

**California Public Utilities Commission (Commission)**  
**Broadband Public Housing Account**  
**Requirements and Frequently Asked Questions**  
**June 2024**

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1. What is the purpose of the Broadband Public Housing Account?
  - a. Pursuant to Public Utilities (Pub. Util.) Code section 281, the Broadband Public Housing Account provides grants and loans to build broadband networks offering free broadband service for residents of low-income communities including but not limited to, publicly supported housing developments, and other housing developments or mobile home parks with low-income residents. See the [Broadband Public Housing Account, Background and History](#) for more information.
  
2. Are Adoption/Digital Literacy projects funded through the Broadband Public Housing Account?
  - a. No. Adoption Projects/Digital Literacy are currently funded through the CASF Broadband Adoption Account. For more information, please see the [Broadband Adoption Account website](#).
  
3. How much funding is available?
  - a. The allocated funding for Broadband Adoption Account is \$30.141 million for fiscal year 2024-2025.
  
4. Who is eligible to apply for funding?
  - a. Eligible applicants include:
    - i. A publicly supported housing development or;
    - ii. Farmworker housing or;
    - iii. Other housing development,
    - iv. Mobilehome park or;
      - (a) a multi-dwelling unit development such as a Single Room Occupancy (SRO) or an apartment complex, in which all units are owned by the same entity(ies) and that has 80% or greater residential units that are “low-income” and
      - (b) tribal housing, including developments funded with Housing and Urban Development (HUD) funding or through a Tribally Designated Housing Entity or

- v. *One or more Census block group(s) each with a median household income at or below 80 percent of the statewide median income or with median household incomes at or below the county-specific threshold designated as “low-income” by the Department of Housing and Community Development’s list of state income limits adopted pursuant to Section 50093 of the Health and Safety Code.<sup>26,27</sup> For projects that are eligible based on Census Block Groups, a City or County Government may apply on behalf of the low-income community.*

*In addition to the above, for a BPHA Internet Extension project, the following entities are also eligible, **if applying on behalf of a low-income community as defined in Section III of the Guidelines.***

- *Entities with a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) that qualify as a “telephone corporation” as defined under Public Utilities (Pub. Util.) Code section 234; or*
- *Wireless carriers who are registered with the Commission (i.e., hold a Wireless Identification Registration (WIR))—wireless carriers need not obtain a CPCN to qualify for CASF funding; or*
- *Non-telephone corporations that are facilities-based broadband service providers—the Commission uses the National Telecommunications and Information Administration’s (NTIA) definition of a facilities-based broadband service provider, which is generally defined as any entity providing internet access service or middle mile transport, over its own fixed or wireless facilities to residence, businesses, or other institution—must also meet the CASF eligibility requirements and comply with program requirements. (See [D.14-02-018](#) and [T-17443](#)).*
- *Sovereign Tribal Government; or*
- *A city or a county government*

*For BPHA Internet Extension projects where an applicant’s low-income community is eligible based on its census block group, the applicant must provide each address that is being served by the proposed project.*

5. How will projects be evaluated?

- a. *Applications will be reviewed and evaluated based on Broadband Public Housing Account rules ([Decision \(D.\) 24-03-041, Appendix A.](#)) Applications may be approved by the Communications Division through ministerial review if it meets ministerial review criteria. Applications not meeting ministerial review may only be approved through a Commission Resolution which requires a full Commission review.*

*The ministerial approval criteria can be found at [D.24-03-041, Requirements and Guidelines, Appendix A](#)*

*Applications may be rejected for the following reasons:*

- i. The applicant submitted an incomplete application and did not respond to inquiries from Staff regarding missing information.*
  - ii. The applicant is a non-profit organization that failed to provide documentation showing good standing with the U.S. Internal Revenue Service and the California Secretary of State.*
  - iii. The applicant has previously had a Commission grant award rescinded for violation of Commission or program rules.*
  - iv. The applicant has made false statements to the Commission or to the Federal Communications Commission.*
6. What types of costs associated with the projects are eligible for reimbursement?
- a. The Commission will award grants to finance up to 100 percent of the costs to install last mile infrastructure, inside wiring and broadband network equipment but will not finance operations and maintenance costs through this program.*
    - i. All broadband networking equipment (hardware and software), wireless access points, wireless bridge(s), modem(s), switches, router(s), and firewall(s) for network security **but not personal computers, laptops, handheld or human interface devices.***
    - ii. Low voltage contracting work including the installation of inside wiring, network cabinets, NEMA boxes, 2 conduits, patch panels, cable tray or ladders, and other cabling requirements to provide power and connectivity for the broadband network equipment funded as part of the project. **Major rehabilitation, demolition or construction work will not be funded.***
    - iii. Broadband network engineering and designing documentation.*
    - iv. Hardware warranty of broadband network equipment as needed. Education and outreach efforts (including travel, up to 10% of grant amount) and materials.*
    - v. Installation, provisioning, and configuration labor costs at the Minimum Point of Entry (MPOE), MDFs (Main Distribution Frame), IDFs (Intermediate Distribution Frame), WAPs (Wireless Access Point), Wireless Bridges such as P2P and P2MP (Point to Point and Point to Multi-point) Radios, Switched Ethernet, and xDSL (Digital Subscriber Line) modems.*
    - vi. Taxes, shipping and insurance costs (if applicable) that are directly related to broadband network equipment deployed under the BPHA. Acceptable computing devices (**does not include smartphones**) within budgetary limits and inclusive of computer.*

*The Commission will reimburse the following BPHA Internet Extension project related expenses after a review of the project completion form and supporting documentation:*

- vii. Cost of project labor and materials, including design, permitting, installation, supervision, and telecommunications equipment.*
  - viii. Costs that include, but are not limited to, trenching, boring, backfill, cable, and conduits.*
  - ix. Costs for wired and/or wireless installations and turning up service.*
  - x. Cost for all last mile infrastructure. For example, reimbursable costs would include wired installations to interconnect from an MPOE to a middle mile network.*
  - xi. Cost of middle-mile infrastructure that is needed to achieve the last mile connection.*
  - xii. Costs to lease access to property or for Internet backhaul services for a period not to exceed five years.*
7. Is there a limit to how much funding an applicant can request (outside of ministerial criteria limits stated above)?
- a. Funding requests above the ministerial criteria limits may only be approved via Commission Resolution.*
8. Is there a limit to the number of projects an applicant can apply for?
- a. No, there is no statutory or programmatic limit.*
9. Is there a time limit between the awarding of funds and project completion?
- a. Yes. Grantees must start the project within six months after submitting a consent form accepting the terms stated in the Award Letter or Resolution (after the ramp-up time if applicable) and complete the project within a 12-month timeframe or earlier.*
10. What are the reporting requirements once funding for a project is granted and when can payment requests be made?
- a. For BPHA Infrastructure Projects*
    - i. Grantees are required to submit a project status report within six months of the project award date if the project has not been completed, irrespective of whether the grantee requests reimbursement or payment. The project status report must include the following:*
      - 1. Project Plan and deployment schedule showing major milestones with planned and actual completion dates.*
      - 2. Any variance between planned and actual dates needed to support with proper reasoning.*

3. *Project Risk Mitigation plan.*
4. *Budget Plan with a cost line item matched with the application.*

*Grantees may request payment for expenses incurred during the first six months if the status report is submitted.*

- ii. *Grantees must submit a project completion report with all required supporting documentation in order to receive final payment. The project completion report contains, total project cost, project cost summary breakdown, project milestone deployment details, CalSPEED test (or other commercially available speed tests, e.g., <https://speedof.me/>) results to show actual speeds, bill of materials (BOM), invoices supporting BOM, network and low-voltage engineering and design documentation, installation and commissioning checklist, provisioning and configuration files, as-built documentation with pictures showing labels and annotations, and project expenses summary. Completion report for payment must be submitted no later than 90 days after project completion.*

*For BPHA Internet Extension Projects*

- iii. *Upon completion of the project and before payment, the grantee must provide a signed completion form stating that the service connection has been installed and that they are receiving “Broadband Internet Access Service” and that the service has been turned on. In addition, the grantee must provide the following supporting documentation:*
  1. *Project Invoice*
  2. *As-built engineering drawings and documentation*
  3. *Test results of the Calspeed test (or other commercially available speed tests, e.g., [https://speedof.me](https://speedof.me/)) to show actual speeds conducted at the network interface device of the grantee’s MPOE, which demonstrates meeting or exceeding the “State-standard.”*

*Requests for Internet Extension projects may be submitted as the project is progressively deployed. Prerequisite for first payment is submitting a progress report showing at least 10 percent of the project completed. Subsequent payments are made at 35 %, 60%, 85% and 100 % project completion. The final 15 percent payment request (from 85 to 100 percent) will not be paid without an approved completion report.*

*Additional instructions and application materials are provided on the CPUC website on the CASF BPHA webpages.*

## 11. How can I apply?

- a. *Applicants should review the program rules found in [Decision \(D.\) 24-03-041, Appendix A](#). For application instructions please see the [Broadband Public Housing Account Infrastructure Application Instructions](#) or the [Broadband Public Housing Account Internet Extension Application Instructions](#)*

12. When are the application deadlines?

*a. Please refer to the [website](#) for the current schedule.*

13. How will applicants be notified if an application is approved or denied and what is the process for accepting the award?

*a. Awards made through ministerial review will be made by letter and will be regularly posted to the Commission's website. Application denials may be made via letter or by Resolution. Applications approved via Resolution will be emailed and will be available in the Commission voting meeting results.*

*Applications approved by award letter or Resolution will be provided a consent form which must be signed and submitted within 30 calendar days from the date of the award agreeing to the terms stated in the Resolution or Award letter. The Commission may deem the grant null and void if the consent form is not submitted within the 30 calendar days from award date.*