



California Public Utilities Commission  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**PRESS RELEASE**

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**CPUC Recommends Sixth Round of Grant Awards for  
Last Mile Broadband Infrastructure Projects Across California**

SAN FRANCISCO, August 23, 2024 – The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) today announced the sixth round of recommended awardees, including three Tribes, for last mile broadband projects as part of the \$2 billion [Last Mile Federal Funding Account Grant Program](#). This program aims to expand internet access for underserved and unserved communities across California. This announcement continues a rolling process of award recommendations, highlighting the state’s commitment to bridging the digital divide through [Broadband For All](#).

**Continuing to invest where it matters most**

Many awardees are creating new networks, connecting the next generation to education, improving access to healthcare, and empowering rural communities for economic development and emergency connectivity. Combined, these proposed projects will serve predominantly disadvantaged and low-income communities across the state.

This sixth round of funding recommendations includes two Draft Resolutions for proposed awards up to \$174.4 million for 15 Last Mile Federal Funding Account broadband infrastructure grant projects in Del Norte, El Dorado, Humboldt, Santa Clara, and Siskiyou counties. The recommendations include grants to three Tribal entities in Del Norte and Humboldt counties—the Tolowa Dee-ni’ Nation, Karuk Tribe, and Yurok Telecommunications Corporation.

Draft Resolutions with award recommendations will be released through the rest of the

year, each open for public comment. These recommendations will be considered and must be approved by vote of the CPUC's Commissioners at a public [Voting Meeting](#).

The two Draft Resolutions issued today (view [here](#) and [here](#)) will be eligible for award on the CPUC's September 26, 2024, Voting Meeting agenda. For a full list of recommendations and awards to date, visit the CPUC's [Federal Funding Account Recommendations and Awards](#) webpage.

### **Realizing funding milestones and fueling statewide economic growth**

Established under Senate Bill 156 (2021), the CPUC's Last Mile Federal Funding Account is fueling economic growth across rural, tribal, and urban communities statewide.

Since the initial round of applications closed in September 2023, the CPUC has received and reviewed 484 grant applications from every county in the state, totaling more than \$4.6 billion in requests. This overwhelming response highlights the urgent need for and the opportunity to expand internet access across California.

In addition to the Last Mile Federal Funding Account, the CPUC is investing in a suite of programs to connect millions of Californians with reliable, affordable high-speed internet. These State investments to close the digital divide include the [California Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment \(BEAD\) Program](#) and the [California Advanced Services Fund \(CASF\)](#).

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### **About the California Public Utilities Commission**

The CPUC regulates services and utilities, protects consumers, safeguards the environment, and assures Californians access to safe and reliable utility infrastructure and services. Visit [www.cpuc.ca.gov](http://www.cpuc.ca.gov) for more information.