

# California High Cost Fund B

PU Code Sec 276.5 requires the CPUC to minimize telephone rate disparities between rural and metropolitan areas to keep rates affordable in areas with lower population density. This fund supports “carriers of last resort” to keep rates affordable in these “high cost” areas to enable residents to stay connected to essential services.

**Fiscal Year 2023-24 Enacted Program Budget - \$13.7 million**

Company	Supported Lines as of Dec. 31, 2023
AT&T	28,253
Frontier / Citizens / Frontier SW	19,804
<b>Total Supported Lines</b>	<b>48,057</b>

Supports **48,057 lines** at an average of **\$12.79 per month** or **\$153.42 per year for each line**, based on local assistance payments of \$7.4 million during calendar year 2023



Supporting “high cost” areas where the cost of providing service is \$36 or more per telephone line

Supporting residents in rural areas across **57 counties**

