



# California LifeLine Program August Workshop (Day 2)

California LifeLine Team  
August 6 & 7, 2018  
[www.californialifeline.com](http://www.californialifeline.com)  
<http://cpuc.ca.gov/lifeline/>





# Introductions:

## The Future of the California LifeLine Program



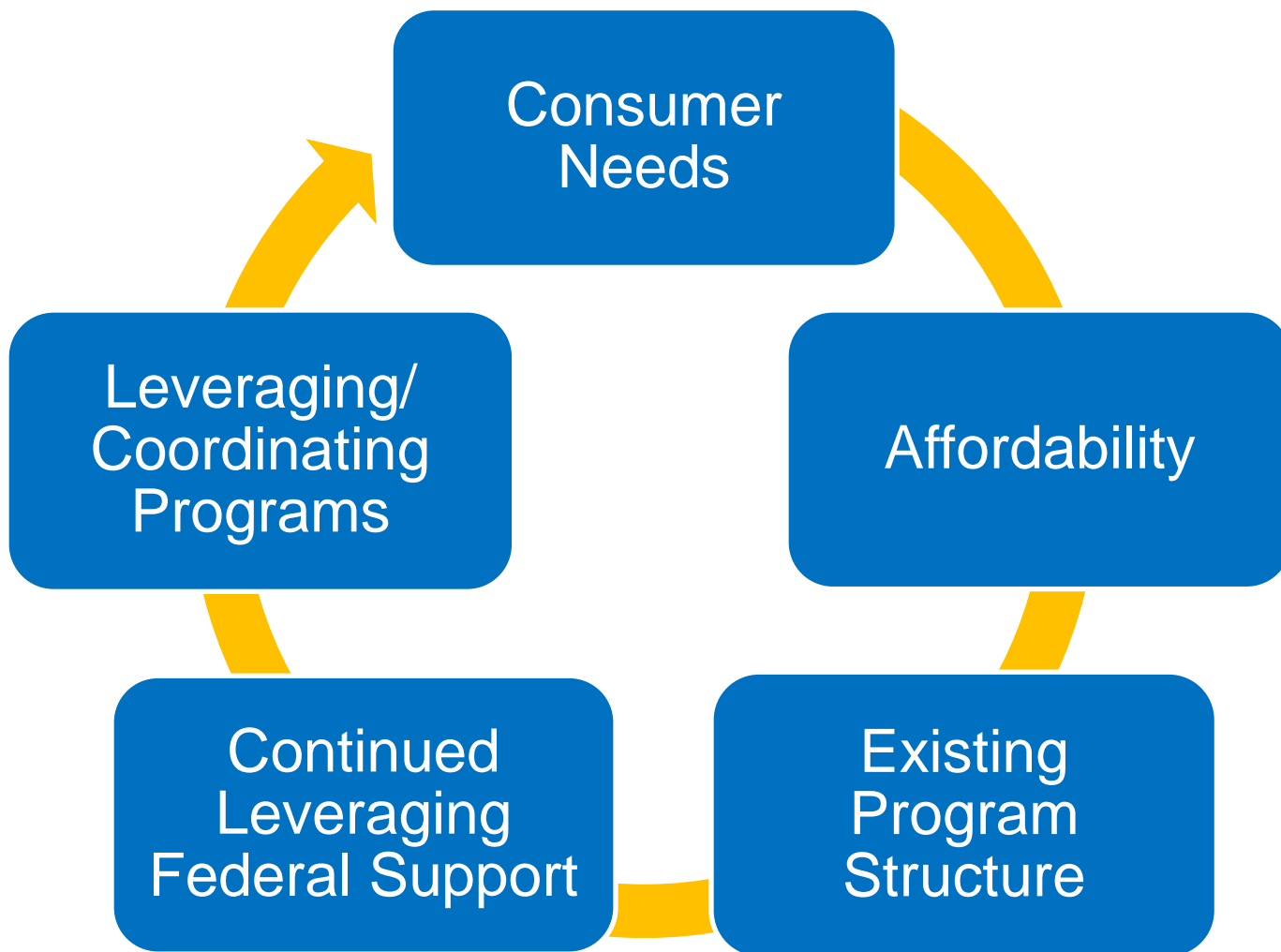


# Presentation On Digital Divide





# Interactive Discussion





# Upcoming And Suggested Possible Changes

## A. (Upcoming) Phasing out the federal Lifeline discounts for telephone service

- Should consumer have to choose between receiving a LifeLine subsidy for voice or broadband? Or should the California LifeLine Program allow participants to receive subsidies for both?
- Should the California LifeLine Program redefine minimum communications needs? How?





# Upcoming And Suggested Possible Changes (continue)

## **B. Focusing the federal Lifeline discounts on non-adopters of broadband internet access service**

- For households that have access to broadband, what should the California LifeLine Program do to encourage adoption? How?
- Should the California LifeLine Program also focus on non-adopters? Is additional outreach/marketing or funding necessary?





## Upcoming And Suggested Possible Changes (continue)

- C. Prioritizing allocation of federal Lifeline funds to certain areas: rural areas, federally-recognized Tribal lands in rural areas, and underserved areas**





## California Household Ratios

County Designation	CA Households with Income Less Than or Equal to 135% FPL	
	Number of Households	Percentage
Completely Urban	53,940	2.13%
Mostly Urban	2,436,704	96.33%
Mostly Rural	38,839	1.54%
Grand Total	2,529,483	100.00%

County Designation	CA Households with Income Less Than or Equal to 150% FPL	
	Number of Households	Percentage
Completely Urban	60,655	2.13%
Mostly Urban	2,736,029	96.25%
Mostly Rural	45,910	1.62%
Grand Total	2,842,594	100.00%

County Designation	CA Households with Income Less Than or Equal to 200% FPL	
	Number of Households	Percentage
Completely Urban	79,028	2.03%
Mostly Urban	3,751,028	96.35%
Mostly Rural	63,156	1.62%
Grand Total	3,893,212	100.00%

Data from 2016 American Community Survey

Urban/Rural Designation is defined as follows:

Mostly Rural: 50% or more of the population lives in Census Bureau-designated rural areas;

Mostly Urban: less than 50% of the population lives in Census Bureau-designated rural areas; and

Completely Urban: all of the population lives in Census Bureau-designated urban areas.

Urban/rural designations based on 2012-2016 American Community Survey (5-year estimates) tabulations.







# Areas designated by FCC as Rural Tribal Lands





## Upcoming And Suggested Possible Changes (continue)

### **C. Prioritizing allocation of federal Lifeline funds to certain areas: rural areas, federally-recognized Tribal lands in rural areas, and underserved areas**

- If the FCC is going to focus support to rural areas, tribal lands in rural areas, and underserved areas, what does CA need to do to assist low-income households in urban areas?
- Should CA program also prioritize funds to rural areas, tribal lands in rural areas, or underserved areas?
  - If yes, would this apply to subsidies for voice service also? Or only subsidies for broadband service?
  - Should those areas receive additional subsidy from the California program?





# Upcoming And Suggested Possible Changes (continue)

## D. Focusing federal Lifeline funds to facilities-based service providers

California LifeLine Participation - June 2018		
	Number of Participants	Percentage
Wireline	386,451	22.80%
Wireless	1,308,273	77.20%
<i>Facilities-Based Provider</i>	464,179	27.39%
<i>Non Facilities-Based Provider</i>	844,094	49.81%
Total	1,694,724	100.00%





## Upcoming And Suggested Possible Changes (continue)

### **D. Focusing federal Lifeline funds to facilities-based service providers**

- How could the California LifeLine Program ensure that there continues to be competitive choices for participants?
- Who would provide home broadband for LifeLine participants?
- Many low-income CA households are in urban areas that have access to broadband, should CA continue to allow resellers?





## Upcoming And Suggested Possible Changes (continue)

### E. Limiting the duration of time for federal Lifeline participants to be on the federal Lifeline program

- Should the CA program create separate rules/plans/subsidy amounts for participants who have used up their time of federal eligibility? How?
  - Should CA program provide additional subsidy for participants who have timed out of the federal program?
- Should the California LifeLine Program mirror the FCC to limit the amount of time that participants are permitted to be on the program? If yes, what is the appropriate length of time?





# Upcoming And Suggested Possible Changes (continue)

## F. Setting a maximum federal Lifeline discount level

- What affect would this have on affordability and availability of communication services?
- If the federal subsidy were to vary (i.e. 80% of retail rate), how would the CA subsidy be applied?
  - Should the participants be required to pay x% or X\$ (like the payment floor) or provide subsidy up to max SSA and retail rate?
  - Should CA utilize a x% as well? If so, how do we determine what the % would be?





## Upcoming And Suggested Possible Changes (continue)

### **G. Requiring federal Lifeline participants to pay for a federal Lifeline discounted service plan**

- Would this affect the level of waste, fraud, and abuse, in the California LifeLine program? How?
- Should the CA program apply the either current payment floor or the use the FCC maximum discount level to wireless?
- Should wireline and wireless plans be subject to same or different rules regarding required participant contributions?
- Would this change affect rate plans that are currently being offered?
- Would this impact the types of handsets being distributed?





# Upcoming And Suggested Possible Changes (continue)

## H. Adopting a self-enforcing federal Lifeline program budget

- What changes in the California Program would be necessary to create a stable/consistent environment for providers and participants?
- How would this affect CA claims? How would we identify people who are receiving varying levels of federal subsidy?
- Should CA also set a maximum budget?
- How can CA program make communications services affordable for groups FCC says are low priority? I.e. urban households







## Upcoming And Suggested Possible Changes (continue)

### I. Requiring consumers living in multi-unit housing to provide proof of residence in this type of housing

- How would CA ensure that the list used is accurate?
- Would this be too great a burden on particularly vulnerable participants?





# Upcoming And Suggested Possible Changes (continue)

## J. Requiring proof of eligibility during the renewal process

- Should the CA program require documentation for all renewals? Or only for renewals where the participant is changing the program used to qualify?
  - How would this process work?





# Next Steps...





# Recording of Stakeholders' Input and Closing Remarks

