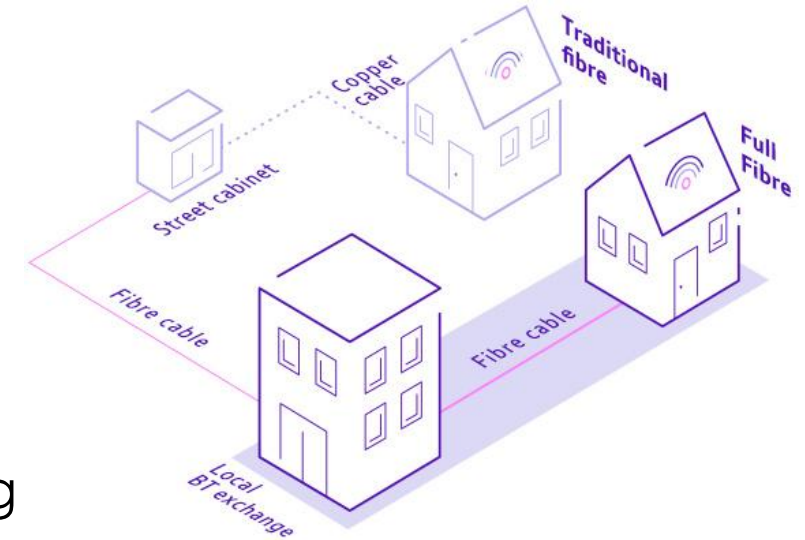
Ben Swearingen, Regulatory Analyst



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Line Extension Program

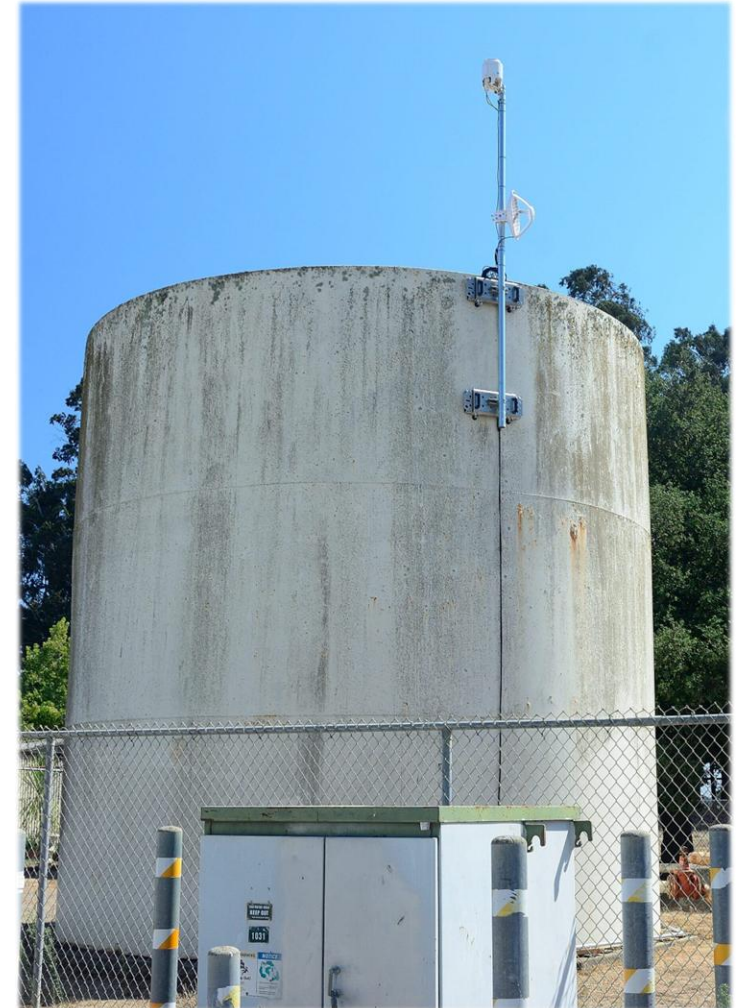
- “Internet for All Now Act” (2017) created the Line Extension Program (LEP)
- LEP rules established in [Decision \(D.\)19-04-022](#) have been revised in [D.25-11-003](#)
- \$5 million initial LEP pilot. Over \$2 million in LEP grant funding awarded so far; \$2.9 million remaining
- To apply for an LEP grant, please see our [CASF Line Extension Program webpage](#) and scroll down to ‘Applying for Funds’



Program Changes in Decision D.25-11-003

Major Changes:

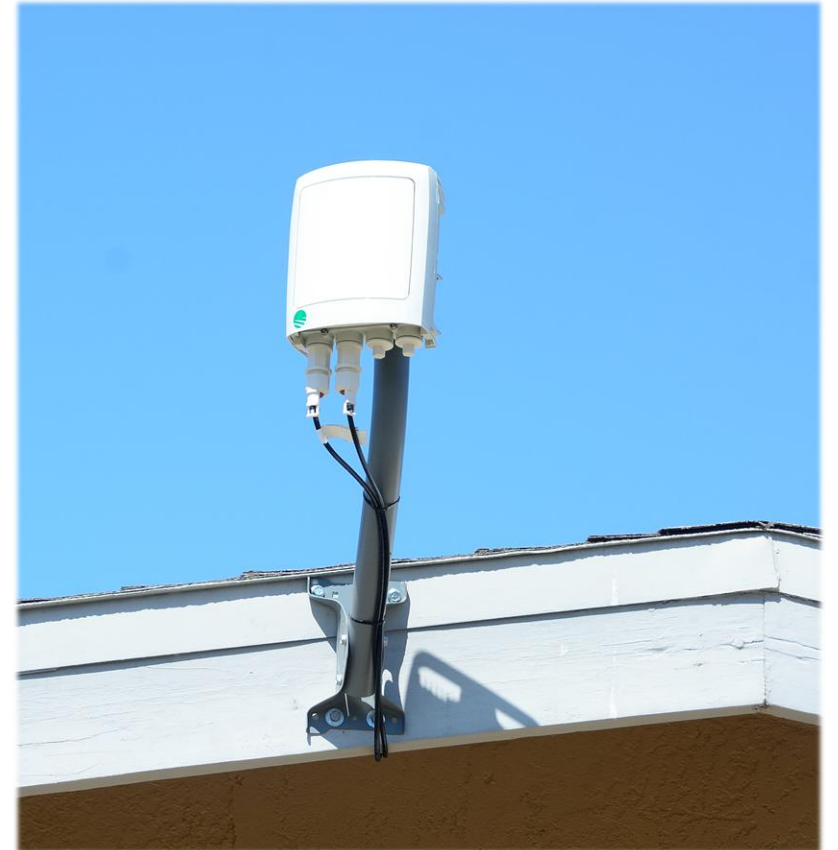
- Expanded Eligibility
 - *Applicants with MHI up to 120% AMI*
- Increased Minimum Service Speed
 - *100 Mbps/20 Mbps*
- Increased Ministerial Approval threshold
 - *\$500 → \$6,000 for FWA; \$9,300 → \$31,000 for Wireline*
- Alignment with Broadband Infrastructure Grant Account rules in Decision (D.) 22-11-023
 - Reimbursements at 10%, 35%, 60%, 85% and 100%
- Simplified formula for 100% funding for multi-unit projects
 - 50% of customers must qualify for 100% funding



Program Changes in Decision D.25-11-003

Minor Changes:

- Income-based Threshold to Qualify for 100% funding
 - 60% SMI (currently \$70,860) or 80% AMI or participant in a Public Assistance Program (e.g. SNAP, LifeLine, etc.)
- Terminology
 - Non-connected Household (no Internet connection) → Unserved Locations (less than 25/3 Mbps)



LEP Grant Recipient Panelist

James Hackett, Chief Operating Officer
Cruzio Internet

San Jerardo Project



Elise Brentnall, President and CEO
South Valley Internet

South Valley Road Project



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Public Workshop – Lunch Break
Workshop will resume at **1:15 PM**



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CASF Rural & Urban Regional Broadband Consortia Account

Paul Schindler, Regulatory Analyst



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Program Changes in Decision D.25-11-003

Major Changes:

- Established 3 Regional Tribal Consortia regions: Northern, Central, and Southern
- Authorized Tribal led applicants and qualified entities with Tribal broadband experience to apply
- Expanded eligible work to include BEAD-related infrastructure activities
- Expanded Consortia support to other eligible broadband deployment programs, including CASF Line Extension Project and Broadband Public Housing Account projects

Administrative Changes:

- Up to 15% administrative/indirect costs may be tied to completing reimbursable deliverables
- Start-up costs - up to 25% are allowed for new consortia
- Up to 10% budget variance by objective without prior approval
- Bimonthly meetings will be held between CPUC staff and Regional Broadband Consortia
- Up to 3 regional Tribal workshops for outreach and application guidance

Consortia Discussion

Connie Stewart

Executive Director of
Initiatives at Cal
Poly Humboldt

Redwood Coast
Broadband
Consortium



Navreet Hundal

Project Coordinator
Connected Capital
Area Broadband

Consortium



Liliana Aide Monge

Director
UNITE-LA



Patrick Messac

Director

East Bay
Broadband
Consortium



Tribal Consortia Discussion

Kori Cordero

Telecom Managing
Attorney

TURN - The Utility
Reform Network



Linnea Jackson

General Manager
Hoopa Valley Public
Utilities District



Forest James

Founder and CEO
EnerTribe



Q&A

**Questions: dial 1-800-857-1917
Public Passcode: 1673482#**

or email your question to:

CASF_Workshop@cpuc.ca.gov



Thank You!



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