



California Public Utilities Commission
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PRESS RELEASE

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

*This brings the total amount in grants recommended to
\$435 million for projects in 22 counties*

SAN FRANCISCO, August 8, 2024 – The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) today announced the fifth round of recommended awardees for last mile broadband projects as part of the \$2 billion [Last Mile Federal Funding Account Grant Program](#). This program expands broadband internet access for underserved and unserved communities across California. This announcement continues a rolling process of awards and 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 fifth Draft Resolution recommends awarding approximately \$91 million for Last Mile Federal Funding Account in Marin, Mendocino, San Benito, Santa Cruz, and Sutter counties benefitting an estimated 32,000 Californians. The recommendations include grants to City of Ukiah, City of Fort Bragg, Round Valley Indian Tribe, Comcast, Marin County, Surfnet, and Hankins Information Technology.

This brings the total amount in grants recommended to \$435 million for projects in 22 counties. For a full list of recommendations and awards to date, visit the CPUC's [Federal Funding Account Recommendations and Awards](#) webpage.

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 Draft Resolution issued today is [here](#) and may be on the CPUC's September 12, 2024 Voting Meeting agenda.

Fueling economic growth statewide

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 in the state's efforts in connecting millions of Californians with reliable, affordable high-speed internet, including 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 for more information.