

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 VAN NESS AVENUE
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298



June 1, 2022

**NOTICE OF NEW APPLICATION CYCLE FOR CASF RURAL AND URBAN
REGIONAL BROADBAND CONSORTIA ACCOUNT GRANT FUNDING**

To: Members of CASF Distribution and Service Lists

On May 19, 2022, the California Public Utilities Commission (Commission) adopted [Decision \(D.\) 22-05-029](#), which modified program rules for the California Advanced Services Fund (CASF) Rural and Urban Regional Broadband Consortia (Consortia Account) including expansion of allowable Consortia activities, increasing the annual maximum funding cap, and clarifying Consortia regional boundary requirements; and allocated an additional \$10.71 million in available funding for fiscal year 2022-2023. This notice is to inform prospective applicants that a new Consortia Account application cycle is now open. Please refer to the Consortia Account website at <https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/industries-and-topics/internet-and-phone/california-advanced-services-fund/casf-consortia-account> for new Consortia Account application templates and materials per D.22-05-029.

Eligibility

An eligible Consortium may include representatives of organizations including, but not limited to, local and regional government, public safety, elementary and secondary education, health care, libraries, postsecondary education, community-based organizations, tourism, parks and recreation, agricultural, business, workforce organizations, and air pollution control or air quality management districts. An eligible Consortium is not required to have as its lead fiscal agent an entity with a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity.

Pursuant to D.22-05-029, the Commission will consider funding Consortium activities that achieve the following objectives:

- Collaborating with the Commission and other state agencies to engage regional consortia, local officials, internet service providers (ISPs), stakeholders, and consumers regarding priority areas and cost-effective strategies to achieve the broadband access goal.
- Identifying potential CASF infrastructure projects or potential broadband deployment projects related to new programs created under SB 156 and AB 164, along with other opportunities, where providers can expand and improve their infrastructure and service offerings to achieve the goal of reaching 98% broadband deployment in each consortia region.

- Assisting potential CASF infrastructure applicants or potential applicants for broadband deployment projects related to the new programs created under SB 156 and AB 164 in the project development or grant application process.
- Conducting activities that will lead to or that can be reasonably expected to lead to CASF infrastructure projects or broadband deployment projects related to new programs created under SB 156 and AB 164, including but not limited to the following examples of allowable activities:
 - Supporting project permitting activities.
 - Engaging local government officials and communities to better understand and explain regional broadband needs and solutions and providing technical assistance to such entities.
 - Conducting an inventory of public assets (e.g., rights-of-ways, publicly owned towers, public utility poles, equipment housing, publicly owned property) and aggregate demand, including speed tests and the identification and updates of priority areas.
- Assisting the Commission in publicizing requests for wireline testing volunteers in areas, as needed.
- Assisting the Commission in promoting broadband deployment in California, related to the Federal Funding Account and other programs including Middle-Mile, Broadband Loan Loss Reserve, and Local Agency Technical Assistance created under SB 156 and AB 164.

The Commission is accepting Consortia Account grant applications to represent regions starting in January 2023.¹ The allocated funding for the Consortia Account is \$10.71 million for Fiscal Year 2022-2023. The Consortia Account grants are subject to a maximum funding cap of \$200,000 per year per Consortium.²

Application Package

To assist prospective applicants with the application process, the CASF Rural and Urban Regional Broadband Consortia Grant Program Administrative Manual (Administrative Manual, *Version 8, May 2022*) is available on the CASF Consortia webpage: <https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/industries-and-topics/internet-and-phone/california-advanced-services-fund/casf-consortia-account>. Key attachments include:

- CASF Consortia Grant Application Checklist
- Description of Existing and Past Non-CASF Funded Projects
- Board Member Background and Project Role
- Work Plan and Performance Metrics Plan

¹ The currently active Consortia grants are expected to end by December 2022. Both existing and newly formed consortia may submit applications.

² Plus up to \$10,000 (per consortium for up to 5 representatives) for attendance to at least one of the annual public workshops held pursuant to Public Utilities Code (Pub. Util. Code), § 281.

- Proposed Budget Plan
- Affidavit Form.

Applications will be evaluated based on meeting all the requirements in the Information Required from Applicants and scoring criteria. Applications will be objectively evaluated on how well they meet the goals of the CASF Consortia Program consistent with Pub. Util. Code, § 281.

CD will notify an applicant by letter specifying the reasons for rejection, should an application fail to meet the criteria set forth in D.22-05-029.

Applicants must submit their proposals by July 15, 2022, via email to the below email address to ensure consideration.

[CASF Consortia Grant Administrator@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:CASF_Consortia_Grant_Administrator@cpuc.ca.gov)

If you have questions, please contact the Consortia Account staff at

[CASF Consortia Grant Administrator@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:CASF_Consortia_Grant_Administrator@cpuc.ca.gov).

Thank you,

CASF Team