

Local Agency Technical Assistance

Information for Grant Applicants

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California Public
Utilities Commission

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Source: <https://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/reports/2020/02/how-states-are-expanding-broadband-access>

Governor Newsom Signs Historic Broadband Legislation to Help Bridge the Digital Divide



Middle Mile, \$3.25 billion

- Build, operate and maintain an open-access, state-owned middle mile network.

Last Mile, \$2 billion

- Set up last-mile broadband connections that will connect homes and businesses with local networks.

Loan Loss Reserve, \$750 million

- Loan loss reserve fund to enable local governments and nonprofits to secure financing for broadband infrastructure.

Local Agency Technical Assistance, \$50 million

- Technical assistance to local governments to prepare for broadband implementation.

California Advanced Services Fund (CASF) program changes

Wide-ranging changes to the CASF Public Utilities Code section 281 statute



Local Agency Technical Assistance Timeline



- Formal public process and venue for CASF Public Housing, Infrastructure, Consortia, and Adoption Accounts as well as Technical Assistance and Loan Loss Reserve Account. CPUC *California Advanced Services Fund (CASF) Proceeding (R. 20-08-021)*
- Local Agency Technical Assistance Funds to be awarded by December 31, 2024, unless demand for funds is exhausted sooner.

Decision (D.) 22-02-026

“..the Commission established the Local Agency Technical Assistance grant program to leverage a total of \$50 million for eligible local governments and Tribal governments (Tribes) to facilitate deployment of last-mile broadband infrastructure projects. These grants will support local agencies and Tribes in their efforts to expand broadband to families and communities where sufficient service and Internet access are lacking.”

Who is Eligible for Technical Assistance

A “local agency” is any local government entity authorized by law to provide broadband internet access service, including the following:

- a) city;
- b) county, including a county service area;
- c) community service district;
- d) public utility district;
- e) municipal utility district;
- f) joint powers authority;
- g) local educational agency, as defined by [Education Code section 47640](#);
- h) sovereign tribal government; and
- i) electrical cooperative as defined by [Public Utilities Code section 2776](#)

Eligible Uses of Technical Assistance

Pre-construction costs towards developing broadband network projects that benefit unserved and underserved Californians. Examples:

- Environmental, feasibility, engineering design studies or reports
- Needs assessments, market studies, broadband plans, business plans
- Forming a Joint Powers Authority

Reimbursement for work products that support local agencies in providing broadband service to communities. Examples:

- Consultant and community-based organization services secured to complete reimbursed work products.
- Local agency staff may also conduct work if incremental to regular roles.

How much can be awarded, and by whom?

\$50 million total budget, to be awarded by Dec. 31, 2024, or sooner

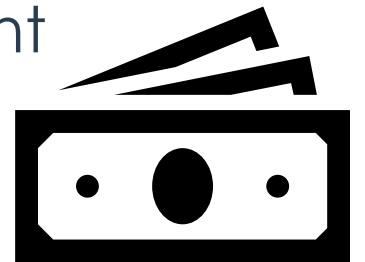
- Awards up to \$1 million per agency per fiscal year

CPUC staff determination (“ministerial review” in the CPUC Decision)

- Up to \$500,000 per local agency or tribal government *per fiscal year*
- Staff may recommend *any* application for resolution

Commission determination via **resolution** after public comment

- Up to \$1 million, via a Commission vote on a formal resolution
- 30-day public comment period



Grantee Manual

Guidance for LATA funding applicants and recipients:

- Application Spreadsheet
- Supplemental Application Materials
- Application Review and Approval Process
- Program Contact and Submission Process
- Payment and Reporting Requirements
- Other Requirements

Grant Process

Step 1. Proposal

- Obtain Application from the CPUC website
- Complete Application and Collect Supporting Documents
- Submit App with Supporting Documents to
- **Broadband.TechAssist@cpuc.ca.gov**

Applicant

Step 2. Review

- Review Application, Documents and Completeness
- Inquire about Incomplete Items via Email
- Approve or Deny Grants, Inform Applicants, Post Online

CPUC Staff

Step 3. Project

- Sign and Return the Consent Form and Payee Data Record
- Conduct Project with a Consultant and/or Staff
- Submit Work Products, Completion Report and Payment Requests

Grantee

Applications

Application Components

Fillable spreadsheet with 4 tabs:

Part 1 – Application Checklist

Part 2 – Project Summary

Part 3 – Budget Summary

Part 4 – Geographic Information

Geographic Information & Coordination

- Application must specify where you are proposing funding.
- Include as much geographic information as possible.
- Identify city and county.
- Include census blocks.
- Multiple agencies in the same area must coordinate.
 - D.22-02-026 term for this is “overlapping jurisdictions”
- Letters of support required to show coordination.
 - Tribes do not have overlapping jurisdictions with other local agencies.
 - Cities do not have overlapping jurisdiction with their counties

Supplemental Materials to Upload

1. Proposal:

- **Project Proposal** — if your staff is performing the work
- OR
- **Proposed Contract** — if a consultant is performing the work

2. Team Resumes/Qualifications

3. Detailed Scope of Work & Cost Estimate

Funding Awards

Funding Decisions & Kick-Off

- Funding decisions communicated via email
 - Applicants who are denied are encouraged to revise their proposal
- Submit required forms within 30 day of award date
 - Consent Form (accepts grant)
 - Payee Data Record (for taxes)
 - Assurances with Title IV of the Civil Rights Act (federal)
- Grantees should begin projects

Reporting and Record-Keeping

Documentation of pre-construction costs in service to "developing broadband network projects that benefit unserved and underserved Californians." Will include:

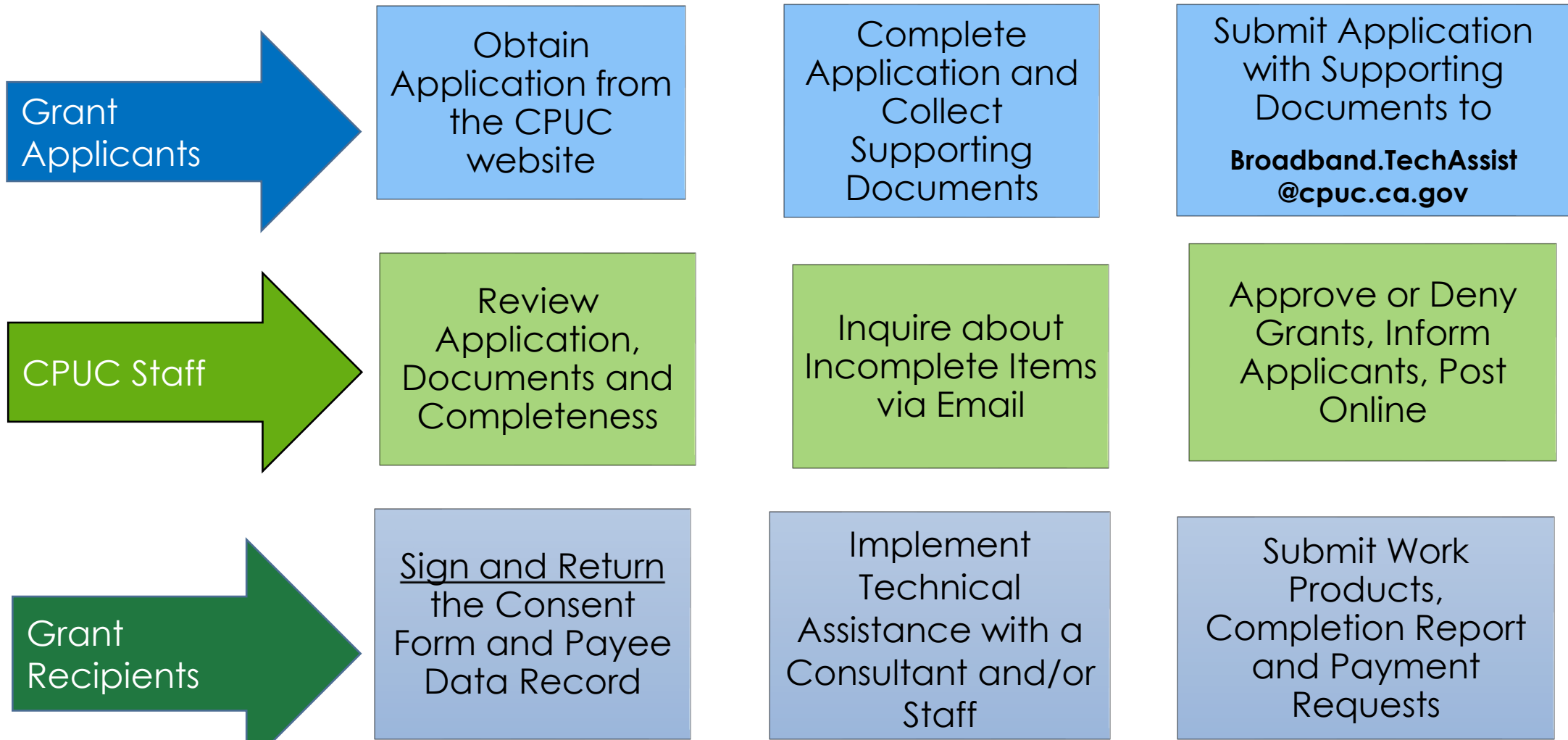
- Work Product Payment Requests with Invoices
- Final Report(s) and Work Products
- Final Payment Request and Completion Report

Recordkeeping to comply with rules as outlined in LATA Grantee Manual, CPUC Decision 22-02-026, and U.S. Treasury Rules for State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds.

Reimbursement Requirements

- LATA funding is for reimbursable work products.
- Provide the product so we can approve the payment.
- Work product examples:
 - engineering or feasibility study
 - broadband plan
 - network design
- **Must submit the work product with the invoice**

Technical Assistance Lifecycle



References

- **Local Agency Technical Assistance Webpage**

(Application and instructional materials are here)

<https://bit.ly/CPUCLATA>

- **Broadband Deployment Branch Website**

<https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/industries-and-topics/internet-and-phone/broadband-implementation-for-california>

- **Tribal Technical Assistance (additional funding for tribes)**

<https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/industries-and-topics/internet-and-phone/california-advanced-services-fund/tribal-technical-assistance>

Local Agency Technical Assistance PROGRAM CONTACT

Broadband.TechAssist@cpuc.ca.gov

- Applications
- Questions
- Administration



California Public Utilities Commission

LOCAL AGENCY TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Broadband.TechAssist@cpuc.ca.gov