Broadband Resource Guide

Broadband Overview

Broadband refers to a high-speed internet connection that allows for the transmission of large amounts of data at a faster rate than traditional, dial-up internet connections. It enables users to access the internet, download and upload files, stream videos, participate in online telehealth, and engage in various other online activities with greater efficiency and speed.

The term "broadband" is used to describe a wide range of technologies and transmission mediums that provide these high-speed connections. Common broadband technologies include Digital Subscriber Line (DSL), cable, fiber optic, satellite, and wireless connections.

The key characteristics of broadband are its ability to offer fast data transfer rates, low latency, and the capability to handle multiple data streams simultaneously. This high capacity and speed allow users to have a more efficient and seamless online experience accessible across various devices, such as computers, smartphones, tablets, and smart TVs. Broadband has become a fundamental infrastructure for modern communication and has greatly transformed the way people access and interact with information on the internet.

The California Governor's Office of Emergency Service's Infrastructure RSF has developed the Broadband Resource Guide to provide funding and technical assistance to the communities that need broadband. This guide's grant funding, technical assistance, and support resources are intended to assist with current recovery activities and build broadband resiliency for the future.

For more information about the opportunities presented within this guide, as well as any questions or concerns, please reach out to us at longtermrecovery@caloes.ca.gov.

Contents

California State Grant & Loan Resources

California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) Federal Funding Account Program	
Application Deadline	September 29, 2023, 4:00 PM, Pacific Daylight Time
Program Description	Last-mile broadband infrastructure projects to expeditiously connect unserved and underserved Californians.
Eligibility	Any State, political subdivision of a State, Tribal government, technology company, electric utility, utility cooperative, public utility district, telecommunications company, telecommunications cooperative, nonprofit foundation, nonprofit corporation, nonprofit institution, nonprofit association, regional planning council, Native entity, economic development authority, or any partnership of two or more of these entities.
Available Funding	This is a $2,000,000,000 grant program 25 Million or less per project
Application Process	https://broadbandportal.cpuc.ca.gov/s/
Website	Federal Funding Account Application Resources webinar-slides-20230706.pdf (ca.gov)
Contact Information	federalfundingaccount@cpuc.ca.gov
Timeline for Funding Availability	TBD

CA Infrastructure & Economic Development Bank (IBank) California Infrastructure State Revolving Fund (ISRF)	
Application Deadline	Ongoing
Program Description	The ISRF Program provides financing to public agencies and nonprofit corporations sponsored by public agencies for a wide variety of infrastructure and economic development projects (excluding housing).

	Eligible Projects Include, but are not limited to: City streets; County highways; State highways; Drainage, water supply and flood control; Educational, cultural and social facilities; Environmental mitigation measures; Goods movement-related infrastructure; Parks and recreational facilities; Port facilities, public transit; Power and communications facilities; Public Transit; Sewage collection and treatment; Solid waste collection and disposal; Water treatment and distribution; Defense conversion; Public safety facilities; Military infrastructure; and Industrial, utility and commercial.
Eligibility	Any subdivision of a local government, including cities, counties, special districts, assessment districts, joint powers authorities and nonprofit organizations sponsored by a government entity
Interest Rate	Interest Rates: IBank uses a proprietary interest rate method to ensure borrowers have the best chance to receive below-market interest rates
Application Process	Online: https://ibank.ca.gov/loans/loan-applications-documents/
Website	https://www.ibank.ca.gov/loans/infrastructure-loans/
Contact Information	Lina Benedict, ISRF Program Manager Email: infrastructureloans@ibank.ca.gov
Timeline for Funding Availability	Ongoing

Federal Grant & Loan Resources

USDA-RD	
Telecommunications Infrastructure Loans & Loan Guarantees	
Application Deadline	Ongoing
Program Description	This program provides financing for the construction, maintenance, improvement and expansion of telephone service and broadband in rural areas. Funds may be used to finance broadband capable telecommunications service such as improvements, expansions, construction, acquisitions, and refinancing.
Eligibility	Most entities that provide telecommunications in qualified rural areas including: • State and local governmental entities • Federally Recognized Tribes

	• Non-profits, including Cooperatives, and limited dividend or mutual associations • For-profit businesses (must be a corporation or limited liability company) Eligible Areas: • Rural areas and towns with a population of 5,000 or less • Areas without telecommunications facilities or areas where the applicant is the recognized telecommunications provider are eligible
Loan Information	Loan Types Available: • Cost-of-Money Loans are direct loans from USDA Rural Utilities Service • Loan Guarantees of up to 80% allow private lenders, including the Federal Financing Bank (FFB), to extend credit to qualified borrowers in rural areas • Hardship Loans may be used, at the sole discretion of USDA Rural Utilities Service, to assist applicants in meeting financial feasibility requirements for applications to serve underserved areas
Application Process	Apply Online at RD Apply. View more information on the online application process here: https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/telecommunications-programs/telecommunications-infrastructure-loans-loan-guarantees
Website	https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/telecommunications-programs/telecommunications-infrastructure-loans-loan-guarantees
Contact Information	Robert Machado Email: Robert.Machado@usda.gov Phone: 202-934-0601
Timeline for Funding Availability	Ongoing

Office of Elementary & Secondary Education Small, Rural School Achievement Program (SRSA)	
Application Deadline	TBD – Administered Annually

Program Description	The purpose of the Small, Rural School Achievement (SRSA) program is to provide small, rural local educational agencies (LEAs) with financial assistance to address the unique needs of rural school districts that frequently lack the personnel and resources needed to compete effectively for Federal competitive grants and receive formula grant allocations in amounts too small to be effective in meeting their intended purposes. LEAs are entitled to funds if they meet eligibility and application requirements. Awards are issued annually, and award amounts are determined using a formula.
Eligibility	Local Government & Authority, Public/Private Institutions of Education K-12
Available Funding	Awards Formula Dependent – 2022 SRSA Congressional Allocation $97,500,000
Application Process	Online. LEA must have a DUNS number prior to applying.
Website	https://oese.ed.gov/offices/office-of-formula-grants/rural-insular-native-achievement-programs/rural-education-achievement-program/small-rural-school-achievement-program/
Contact Information	Leslie Poynter Email: reap@ed.gov Phone: 202-401-0039
Timeline for Funding Availability	TBD – Awards are issued annually

Office of Elementary & Secondary Education Rural and Low-Income School Program (RLIS)	
Application Deadline	TBD – Administered Annually
Program Description	The purpose of the Rural and Low-Income School (RLIS) grant program is to provide poor, rural districts with financial assistance to address the unique needs of rural school districts that frequently lack the personnel and resources needed to compete effectively for Federal competitive grants and receive formula grant allocations in amounts too small to be effective in meeting their intended

	purposes. The grant is non-competitive, and eligibility is determined by statute. Awards are issued annually to state educational agencies (SEAs), which make sub-grants to local educational agencies (LEAs) that meet the applicable requirements. Awards are made to all SEAs with eligible LEAs that apply.
Eligibility	Eligible Recipients: K-12 Schools Rural Recipients Specifics on eligibility can be found here: https://oese.ed.gov/offices/office-of-formula-grants/rural-insular-native-achievement-programs/rural-education-achievement-program/rural-and-low-income-school-program/eligibility/
Available Funding	Dependent – Up to $93,920,000 available
Application Process	Must contact your State Coordinator CA Dept of Education District Innovation and Improvement Office Patricia Ramirez 916-319-0787 REAP@cde.ca.gov
Website	https://oese.ed.gov/offices/office-of-formula-grants/rural-insular-native-achievement-programs/rural-education-achievement-program/rural-and-low-income-school-program/
Contact Information	Leslie Poynter Email: reap@ed.gov Phone: 202-401-0039
Timeline for Funding Availability	TBD – Awards are issued annually

Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Section 108 Loan Guarantee Program Funding	
Application Deadline	Ongoing

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Program Description	The Section 108 Loan Guarantee Program (Section 108) provides communities with a source of low-cost, long-term financing for economic and community development projects. Section 108 financing provides an avenue for communities to undertake larger, more costly projects, where they may have limited resources to invest in upfront. Section 108 can fund economic development, housing, public facilities, infrastructure, and other physical development projects, including improvements to increase their resilience against natural disasters. This flexibility of uses makes it one of the most potent and important public investment tools that HUD offers to states and local governments. Section 108 assistance can be deployed in two ways: • Directly by the community or its governmental or non-profit partner to carry out an eligible project • Indirectly with a community or its partner re-lending (or, in limited circumstances, granting) the funds to a developer or business to undertake an eligible project The program is authorized under Section 108 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 as the loan guarantee component of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program. The specific regulations governing the Section 108 Program may be found at **24 CFR 570**, Subpart M, Loan Guarantees.
Eligibility	Eligible Applicants: • States • Metropolitan cities and urban counties (i.e., CDBG entitlement recipients) • Non-entitlement communities that are assisted in the submission of applications by States that administer the CDBG Program • Non-entitlement communities eligible to receive CDBG funds under the HUD-Administered Small Cities CDBG Program (Hawaii). The public entity may be the borrower or it may designate a public agency partner as the borrower More information on eligible projects and requirements can be found here: https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/section-

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	108/section-108-program-eligibility-requirements/#section-108-eligibility-requirements
Loan Information	Dependent: View the Section 108 Loan Guarantee Program's Rates and Fees here: https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/section-108/section-108-program-eligibility-requirements/#section-108-rates-and-fees
Application Process	Online; More information on the application process can be found here: https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/section-108/section-108-program-eligibility-requirements/#apply-for-the-section-108-program
Website	https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/section-108/
Contact Information	Email: Section108@hud.gov . Specific Points of Contacts can be found here: https://www.hud.gov/sites/dfiles/CPD/documents/HUD-Section-108-Points-of-Contact.pdf
Timeline for Funding Availability	Ongoing

Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program	
Application Deadline	January 23, 2024
Program Description	Grants can be used for broadband deployment on tribal lands, as well as telehealth, distance learning, broadband affordability and digital inclusion.
Eligibility	Tribal
Available Funding	$1,000,000,000 will be available to distribute
Application Process	View Opportunity | GRANTS.GOV
Website	https://www.cetfund.org/resources-and-reports/grant-opportunities/abc-grants/ Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program | BroadbandUSA (doc.gov)
Contact Information	Email: broadbandusa@ntia.gov

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Timeline for Funding Availability	N/A

Department of Transportation (DOT) **Utilities Program: Accelerating Broadband Infrastructure Deployment**	
Application Deadline	Ongoing
Program Description	It has been recognized that it is in the public interest for utility facilities to jointly use the right-of- way of public roads and streets when such use and occupancy does not adversely affect highway or traffic safety, or otherwise impair the highway or its aesthetic quality, and does not conflict with the provisions of Federal, State, or local laws and regulations. The opportunity for such joint use avoids the additional cost of acquiring separate right-of-way for the exclusive accommodation of utilities. As a result, the right-of-way of highways, particularly local roads and streets, is often used to provide public services to abutting residents as well as to serve conventional highway needs. There is no direct funding specifically for broadband. However, broadband may be eligible for reimbursement with federal-aid highway funds if it supports a transportation use.
Eligibility	Local Government & Authority, State, Tribe Eligible Recipients: State and Local Governments; Tribal Entities
Other Information	See eligibility of under the Utilities Program Utilities Program - Utility Program - Design - Federal Highway Administratidon (dot.gov)
Application Process	Contact Julie Johnston if interested: Email: Julie.Johnston@dot.gov Phone: 202-591-5858
Website	https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/utilities/
Contact Information	Julie Johnston Email: Julie.Johnston@dot.gov Phone: 202-591-5858
Timeline for Funding Availability	Ongoing

Philanthropic Grants

Comcast NBC Universal Foundation – Project UP	
Application Deadline	Ongoing
Program Description	They imagine a world where everyone has what they need to shape the future. As that world becomes more digital, it's our responsibility to use media and technology to ensure that everyone has the resources and opportunities they need to participate and excel in today's society. **Project UP** is their comprehensive initiative to advance digital equity and help build a future of unlimited possibilities. Backed by a **$1 billion commitment** to reach 50 million people, Project UP encompasses the programs and community partnerships across Comcast, NBCUniversal, and Sky that connect people to the Internet, advance economic mobility, and open doors for the next generation of innovators, entrepreneurs, storytellers, and creators. Comcast will launch 1,000 Lift Zones nationwide to provide safe spaces for students to access free, high-capacity WiFi by year end.
Eligibility	For-Profit Organizations, Nonprofit Organizations, Public/Private Institutions of Education K-12, Public/Private Institutions of Higher Education
Maximum Award	Dependent on application amount
Application Process	Check here periodically for updates: https://corporate.comcast.com/impact/project-up
Website	Website: https://corporate.comcast.com/impact/project-up Project UP Fact Sheet: https://update.comcast.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/33/dlm_uploads/2021/09/Project-Up-One-Pager_Feb-2022.pdf

Contact Information	No contact listed.
Timeline for Funding Availability	Ongoing

AT&T – Corporate Citizenship	
Application Deadline	Ongoing
Program Description	AT&T invests significant resources to advance education, strengthen communities, and improve lives. Through philanthropic initiatives and collaboration, AT&T and the AT&T Foundation support projects that create opportunities, make connections and address community needs where we - and our customers - live and work. Programs include: • Job Shadow Program: Provides job shadowing opportunities to students. • Community Dropout Summits: Held in conjunction with local businesses, education, and government leaders. • Disaster Relief: When disaster strikes, AT&T employees assist victims and affected communities through corporate giving and assistance, volunteerism, and network preparedness and response. • AT&T Cares: Program launched to provide volunteerism options and tools for employees. • AT&T Pioneers: Current and retired employees of AT&T work as volunteers and hold fund raisers for nonprofit.
Eligibility	Nonprofit Organizations U.S. based nonprofit organizations with federal tax exemption under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.
Maximum Award	Dependent on application amount
Application Process	Applicants are encouraged to contact their local AT&T office for any applicable application guidelines.
Website	Website: https://about.att.com/csr/home/society.html Disaster Recovery: https://about.att.com/pages/disaster-recovery/network-recovery
Contact Information	Applicants are encouraged to contact their local AT&T office for any applicable application guidelines.

Timeline for Funding Availability	Ongoing

Technical Assistance and Resources

Environmental Protection Agency Smart Growth: Cool & Connected	
Application Deadline	Ongoing
Program Description	Cool & Connected is a planning assistance program that helps community members develop strategies and an action plan for using broadband to create walkable, connected, economically vibrant main streets and small-town neighborhoods that improve human health and the environment. Communities can combine broadband service with other local assets such as cultural and recreational amenities to attract investment and people, including young people, and diversify local economies.
Eligibility	For-Profit Organizations, Individuals & Households, Local Government & Authority, Nonprofit Organizations, Public/Private Institutions of Higher Education
Maximum Award	N/A
Application Process	If interested, contact smartgrowth@epa.gov
Website	Cool & Connected: https://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/cool-connected Smart Growth in Small Towns and Rural Communities: https://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/smart-growth-small-towns-and-rural-communities
Contact Information	Email: smartgrowth@epa.gov
Timeline for Funding Availability	N/A

Department of Labor Workforce Development in Telecommunication Sector: Apprenticeship Investments in Support of Broadband & 5G (TIRAP)	
Application Deadline	Ongoing
Program Description	Built by and for telecommunications employers, TIRAP is a competency-based apprenticeship aimed at growing the productivity of the workforce as directly as possible. TIRAP defines career paths in a growing number of critical occupations, including tower technicians, wireless technicians, and utilities workers, along with leads and foremen. By establishing on-the-job training as well as classroom learning, these apprenticeships help you onboard and upskill your workers. This leads to better efficiency and safety —plus higher employee engagement and retention. Powered by the Wireless Infrastructure Association and with partners across the country, TIRAP provides training resources, support, and access to incentive funding for our members and other telecommunications companies. This registered apprenticeship program leads to a national credential recognized by the U.S. Department of Labor.
Eligibility	Public & Private Institutions of Higher Education
Maximum Award	Dependent
Application Process	Contact Deb Bennet: Deb.Bennet@wia.gov
Website	https://www.tirap.org/
Contact Information	Deb Bennet Email: Deb.Bennet@wia.gov
Timeline for Funding Availability	Ongoing

Coquille Economic Development Corporation – Tribal One Broadband	
Application Deadline	Ongoing
Program Description	Tribal One Broadband (T1B) provides comprehensive IT, telecom and fiber optic network solutions and integrated control systems

(ICS) for businesses and governments throughout the country. Tribal One's redundant network was the first and only metropolitan Ethernet service in Coos Bay and North Bend. Utilizing state of the art solutions, Tribal One is able to provide Fiber-To-The-Premises solutions as well as traditional and enhanced TDM and DSL services.

- Inside Building and Outside Plant Structured Cable and Wireless Infrastructure Design
- Build Telecommunications Systems Operations
- Photovoltaic Solar
- Industrial Control Systems/SCADA

Eligibility	Agricultural Producers, For-Profit Organizations, Healthcare Institution, Local Government & Authority, Nonprofit Organizations, State, Territory, Tribe
Maximum Award	N/A
Application Process	If interested, contact info@tribal.one
Website	Technology Solutions	Tribal One
Contact Information	Email: info@tribal.one
Timeline for Funding Availability	N/A

Digital Inclusion	
Application Deadline	Ongoing
Program Description	Provides web links to the Broadband Federal funding database and Federal digital inclusion resources
Eligibility	All
Maximum Award	N/A
Application Process	N/A
Website	Digital Inclusion	BroadbandUSA (doc.gov)
Contact Information	N/A

Timeline for Funding Availability	N/A

USDA Innovation Matters: Funding Opportunities, Resources, Events and Learning	
Application Deadline	Ongoing
Program Description	Provides a wide variety of information on funding opportunities, publications, events, and learning. You can also subscribe to receive updates.
Eligibility	All
Maximum Award	N/A
Application Process	N/A
Website	Funding Opportunities, Resources, Events and Learning: Innovation Matters (govdelivery.com)
Contact Information	N/A
Timeline for Funding Availability	N/A

Guide to New Broadband Funding for HUD Assisted Communities	
Application Deadline	Ongoing
Program Description	Provides key information about two of the new programs, the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) and the Digital Equity Act (DEA). These programs are the most relevant to HUD-Assisted communities. The guide will also provide tips for engaging with state broadband leaders during the planning process – a necessary step in ensuring your community's needs get full consideration during this historic time!
Eligibility	All

Maximum Award	N/A
Application Process	N/A
Website	ConnectHomeUSA Guide to New Broadband Funding for HUD-Assisted Communities (hudexchange.info)
Contact Information	N/A
Timeline for Funding Availability	N/A

The Affordable Connectivity Program	
Application Deadline	Ongoing
Program Description	Interactive database that allows you to locate affordable service programs by zip code.
Eligibility	All
Maximum Award	N/A
Application Process	N/A
Website	Affordable service programs | Broadband for All (ca.gov)
Contact Information	N/A
Timeline for Funding Availability	N/A

Broadband for All Events	
Application Deadline	Ongoing
Program Description	Provides information on upcoming Broadband events and meetings. Provides information on affordable service programs
Eligibility	All

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Maximum Award	N/A
Application Process	N/A
Website	Events	Broadband for All (ca.gov) Affordable service programs	Broadband for All (ca.gov)
Contact Information	N/A
Timeline for Funding Availability	N/A

USDA Telecom Programs	
Application Deadline	Ongoing
Program Description	Provides information on various Telecom Programs within USDA
Eligibility	For-profit and non-profit entities, tribes, municipalities and cooperative
Maximum Award	N/A
Application Process	N/A
Website	Telecom Programs	Rural Development (usda.gov)
Contact Information	laurel.leverrier@usda.gov Assistant Administrator, Telecom Program (202)720-9556
Timeline for Funding Availability	N/A

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