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BROADBAND FOR ALL

California Broadband Council

January 24, 2024

HOUSEKEEPING

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

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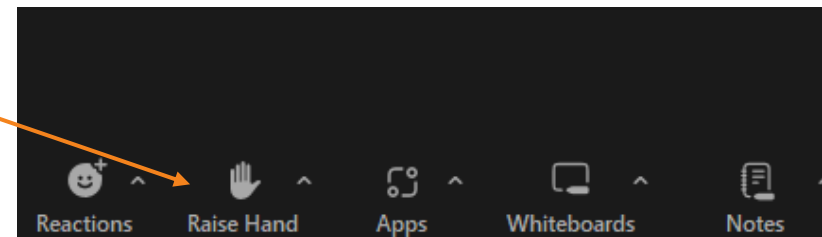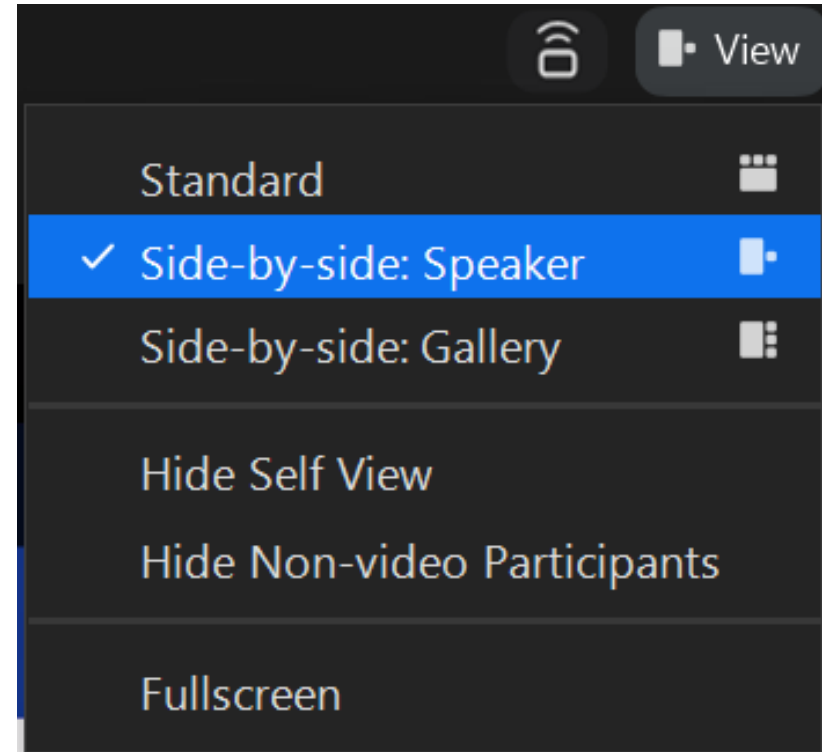
AGENDA

- Welcome
- Executive Report
- Broadband for All Updates
- NTIA IIJA Programs Update
- 2024 Meeting Schedule Change
- Public Comment
- Closing

Executive Report

Scott Adams

Deputy Director

Office of Broadband and Digital Literacy

California Department of Technology

- Annual Broadband for all Action Plan Review and Revision Process

- Partner and Stakeholder Engagement

- Draft Digital Equity Plan

- Affordable Connectivity Program

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ACP PROGRAM UPDATE

- **January 11, 2024** -The FCC Issued an Order laying out the wind-down processes and important dates including an enrollment freeze and the impacts on consumers, internet companies, and ACP Outreach Grant recipients.

- **Feb 7, 2024** – The last day the ACP will accept new applications and enrollments. **Eligible households must be approved and enrolled with an ISP by 11:59pm ET on Feb 7th to receive the ACP benefit.** Starting February 8, 2024, there will be no more enrollments into the ACP.

- **Starting late January 2024:** Households that are currently receiving a monthly ACP benefit will start to receive notices from their internet companies with information about the end of the ACP benefit. This information will include timing of the end of the program and the impact of the loss of the benefit on the household's bill and service.

- **April 2024** – The FCC anticipates existing ACP funding to run out at the end of April 2024, with only a partial benefit available in May, if Congress does not provide additional funding. Households that are enrolled in ACP will continue to receive their benefit on internet service through April 2024. This date may change.

January 23, 2024

TO: California Congressional Delegation

SUBJECT: Save the Affordable Connectivity Program and the 2.8 million California households relying on this vital program.

Dear Members of the California Congressional Delegation:

We write to urge you to approve additional funding for the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP). The failure to extend this program will sever the connection to reliable broadband access for 2.8 million California households – nearly 22 percent of the households in our state.

As the Director of the California Department of Technology (CDT) and President of the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), our organizations share responsibilities for implementing the state's Broadband For All initiative. This initiative leverages multiple programs from the historic bi-partisan Infrastructure, Investment and Job Act (IIJA) to provide essential broadband infrastructure and access to unserved and underserved California communities.

The ACP is critical for internet affordability in California. The ACP is needed to ensure equitable access to internet service, providing the means to drive down the cost of home internet service for low-income and vulnerable residents and residents on tribal lands.

To date:

- 2,834,728 households in California, 49 percent of the eligible households in our state, are enrolled in the program[1].
- Nearly 200 fixed and mobile Internet Service Providers are participating in the program in California.[2]

[1] Affordable Connectivity Program enrollment tracker | Broadband for All (ca.gov)
[2] https://www.fcc.gov/affordable-connectivity-program-providers

- ACP outreach grants enable 15 California entities, including CDT, to provide outreach services to eligible residents.

Income-qualified residents, internet service providers, and FCC ACP outreach grantees will be negatively impacted by the winding down of the ACP.

The loss of the ACP would also reduce the efficacy of Congress' groundbreaking $42 billion investment in the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) program. The ACP is necessary to maximize BEAD program dollars intended to build out our nation's broadband infrastructure and ensure that no community gets left behind.

As you work to finalize a government funding package, we strongly urge you to include funding for the Affordable Connectivity Program to sustain it through December of 2024. This funding will keep Americans connected as Congress continues to work to develop a permanent funding pathway for this critical broadband program.

Respectfully,

Liana Bailey-Crimmins,
State Chief Information
Officer and Director,
California Department of
Technology

Alice Busching Reynolds,
President
California Public Utilities Commission

Scan QR Code to view Letter in PDF

BROADBAND FOR ALL UPDATES

- **Broadband for All Action Plan Review, Revision, & Status Update**

- **Middle-Mile Broadband Initiative**

- **Last-Mile Programs**

- **Affordable Connectivity Program**

BROADBAND ACTION PLAN: Status, Review and Revision

2023 Updates

Completed:
18 Action Items

In Progress:
6 Action Items

No Revisions

BROADBAND ACTION PLAN: ACTION ITEM HIGHLIGHTS

Highlights

 # 6 Permitting (CDT):
Local Playbook v.2
DE & BEAD Workshops

 # 8 Next-Gen 911 (OES):
All regions' NG-911 traffic migrated to at least 1 live PSAP

 # 12 Lifeline (CPUC):
ACP / Lifeline Pilot
Decision 23-06-003

 # 16 Affordable Internet offers (CBC):
2.8 Million Households
15 CA entities, $6 million in ACP Outreach Grants

 # 18 Digital Inclusion Network (CDT):
10,000 partners and stakeholders

Completed   In Progress

Mark Monroe

Deputy Director

Middle Mile Broadband Initiative (MMBI)
California Department of Technology

MMBI STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN

Stakeholder Meetings
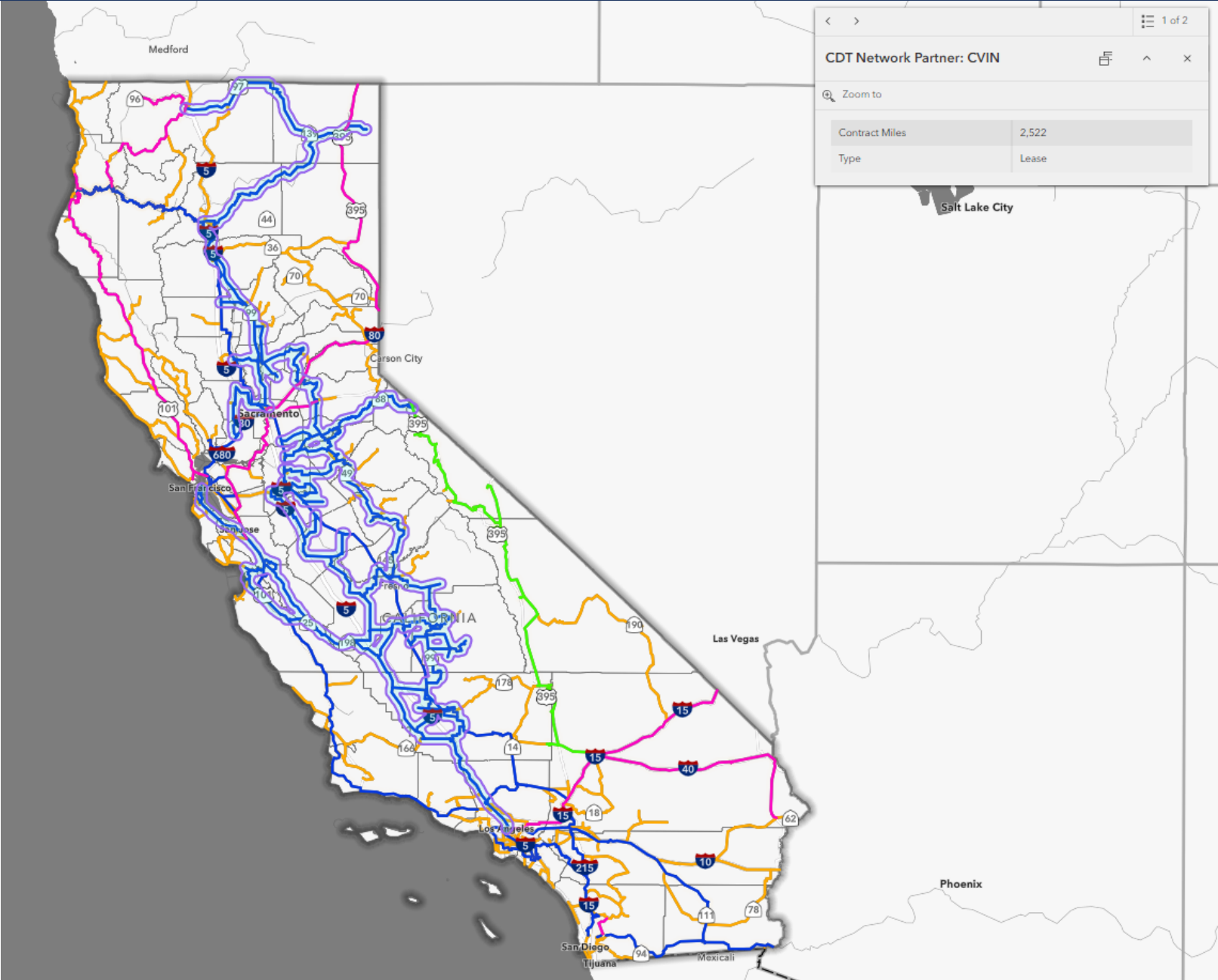
Increased Proactive Electronic Communications

Mapping Data Updates

Joint Build, Lease, & Purchase Interactive Map Update

**306-mile segment
Los Angeles to Needles**
December 12, 2023

CDT Network Partner: CVIN

Zoom to

Contract Miles	2,522
Type	Lease

1 of 2

TYPES OF MAP UPDATES

Lease/Purchase Agreement

Construction Joint Build/Caltrans

Data Reconciliation

Permitting

Physical Barriers

Network Functionality

Map Update Log

Tracking updates for the Statewide Middle-Mile Network Map.

The purpose of the Middle-Mile Broadband Initiative (MMBI) conceptual map is to visualize a resilient middle-mile broadband network that will connect communities that are unserved and underserved by broadband services.

The conceptual routes were developed in accordance with SB 156 with the best available data and assumed the use of state-owned right-of-ways for the full network. As the MMBI network develops through specific planning, construction, joint builds, leases, and purchases route refinements will continue to be updated on the MMBI map.

The map update log below tracks and describes updates to the conceptual map beginning in January 2024.

Table Description

County: County location of the map update.

Update Description: Summarized description of the update made to the network map.

Partner: Name of network partner.

Map Update Log for January 29, 2024

County	Update Description	Partner
Alameda	Approximately 1 mile route extension on Warm Spring Blvd in Fremont to reflect the lease agreement accurately	Boldyn
Contra Costa	Approximately half mile route extension near Hillcrest Community Park in Concord to reflect the joint build agreement accurately	Arcadian
El Dorado	Approximately 3 miles of duplicate line removed on Hwy 49, south of Placerville, to reflect the joint build agreement accurately	CVIN

MAP ROUTE UPDATES

JOINT BUILD & LEASE/PURCHASE 2024 MILESTONES

Construction Spans Planned for Completion

TPN

Boldyn

Zayo

Jan-Mar 2024	Apr-Jun 2024	July-Sept 2024	Oct-Dec 2024
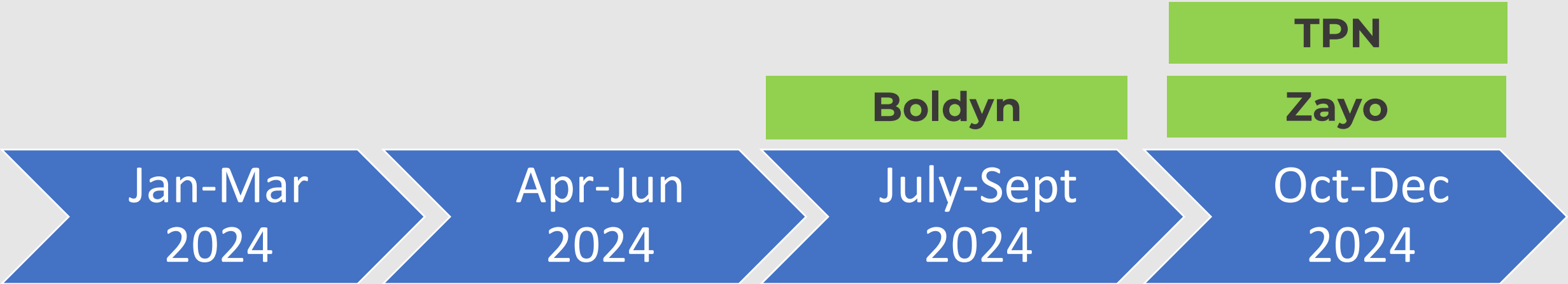
Completion for purposes of this slide represents the installation of conduit, fiber, and vaults. The network in these areas will be available for connection with Last Mile providers upon installation of hubs and electronics.

2023 BROADBAND INVESTMENT LAST MILE INITIATIVE SNAPSHOT

	TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE	LOAN LOSS RESERVE FUND	FEDERAL FUNDING ACCOUNT	CALIFORNIA ADVANCED SERVICES FUND
Amount	**$50 million** *(part of Federal Funding Account Total)*	**$750 million (current budget) $500 million (proposed 2024-25 budget)**	**~$2 billion**	**$73 million for FY 23/24 $136.211 million for FY 24/25 (request for increased spending authority)**
Summary	**Assist local governments & Tribes to prepare for broadband infrastructure investments.**	**Enable local governments & nonprofits to secure financing for broadband infrastructure.**	**Fund last-mile broadband infrastructure projects in every county.**	**Assist with broadband infrastructure deployment & adoption in public housing, Tribes, & unserved areas.**
Target	**Program Fully Subscribed**	**Watch for Info & Apply 1st and 2nd Quarter 2024**	**Info & Updates on Applications**	**Apply in the next cycle for adoption, public housing, Tribal Technical Assistance & line extension accounts**

FEDERAL FUNDING ACCOUNT APPLICATIONS

~$2 Billion for Last Mile Infrastructure Projects to deliver reliable broadband to unserved communities

- **For projects providing end-user service to unserved locations**

- **An application received for every county in the state**
  - Application, Project Area, Objection, Applicant Responses to Objections are publicly available
  - Objection Process closed December 18, 2023

- **To sign up for updates**

- **For more information**

LOAN LOSS RESERVE PROGRAM

Loan Loss Reserve Program Proposed Rules

Overview

Funds bonds for deployment of broadband infrastructure by a local government agency or nonprofit organizations.

Timeline

- Adopted Program Rules and Guidelines November 2023
- Information Sessions and Outreach in 1Q 2024
- Outreach, application and first awards targeted for ~2Q-3Q 2024

CALIFORNIA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
INFORMATION SHEET
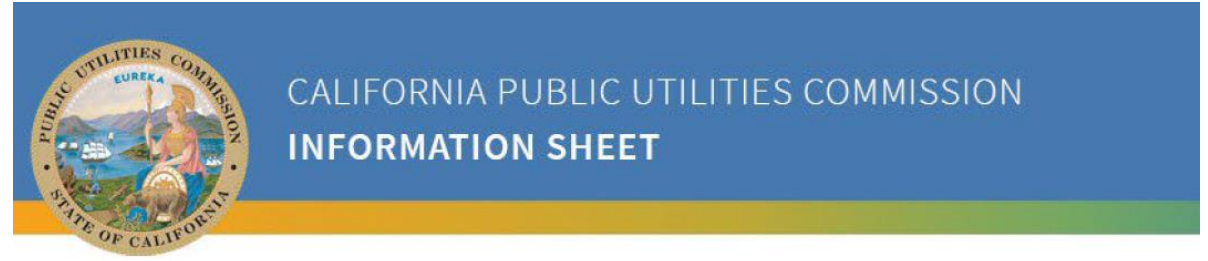
Broadband Loan Loss Reserve Fund
Program Rules and Guidelines Adopted

Rulemaking 20-08-021 for the California Advanced Services Fund

- Program Information
- Proposed Rules Fact Sheet
- Program Decision
- Program Requirements & Guidelines

CALIFORNIA ADVANCED SERVICES FUND

1

Adoption

Grants for digital literacy and broadband access projects.

- 86 projects | $11.6 million

2

Public Housing

Grants to build networks offering free service to low-income residents in communities such as public housing developments and farmworker housing.

- 6 projects | $463,000

3

Infrastructure

Grants to subsidize the cost of middle and last mile infrastructure to expand high quality communications service throughout California.

- 1 project | $688,431

4

Tribal Technical Assistance

Grants to assist California Tribes in developing market studies, feasibilities studies, and/or business plans, which support Tribes in their pursuit of improved communications.

- 5 projects | $720,000

CALIFORNIA ADVANCED SERVICES FUND

Broadband Public Housing Account

- The Commission will consider changes to the Broadband Public Housing Account in February
- Expand eligibility of "other housing developments" and mobile home parks with low- income residents
- Expand project eligibility and the scope of costs eligible for reimbursement in low-income communities that lack access to free broadband service
- Provide tenant protection for applicants other than publicly supported and tribal housing developments and farmworker housing

CALIFORNIA ADVANCED SERVICES FUND

Tribal Technical Assistance

- The Commission will consider changes to Tribal Technical Assistance in February
- Updates to align with the Local Agency Technical Assistance program rules and guidelines
- Award thresholds increased from $150,000 to $250,000
- Requirement for TTA-supported infrastructure to provide at least 25 mbps download and 3 mbps upload
- Increase the non-exhaustive list of eligible activities
- Provide eligibility for Tribal Consortia

RECENT CPUC OUTREACH

Engaging with community-based organizations and local and tribal governments

Listening sessions
Public Housing Account
- January 18, 2024: Listening session in Oakland, California to collect input on implementation of BEAD grant program.

Public meetings, workshops, and webinars
- BEAD staff will conduct webinars in Q1 to educate stakeholders on the upcoming BEAD Challenge Process

Caseworkers meeting with public entities and new entrants
- Request a meeting for help navigating the complex landscape of strategies and funding for developing affordable high-speed internet for everyone.
- Contact the team at BroadbandCaseworkers@cpuc.ca.gov
- Information, white papers, webinars available at Broadband Internet Caseworkers

CASF Public Workshop Spring 2024

STATEWIDE ACP MOBILIZATION UPDATE

- Goal: Connect 90% eligible households by end of 2024

- *Get Connected! California* Mobilization

- **2,863,491** or **49%** of eligible households enrolled as of 01/22/2024
    - 60% statewide increase in 2023 – 18 Percentage Points
    - Southern California 7 Counties: 56%
    - San Joaquin Valley 8 Counties: 50%
    - Riverside County: 59% (80% Increase in 2023 – 28 Percentage Points)

- 15 CA entities received $6 million in ACP outreach grants

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GET CONNECTED! CALIFORNIA MOBILIZATION - HIGHLIGHTS

- **Direct Notification (In-Language and In-Culture) Is Most Effective Strategy**
  - Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) Is Notifying Again Medi-Call Recipients
  - Department of Social Services (CDSS) is Notifying Again CalFresh-CalWORKs Recipients

- **Get Connected Call Center received 97,702 Calls in 2023**
  - 80+ Distinct Communication Channels
  - 27,827 DHCS and CDSS Callers Were Assisted with ACP (4x Amount Enrolled Themselves)
  - 38,433 Households in 18 Months Connected to the Internet by CBOs with Call Center Support

- **CPUC Provided Additional Support for Get Connected Call Center**
  - Direct Notification by 10 Pacesetter Counties
  - Direct Notification by 5 San Joaquin Valley Counties
  - Promotion of ACP and ISP Affordable Offers

- **50 In-Person ACP Enrollment Events by First Week in April**
  - 24 Completed by End of January; 8 Scheduled; 18 Tentatively Scheduled

- **Need ISPs to Retain 3M ACP Customers and Sustain Quality Affordable Offers**

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GET CONNECTED! CALIFORNIA MOBILIZATION - HIGHLIGHTS

- CDT and CPUC

- California Emerging Technology Fund

- San Diego Digital Divide Task Force

- Southern California Association of Governments

- Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors

- Bipartisan Governors Letter

- US Conference of Mayors (174 Mayors, 28 CA Mayors)

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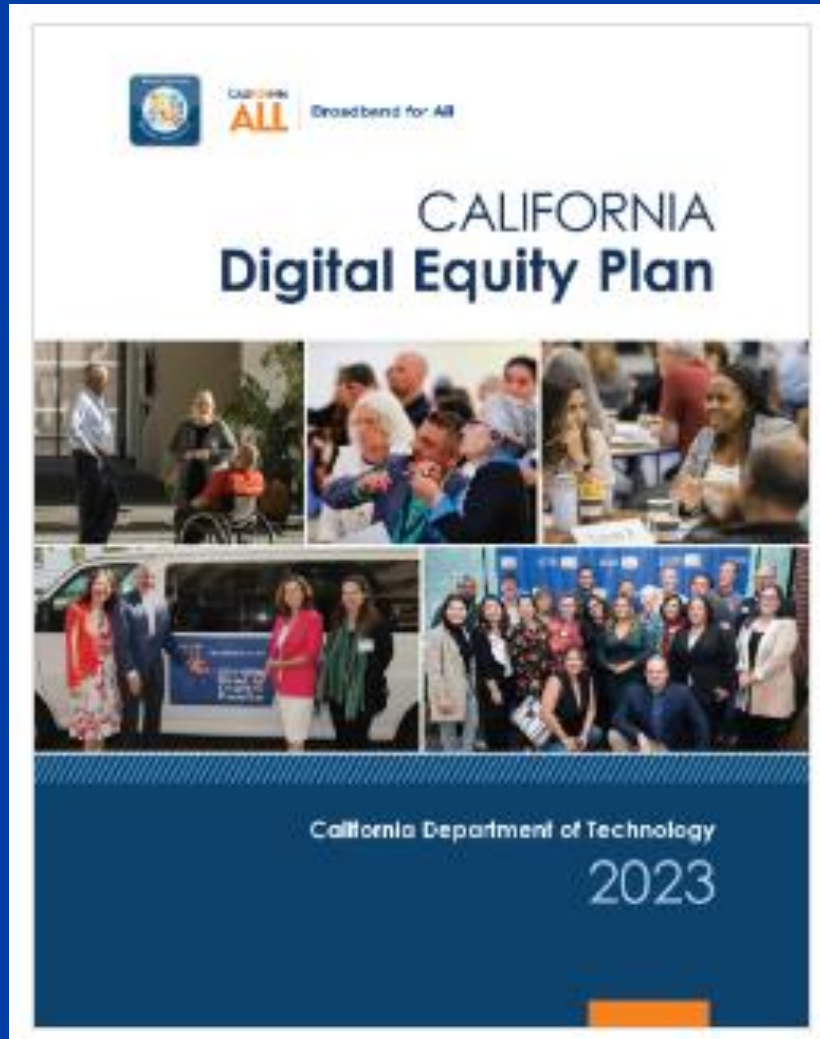# NTIA IIJA Programs Update

Scott Adams

Deputy Director, Office of Broadband and Digital Literacy

California Department of Technology

Maria Ellis

Deputy Director, Broadband

California Public Utilities Commission

- **DRAFT SDEP Published on December 12, 20023**

- **45-Day Public Comment Period Closes January 25, 2024**

CA.GOV Official website of the State of California

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State Digital Equity Plan

On this page

State Digital Equity Plan Overview

Draft State Digital Equity Plan

Public Comment Form

Submitted Public Comments

State Digital Equity Plan Overview

Draft State Digital Equity Plan

Public Comment Form

Submitted Public Comments

Draft State Digital Equity Plan

The State of California has taken a major step toward closing the digital divide with the release of the draft Digital Equity Plan. The plan will allow the state to apply for a Digital Equity Capacity Grant funded by the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) of 2021. Public comment period will remain open through January 25, 2024.

CALIFORNIA **Digital Equity Plan**

California Department of Technology
2023

PDF

Read the Draft Plan

Draft State Digital Equity Plan

The State of California is taking a vitally important step toward closing the digital divide by releasing its draft California Digital Equity Plan aimed at ensuring every Californian has equitable access to reap the social and economic benefits of the digital world. The public is invited to add input to the plan by commenting before **January 25, 2024.**

Read or Print the draft California Digital Equity Plan via PDF

Alternative Access

The California Department of Technology has developed an HTML version of the same draft California Digital Equity Plan to be available in over 100 languages and compatible with assistive technology.

Access the HTML version of various sections of the draft Plan below. Select your preferred language on the top right corner of the page.

Table of Contents

Foreword

1. Executive Summary

2. Introduction and Vision for Digital Equity
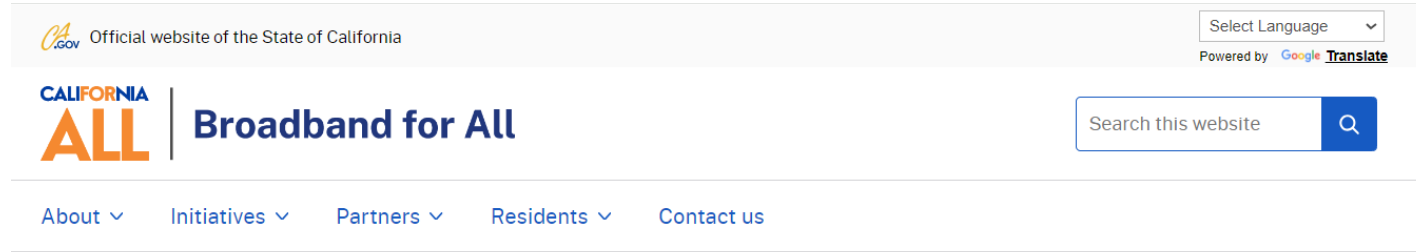
3. Current State of Broadband and Digital Equity

4. Collaboration and Stakeholder Engagement

5. Digital Equity Plan Implementation Strategy & Key Activities

6. Conclusion

7. Appendices

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Digital Equity Plan Public Comment Form

State Digital Equity Plan

Draft State Digital Equity Plan

Public Comment Form

Submitted Public Comments

The California Department of Technology (CDT) has taken a major step towards ensuring digital access for all Californians with the release of the draft California Digital Equity Plan. This visionary plan aims to inform the allocation of millions of dollars in the years to come to support broadband access, affordability and adoption to bridge the digital divide across the state.

To ensure the plan meets the diverse needs of California's communities, we invite the public to share their thoughts through the designated public comment form below. You may comment on one or all sections of the plan.

The public comment period will remain **open until January 25, 2024**.

Public Comment period closes on
Thursday, January 25, 2024.

SCAN ME

Scan the QR code using your mobile device or access the public comment form at:
Bit.ly/SDEPPublicComment

CALIFORNIA ALL | **Broadband for All**

PAGES ON THE BROADBAND FOR ALL PORTAL

State Digital Equity Planning Components

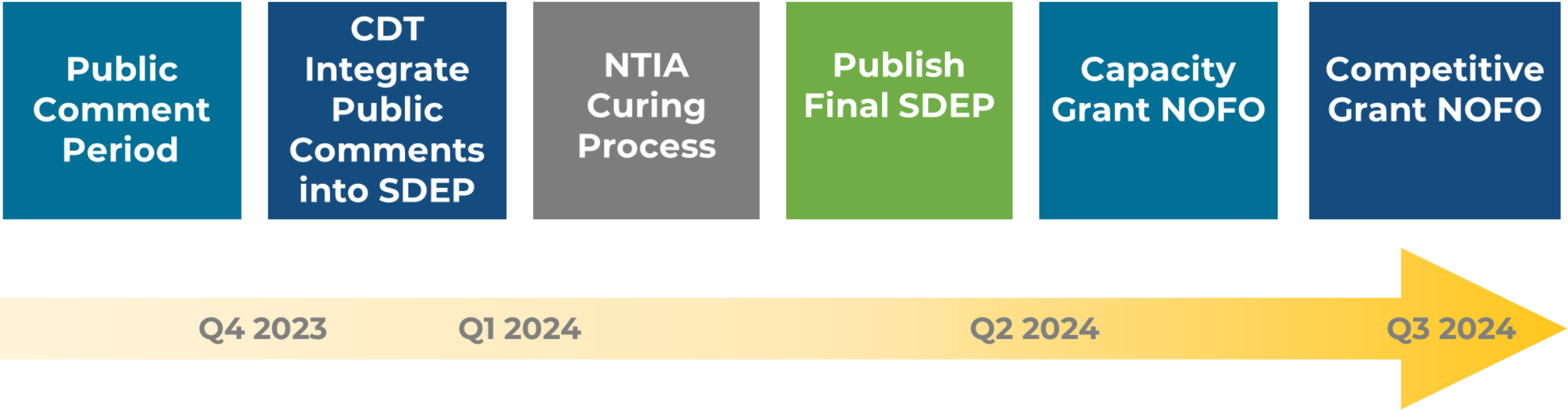|		
Statewide Planning Group ›	Outcome Area Working Groups ›	Regional Planning Workshops ›
CA Statewide Digital Equity Telephone Survey ›	California Digital Equity Public Online Survey ›	Digital Equity Ecosystem Mapping Tool ›

SDEP ENGAGEMENT AND OUTCOMES

Outreach & Engagement:

- Sent 5 notifications to **10,000+ network**

- Developed outreach toolkit, available in **7 languages**

- Hosted **Partner & Stakeholder** Webinar 12/15/2023 (**167 attendees**)

- Presentations at SoCal Transformation, LA County, CA Telehealth Coalition

- Reopened Digital Ecosystem Mapping Tools

Public Comments Received (1/23/2024):

- Total: 160

- Residents: 134

- Organizations: 26

- Additional DEEM Responses: 7

STATE DIGITAL EQUITY PLAN (SDEP) UPDATE

| Public Comment Period | CDT Integrate Public Comments into SDEP | NTIA Curing Process | Publish Final SDEP | Capacity Grant NOFO | Competitive Grant NOFO |

Q4 2023   Q1 2024   Q2 2024   Q3 2024

In June 2023, $1.86 billion was allocated to California to expand broadband access
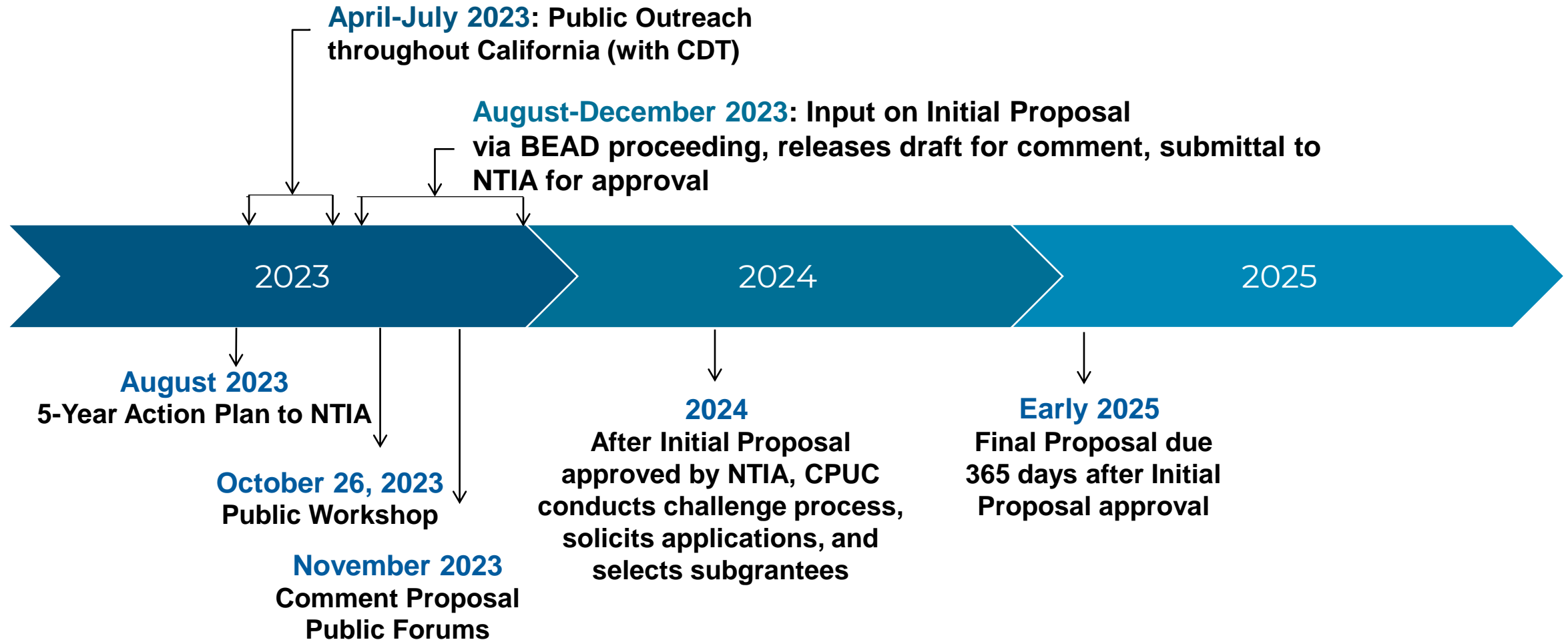
- **CPUC will:**
  - Continue outreach and engagement with communities, and other stakeholders
  - Conduct a challenge process for eligibility map
  - Run a grant application process and propose subgrantees
  - Submit Final Proposal
  - All actions subject to NTIA review and approval

- **Primary goal: deploy last-mile service to unserved & underserved**

- **More information and subscribe to updates**

BROADBAND EQUITY, ACCESS AND DEPLOYMENT (BEAD)

April-July 2023: Public Outreach throughout California (with CDT)

August-December 2023: Input on Initial Proposal via BEAD proceeding, releases draft for comment, submittal to NTIA for approval

2023 | **2024** | **2025**

August 2023
5-Year Action Plan to NTIA

October 26, 2023
Public Workshop

November 2023
Comment Proposal
Public Forums

2024
After Initial Proposal approved by NTIA, CPUC conducts challenge process, solicits applications, and selects subgrantees

Early 2025
Final Proposal due 365 days after Initial Proposal approval

2024 Meeting Schedule Change

Scott Adams

Deputy Director, Office of Broadband and Digital Literacy

California Department of Technology

Staff Recommendation

Move Quarterly meetings (4th Tuesday of the month)

- April 23
- July 23
- October 22

Public Comment