



## Funding Amount: \$2 Billion

### Program Name

California Last Mile Federal Funding Account (FFA)

### Funding Amount

Up to \$2 billion from California Appropriations and American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds

### Key Dates

- **June 30** – Application Window Opens
- **July 6** – FFA Application Process Webinar: [Register Here](#)
- **September 29 – Application Window Closes at 4 pm PDT**
  - Applications accepted on a rolling basis every six months as long as funding is available
  - California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) staff will review applications in no more than 6 months
  - Organizations will have 14 days to file objections to applications

### Eligible Applicants

- Entities with Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) that qualify as a “telephone corporation”
- Non-telephone corporations that are facilities-based broadband service providers
- Local governmental agencies
- Electric utilities
- Non-profits
- Cooperatives
- California Tribes

### Eligible Areas

- **Unserved Area** – no access to speeds of at least 25/3 Mbps

### Eligible Projects

- Maximum grant request is \$25 million

### Application Content

- Project Summary (Distributed Publicly)
- Applicant Entity Information
- Description of Applicant’s Current Broadband Infrastructure and Existing Infrastructure in Project Area
- Project Location Data
- Median Income of each Census Block Group Intersecting the Project Area
- Project Eligibility



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- Deployment Schedule
- Proposed Project Expenditures
- Economic Life of All Assets to be Funded
- Irrevocable Letter of Credit Requirement
- Pricing Commitment
- Marketing and Outreach Plan
- Government and Community Support
- Funding Sources
- Financial Qualifications
- Project Viability
- Providing Voice Service
- California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Attestation
- Affidavit

## Selection Criteria

- Match – **up to 10 points**
- Project Technology Choice – **up to 10 points**
- Type of Partnership – **up to 20 points**
- Offers California LifeLine and/or Federal Lifeline – **up to 10 points**
- Pricing Commitment – **up to 10 points**
- Offering low-cost broadband plan at 50/20 Mbps – **up to 20 points**
- Existing broadband service need – **up to 20 points**
- Applicant capacity and performance – **up to 10 points**
- Technology, Network, and Budget – **up to 10 points**
- Leveraging Statewide Middle Mile – **up to 10 points**

## Buildout Requirements

- Funded projects must deliver 100/100 Mbps
  - Unless significant topographic, geographic, or financial impracticability exists
- Projects shall be completed within 24 months after receiving authorization to construct
  - CEQA exempt projects must be completed in 18 months
- Applicants commit to serve customers in project area at prices not exceeding those provided in application for 5 years after project completion
- Projects shall provide service at no higher than 100 milliseconds of latency
- Data caps are strongly disfavored; indication the proposed infrastructure is insufficient
- Projects shall participate in the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP)

## Middle Mile

- Middle mile connections will be considered but applicants are encouraged to focus on last-mile connections

- Opportunity Evaluation
- Effective Grant Writing
- Track Record of Success



# FUNDING ALERT!



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## Eligible Costs

- Costs directly related to the deployment of infrastructure
- Costs to lease access to property or for Internet backhaul services for a period not to exceed 5 years
- Costs incurred by an existing facility-based broadband provider to upgrade its existing facilities to provide for interconnection
- Costs incurred during the period beginning March 3, 2021, and ending December 31, 2024
- Administrative expenses directly related to the project are capped at 2% of the grant amount

## Links & Emails

- [California Last Mile Federal Funding Account Program Website](#)
- [California Last Mile Federal Funding Account Program Guidelines](#)
- [California Last Mile Federal Funding Account Public Map](#)
- [California Last Mile Federal Funding Account Broadband Grant Portal](#)
- Please submit questions to: [federalfundingaccount@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:federalfundingaccount@cpuc.ca.gov)



[funding@nrtc.coop](mailto:funding@nrtc.coop)

Contact us for Funding Assistance. NRTC's Funding Practice offers key benefits including:

- Opportunity Evaluation
- Effective Grant Writing
- Track Record of Success

**Telecom Companies:** Contact Chick Kennedy at 352-552-1317 or [ckennedy@nrtc.coop](mailto:ckennedy@nrtc.coop)

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