

Broadband Programs Overview

February 28, 2023

Karen Eckersley, Communications Division

Questions and inquiries to statewidebroadband@cpuc.ca.gov



California Public
Utilities Commission

Last Mile Broadband Initiatives Snapshot

	TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE	LOAN LOSS RESERVE FUND	FEDERAL FUNDING ACCOUNT	CALIFORNIA ADVANCED SERVICES FUND
Amount	\$50 million	\$750 million	\$2 billion	\$150 million/year
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	Apply monthly now	Proposed Decision in first half of 2023	Evaluate the priority areas and prepare to apply	Apply in the next cycle for adoption, public housing, & line extension accounts

CPUC Tribal Technical Assistance

- Assistance for Tribes to improve communications
 - Use consultants to develop market studies, feasibility studies, and/or business plans which support Tribes for improved communications
 - Application windows Jan 1, April 1, July 1, October 1
- [CPUC Tribal Technical Assistance web page](#)
 - Application information and webinar are on the CPUC Tribal Technical Assistance site



CPUC Local Agency Technical Assistance

\$50 Million for Tribal Governments and Local Agencies for last-mile broadband infrastructure projects.

- **Eligibility**

- Tribal set-aside from total funding.
- Funds pre-construction deliverables, such as environmental permits, engineering studies, and strategic plans

- **Applications**

- 94 applicants requested a total of \$42 million.
- Currently being accepted

- **Awards**

- 68 grants for \$30 million (December 12, 2022).
- [County dashboard](#)
- [Technical assistance program](#)



Federal Funding Account

The \$2 billion **Federal Funding Account** is for last-mile broadband infrastructure.

- All unserved locations are presumed eligible.
- Entities eligible to apply include Tribes, service providers, public entities, and non-profits.
- CPUC will evaluate applications based on points-based program rules [available here](#).

Next steps:

- Broadband availability data set will be updated with more current version.
- Will release a new map before opening the application window
- Archived materials are available on the website for **information only**

Targeting **June 2023** to open the first application window.

California Advanced Services Fund Grants

Broadband Adoption and Digital Equity Grants

- Supporting digital literacy and broadband access projects for public entities and CBOs
- 74 projects awarded \$5.9M; action on remaining 24 applications in Feb. 2023.

Consortia

- Regional collection of public entities and CBOs assisting with broadband grant application development and deployment
- Disposition of 15 applications requesting \$10.3M in Q1 2023.

Public Housing and Low-Income Communities

- Grants to build broadband offering free service for low-income communities
- 19 projects awarded \$1.4 million.



CASF Adoption Account Center for Elders' Independence, digital literacy project grantee

CPUC Loan Loss Reserve Program

- The Broadband [Loan Loss Reserve Program](#) helps public entities to finance broadband infrastructure deployment.
- Proposed program rules
 - [Proposed Rules](#)
 - [Program Fact Sheet](#)
 - [Proposal Comments Fact Sheet](#)

CALIFORNIA BROADBAND LOAN LOSS RESERVE FUND *Supporting Public Broadband Networks in California*

WHAT IS THE CALIFORNIA BROADBAND LOAN LOSS RESERVE FUND?

The California Broadband Loan Loss Program is a new \$750 million fund. It will support local governments and nonprofits with the financing for building broadband infrastructure. Specifically, it will provide credit enhancements that will enable more favorable terms when they borrow money from bond markets and financial institutions.

HOW DOES THE LOAN LOSS PROGRAM WORK?

The Broadband Loan Loss Reserve Fund Program enables public broadband investment by encouraging lenders or investors to invest in the California broadband market by providing protection against a certain percentage of the lender's risk of loss in a given financial transaction.

By guaranteeing local agency bonds, pooling risks, and negotiating on behalf of all local agencies, the Loan Loss Program lowers borrowing costs for local agencies and provides investors with the certainty they need to invest in public broadband.

Requirements are being developed through California Public Utilities Commission Rulemaking (R.) 20-08-021 and a staff proposal will be released in the third quarter of 2022.

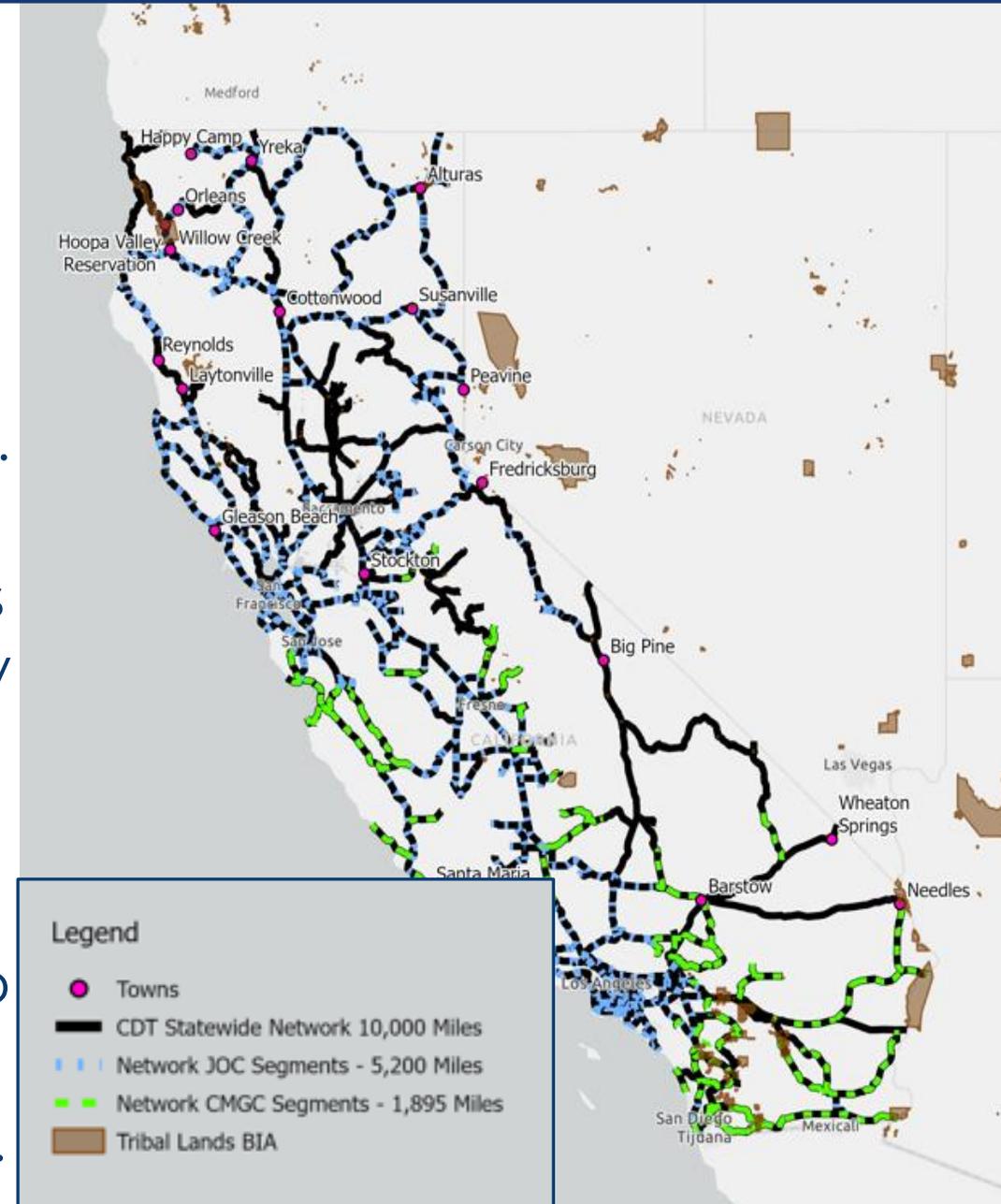
ELIGIBLE ENTITIES PER PUBLIC UTILITIES CODE 281.2

Non-Profits and Local Government Agencies, which includes:

- Counties
- County Service Areas
- Community Service Districts
- Public Utility Districts
- Municipal Utility Districts
- Joint Powers Authorities
- Local Educational Agencies
- Sovereign Tribal Governments
- Electrical Cooperatives

Middle Mile Broadband Initiative (MMBI):

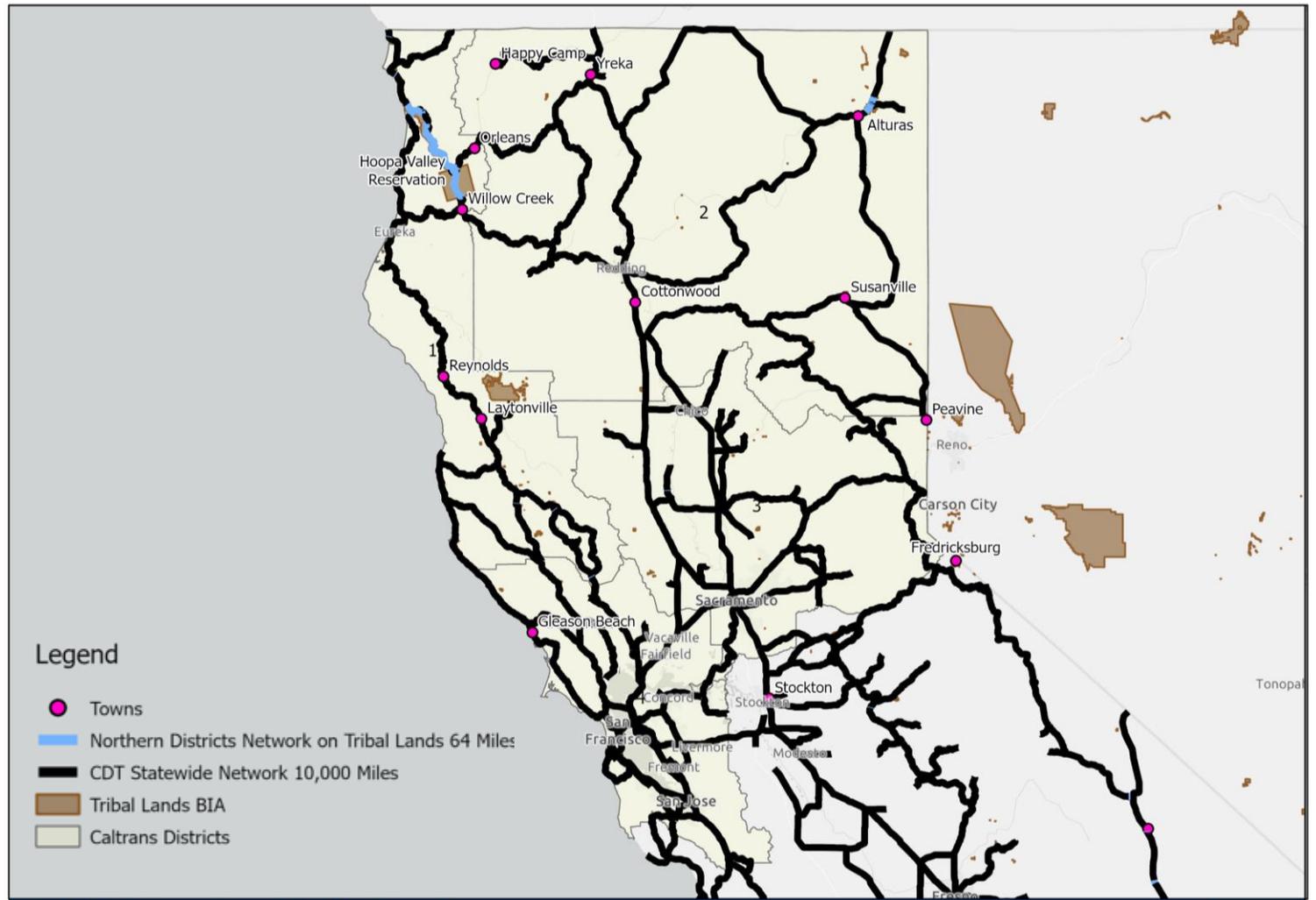
- Fiber and conduit procured in April 2022.
- 10,000-mile route finalized in May 2022.
- Bids for 7,000 miles of Construction and up to 10,000 miles of IRU contracts solicited, received, and under review by CDT and Caltrans.
- Optimized network architecture being finalized by CDT in March 2023.
- Most construction and IRU contracts to be signed in March 2023.
- Construction must be finished by 2026.



MMBI Summary Tribal Reservation Miles in Districts 1, 2, 3, 4

MMBI Network Miles Identified by Caltrans as Directly Crossing Tribal Reservation Lands:

- District 1 – 57.4
- District 2 – 7.4
- District 3 - 0.25
- District 4 - 0.0
- **Total Miles – 65.05**



Inquiries to middlemile@state.ca.gov

MMBI Network and Tribal Lands

Last Updated: 12/23/2022

12/23/2022 Disclaimer: This map was prepared for informational purposes only by CDT-ODS-MMBI GIS.



Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program Overview

- Funding from the federal government to expand high-speed internet
 - Can include **planning, infrastructure deployment** and **adoption**
- California will be allocated money based on how many households lack broadband access
 - According to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) map
- California will provide funds to subgrantees based on rules to be determined in the new **Rulemaking on BEAD**
 - Rulemaking **(R.) 23-02-016**

Considerations for BEAD Rulemaking

Some key issues to be determined in the Rulemaking include:

- Extremely High-Cost Threshold
- Match requirement
- Mapping issues and challenge process
- Grant conditions (affordability, workforce, others?)
- Grant application cycle and structure

Consider submitting comments to inform our deliberative process (or participate in the proceeding another way)

- Reach out to Ken Holbrook or Communications Division staff in attendance with any questions

State Digital Equity Plan

Being developed by the California Department of Technology (CDT)

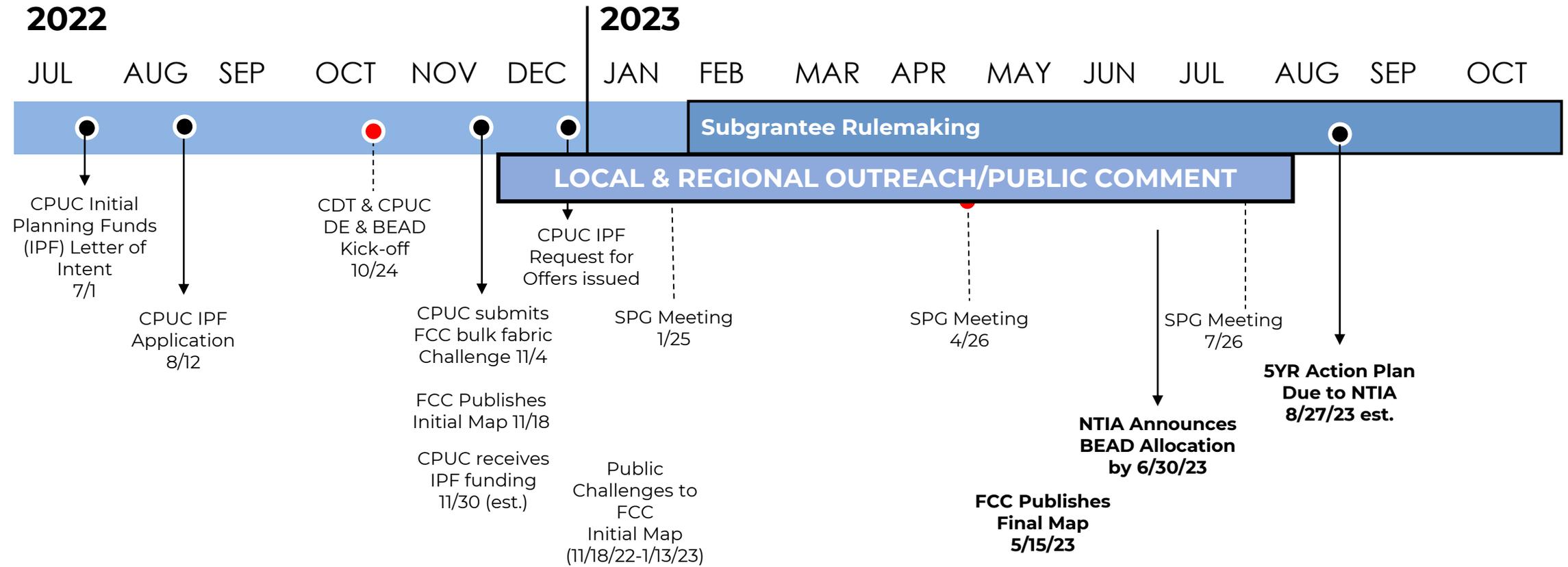
- Parallel with BEAD, especially outreach and planning
- Extensive engagement planned throughout California
 - Will include Tribal consultations in Northern, Central, and Southern California
- CDT working on a **Statewide Digital Equity Survey** and **Digital Equity Ecosystem Map** to understand needs throughout the state
- Outcome Area Working Groups will focus on specific topics
 - Note that Outcome Area Working Group #6 is on **Tribal Collaboration**



California Public Utilities Commission

Statewidebroadband@cpuc.ca.gov

Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program Timeline



State Digital Equity Plan Timeline

