

New Broadband Across California

Federal Funding Account | Success and Status

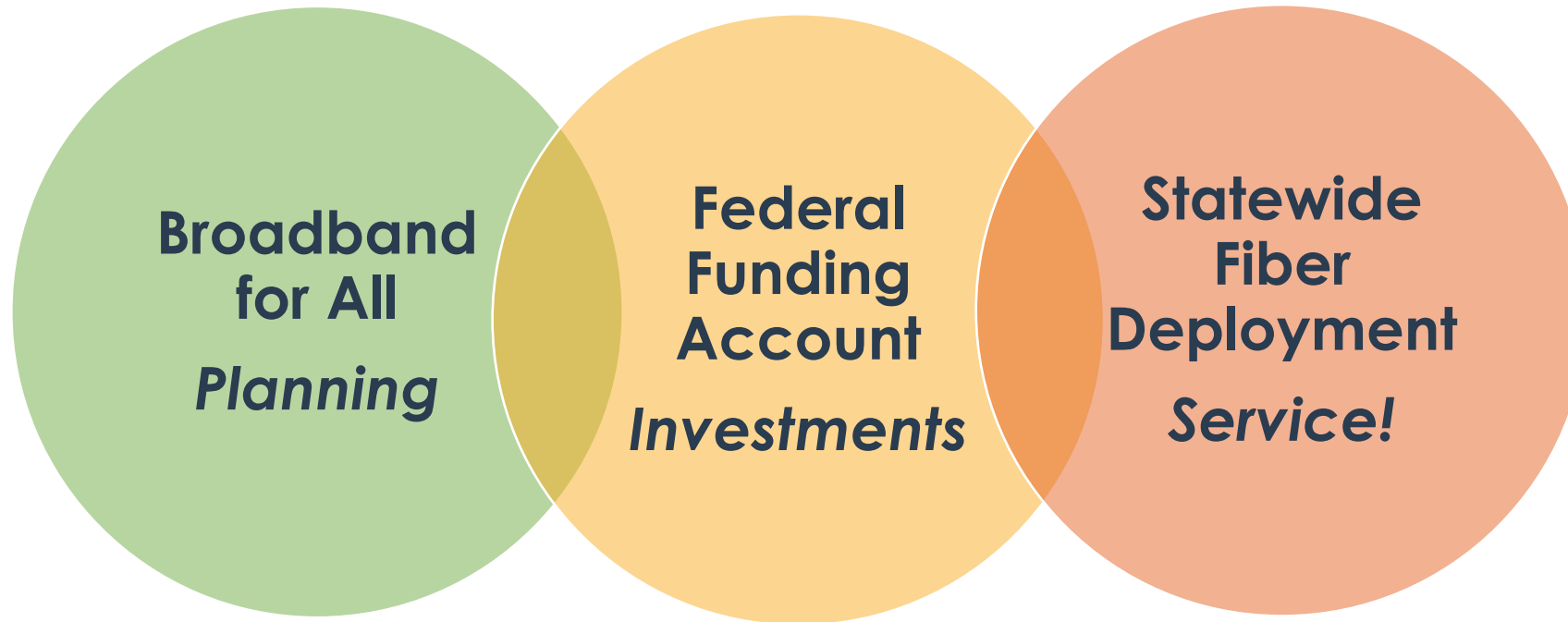
Broadband Regional Initiatives Branch
March 2026



California Public
Utilities Commission

March 24, 2026

California Last Mile Broadband in Context



Progressing Through Multi-Year Statewide Broadband Investments Making a Difference for People and Communities

Broadband Programs Ecosystem



Chumash Fiber Network (Santa Barbara County)
13 miles of tribally-owned resilient underground fiber

Last Mile Federal Funding Account

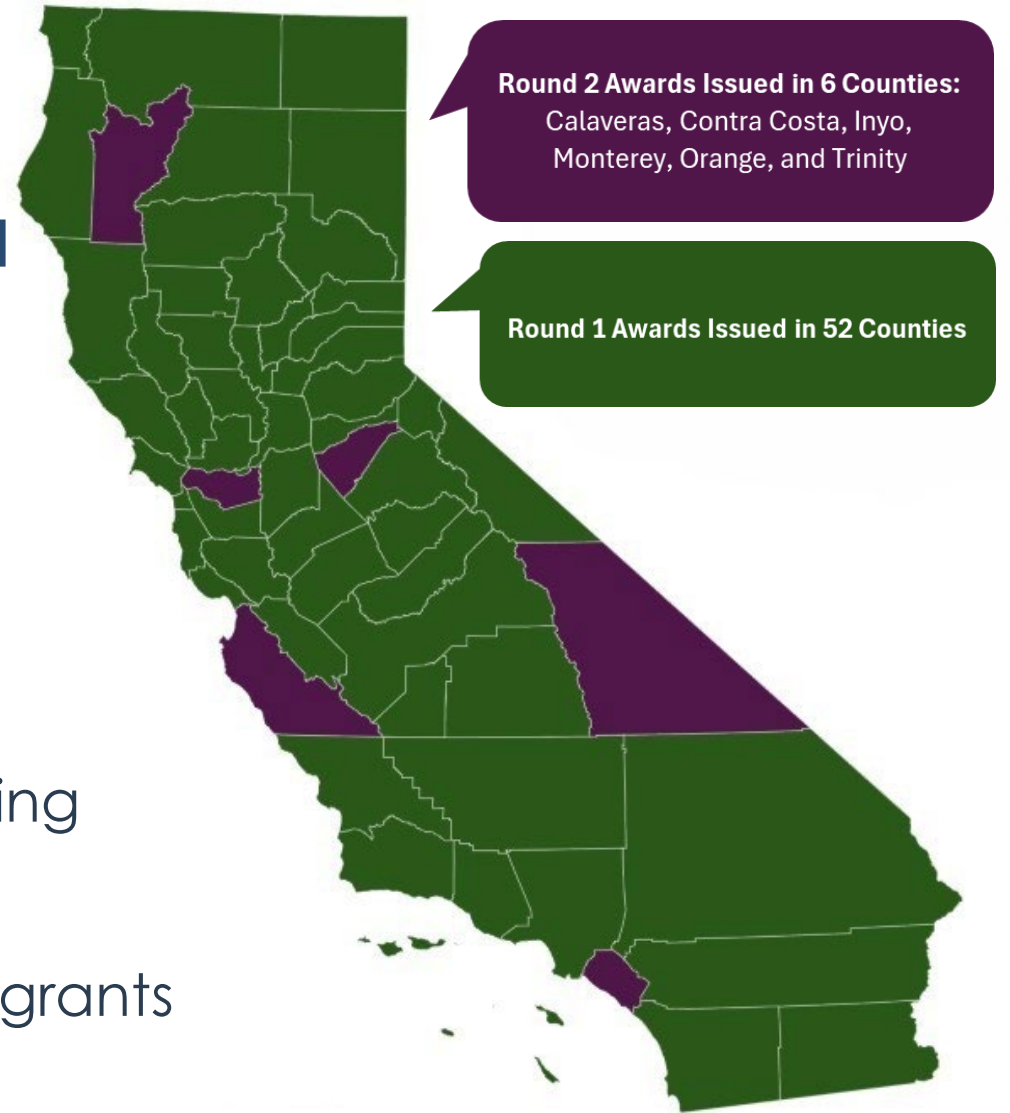


- Legislative Leadership Enacting **Senate Bill 156**
- **\$2 Billion** in multi-year **investments**
- Including **\$550 Million** planned in Fiscal Year 27-28
- Allocations per County for **Rural / Urban Parity**
- Early **Technical Assistance** for Broadband Planning
- **Engagement** with Public Entities and New Entrants
- **Investing in communities** across California and building **generational infrastructure**

Last Mile Awards Overview

106 Technical Assistance Planning Grants and 122 Infrastructure Projects Across California

- **\$1.28 billion** in grants awarded
- **58** counties with awarded grants
- **2.1+ million** Californians benefitting from investments
- **4,000** Community Anchor Institutions benefitting
- **7,500** fiber miles deploying
- **74+** projects grew from Technical Assistance grants



As of January 15, 2026

Investments Where Needed Most: Last Mile Broadband Affordability



- **120** Projects Offer an **Affordable Plan**
- **80** Projects in Primarily **Disadvantaged Areas**
- **54** Grants to **Public Entities** to Bolster Consumer Choice

***Federal Funding Account Projects Prioritize
Affordable High-Speed Internet for All Californians***

10 California Tribal Entities with Infrastructure Grants

- Federal Funding Account enables new tribal Internet Service Providers
- **83** Tribal Technical Assistance grants to **43** Tribes for preparation work
 - Barona Band of Mission Indians, Cold Springs Rancheria of Mono Indians, Colorado River Indian Tribes, Fort Bidwell Indian Community, Hoopa Valley Public Utilities District, Karuk Tribe, Round Valley Indian Tribes, Santa Ynez Band of Chumash, Tolowa Dee-Ni Nation, Yurok Telecommunication Corporation
- California Connectivity Stories: *Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians*



Conduit ready for deployment by Acorn Connected



Aan Chuuphan ISP leadership meets with state reps

Supporting Tribal Sovereignty with Technical Assistance for Self-Determination

Public Safety, Resilience, and Broadband

- **7,500** miles of fiber deploying
- **73** projects deploying in Tiers 2 and 3 High Fire Threat Districts



Federal Funding Account Broadband Projects Support First Responders and Communities When They Need it Most

Infrastructure and Jobs to Rural California



Installing conduit in Humboldt County



Splicing fiber in No. California



Trenching for conduit



Delivering trenching and vaults



Lighting and traffic mgmt. equipment



Preparing construction yard

Bringing Robust Fiber Broadband with Spin-Off Economic and Workforce Development Opportunities Across California

Last Mile Projects – Spotlight on Progress



City of Gustine in Merced County

Completed project investing \$4.8 million with UnWired Broadband and benefitting 6,500 Californians.



City of Ukiah Gigabit Fiber in Mendocino County

Investing \$5.6 million with City of Ukiah and Vero Fiber and benefitting 9,100 Californians.

Last Mile Projects – Spotlight on Progress



Terra Bella in Tulare County

Investing \$10.1 million with VARCOMM and benefitting 6,000 Californians.



City of Fort Bragg Gigabit Fiber in Mendocino County

Investing \$10.3 million with City of Fort Bragg and benefitting 8,700 Californians.

Last Mile Projects – Spotlight on Progress



Chumash Fiber Network in Santa Barbara County
Total Award: **\$4.7 million**

Project Details:

- **13 Miles** of tribally-owned resilient underground fiber
- Project size **6 square miles**

Project Outcomes:

- High-speed internet connections to about **300 locations**
- Benefitting **~850 People** on their Tribal lands and surrounding parts of Santa Barbara County
- "develop it ourselves, but not alone"

[California Connectivity Stories](#)



California Public Utilities Commission