

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Communications Division

RESOLUTION T-17903

February 26, 2026

R E S O L U T I O N

RESOLUTION T-17903 This Resolution Establishes a Registration Process for Local Agencies to Participate in the California LifeLine Home Broadband Pilot Program Adopted in Decision 25-08-050.

PROPOSED OUTCOME:

- Approve registration process for local agencies to participate in the California LifeLine Home Broadband Pilot Program.

SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS:

- There are no safety considerations associated with this resolution.

ESTIMATED COST:

- There are no costs associated with this resolution.

SUMMARY

This Resolution establishes a registration process for California's local agencies to participate in the California LifeLine Home Broadband Pilot Program adopted in

Commission Decision (D.) 25-08-050. For purposes of this Resolution, “local agency” has the meaning set forth in Government Code section 53167(e).¹

This Resolution adopts the following:

1. Staff recommendations of the streamlined registration process for local agencies.
2. For purposes of the California LifeLine Home Broadband Pilot Program, a local agency is an agency of local government authorized by law to provide broadband internet service, as defined in Government Code section 53167(e).
3. Local agencies are required to complete the Home Broadband Registration Form and submit it to the LifeLine Team at LifeLineBBPilot@cpuc.ca.gov.
4. Upon approval and receipt of the LifeLine Identification Number from the Commission’s Communications Division, local agencies must file a Tier 2 Advice Letter, in accordance with D. 25-08-050.
5. Local agencies are subject to all California LifeLine Home Broadband Pilot rules and requirements adopted in D.25-08-050.

BACKGROUND

On August 28, 2025, the Commission issued D.25-08-050, which approved a three-year, voluntary, technology-neutral Home Broadband Pilot (Pilot) to provide affordable home broadband access to low-income Californians.

D.25-08-050 authorizes a subsidy of \$20.00 for standalone fixed broadband or \$30.00 for a fixed broadband and voice bundle, limited to one per household. The minimum

¹ Under Government Code section 53167(e), “Local agency” means any agency of local government authorized by any other law to provide broadband internet service, including the following: (1) A city. (2) A county, including a county service area. (3) A community services district. (4) A public utility district. (5) A municipal utility district. (6) A joint powers authority. (7) A local educational agency, as defined in Section 47640 of the Education Code. (8) A sovereign tribal government. (9) An electrical cooperative, as defined in Section 2776 of the Public Utilities Code. (10) A metropolitan planning organization. (11) A regional transportation planning authority. Section 53167(e) is available here:

https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displayText.xhtml?lawCode=GOV&division=2.&title=5.&part=1.&chapter=1.&article=12.

service standards (MSS) are set at 100/20 Megabits per second (Mbps), with a data allowance of 1280 gigabytes (GB).

On October 7, 2025, Communications Division (CD) staff informed the parties in proceedings Rulemaking (R.) R.20-02-008, R.20-08-021, R.20-09-001, and R.23-04-006, that the Pilot will begin on January 26, 2026. The notice encouraged current California LifeLine (LifeLine) providers wishing to participate in the Pilot to file the required Tier 2 Advice Letter, as outlined in D.25-08-050. Additionally, non-LifeLine providers with a Commission-issued Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) or Wireless ID Registration (WIR)² that elect to participate in the Pilot must submit an advice letter requesting LifeLine provider authority and include the requirements established in the decision.

D.25-08-050 also authorized staff to develop a process, through a resolution, to allow local agencies to participate in the Pilot.³ These local agencies are unable to obtain a Commission-issued CPCN or WIR because they are not telephone corporations.

The inclusion of local agencies advances statutory directives under the Moore Universal Telephone Act, which directs the Commission to “promote equity to access to high-speed communications networks, the Internet, and other services to the extent those services provide social benefits.”⁴

The goals for the Pilot program are to provide access to broadband service, an essential service, for eligible low-income families, increase LifeLine program participation, and to achieve a provider participation rate similar to that of the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP).⁵ The Pilot is designed to minimize burdens on customers and communications service providers to participate in the LifeLine program while retaining safeguards against waste, fraud, and abuse.

DISCUSSION

In D.25-08-050, the Commission authorized CD staff to develop a process to allow local agencies to participate in the Pilot program. CD staff recommend the following streamlined registration process:

² For telephone corporations in California that provide Commercial Mobile Radio Services (CMRS), also known as Wireless Service providers, are required to comply with the Wireless ID Registration and obtain Communications Division approval to offer voice services in California.

³ D.25-08-050, Ordering Paragraph (OP) 6 at p. 52.

⁴ Public Utilities Code § 871.7(c).

⁵ D.25-08-050, COL 2 at p. 45.

A. California LifeLine Home Broadband Pilot Registration Form for Local Agencies

1. A local agency for the California LifeLine Home Broadband Pilot Program is any agency of local government authorized by law to provide broadband internet access service, as defined in Government Code section 53167(e).
2. Local agencies are required to complete and submit a California LifeLine Home Broadband Pilot Registration Form for Local Agencies⁶ (Appendix A) to LifeLineBBPilot@cpuc.ca.gov.
3. Once the form has been submitted and approved, the local agency will receive a LifeLine Identification Number for home broadband from CD.

B. Tier 2 Advice Letter submission

1. Upon approval of registration and in possession of a LifeLine Identification Number, local agencies are required to file a Tier 2 Advice Letter and shall include the following information:
 - a. Provider information including legal name, business address, telephone number, email address, and primary point of contact.
 - b. Provide LifeLine ID assigned by CD.
 - c. Provide Operating Company Numbers (OCN) from the National Exchange Carrier Association Inc. (NECA).⁷
 - d. List of all internet service plans and bundles that meet the minimum service standards including details of any promotional plan pricing that is scheduled to increase at a set interval;
 - e. An overview of the provider's network ability to provide services that meet the Pilot MSS requirements;
 - f. If applicable, a map of the areas where service is available but cannot meet or exceed the Pilot MSS and the technology used to provide service to these locations, if a provider cannot meet the Pilot's MSS requirements;
 - g. If applicable, any income-qualified, low-cost plans that do not meet the 100/20 Mbps standard, so long as the network is capable of delivering such service and the provider offers service tiers that meet or exceed the MSS;

⁶ The form will be available on the CPUC website.

⁷ Obtain the OCN from NECA from [Member Services | NECA](#)

- h. Typical notifications sent to customers (type, content, method);
- i. Number of potential eligible customers (Total Addressable Market, Serviceable Available Market, and Serviceable Obtainable Market);
- j. Demonstrate the company's financial, technical capabilities and managerial competence;
- k. Demonstrate the company's ability to remain functional at all times;
- l. Describe how the company will interface with customers before, during, and after enrollment; and
- m. Provide a copy of a fully executed performance bond in the amount of \$25,000.

Initial and Ongoing California LifeLine Requirements

Once the Commission approves the Tier 2 Advice Letter, the home broadband service provider must meet the administrative obligations set forth below.

Administrative Obligations

Home broadband service providers participating in the LifeLine program must follow all eligibility rules and comply with the California LifeLine Third-Party Administrator's enrollment process, validation checks, transmission requirements, and efforts to prevent waste, fraud, and abuse. Additionally, service providers must fulfill the data reporting requirements specified in D.25-08-050.

California LifeLine Program Rules and Requirements

LifeLine home broadband service providers must comply with all Commission decisions, orders, and resolutions associated with the LifeLine Program. Additionally, providers must comply with the following CPUC rules and requirements:

- GO 153-A:⁸ Rules and Requirements of the California LifeLine Program;
- GO 66-D (or its successor):⁹ Procedures for obtaining information and records in the possession of the Commission and its employees and Commission policy orders.
- GO 96-B:¹⁰ Rules for filing and publishing advice letters with the Commission's Industry Divisions.

⁸ <https://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/PublishedDocs/Published/G000/M421/K790/421790945.pdf>

⁹ <https://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/PublishedDocs/Published/G000/M302/K016/302016447.pdf>

¹⁰ <https://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/PublishedDocs/Published/G000/M023/K381/23381302.PDF>

COMMENTS

Public Utilities Code section 311(g)(1) provides that this Resolution must be served on all parties and subject to at least 30 days of public review. Any comments are due within 20 days of the date of its mailing and publication on the Commission's website and in accordance with any instructions accompanying the notice. Section 311(g)(2) provides that this 30-day review period and 20-day comment period may be reduced or waived upon the stipulation of all parties in the proceeding.

The 30-day review and 20-day comment period for the draft of this Resolution was neither waived nor reduced. Accordingly, this draft Resolution was mailed to parties for comments and will be placed on the Commission's agenda no earlier than 30 days from today.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

1. The Commission adopted Decision 25-08-050 on August 28, 2025, to implement a three-year, voluntary, technology-neutral Home Broadband Pilot Program (Pilot) to provide affordable broadband access to low-income Californians.
2. The Pilot subsidizes one standalone fixed broadband service for \$20.00 per month, or a bundle of fixed broadband and voice service for \$30.00 per month, limited to one per household.
3. The MSS for the Pilot is 100 Mbps download and 20 Mbps upload, with a monthly data allowance of 1,280 GB.
4. Decision 25-08-050 allows exceptions to the 100/20 Mbps MSS for areas where such speeds are not feasible, which requires service providers to submit supporting documentation.
5. Service providers with service plan tiers that are low-cost and/or income qualified, but do not meet the 100/20 Mbps standard, may also participate in the Pilot, so long as the network is capable of delivering such service and the provider offers service tiers that meet or exceed the MSS.
6. On October 7, 2025, staff informed the parties in proceedings 20-02-008, 20-08-021, 20-09-001, and 23-04-006 that the Pilot will begin on January 26, 2026.
7. Decision 25-08-050 authorized staff to develop a process, through a resolution, to allow local agencies to participate in the Pilot.
8. The inclusion of local agencies advances statutory directives under the Moore Act, which directs the Commission to “promote equity to access to high-speed communications networks, the Internet, and other services to the extent those services provide social benefits.”
9. A local agency is any agency of local government authorized by law to provide broadband internet access service, as defined in Government Code section 53167(e)..
10. The Commission’s resolution process offers providers, customers, and the public with notice of and the opportunity to be heard regarding revisions necessary to address successful Pilot implementation, such as changes that impact provider

participation, participants' access, and/or waste, fraud, and abuse, while also giving staff flexibility to adapt the Pilot to new information.

11. GO 153-A outlines the rules, procedures, and service requirements for California LifeLine program that all LifeLine providers must comply with.
12. It is reasonable to allow local agencies to participate in the Pilot without requiring additional certification from the Commission.
13. It is reasonable to adopt a streamlined registration process for local agencies that includes: 1) submission of a California LifeLine Home Broadband Pilot Registration Form for Local Agencies and 2) submission of a Tier 2 Advice Letter with the service provider information, service plans and additional information on network capabilities, customer notifications and the performance bond.
14. It is reasonable to require local agencies that elect to participate in the Pilot to comply with the rules and requirements for the Pilot as established in Decision 25-08-050.
15. It is reasonable to require local agencies to comply with all Commission rules, orders and resolutions related to the LifeLine program.
16. It is reasonable to require local agencies to comply with the California LifeLine Program's eligibility and enrollment processes.

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED THAT:

1. Local agencies as defined in Government Code section 53167(e) may elect to participate in the California LifeLine Home Broadband Pilot Program.
2. Local agencies are required to complete and submit a California LifeLine Home Broadband Pilot Registration Form for Local Agencies to the Communications Division (CD) at LifeLineBBPilot@cpuc.ca.gov.
3. Upon approval of registration and in possession of a LifeLine Identification Number, local agencies are required to file a Tier 2 Advice Letter and shall include the following information:
 - a. Provider information including legal name, business address, telephone number, email address, and primary point of contact.
 - b. Provide LifeLine ID assigned by CD.
 - c. Provide Operating Company Numbers from the National Exchange Carrier Association Inc. (NECA).

- d. List of all internet service plans and bundles that meet the minimum service standards including details of any promotional plan pricing that is scheduled to increase at a set interval;
- e. An overview of the providers' network's ability to provide service that meets program requirements;
- f. If applicable, a map of the areas where service is available but cannot meet or exceed the Pilot MSS and the technology used to provide service to these locations, if a provider cannot meet the Pilot's MSS requirements;
- g. If applicable, any income-qualified, low-cost plans that do not meet the 100/20 Mbps standard, so long as the network is capable of delivering such service and the provider offers service tiers that meet or exceed the MSS;
- h. Typical notifications sent to customers (type, content, method);
- i. Number of potential eligible customers (Total Addressable Market, Serviceable Available Market, and Serviceable Obtainable Market); Demonstrate the company's financial, technical capabilities and managerial competence;
- j. Demonstrate the company's financial, technical capabilities and managerial competence;
- k. Demonstrate the company's ability to remain functional at all times;
- l. Describe how the company will interface with Customers before, during, and after enrollment; and
- m. Provide a copy of a fully executed performance bond in the amount of \$25,000.

- 4. Local agencies must comply with Decision 25-08-050, which establishes the rules and requirements for the California LifeLine Home Broadband Pilot Program. All rules and reporting requirements from D.25-08-050 apply unless otherwise specified in this resolution.
- 5. Local agencies must comply with all Commission rules, orders and resolutions related to the LifeLine program.
- 6. Local agencies must comply with the California LifeLine Program's eligibility and enrollment processes.
- 7. Local agencies must comply with General Orders 66-D and 96-B.

This Resolution is effective today.

Commissioner Signature blocks to be added
upon adoption of the resolution

The foregoing resolution was duly introduced, passed and adopted at a conference of the Public Utilities Commission of the State of California held on _____; the following Commissioners voting favorably thereon:

Dated _____, at _____ California

APPENDIX A

**California LifeLine Home Broadband Pilot Registration Form for
Local Agencies¹¹
(Decision 25-08-050)**

1. APPLICANT INFORMATION

Name:

Address:

Telephone Number:

Website Address:

1.a. Principal Place of Business: (if different from address above)

1.b. Applicant is (check one only)

| | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> City | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Utility District |
| <input type="checkbox"/> County, including a county service area | <input type="checkbox"/> Joint Powers Authority |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community Services District | <input type="checkbox"/> Metropolitan Planning Organization |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Electrical Cooperative, as defined in Section 2776 of the Public Utilities Code | <input type="checkbox"/> Municipal Utility District |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Local Educational Agency, as defined in Section 47640 of the Education Code | <input type="checkbox"/> Regional Transportation Planning Authority |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Sovereign tribal government |
| | - California Tribe <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| | - Federal Recognition <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> |

Attach **Appendix A** with a copy of the entity's organization documents, such as a charter or tribal designation.

□. KEY CONTACT INFORMATION

Contact Name:

Department/Division:

Department/Division Position:

Address:

Telephone No.:

E-mail Address:

**3. OTHER LICENSE(S) HELD WITH THE COMMISSION, EITHER CURRENT AND/OR
PRIOR**

NONE

CURRENT AND/OR PRIOR, specify:

¹¹ As defined in Cal. Gov. Code § 53167(e)

4. FUNDS MANAGEMENT

4.a. Has the applicant previously received funds from the CPUC (for state-supported programs) or federal funds (for federal-supported programs)? Yes No

If yes, explain:

4.b. Has the applicant ever been subject to recoupment of payments under any federal/state grant)?

Yes No

If yes, explain:

5. FINANCIALS

Attach **Appendix B** and include the following documents: **1)** Certified Public Accountant (CPA) audited financial statements for the past three years, which include the Balance Sheet, Income Statement, and Statement of Cash Flows.

If the applicant does not prepare audited financial statements, the applicant must submit relevant and applicable financial documentation that provides substantially similar information to substantiate the applicant's financial qualifications and capabilities to participate in the program.

6. PERFORMANCE BOND REQUIREMENT

TRUE

Applicant attests that, upon approval of its request, it will comply with the performance bond requirements set by the California Public Utilities Commission as detailed in Decisions (D.)10-09-017, D.11-09-026, D.13-05-035, and D.24-11-003.

7. SWORN AFFIDAVIT

I, the undersigned, am authorized to make this Application on behalf of the Applicant named above and declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that all of the statements and representations made in this Application are true and correct and complete to the best of knowledge and belief after due inquiry.

Signed:

Name:

Title:

Dated: Click or tap to enter a date.

Address:

Telephone:

E-mail Address: