

California Broadband Council

July 25, 2025



Broadband for All



WELCOME

Jared Johnson

**DEPUTY STATE CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER
& CHIEF DEPUTY DIRECTOR**

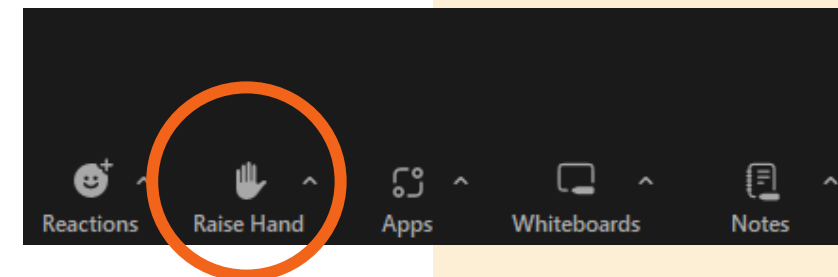
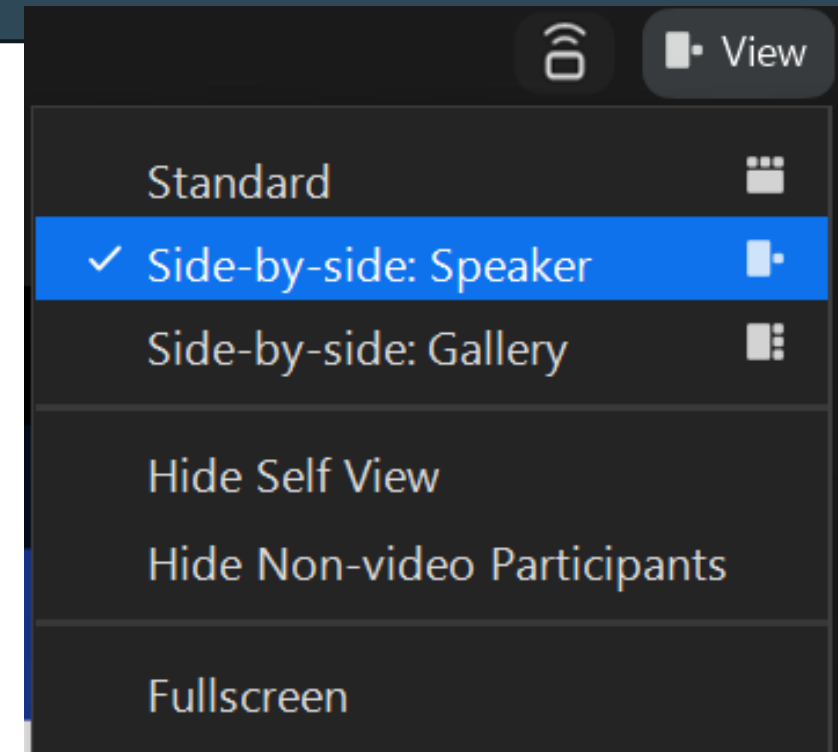
California Department of Technology

Housekeeping

Select Side-by-Side: Speaker Mode for the best viewing experience when slides are shared

Closed Captions English closed captions are available. Choose "CC closed caption" on your toolbar and select "show subtitle".

Reactions Raise Hand feature or *9 if you calling into Zoom by phone





Agenda

Welcome

Executive Report

Broadband for All Updates

Member Spotlight

Community Spotlight

Public Comment

Closing



EXECUTIVE REPORT

Scott Adams

DEPUTY DIRECTOR

Office of Broadband and Digital Literacy
California Department of Technology

Executive Report

- Broadband for All Action Plan Updates
- Member and Community Spotlights
- Status of Digital Equity Act Programs



Status of Digital Equity Act Programs

On May 9, 2025, the new federal administration terminated the Digital Equity Act Programs, including:

- **State Digital Equity Capacity Grant Program**
 - Termination for all states
 - California's \$70 million State Digital Equity Capacity Grant
 - CalDEP suspended until further notice
- **Digital Equity Competitive Grant Program**
 - Termination for all states
 - Grants to 13 California-serving entities, totaling nearly \$130 million

BROADBAND FOR ALL UPDATES

Broadband Action Plan

Long-Term Action Items Updates

Scott Adams

DEPUTY DIRECTOR

Office of Broadband and Digital Literacy
California Department of Technology



BROADBAND FOR ALL UPDATES

Broadband Action Plan

Long-Term Action Items Updates

Steve Yarbrough

RADIO COMMUNICATIONS BRANCH MANAGER

California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (CalOES)

BROADBAND ACTION PLAN LONG-TERM ACTION ITEMS UPDATES

Action Item 8: Next Gen 9-1-1

Description: Regularly coordinate and convene with jurisdictions implementing next-generation 9-1-1 to expand broadband infrastructure to enhance public safety and disaster preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation capabilities.

Status: Infrastructure to support the NG 9-1-1 network—including structural and electrical work, software, hardware, and trenching needed to accommodate underground fiber optics—has been installed across the state.

Update:

- **Paused voice call migration** to evaluate the NG 9-1-1 network and to meet with the 23 PSAPs and vendors.
- The meetings provided insights on the **lived experience of the PSAPs using the system** and the **vendor challenges**.
- Cal OES is using this information to better address issues and **improve the statewide implementation process**.
- Working with CDT and vendors to develop a plan that improves the experience and continued migration of the PSAP's, including the contractual framework under state contracting rules
- Designing a **transition plan** with existing NG 9-1-1 vendors.



BROADBAND FOR ALL UPDATES

Broadband Action Plan

Long-Term Action Items Updates

Maria Ellis

DEPUTY DIRECTOR, BROADBAND

California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC)

Action Item 9: Network Resilience & Reliability Standards

Description: Establish standards for network resilience and reliability. Recent experiences responding to wildfires throughout the state can be leveraged to identify shortcomings in network resilience and reliability. Analysis of demonstrated gaps can be used to set standards and a timeline for bringing networks throughout the state in line with such goals.

Status: Ongoing

Update: The CPUC monitors providers' resiliency plans and backup power coverage through data requests and in-person site visits and has developed reports on resiliency standards and reporting.

Action Item 10: Consumer Protection & Equitable Service

Description: Establish clear standards of consumer protection and provisioning of equitable service by providers. Evaluate the surcharge collection and overall bill impacts, including other non-public charges to minimize total customer bill impacts. Examine whether broadband service in underserved and unserved communities is consistent with current licensing requirements.

Status: Ongoing

Update: Modernized surcharge collection to ensure a fairer distribution of federal Universal Service funds while safeguarding programs that provide connectivity for schools and libraries.

Action Item 12: Improve CA LifeLine Program

Description: Improve the California LifeLine Program by including stand-alone broadband service, and work in partnership with internet service providers to encourage participation in the program.

Status: Draft Proposed Decision to be published end of Summer 2025.

Update: Draft Proposed Decision to be published end of Summer 2025.

BROADBAND ACTION PLAN LONG-TERM ACTION ITEMS UPDATES

Action Item 17: Guidance to Local & Tribal Governments

Description: Provide guidance to local governments and partner with Tribal governments to develop broadband strategies and explore options for increasing competition in their communities. Specifically, provide guidelines for communities to inventory local infrastructure assets, publish template lease agreements, and make assets available on an open-access basis.

Status: Ongoing

Update: The multi-year broadband investments build on years of work to provide expert guidance to Tribes, public entities, and new entrants, including:

- 106 awards for \$50 million to local agencies and Tribes
- An additional 75 awards to Tribes as part of an ongoing Tribal Technical Assistance program
- Broadband caseworkers assisting California providers have secured over \$300 million in external grant funding

BROADBAND ACTION PLAN LONG-TERM ACTION ITEMS UPDATES

Action Item 19: Broadband Interactive Map

Description: Collect more granular and more accurate broadband data and leverage this information to build out the public California Interactive Broadband Map. Collecting and mapping broadband availability data at the home address level will provide internet service providers and local and tribal governments the tools needed to pursue state and federal funding opportunities competitively. It will also enable them to advocate proactively for their eligibility to participate in such programs by being able to demonstrate a lack of broadband access. This will incorporate the following data in the California Interactive Broadband Map: Existing public broadband assets, geographic boundaries, roads, anchor institutions, public rights-of-way, and fairgrounds.

Status: Complete

Update: California broadband maps updated to use broadband serviceable locations to align with federal agency maps and practices

Action Item 22: Technical Assistance & Funding

Description: Identify additional opportunities to provide technical assistance to local governments, Tribes, nonprofits and their partners to best leverage local, state, federal, and private funding opportunities. This may include supporting the creation of special districts or cooperatives to deploy networks, and providing support in navigating the technical, regulatory, and financial hurdles to deployment.

Status: Ongoing

Update:

- Local Agency Technical Assistance program supported 106 entities in developing broadband plans and obtaining engineering assistance
- Tribal Technical Assistance program supports Tribal entities with communication issues
- Caseworker teams have engaged counties, cities, Joint Power Authorities with hundreds of meetings, including over 300 engagements with California Tribes



BROADBAND FOR ALL UPDATES

Middle-Mile Broadband Initiative

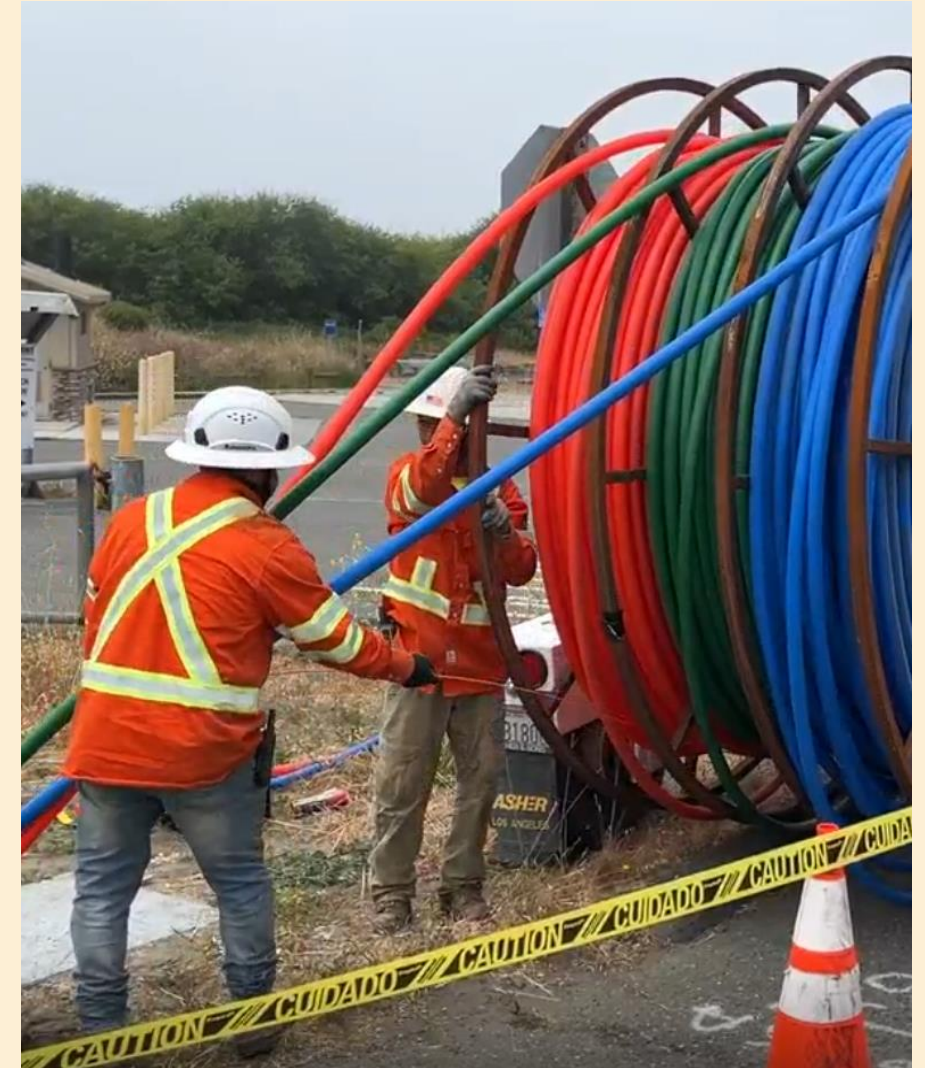
Robert Payne

PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Middle-Mile Broadband Initiative
California Department of Technology

High Level Project Progress

- New or Expanding Partnerships
- Permitting Improvements
- Operations Update
- Early Marketing & Sales Update



New or Expanded Partnerships

City of Fort Bragg
(Joint-Build 4 miles)

American Dark Fiber
(128 Huts)



MIDDLE-MILE BROADBAND INITIATIVE

New or Expanded Partnerships



Klamath, CA
Yurok Tribe



Samoa, CA
Vero

Permit Process Improvements

**All Joint-Build
Partners
Submitted ALL
Permit
Applications
into Caltrans
System**

**Caltrans and
CDT Working
with Partners
to Identify
Priority
Segments
Across Districts**

**CDT and
Caltrans
Working with
Partners to
Create
Standardized
Processes**

MIDDLE-MILE BROADBAND INITIATIVE UPDATE

MMBN Operational Timeline Video



Broadband for All

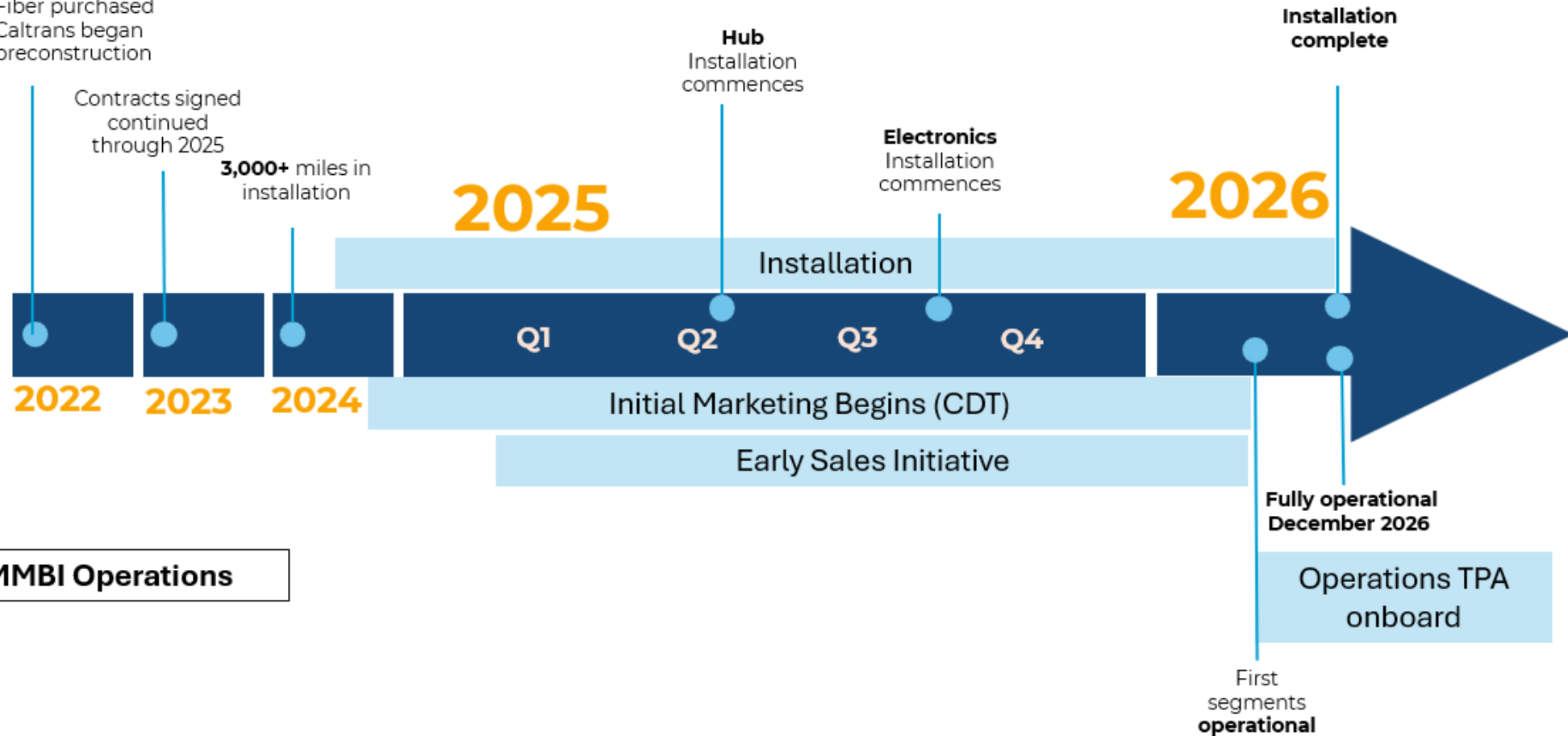
Middle-Mile Broadband Initiative

MIDDLE-MILE BROADBAND INITIATIVE UPDATE

Operations Look Ahead

MMBI Development

- Network designed
- Fiber purchased
- Caltrans began preconstruction



MMBI Operations

Early Revenue Generation Strategy

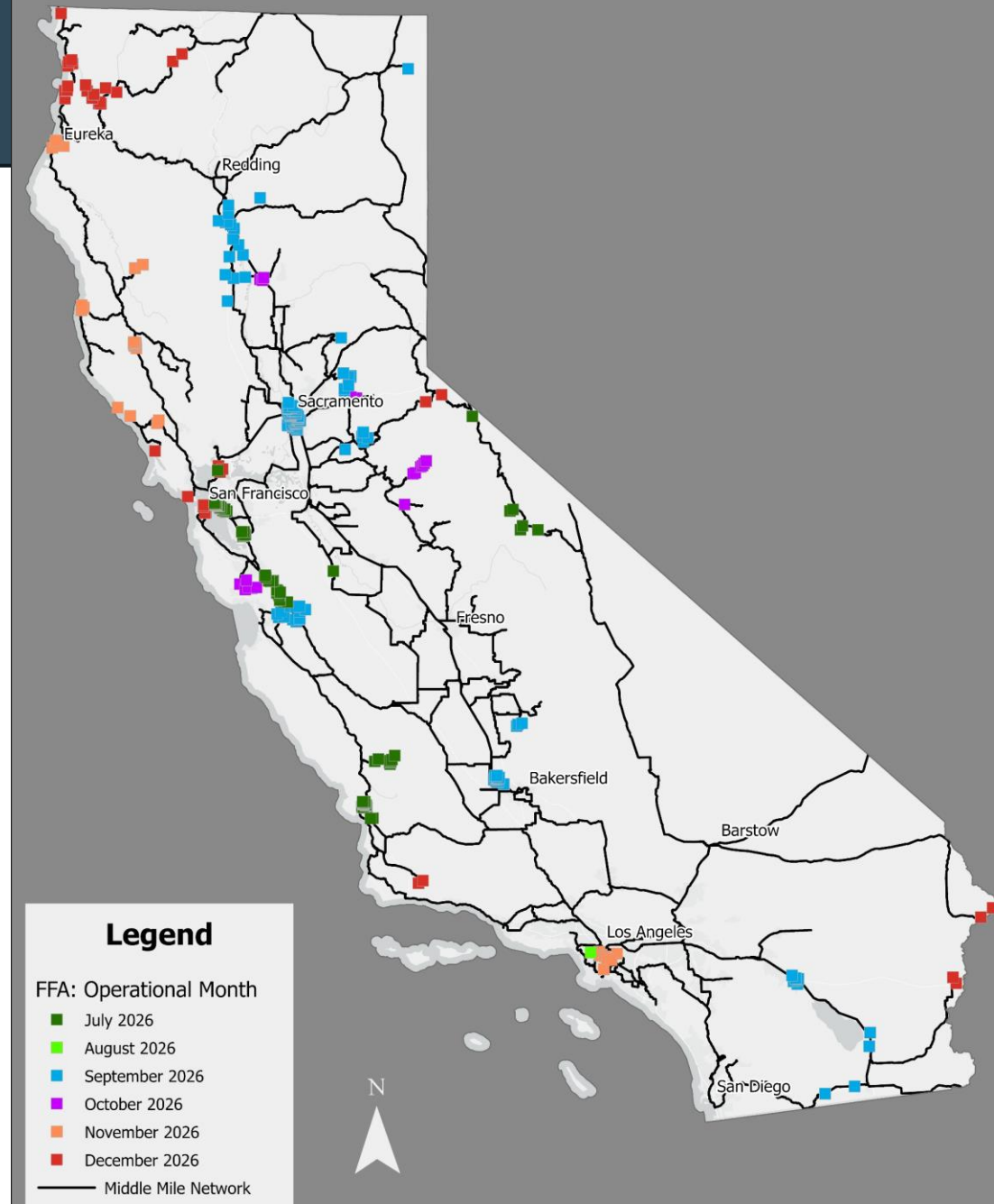
- Jumpstart sustainability and enforce the policy goals of the Middle Mile Broadband Network (MMBN)
- Engage with FFA, Tribal, local government, and commercial clients
- Create cash reserves for the initial operations of the network

MIDDLE-MILE BROADBAND INITIATIVE UPDATE

MMBN and FFA Timeline

MMBN Customer Solutions team continues to meet with FFA grantees on coordination with MMBN and their last mile projects

- 59 FFA Projects that intend to connect to MMBN
- Establishing interconnection locations and services
- Identifying FFA's timeline in relation to MMBN's operational timeline





BROADBAND FOR ALL UPDATES

Last Mile Program

Darcie L. Houck

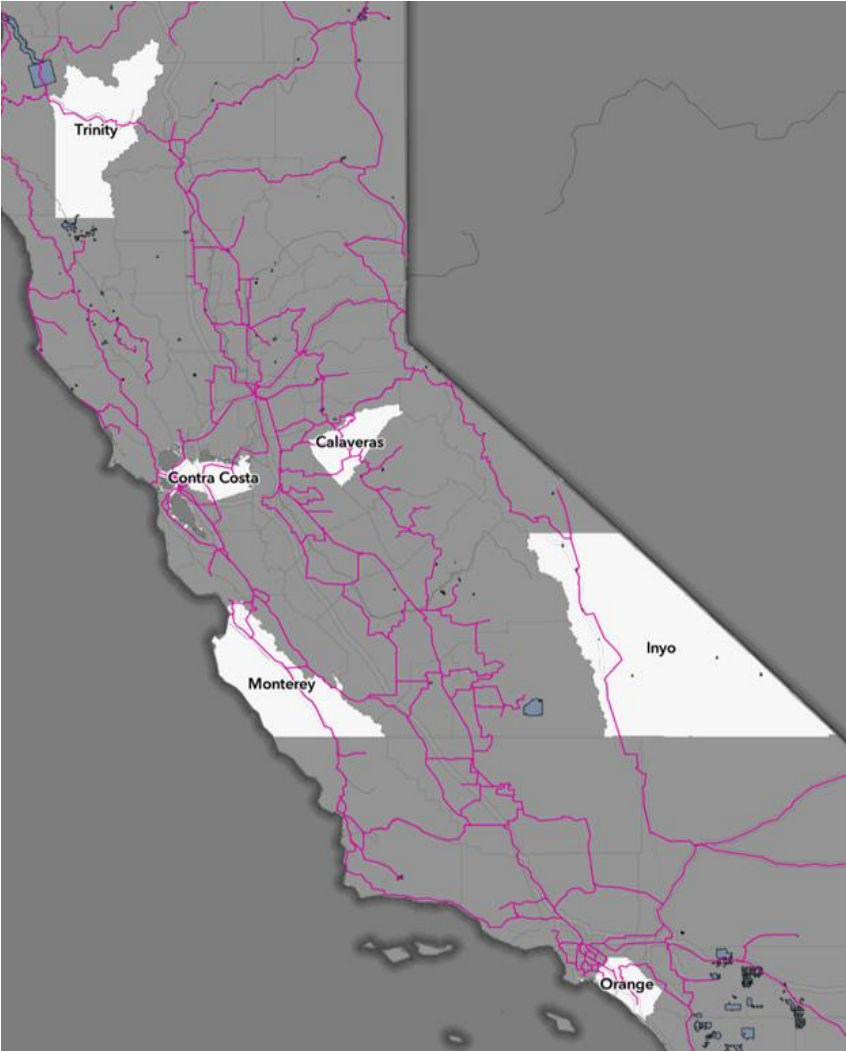
COMMISSIONER

California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC)

Broadband Programs & Investments Overview

	Broadband Equity Access and Deployment (BEAD)	California Advanced Services Fund (CASF)	Loan Loss Reserve Fund (LLR)	Last Mile Federal Funding Account (FFA)
Amount	~\$1.86 billion	\$136 million for 2024-25	\$50 million	~\$2 billion (thru Fiscal Year 27-28)
Summary	Funds for planning, infrastructure and adoption starting in 2024.	Funds broadband infrastructure and adoption in low-income housing, Tribal communities, and unserved areas.	Provides collateral to local government, Tribes, and nonprofits to finance their own broadband Infrastructure.	Funds for last-mile broadband infrastructure projects in every county.
What's Next?	Implementing the BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice	Infrastructure, Adoption, Public Housing, Line Extension and Tribal Tech Assistance application cycles in 2025.	Awarded	Evaluating 2nd Round Applications for Award

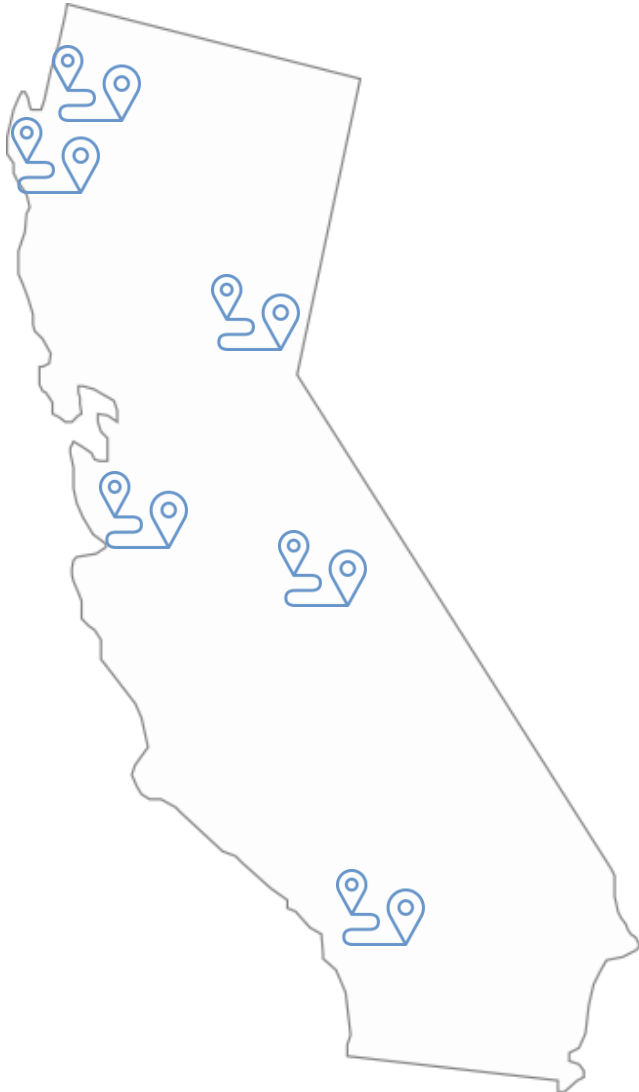
Last Mile Federal Funding Account



Round 2: Limited Six-County Opportunity

- Counties without round 1 awards: **Calaveras, Contra Costa, Inyo, Monterey, Orange, and Trinity**
- **72** applications from **21** entities
- Requested **\$600** million in grant funding
 - Combined allocation for grants in the six counties is \$244 million
 - Approximately \$200 million is available for awards
- 5+ applications in all six counties.

Federal Funding Account Ground-Breaking Events



California Broadband Alliance and Surfnet

- April in Santa Clara County for last mile California Advanced Services Fund Infrastructure and Federal Funding Account grants to Surfnet and the California Broadband Alliance.

Plumas Sierra Telecommunications

- May in Plumas County. To celebrate the 11 projects in various stages of construction including some providing service.

Vero Fiber Networks

- June in Humboldt County. To celebrate the grant project and private investment in networks in the area.

Gateway Cities Council of Governments

- June in Compton in Los Angeles County to celebrate the joint Middle Mile Broadband Network and last mile Federal Funding Account project.

Yurok Telecommunications Corporation

- July in Humboldt County. To celebrate the middle-mile and last mile projects.

CPUC LAST MILE SUMMARY

Building Last Mile Networks



Los Angeles County



Plumas County



Santa Clara County



Plumas County

BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice

On June 6, 2025, NTIA issued a policy notice to implement programmatic changes to BEAD.

- Rulemaking 23-02-016
- Updated Prequalification and Project Application materials to comply with the Policy Notice available online
- Accepting Project Applications for "Benefit of the Bragin" from July 19 – August 2, 2025.
- Final Proposal will be available for public comment prior to Commission vote

Updates will be posted to CPUC
BEAD website

Event	Date
Prequalification	
Application reopens	July 11, 2025
Application closes	July 17, 2025, 6:00p.m. Pacific
Benefit of the Bargain Round (Subgrantee Selection)	
Application reopens	July 19, 2025
Application closes	August 2, 2025, 6:00p.m. Pacific
Comments on draft Resolution and Final Proposal	Shortened Comment Period*

*The CPUC issued a proposed decision to address changes to the CPUC's BEAD Program Rules and Final Proposal adoption: [Proposed Decision Modifying Decisions 24-05-029 and 24-09-050](#)

BROADBAND FOR ALL UPDATES

State Digital Equity Plan & Capacity Grant

Scott Adams

DEPUTY DIRECTOR

Office of Broadband and Digital Literacy
California Department of Technology

Moving Forward

- Committed to Broadband for All & Digital Equity
- Robust DE Ecosystem and network of partners
- Leverage existing investments and efforts
- Develop new partnerships
- Coordination, collaboration, and alignment





MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Ag Tech, Connectivity, and the
Future of California Agriculture

Karen Ross

SECRETARY

California Department of Food & Agriculture

Importance of Ag Tech to CA

California leads the nation in agricultural production and ag exports

- Impact
 - Feed our communities, state, and world
 - Economic Powerhouse
 - \$59 billion industry
 - \$21 billion in exports
- Legacy - spirit of innovation, adaptation, embracing new science, experimentation



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Challenges

- Increasingly competitive environment
- Climate and water
- Unique crops in CA
 - Tree nuts
 - Tree fruits
 - Berries
 - Produce
- Big farms, but 60% are less than 100 acres



Role of Tech / Uses

- Equipment
- Data
- Food Production



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

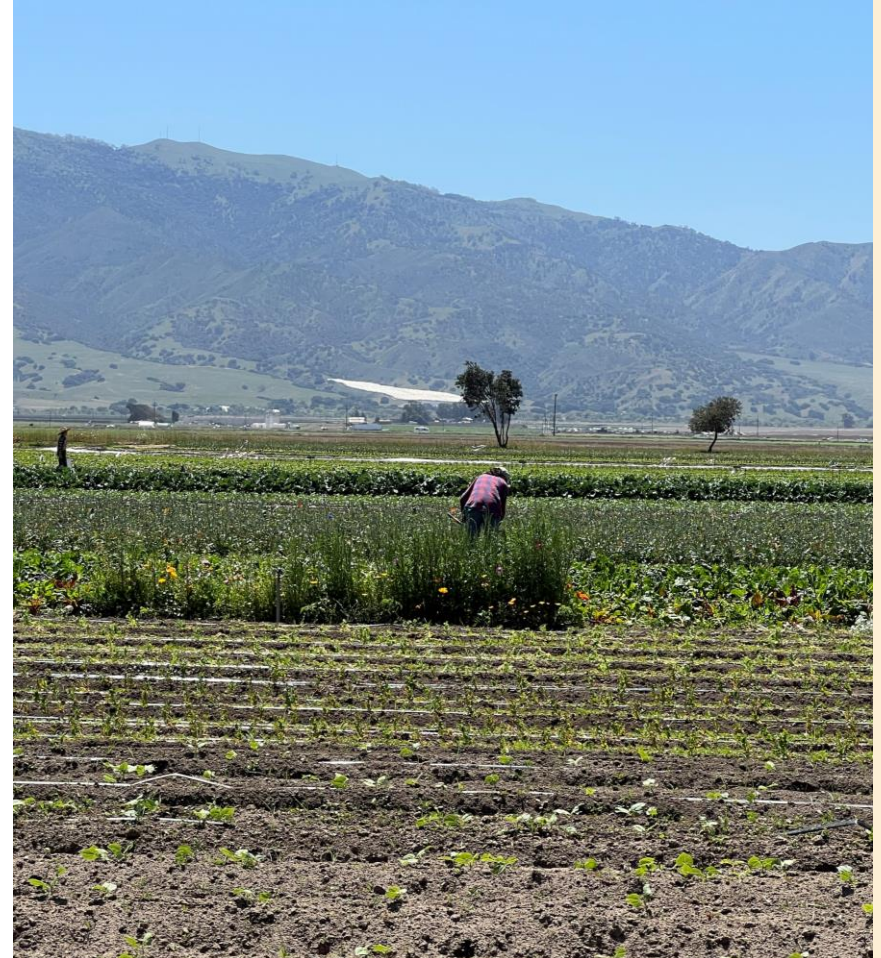
Opportunities

- Worker Training
- Focus tech on need and scale large, mid size and small
- Connectivity to fuel Ag Tech



Partnerships

- UC Agriculture & Natural Resources
- Western Growers
- Valley Vision
- Universities
- Global Harvest
- Existing and new equipment manufactures
- Get attention of capital for investments
- GO-Biz / Jobs First



Conclusion

Leverage broadband for all middle and last mile investments to increase broadband connection not just to homes and fairgrounds, but also to fields and farms to fuel new tech that support ag, precision ag, and food production

- Mix of technologies from fiber to wireless
- Maintain our place as the global leader in agriculture
- Bountiful food supply for our communities & the world

Upcoming Event:

[FIRA USA 2025](#) in Woodland, CA

October 21-23, 2025





COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

Riverside County Tech on Wheels Program

Tom Mullen

DIRECTOR OF BROADBAND SERVICES

RivCoConnect, Riverside County

Riverside County Tech on Wheels



Tech on Wheels Background:

- **Partnered with American GI Forum** to deliver this **new mobile digital literacy and digital navigation program**, sponsored by Riverside County District Five Supervisor Gutierrez with ARPA funds
- Program is **adaptive to community needs** through a bottom-up tailored approach to digital navigation services
- **Most participants are age 65+**, have either some college or high school education, and report household incomes under \$50,000
- The **highest level of engagement** has been **at senior centers and HOAs**
- The **team has built a loyal following**, with some RivCo residents who will travel from place to place to get support



For more program information visit
<https://rivcoconnect.org/techonwheels>



Riverside County
Supervisor - 5th District
Yxstian Gutierrez



Riverside County Tech on Wheels



What Services does Tech on Wheels provide?

The Tech on Wheels teams provide multiple services (offered in English, Spanish, and Arabic) to the community, including:



Acting as a mobile Wi-Fi hotspot



Providing mobile IT support



Providing digital literacy training for community groups and individuals in need



Offering digital navigation to help residents connect with online public services



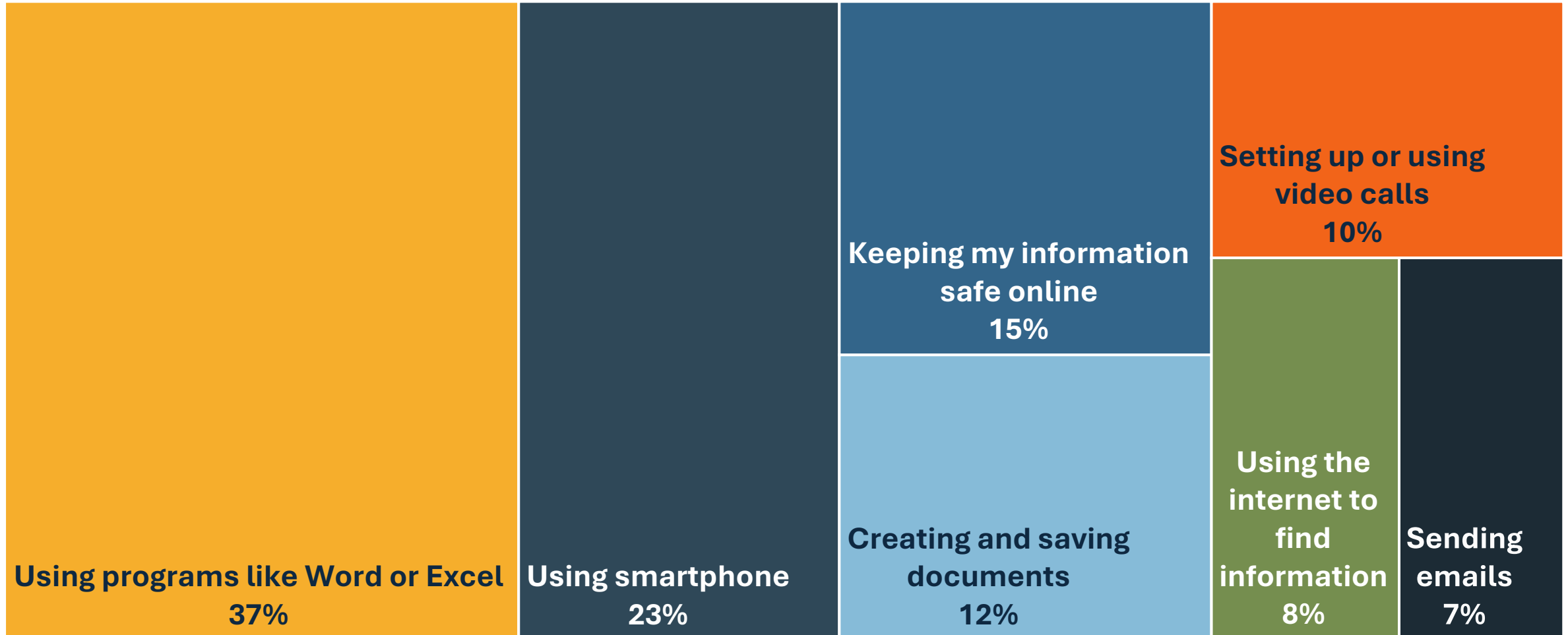
Riverside County
Supervisor - 5th District
Yxstian Gutierrez



Riverside County Tech on Wheels



Requested Services from Tech on Wheels Q1



Riverside County Tech on Wheels



Community Feedback

I'm leaving more confident and ready to show my wife my new skills I learned.

Muchas gracias por el trabajo que miseria en me telephono. Dios de Vendiga y tabien a me servidora Karen.

This program is really helping us seniors. We love this program. We can always continue to learn even though I am a college graduate with BS.

This program is amazing, so happy I found you! we need more visits more often.

I'm going to go home now and send an email to everyone in the community to come see you.

I love the one on one so I can ask my own questions.

I'm glad I came. My friend told me about this and pushed me to come.

Riverside County Tech on Wheels



Questions or Comments?

Contact: Tom Mullen,
Director of Broadband Services
TMullen@RIVCO.ORG

THANK YOU!



Riverside County
Supervisor - 5th District
Yxstian Gutierrez



PUBLIC COMMENT



Broadband for All

THANK YOU!

Sign up:

Broadband for All Email Update



Next CBC Meeting:

Friday, October 24, 2025

9:30 am – 11:30 am

Website:

BroadbandForAll.cdt.ca.gov

Contact:

CABroadbandCouncil@state.ca.gov



Broadband for All