

Assembly Committee on Communications & Conveyance

Rachel Peterson, Executive Director, CPUC

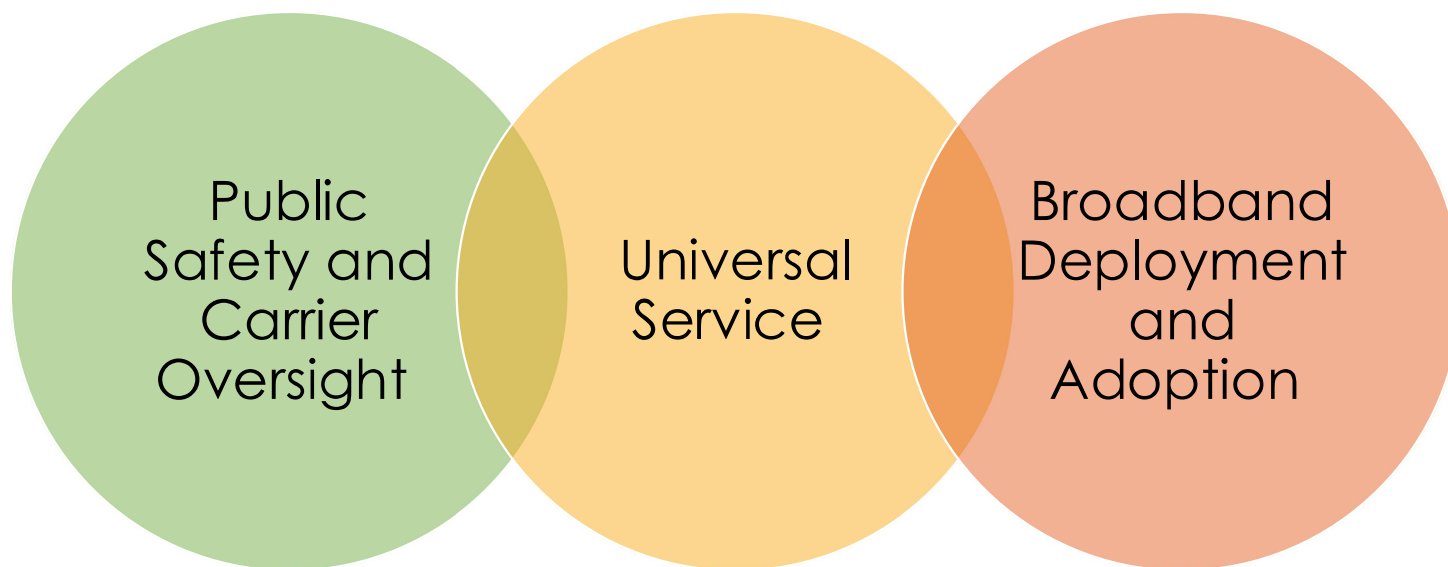
Ana Maria Johnson, Deputy Executive Director, Broadband
and Communications, CPUC

February 12, 2025



California Public
Utilities Commission

Communications: Access and Equity



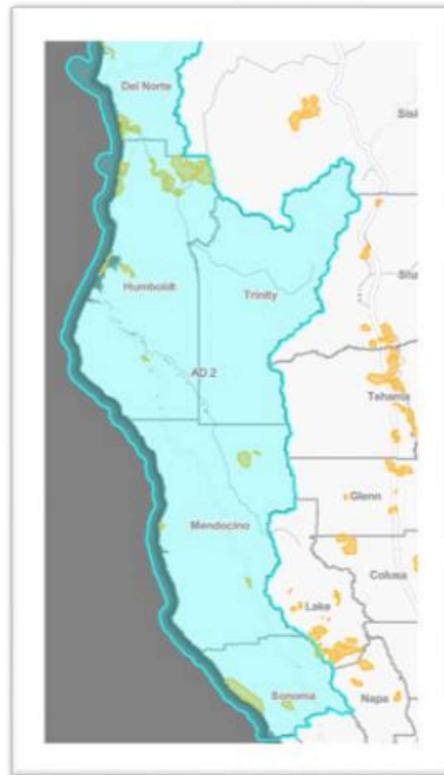
CPUC 2024 Annual Report: www.cpuc.ca.gov/25reports

Making a Difference for People and Communities

(Right) Federal Funding Account awarded projects in the Counties of Del Norte, Humboldt, Mendocino and Sonoma. These 11 projects, totaling over \$125 million, will benefit over 30,000 Californians.



(Above) California Advanced Services Fund Adoption Account Project: Binational of Central California was awarded funding to provide digital literacy training to 350 participants in Fresno and Madera farm worker communities.

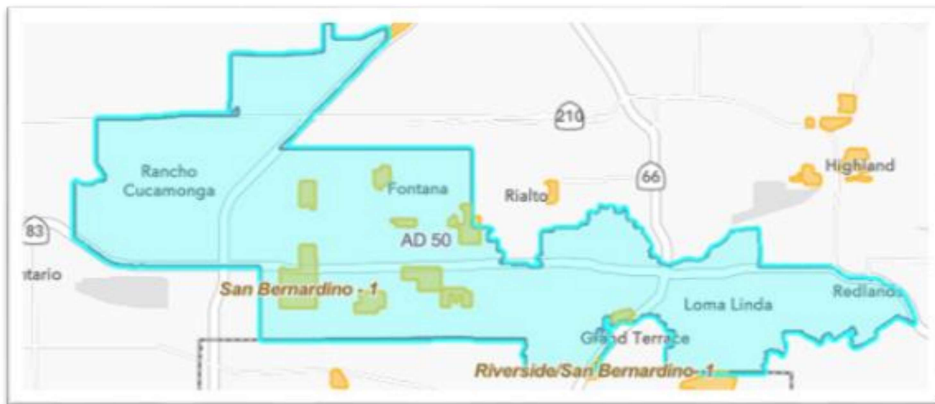


California Advanced Services Fund Adoption Account Project: Oakland Adult and Career Education established a mobile learning lab to offer in-person digital literacy resources, aiming to train 108 participants.



California Advanced Services Broadband Public Housing Account Project: East Garrison Apartments Project in Monterey County, which provided free broadband services to 66 households.

Making a Difference for People and Communities



Federal Funding Account awarded project in San Bernadino County, totaling nearly \$8 million, benefiting approximately 27,000 Californians.



California Advanced Services Fund Infrastructure Project: Hunter's Hoopa Valley Broadband Initiative to serve 1,198 households of the Hoopa Tribe in Humboldt County. Pole placement using an auger to drill hole for pole placement.

Public Safety and Carrier Oversight

Bolstering Public Safety through Carrier Oversight

- CPUC network resiliency rules require **72 hours of backup power** for network facilities located in California's communities in high wildfire risk areas.
- Customer **protections** immediately take effect upon a declared state of emergency.
- CPUC continuous **oversight of communications service providers** aims to ensure operating fitness, service quality, access to quality and reliable services in rural communities.

Related legislation: SB 560 (McGuire, 2019), AB 1699 (Levine, 2019), SB 341 (McGuire, 2021)



Macro cell site backup battery bank, Myers Flat, Humboldt County



Macro cell site fixed generator, Myers Flat, Humboldt County



Macro cell site camlock connection for mobile generator, Myers Flat, Humboldt County

Universal Service

Communications for All

- CPUC provides access to **affordable, high-quality communications services** to all Californians.
- Educational institutions, health care institutions, community-based organizations, and governments **use CPUC programs to access advanced communications services**.
- CPUC-funded projects **bridge access and connectivity gaps for essential communications services** in rural and urban communities, low-income households, and for people with disabilities.

The six public purpose programs are funded by an access line surcharge of \$1.11 per access line.

Public Utilities Code Section 709 defines universal service.



CASF Adoption Account Center for Elders' Independence digital literacy project

Expanding Communications Access

Six Public Purpose Programs bring access to essential communications services to millions of Californians.

1. California LifeLine
2. California Teleconnect Fund
3. California Connect (DDTP)
4. California Advanced Services Fund
5. California High-Cost Fund A
6. California High-Cost Fund B



"Quattro" device connects analog hearing aids to Bluetooth

Broadband Deployment and Adoption

CPUC Broadband Program Continuum

Planning

- Tribal Technical Assistance
- Local Agency Technical Assistance
- Consortia Account

Deployment

- Infrastructure Grant Account
- Federal Funding Account
- Broadband Public Housing Account
- Line Extension Account
- Loan Loss Reserve
- Broadband Equity Access and Deployment (BEAD)

Adoption

- Adoption Account
- Public Purpose Programs

Public Input and Engagement, Broadband Data Collection and Mapping, CalSPEED.

CPUC Last Mile Summary

Broadband Programs & Investments 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 2024-25	\$50 million	~\$2 billion
Summary	Funds for planning, infrastructure deployment.	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?	Application and prequalification windows slated for March 25, 2025	Adoption, Public Housing, Infrastructure, Line Extension and Tribal Tech Assistance application cycles in 2025.	Awarded	\$1+ billion in awards Assessing next steps for remaining six counties

Last Mile Grants Are Connecting Communities

108 Federal Funding Account Projects Across California

- **\$1.1 billion** in grants awarded
- **51** counties awarded through 1/31/2025
- **2 million** Californians benefitting from these investments
- **90** projects offer Low-Income Plans
- **67** projects offer Low-Cost Plans
- **65** projects participating in CA LifeLine



Federal Funding Account Awarded and Recommended Counties

Awarded counties in dark green as of January 30, 2025

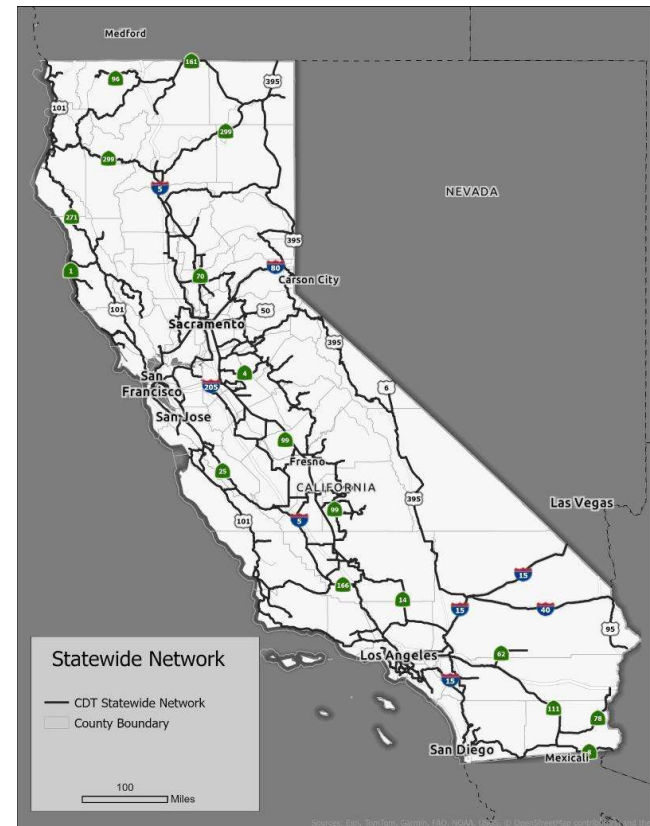
Transformational State Middle Mile Investment

California's Middle Mile Broadband Network is a transformational investment.

- Economic driver catalyzing private investment far into the future
- Makes Last Mile Network projects possible that would otherwise face an insurmountable gap
- Delivers public ownership and investments in communities historically facing the digital divide

Last Mile Federal Funding Account awardees connecting to the Middle Mile Broadband Network

- 55 of the 108 awarded projects and \$726 million (66%) of awarded funding connecting to the Middle Mile Broadband Network



Broadband Grants in Action



November 6, 2024. Pixley, CA. **Comcast and County of Tulare** groundbreaking for last mile Federal Funding Account grant benefiting approximately 35,000 Californians.

“Western Siskiyou County is one of the most remote regions in California, encompassing agricultural, tribal and multi-generational populations. This grant will ensure many California residents in our rural region will have access to one of today’s most critical infrastructure, fiber broadband... Finally, this grant will also benefit from the California State Middle Mile Broadband Initiative Project as the MMBI will significantly reduce the last mile costs for this project by building through this project area.”

**Russell Elliott, Chief Executive Officer,
Siskiyou Telephone Company**



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