



California Public Utilities Commission
505 Van Ness Ave., San Francisco

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Media Contact: Terrie Prosper, 415.703.1366, news@cpuc.ca.gov

PRESS RELEASE

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CPUC ACTS TO EXPAND BROADBAND ADOPTION THROUGH CALIFORNIA ADVANCED SERVICES FUND

SAN FRANCISCO, June 21, 2018 - The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), in its commitment to bridging the digital divide, today modified rules and requirements for the California Advanced Services Fund (CASF) to support broadband adoption programs in communities with low broadband access.

Today's decision establishes a new Broadband Adoption program as part of the CASF broadband grant program administered by the CPUC. The decision opens access to broadband grants available through the Broadband Adoption Account and the Broadband Public Housing Account as required by Assembly Bill (AB) 1665.

The CPUC will award the first \$5 million of \$20 million specified for a new Broadband Adoption Grant Program for 1) Digital Inclusion Projects to provide digital literacy training and public education to communities with limited broadband adoption and; 2) Broadband Access Projects to provide publicly available or after-school broadband access that may include free broadband access in community training rooms or other public spaces.

The adoption funding was made available by the Internet for All Now Act, which promotes broadband adoption and infrastructure deployment. Communities with demonstrated low broadband access and/or low broadband subscription rates will be given preference, as well as low income communities, senior communities, and communities facing socioeconomic barriers to broadband adoption.



Eligible applicants include local governments, senior centers, schools, public libraries, non-profit organizations, and community-based organizations. The CPUC is also accepting applications for the CASF Broadband Public Housing Grant/Loan accounts. Applications will be accepted July 1, 2018 through August 31, 2018.

Pursuant to AB 1665, the goal of the CASF program was extended from 2015 to 2022 and revised to provide funding for broadband infrastructure projects that will provide broadband access to no less than 98 percent of California households in each consortia region.

The CASF is funded by a surcharge rate on revenues collected by telecommunications carriers from end-users for intrastate telecommunications services.

For more information about the California Advanced Services Fund and the Broadband Adoption program, please visit: www.cpuc.ca.gov/casf.

The proposal voted on is available at:

<http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/PublishedDocs/Published/G000/M216/K627/216627462.PDF>.

The CPUC regulates services and utilities, safeguards the environment, and assures Californians' access to safe and reliable utility infrastructure and services. For more information on the CPUC, please visit www.cpuc.ca.gov.

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