

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 VAN NESS AVENUE
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298



June 29, 2020
Via E-Mail

SUBJECT: Affordable Broadband Plan Subscription Information

TO: Internet Services Providers (ISPs) in California—

Since Governor Newsom declared a state of emergency in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, every facet of daily life has been altered to minimize the risk of infection in our communities. The outbreak and the state's response have changed how we learn, work, and socialize.

On April 24th, we [wrote you](#) to ask that you evaluate your service offerings to ensure they are affordable, sufficient, and accessible. As identified then, we want to make sure that everyone – especially during this pandemic – is connected. Economic standing should never be a barrier to access to broadband. Since this time, the pandemic has spurred some innovative solutions, which include:

- The City of Gonzales is providing free 4G LTE Wi-Fi hotspots through a unique partnership with T-Mobile as part of its “Internet for All” initiative.¹
- The Sacramento City Unified School District and the City of Sacramento have a partnership with Comcast – Sac City Kids Connect – to provide free internet access to thousands of eligible students.²
- AT&T has expanded eligibility for its affordable broadband program, Access from AT&T, and increased speeds offered to 25 Mbps, where available.³

These are only a few examples of creative thinking during a time of crisis. However, there are 58 counties, 482 cities, and 977 school districts in California, and it is clear that not every community is benefitting from these initiatives. We feel it is our obligation to ensure that every community can benefit from these or similar opportunities.

¹ <https://gonzalesca.gov/residents/internet-all>

² <https://www.sacbee.com/news/local/education/article242546411.html>

³ https://web.archive.org/web/20200424231818/https://www.att.com/shop/internet/access/#!/web/20200424231818mp_/https://www.att.com/#accordion

To this end, we are requesting data from you about how many people subscribe to your affordable broadband plans and where those subscribers are located. This data is vital to understanding which communities are being left behind, and is the missing piece that will enable us at the federal, state, and local levels to work on solutions for all communities. With this information, we can more accurately map the broadband adoption gap, and provide resources and engagement to the communities that are still struggling to get connected. These solutions are all the more urgent for schools and families as they plan for the challenges of distance learning for the quickly approaching school year.

Please provide the number of subscribers to your affordable broadband plans, by census block, by July 15, 2020 to CASF_Adoption@cpuc.ca.gov, and title the subject line of your e-mail as "Affordable Broadband Plan Subscription Information." This information will be aggregated and kept confidential in accordance with the Commission's procedures.

Thank you for all you are doing for Californians at this difficult time. We wish the best for you and your families and look forward to our continuing dialogue.

Sincerely,



Marybel Butler, President
California Public Utilities Commission



Martha Guzman Aceves, Commissioner
California Public Utilities Commission

CC: Governor Gavin Newsom
State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond
Senate Energy, Utilities and Communications Committee Chair, Senator Ben Hueso
Assembly Communications and Conveyance Chair, Assemblymember Miguel Santiago
California Broadband Council Chair, Director Amy Tong
Chief Advisor to the Governor on Business and Jobs Recovery, Tom Steyer
Commissioner Liane Randolph, CPUC
Commissioner Clifford Rechtschaffen, CPUC
Commissioner Genevieve Shiroma, CPUC
Alice Stebbins, Executive Director, CPUC
Robert Osborn, Communications Division Director, CPUC
Hazel Miranda, Office of Government Affairs Director, CPUC