The California Interactive Broadband Map

The California Interactive Broadband Map is a tool for California citizens to find and investigate broadband services in their area. The map displays all of the broadband providers offering service within the area around a particular address. The data currently displayed represents the situation as of December 31, 2014. The map is updated every year. This map was created by the team efforts of the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) Video Franchise / Broadband Deployment Group and the California State University Chico Research Foundation based on data supplied by internet service providers.

How are the broadband data used? There are a number of uses for the information we are collecting and mapping. A primary use is for California residents to be able to access information about the broadband services available to them, and to make them better informed consumers. Equally important, our broadband information is used to inform public policies intended to make sure broadband is available throughout California, and to promote digital literacy and broadband usage. Data collected by the CPUC is also used by the federal government for the same policy purposes.

What exactly is broadband? The broadband information we collect is based on the NTIA's Notice of Funds Availability (NOFA) July 8, 2009 which defines broadband as a "two-way data transmission to and from the Internet with advertised speeds of at least 768 kilobits per second (kbps) downstream and at least 200 kbps upstream to end users." Further, only when new service requests can be provisioned within a normal service interval of 10 days or fewer is service considered "available."

What data is collected? The CPUC collects certain data from broadband providers in California including the availability of broadband services, the technology used to provide them, and the speeds at which broadband services are offered. The CPUC began collecting the data in 2009 and will collect it annually going forward. We separate broadband services into several categories: wireline, fixed wireless, and mobile. "Wireline" technologies include xDSL, Cable Modem, and Fiber to the Home or Fiber to the Premise. These technologies use wires or cables that make a physical connection from the provider to the user. "Fixed wireless" solutions use wireless radio waves at a particular frequency, such as Wi-Fi, to make a "point-to-point" connection between the provider and the user at a fixed location. By contrast "mobile" includes technologies, such as 3G, 4G, and LTE, to provide service to users who can receive a broadband signal while the user is in motion. The best solution for any individual depends on availability, speed, whether mobility is required, and a host of other factors, including price.

How is the data collected? The CPUC issues a Data Request to California broadband providers. The data is then geo-processed and validated using a variety of data sets. Once this process is complete, the CPUC displays the information on the Interactive Map. The data request, record formats, and other information can be found on the State Broadband Mapping Program webpage.

How accurate is the map's representation of broadband availability? It is important to understand that the map is not accurate down to the individual household. Rather, the map uses the smallest geographic area established by the U.S. Census Bureau – the "census block." Wireline data is collected at the census

block level. So, if the census block in which you live is shown as served, that means there is service somewhere by at least one provider that includes at least one address in the same census block in which you live. The map will provide a link to the web site of each provider in the area so that you can further research the availability, speed, quality and prices of service available to you. Conversely, if public feedback indicates that service is not available in a particular census block, the block will be shown as not having broadband available for that provider.

Disclaimer: While every effort has been made to produce an interactive map that is both accurate and current, it is possible that some information might not reflect actual available broadband service. The map is a very good starting point, but neither the CPUC nor the providers can warrant the accuracy of the data. Because of this, the map may show service available within a given census block although not all addresses within that census block will have access to the service. Other factors such as hills or foliage may affect wireless broadband access in certain areas even though service is shown to be available.

 Optional Survey. The map gives you the opportunity to give us feedback about broadband service at your location. We urge you to join us in making improvements to the map by providing us with more information through your participation.