



PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
STATE OF CALIFORNIA
505 VAN NESS AVENUE | SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94102
300 CAPITOL MALL | SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95814

November 23, 2022

Lindsay Johnson
lindsey.johnson@countyofmerced.com
County of Merced

Dear Lindsay Johnson,

Congratulations! The California Public Utilities Commission is pleased to inform you that the County of Merced's application for Local Agency Technical Assistance grant funding for County of Merced Broadband Network Design project in the amount of up to \$500,000.00 has been approved.

Pursuant to Decision (D.) 22-02-026, Staff is authorized to approve applications that meet all the criteria for Ministerial Review. Your application was received on September 30, 2022 and was posted on the CPUC's Local Agency Technical Assistance webpage. Staff reviewed your application and determined that your application is eligible for a grant and meets eligibility criteria for Ministerial Review.

The award is predicated on the County of Merced's agreement to provide technical assistance as detailed in its application. In its application, the County of Merced agreed to comply with the specified Ministerial Review criteria as well as to fulfill all requirements, guidelines, and conditions associated with a grant of Local Agency Technical Assistance funds as specified in D.22-02-026 including but not limited to execution and performance, payment, reporting and award acceptance requirements listed in Attachments 1 and 2 of this letter. Please sign and submit the following: 1. A [Consent Form](#) binding your organization to the terms of the grant and 2. A State of California [Government Agency Tax Payer ID Form](#) for tax reporting purposes. **You must submit these documents within 30 days of the date of this letter. If you do not, this award is void.**

Thank you for your application and please direct any questions to **Brewster Fong** (Brewster.Fong@cpuc.ca.gov). and/or refer to the Grantee Administrative Manual, available at <https://bit.ly/CPUCLATA>.

We appreciate your efforts to provide service to our fellow Californians.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Osborn".

Robert Osborn
Director
Communications Division

ATTACHMENT 1

Requirements

The grant award is predicated on the County of Merced's agreement to provide technical assistance as detailed in its application. In its application, the County of Merced agreed and attested to comply with the specified Ministerial Review criteria as well as fulfilling all requirements guidelines, and conditions associated with a grant of Local Agency Technical Assistance funds as specified in D.22-02-026, including but not limited to execution and performance, payment, reporting and award acceptance requirements. Key requirements of Local Agency Technical grant include, among others:

- All costs are related to the development of broadband network deployment projects to benefit unserved or underserved Californians. These projects may include, but are not limited to, the costs of joint powers authority formation, environmental studies, network design, and engineering study expenses.
- Grant may not exceed \$500,000 per local agency, per fiscal year
- A signed affidavit agreeing to comply with the terms, conditions and requirements of the grant and submits to the jurisdiction of the Commission with respect to the disbursement and administration of the grant as well as applicable state and federal rules concerning broadband services.
- Grantee must sign a Consent Form agreeing to the terms stated in the award letter as well as all Local Agency Technical Assistance Rules and Requirements, Guidelines and Application Materials in D.22-06-026.
- Grantee must complete the reimbursable work product within 24 months.
- Grantee must provide Staff a copy of the final reimbursable work product.

Reporting

The grant award is contingent upon fulfilling the reporting requirements per D.22-06-026, Attachment 1. SB 156 requires grantees to fulfill the monthly reporting requirements set forth in Public Utilities Code section 281(l)(1) if they are using a licensed contractor or subcontractor* to undertake a contract or subcontract in excess of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000). The Commission is required to post that information on its website. Specifically, SB 156 requires the following to be reported to the Commission on a monthly basis:

- The name and contractor's license number of each licensed contractor and subcontractor undertaking a contract or subcontract in excess of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) to perform work on a project funded or financed pursuant to this section.
- The location where a contractor or subcontractor described in subparagraph (A) will be performing that work.
- The anticipated dates when that work will be performed.

*Licensed contractor or subcontractor means any contractor that holds a California state license through the contractor's state license board (<https://www.cslb.ca.gov/>).

Post-completion

Upon completion of the reimbursable work product and before final payment, Grantees must:

- Provide a signed completion form stating the technical assistance work has been completed suitable to be posted on the Commission's webpage. The signed completion form must be provided prior to final payment and must include and a short summary of the reimbursable work product(s) performed under the contract, including demonstration that the reimbursable work product(s) identify broadband infrastructure deployment projects that will help achieve the

CASF deployment goal, and identification of the area(s) where the applicant intends to deploy broadband based on the reimbursable work product(s).

- Provide a copy of each reimbursable work product's final report(s), plans, studies, etc. produced under the contract.

Payment

Payment will be made directly to the local agency as the grant recipient. Local agency grantees may request partial reimbursement if they complete one or more of the approved reimbursable work products prior to completion of other reimbursable work products approved in the same grant authorization. Payment will be based upon receipt and approval of an invoice(s) submitted by the local agency showing the expenditures incurred for the reimbursable work product, along with the reimbursable work product final report/study/joint powers agreement, etc., and the completion reporting required above. The invoice(s) must be supported by documentation including but not limited to the actual cost of labor and any other expense that will be recovered by the grant.

To the extent that any portion of an award was used to reimburse a local agency for administrative costs associated with securing or completing a reimbursable work product, the local agency must submit an itemized accounting of such costs, demonstrating the total requested for reimbursement does not exceed 15 percent of the total authorized award. If any portion of reimbursement is found to be out of compliance, grantees will be responsible for refunding any disallowed amount along with appropriate interest rates determined in accordance with applicable Commission decisions. Grantees are required to maintain records such as files, invoices, and other related documentation for five years after final payment. Grantees shall make these records and invoices available to the Commission upon request and agree that these records are subject to a financial audit by the Commission at any time within five years after the final payment made to a grantee.

Execution and Performance

The County of Merced must complete the project within the 24-month timeframe in accordance with the terms of approval granted by the Commission. If the Grantee is unable to complete project within the 24-month timeframe, it must notify the Commission or Director of Communications Division as soon as it becomes aware of this prospect. The Commission may reduce or withhold payment for failure to satisfy this requirement. In the event that the Grantee or contractor fails to complete the work in accordance with the approval granted by the Commission, and as described in its application and contract, the Grantee must reimburse some or all of the funds it has received.

The County of Merced must sign and submit the linked [Consent Form](#) agreeing to the terms of the award **within 30 calendar days from the date of this letter**. Failure to submit the Consent Form within the timeframe required, the CPUC will deem the grant or award null and void.

The County of Merced must communicate in writing to the Communications Division's Director regarding any changes to the substantive terms and conditions underlying the Commission's approval of the grant (such as changes to a reimbursable work product contract, work plan or budget) at least 30 days before the anticipated. Substantive changes may require approval by either the Communications Division Director or by Commission Resolution before becoming effective.

The Commission has the right to conduct any necessary audit, verification, and discovery for work proposed or completed under the technical assistance to ensure that funds are spent in accordance with Commission rules and with the terms of approval by the Commission.

Attachment 2

Local Agency Broadband Technical Assistance
Reporting Requirements and Guidelines
Version October 2022

The Local Agency Technical Assistance program provides grants for eligible pre-construction work which facilitates the construction of broadband network projects. When the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) established the technical assistance grant program, the program was funded with American Rescue Plan Act monies administered by the U.S. Treasury. The source of technical assistance funding has changed. This guidance outlines grantee reporting.

The Commission issued [Decision \(D.\) 22-02-026](#) establishing program requirements for the Local Agency Technical Assistance Grant Program.

Grantees must file **quarterly** progress reports to the Commission with the below information.

Narrative Project Information

- 1.1 The counties, cities and census designated places where households, businesses, and community anchor institutions are planned to be served by the broadband project.
- 1.2 Confirmation that the technical assistance is designed to support projects that, upon completion, reliably meet or exceed symmetrical 100 Mbps download and upload speeds.
- 1.3 Statement of intention about the pricing plans for projects that the technical assistance will support, such as offering of affordable plan or low-income plan subsidized with other funding (ACP).
- 1.4 Information on broadband need in the project area.
- 1.5 Statement describing the community benefits of broadband technical assistance.

Detailed Project Information

- 2.1 Individual work products granted by the program.
 - o Dollars/hours expended per task/work product.
- 2.2 Estimated construction start date (month/year).
- 2.3 Estimated construction completion date (month/year).
- 2.4 Estimated initiation of operations date (month/year).
- 2.5 Planned project technology type(s):
 - o Fiber
 - o Coaxial Cable
 - o Terrestrial Fixed Wireless
 - o Other (specify)
- 2.6 Estimated total miles of fiber to be deployed.
- 2.7 Planned number of locations to be served, broken out by type:
 - o Residential locations
 - o Business connections
 - o Community anchor institutions
- 2.8 Planned non-promotional prices including associated fees, speed tiers, and data allowance for each speed tier.
- 2.9 Other data on broadband need, by location.

Submission

To assist grantees with the filing of quarterly progress reports to the Commission, a sample of the reporting requirements is found in Attachment A of this document.

Planned project information listed in Attachment A should be submitted on a quarterly basis to the Commission's email at StatewideBroadband@cpuc.ca.gov. Grantees need to include in the email subject line:

1. Application Name

CALIFORNIA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

- 2. Project Name
- 3. The Reporting Quarter/Month

Updated quarterly project submissions are required to be sent by the due dates shown below. Grantees are responsible for contacting the Commission at StatewideBroadband@cpuc.ca.gov, if the information cannot be submitted on time.

Reporting Period	Project Information Due to CPUC
October 1 – December 31, 2022	January 2, 2023
January 1 – March 31, 2023	April 1, 2023
April 1 – June 30, 2023	July 1, 2023
July 1 – September 30, 2023	October 1, 2023
October 1 – December 31, 2023	January 2, 2024
January 1 – March 31, 2024	April 1, 2024
April 1 – June 30, 2024	July 1, 2024
July 1 – September 30, 2024	October 1, 2024
October 1 – December 31, 2024	January 2, 2025
January 1 – March 31, 2025	April 1, 2025
April 1 – June 30, 2025	July 1, 2025
July 1 – September 30, 2025	October 1, 2025
October 1 – December 31, 2025	January 2, 2026
January 1 – March 31, 2026	April 1, 2026
April 1 – June 30, 2026	July 1, 2026
July 1 – September 30, 2026	October 1, 2026
October 1 – December 31, 2026	February 1, 2027

Additional Information

Reporting requirements and guidelines are subject to change, and CPUC or the Commission may define additional requirements on CPUC’s [website](#).

These requirements, in spreadsheet format, are available at: <https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/-/media/cpuc-website/divisions/communications-division/documents/broadband-implementation-for-california/technical-assistance-reporting-requirements-oct-2022.pdf>