

Last Mile Collaborative Model

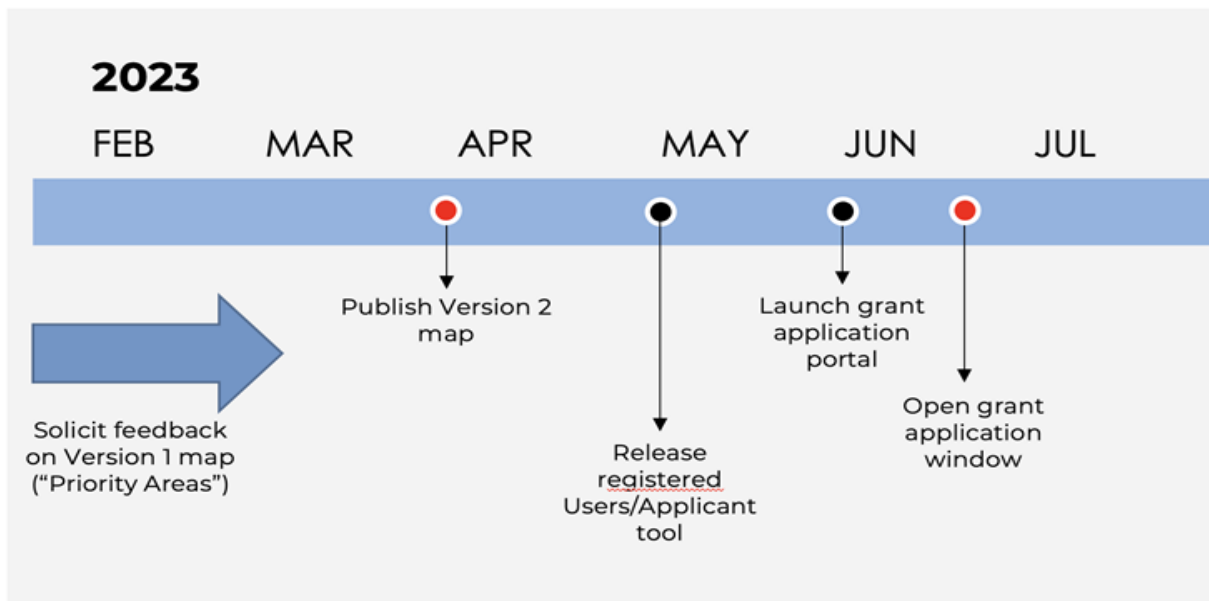
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The Federal Funding Account (FFA), established by the California Public Utilities Commission according to Senate Bill 156, will fund last mile broadband infrastructure projects to connect unserved and underserved Californians with high-speed broadband service. The FFA has a \$2 billion budget made up of state and federal funds. Projects built using the federal American Rescue Plan Act funds must be built by 2027. Based on [Decision 22-04-055 and Appendix A](#): over \$58M in funds has been set aside for the Tri County Region.

Population Unserved	County	Allocation = \$5 million + \$1,640.37218 per unserved resident
10,575	San Luis Obispo	\$22,346,935.80
6,627	Santa Barbara	\$15,870,746.44
9,365	Ventura	\$20,362,085.47

The current timeline for the planning, preparation, and receipt of funding is:

Timeline



<https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/industries-and-topics/internet-and-phone/broadband-implementation-for-california/last-mile-federal-funding-account>

In response, the Broadband Consortium of the Pacific Coast has been advocating the creation of two regional organizations to accomplish the deployment and adoption strategies required. The paragraphs that follow provide a description of the work involved.

An Integrated Action Plan (Process)

With the receipt of Local Area Technical Assistance (LATA) funding, planning will occur to identify and prepare for the execution of the work involved. Whereas a regional perspective (strategies) for deployment is being developed by the public sector through the Councils of Governments (COGs), Digital Equity Coalitions (DECs) are also being formed to address the work of adoption. Through it all, the Broadband Consortium of the Pacific Coast (BCPC) will provide the linkage to resources, coordinate actions, and support the execution of strategies where necessary of both. A summary of these activities follows:

Identification of a Priority Area (CPUC Consortia, Planning)

- Data Collection to Validate Priority Planning
- Stakeholder Identification
- Development of a BASELINE (Existing Assets and Adoptions Levels)

Deployment (COGs, Concurrent with Adoption)

- Identify Interested Parties (telecoms) to Serve as Project Partners
- Prepare an RFP, Issue, Receive & Evaluate Construction Bids
- Award & Execute the Project

Adoption (DEC's, Concurrent with Deployment)

- Convene Community Based Organizations (CBOs)
- Communicate Imperative, Secure Participation, & Recruit Digital Navigators
- Identify Gaps & Secure Option

Last Mile Collaboration

Integrating Community-Based Broadband Deployment & Adoption



Description of Outcomes (Deployment)

What will it look like when we're done? Each County has its own unique needs. With that said, through the pandemic and the conversations that have followed, an imperative has emerged for three distinct initiatives. While each county is anticipated to approach the accomplishment of this work uniquely, the outcomes themselves will likely not only be shared, but likely interconnect. The work of overseeing the construction and in cases absent a business case, owning the network, will rest on each county's COG.

Safety Net (Level 1) (Public Ownership & Oversight)

- A Regional Wireless Network
- Intended Primarily for Emergency Services
- Criteria for Limited Use in providing Public Access

Intro Net (Level 2) (Competitive & Subsidized)

- Qualified Population
- DEC Deployment Oversight
- Digital Navigator Civic Leadership

Open Net (Level 3) (Competitive & Open Market)

- Private Sector (ILEC/CLEC) Partners
- Middle Mile Access Points
- Leasing of Public Assets Where Needed

Digital Navigators as Civic Leaders (Adoption)

If you build it, will they come? Occurring in parallel with the planning to close gaps in infrastructure (connections) in priority areas is the work required to deliver Broadband for All (connecting), which will require placing a concerted focus on overcoming the obstacles which may exist in communities of need. For this task regional DEC's are now gathering stakeholders and developing plans to work alongside the COGs in a manner that once infrastructure exists, communities will be ready to connect.

Identifies Gaps in Access and Subscribers

- Data Driven (Municipal/State/Federal GIS, Telecoms, CBOs)
- Trusted Agent / Bridge Builder
- DEC Community Advocate

Monitors Deployment & Coordinates Adoption

- Participates in Mapping of Assets
- Links Adoption to Completed Construction
- Maintains Adoption Metrics

Provides Linkage to Resource Network

- Service Installation Tracking
- Subscription and Quick Start Assistance
- Literacy Training

A Sense of Urgency

The undertaking to establish Broadband as the 4th utility is significant. While the role of the private sector is being redefined and the public sector is embracing a new role as a partner, the opportunity exists for new civic leaders to transform their communities. It's important to note, that projects built using the federal American Rescue Plan Act funds must be built by 2027. As a result, the opportunity to create, innovate, and collaborate is important to accelerate the completion of these tasks and achieve meaningful outcomes within the timeframes which exists.