

CASF Application Tool Definitions

The CASF Application Tool is designed to help those applying for CASF grants. It provides information that is required for the CASF application.

Population and Demographic Information

All economic and demographic data come from the United States Census Bureau. Counts of households and population are obtained from the 2010 Decennial Census, while socio-economic information such as Median Household Income (MHI) is obtained from the 2006-2010 American Community Survey.

Broadband Availability

Broadband service is considered available to a census block if a service provider is able to provision a minimum combined service of 768 kilobits per second downstream and 200 kilobits per second upstream within 10 business days. Availability is tabulated using Census 2010 household counts and land area square mileage. It is important to understand that the map is not intended to be accurate down to the individual household. Rather, household counts with broadband considered available are based on households in the census block multiplied by the percentage of the block's land area that is covered.

Coverage is considered for four technology type combinations:

WIRELINE data is collected at the census block level for blocks 2 square miles or smaller. For these blocks, wireline broadband service is considered available to the entire block if it is already being provided to at least one household in the block. For census blocks larger than 2 square miles, data is collected at the road segment level. In these blocks, wireline service is considered available to a portion of the block. The percentage of the block with wireline service available is equal to the road segment length within or bordering the block as a percentage of the block's perimeter length (up to 100 percent).

FIXED WIRELESS data is provided for geographical coverage areas not limited to census blocks. Most coverage areas are based on geographical propagation models using broadcast points, topography, strength of signal broadcast, and other factors where appropriate. Some are general approximations of service area coverage. For blocks that are only partially covered, the percentage of land area covered in the block is assumed to be the same as the percentage of households covered.

MOBILE WIRELESS data is also provided for geographical coverage areas not limited to census blocks. As with fixed wireless, most coverage areas are based on geographical propagation models using broadcast points, topography, strength of signal broadcast, and other factors where appropriate. Some are general approximations of service area coverage. For blocks that are only partially covered, the percentage of land area covered in the block is assumed to be the same as the percentage of households covered.

COMBINED means coverage by either wireline, fixed wireless, or mobile wireless.

The availability information displayed on the map is presumptively correct. The Map provides 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. Please visit the [CASF FAQ](#) for information about the application process and administration of the CASF.

Determination of Service (Served/Underserved/Unserved Status)

SERVED is an area with at least one provider offering combined download speeds of at least 6 megabits per second AND upload speeds of at least 1.5 megabits per second.

UNDERSERVED is an area where broadband is available, but no wireline or wireless facilities-based provider offers service at advertised speeds of at least 6 mbps download and 1.5 mbps upload.

UNSERVED is an area that is not served by any form of wireline or wireless facilities-based broadband, such that Internet connectivity is available only through dial-up service or no broadband service can be identified.

In determining if a census block is primarily served, underserved, or unserved, we use the category in which a plurality of households in that block fall. In other words, if a block has more underserved households than either served or unserved, the block will be considered underserved.

Calculating Average Speeds

Average maximum advertised download and upload speeds are determined by using the data output of the Application Assistant in conjunction with the Calculation Template Excel Spreadsheet available from the CASF web site. These tools calculate the Average Download and Upload Speeds that need to be submitted for your CASF application. These metrics are calculated by averaging the maximum advertised speed information with all providers reporting service coverage in the centroid of a given Census Block. The low end value of the maximum advertised speed range is used in the calculation (for example, if the speed is given as “at least 6 mbps and less than 10 mbps,” then 6 mbps is used in the average speed calculation for that provider. Figures at the Census Block Group are a compilation of these average speeds, weighted by the number of households in each Census Block. These figures are termed *Household Weighted Maximum Advertised Download Speeds*.

[California Advanced Services Fund \(CASF\) Infrastructure Grant and Revolving Loan Account](#)