

Regional Workshop on Tribal Consortia

Tribal Consortia Grants & Discussion of Tribal Broadband Needs

California Advanced Services Fund

Chico, CA

July 14, 2026



California Public
Utilities Commission

Agenda

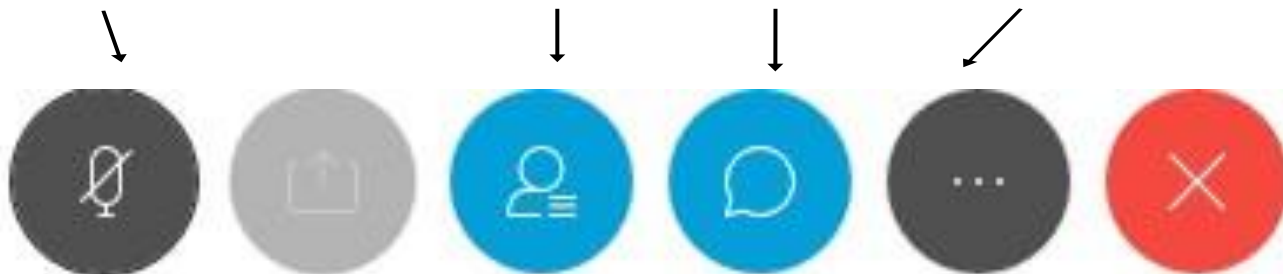
10:00 – 10:15 a.m.	Welcome & Opening Remarks
10:15 – 10:30 a.m.	Overview of the CASF Consortia Account
10:30 – 11:15 a.m.	Panel: Tribal Broadband Challenges & Needs
11:15 – 11:30 a.m.	Application Materials Walkthrough
11:30 – 12:00 p.m.	Tribal Feedback on Application Materials
12:00 – 1:00 p.m.	Lunch Break
1:00 – 1:30 p.m.	Discussion: Tribal Consortia Regions
1:30 – 2:00 p.m.	Discussion: Applications and Letters of Support
2:00 – 2:20 p.m.	Q&A Session
2:20 – 2:30 p.m.	Next Steps & Closing Remarks
2:30 – 2:45 p.m.	End of Public Workshop
2:45 – 4:45 p.m.	Government-to-Government Consultation

Logistics for Remote Attendees

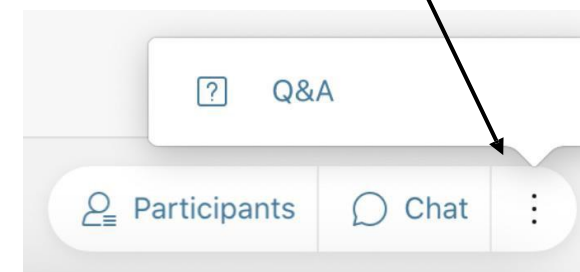
- All attendees are muted upon entry.
- To ask questions during the Discussion portion, please 'raise your hand' and the host will unmute you. 
- If you would rather type, **please use the "Q&A" or Chat function.** Q&A questions will be read aloud; attendees may be unmuted to respond to the answer verbally if requested. 

*Reminder: Please press mute when done speaking

Mute/ Unmute Participant List Chat Audio Options



"Q&A": on the bottom right of screen, click "3 dots"



Welcome & Opening Remarks

- Mechoopda Tribe Representative
- Commissioner Darcie L. Houck, California Public Utilities Commission
- CSU Chico Representative

Overview of California Advanced Services Fund (CASF) Consortia Grant Account & Tribal Consortia Framework

Presenter: CPUC Communications Division

CASF Consortia Account Overview

- Since 2010, as many as 17 Regional Broadband Consortia have facilitated deployment of broadband in California by assisting grant applicants with project development, grant applications, and broadband deployment projects.
- In 2025, CPUC Decision (D). 25-11-003 expanded eligibility to create up to **3 new Regional Tribal Consortia** that will specifically serve California Tribes.
- D.25-11-003 also expanded the scope of Consortia to include supporting other broadband deployment opportunities, such as the Broadband Equity Access & Deployment (BEAD) program.

Consortia Grant Eligibility

- Regional Broadband Consortia:
 - An eligible consortium may include
 - Local and regional government, public safety, elementary and secondary education, postsecondary education, health care, libraries, community-based organizations, tourism, parks and recreation, agricultural, business, workforce organizations, and air pollution control or air quality management districts.
 - An eligible consortium is not required to have as its lead fiscal agent an entity with a certificate of public convenience and necessity.
- Tribal Consortia:
 - Eligible Tribe(s) and Tribal entities as defined in Appendix C Section III, may apply as a regional Tribal Consortia (e.g., Southern, Northern, or Central regions).
 - The regional Tribal Consortia will be responsible for working with all eligible Tribes within the identified boundaries of the specific region it is approved to serve.

Consortia Grant Funding Availability

- The allocated funding for the Consortia Account is \$9.8 million for Fiscal Year 2025-2026.
- The allocated funding for Fiscal Year 2026-2027 is \$4.2 million.
 - \$500,000/Tribal Consortia/year is budgeted
 - D.25-11-003 currently limits Consortia Account grants to \$200,000/year if not modified.
- An allowable maximum reimbursement of \$2,000 per person for up to 5 representatives, for a total of up to \$10,000 per consortium for attendance at each annual public workshop.
- Fiscal Agent: Entity with lead responsibility and legal authority to represent the Consortium for purposes of the application and grant administration. The Fiscal Agent helps administer fiscal activities between the Consortium and the CPUC, receives and disburses grant funds, and helps ensure compliance with grant requirements.

Consortia Account Reference Materials

- **Decision 25-11-003:** [D.25-11-003 Adopting Mods to LEP Adoption and Consortia Accounts – PDF](#)
- **Appendix C** of D.25-11-003, Consortia Account Program Rules: [D.25-11-003 Appendix C - Consortia - PDF](#)
- **Administrative Manual** for CASF Consortia Account (v.12 updated Dec 2025) and relevant forms are available at: [CASF Admin Manual](#)
- **Example Notice** of Application Window for Consortia Account: [2026 Notice of Application Window - PDF](#)

Panel: Tribal Broadband Challenges & Needs

Tribal experiences with CPUC broadband grant programs, technical assistance, and feedback regarding new Consortia

Facilitator: Commissioner Darcie L. Houck

Tribal Broadband Panel

- Matthew Rantanen, Director of Technology for SCTCA and Director of Tribal Digital Village
- Linnea Jackson, General Manager of Hoopa Valley Public Utilities District
- Jon Walton, CEO of Yurok Telecom
- Sandra Knight, Director of Economic Development, Mechoopda Tribe
- Robby Jakovljevic, IT Director, Paskenta Band

Consortia Application Materials Walkthrough

Tribal experiences with CPUC broadband grant programs, technical assistance, and lessons regarding new Consortia

Presenter: CPUC Communications Division

Required Application Forms

Consortia Grant applicants are required to complete and submit a grant application package found on the [CASF Consortia website](#).

A complete application package includes the following forms, all checklist items, and additional information (i.e., applicant's information and experience, endorsements, etc.):

- **Appendix A-1** – CASF Consortia Grant Application Checklist
- **Appendix A-2** – Description of Existing and Past Non-CASF Funded Projects
- **Appendix A-3** – Board Member Background and Project Role
- **Appendix A-4** – Annual Work Plan and Performance Metrics Plan
- **Appendix A-5** – Proposed Detailed Budget
- **Appendix A-6** – Affidavit Form
- **Letter Committing to Act As Fiscal Agent**

** Always use latest current forms posted on the CASF Consortia website.*

Letters of Support

In addition, for Regional Tribal Consortia:

- Letters of Support from tribal governments are required (e.g., Tribal administrator, Tribal Chairperson, Tribal Council, or other applicable governing body).
- Any applicant for a regional Tribal Consortia will need to demonstrate support from Tribes located within the Consortia Region that it proposes to serve and may not include within its Consortia Region any Tribes that have protested their inclusion. A letter of support from a Tribal Chairpersons' Association will only be considered representative of the Tribes who have signed the letter.
- See Appendix C Sections III, V, and VI.A for definitions and requirements.

Application Tips

To make the application process more manageable, we recommend that applicants begin preparing a few key items early:

- A clear statement of the region the application proposes to serve.
- A list of participating or supporting Tribes and entities.
- Letters of support from Tribal governments.
- A proposed Fiscal Agent and Fiscal Agent commitment letter.
- A governance or coordination structure.
- Maps or other geographic information describing the proposed region.

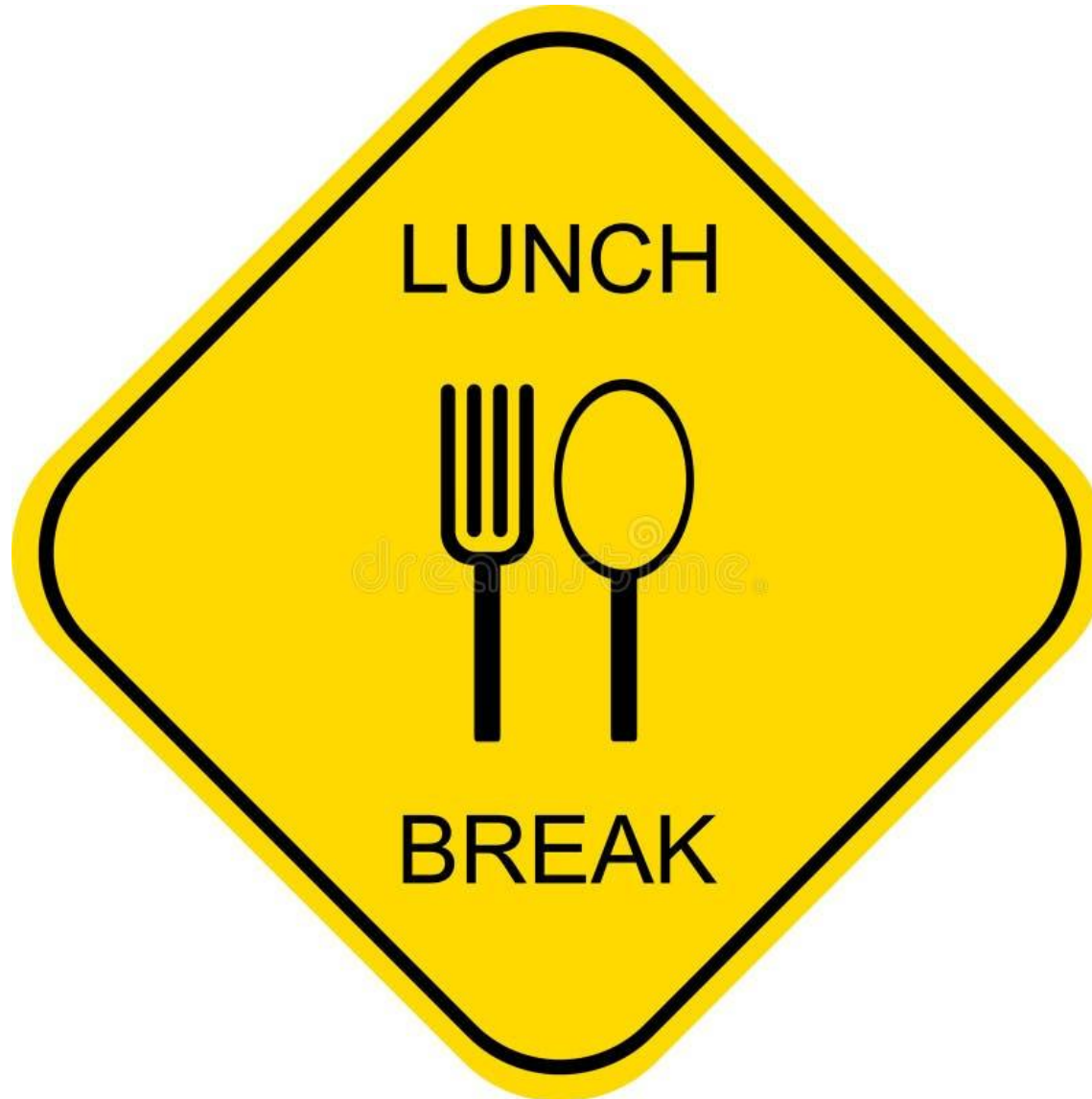
Tribal Feedback on Application Materials

Facilitator: CPUC Communications Division

Tribal Feedback on Application Materials

- What parts of the current application materials are unclear or concerning?
- What documents or requirements may be difficult to prepare or obtain?
- What examples, templates, or guidance would help prospective applicants?

Facilitator: CPUC Communications Division



Discussion: Tribal Consortia Regions

Facilitators: Commissioner Houck's Office and CPUC Communications Division

Discussion: Tribal Consortia Regions

- Based on the current regional framework (Northern, Central, Southern), what are appropriate groupings for Regional Tribal Consortia for this grant cycle?
- What factors should the CPUC consider if there are multiple overlapping applications? (e.g., geographic, cultural, administrative, technical)?
- How should CPUC staff ensure that Regional Tribal Consortia are inclusive of Tribes within the region it proposes to serve?
- How should the CPUC ensure that all Tribes are able to receive assistance from a Tribal Consortium if applications do not cover all Tribes?

Discussion: Applications & Letters of Support

Facilitators: Commissioner Houck's Office and CPUC Communications Division

Discussion: Applications and Letters of Support

- What is a realistic timeline for Tribes to determine whether they are interested in applying to form a Tribal Consortium or to participate in one? What would a realistic application deadline be?
- In addition to letters of support, what documentation should the CPUC consider as valid support for a Tribal Consortium claiming that it will serve them?
- What should the term of a Regional Tribal Consortia grant be, and does the CPUC need to make it possible for Tribes to change which Consortium serves them within a grant term?

Q&A Session

Facilitators: Commissioner Houck's Office and CPUC Communications Division

Next Steps & Closing Remarks

CPUC Contact Information

- **Communications Division:**

- CASF_Consortia_Grant_Administrator@cpuc.ca.gov

- **Office of Tribal Advisor**

- TribalAdvisor@cpuc.ca.gov

- **Office of Commissioner Houck**

- Advisor, Caleb Jones (caleb.jones@cpuc.ca.gov)



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