

Broadband Public Housing Grants

Program Overview

Background

- In 2013, AB 1299 added a fourth account to the California Advanced Services Fund (CASF) program dedicated to broadband access and adoption in publicly-subsidized housing developments.
- On December 18, 2014, the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) approved the rules implementing the new Broadband Public Housing Account (BPHA).
- \$20 million were made available for infrastructure projects- installation of shared broadband networks to connect each resident unit to high-speed Internet.
- \$5 million were made available for adoption projects- Digital Literacy training, technical support, and computers for computer labs and residents.
- All funds should be awarded by December 31, 2016.

Program Eligibility

- Publicly subsidized multifamily housing development that is wholly owned by either
 - (1) a chartered public housing agency which has been determined an eligible public housing agency by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
 - (2) a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization that has received public funding to subsidize low-income housing.
- Non-profit housing developers involved in limited partnerships with for-profit entities may also be eligible.

Infrastructure Grants

The Commission will award grants and loans to finance up to 100 % of the costs to install inside wiring and equipment, but will not finance maintenance or operation costs. The Commission will reimburse for the following expenses:

- All networking equipment, both hardware and software, including wireless access points.
- Low voltage contracting (including the installation of conduit, panels and cabling required to provide power for the equipment funded as part of the project), provided it does not include major rehabilitation, demolition or construction.
- Modems or routers, but not computers or human interface devices.
- Engineering and design.
- Hardware warranty.
- Installation labor from the Minimum Point of Entry (MPOE) to the individual unit.
- Taxes, shipping and insurance costs directly related to project.

Allowed Cost Per Unit- Infrastructure Projects (exceptions might be made with the approval of the CPUC Commissioners):

- Properties with < 51 resident units: \$600 per unit or less.
- Properties with 51-100 resident units: \$450 per unit or less.
- Properties with > 101 resident units: \$300 per unit or less.

Grantees must maintain and operate the network for a minimum of five years after receiving funding from the Commission.

Adoption Grants

The Commission will fund up to 85% of the costs for adoption projects for residents in publicly-subsidized housing and will reimburse the following expenses:

- Education and outreach efforts and materials.
- Desks and chairs to furnish a designated space for digital literacy.
- Acceptable computers and devices (excluding smart phones) and software intended for use either in a computer lab or their household.
- Digital literacy instructors.
- Printers for a computer lab or other designated space for digital literacy.
- Routers.
- Provision of residential (not network) technical support.

Review Process

Expedited Review	Resolution
<ul style="list-style-type: none">— Staff Approved— Expected to Be Approved in approx. 90 days	<ul style="list-style-type: none">— Commission Approved— Expected to Be Approved in approx. 4-6 Weeks After 90 Days
Must conform to all 17 criteria for infrastructure projects and/or all 11 criteria for adoption projects, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none">— \$75,000 max. per property for Infrastructure Applications.— \$50,000 max. per property for Adoption Applications.	Does not conform to one or more of the 17 criteria for infrastructure projects or the 11 criteria for adoption projects (e.g. It will cost more than \$75,000 to install a broadband network in large properties).

Application Deadlines

- July 1, 2015
- October 1, 2015
- January 1, 2016
- April 1, 2016
- July 1, 2016
- October 1, 2016

Filing Applications

To access application template, instructions, guidelines and other useful information, go to:

<http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/PUC/Telco/Information+for+providing+service/CASF/Public+Housing+Account.htm>

Send questions to [CPUC Housing@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:CPUC_Housing@cpuc.ca.gov)



This overview of the CASF Public Housing Grants was shared by the California Emerging Technology Fund (CETF), whose mission is to close the Digital Divide in California. The CETF Team is committed to disseminating information about these grant opportunities and facilitating quality applications across the state.

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