



## UPCOMING PUBLIC WORKSHOP

### **CALIFORNIA ADVANCED SERVICES FUND PUBLIC WORKSHOP CALIFORNIA LOTTERY HEADQUARTERS - 700 NORTH 10<sup>TH</sup> STREET, SACRAMENTO, CA 95811 APRIL 29, 2019, 9:30 AM TO 4:30 PM**

Commissioner Martha Guzman Aceves and staff from the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) will be hosting a public workshop in Sacramento on April 29<sup>th</sup>. This workshop is a chance for the Commission to consult with regional consortia, stakeholders, local governments, existing facility-based broadband providers, and consumers regarding unserved areas of the state and cost-effective strategies for expanding access to broadband. This workshop occurs annually, as required by AB 1665, the Internet for All Now Act, and is intended to help the state meet its goal of 98% access to broadband in every consortia region of California. All members of the public are welcome to attend.

The workshop will focus on three sources of funding for providing broadband in the regions of the state that remain unserved: the CPUC's California Advanced Services Fund (CASF) Broadband Infrastructure Grant Account, which is a \$300 million state fund for awarding grants of up to 100% of costs for deploying broadband infrastructure in unserved parts of the state; the Federal Communications Commission's Connect America Fund Phase II (FCC's CAF-II), which is a \$1.98 billion national fund for rural broadband deployment across the country; and the US Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Rural Broadband ReConnect Program, a \$600 million fund for rural broadband deployment, funded by Congress in 2018. Planned sessions include:

- A panel of providers to address questions about their CAF-II-related investments, and how to best take advantage of this opportunity to deploy broadband infrastructure and improve broadband adoption beyond what is required by the program.
- A panel of Staff and regional consortia representatives will identify examples of grant-eligible communities that are in need of broadband infrastructure and demonstrate the tools used for finding more.
- The USDA will give a presentation on the Rural Broadband ReConnect Program, and the CPUC will discuss the possibility of using state funds as matching funds for federal grants.
- The CASF's Adoption Program will facilitate a discussion on how to maximize participation in existing low-income broadband subscription offerings.

CASF Staff will also be available to address questions about the program, including the revised rules for the Infrastructure Grant program (D.18-12-018) and the upcoming Line Extension pilot program.

Additional CASF program resources including applications instructions, rules and past decisions are available at: <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/casf/>.