

CASF Broadband Project Requirements Summary

Reference CPUC Decision 12-02-015 dated 1 February 2012 for details and governing language

| Area type | Definition | Max. CASF grant funding | Max. CASF loan funding | Max. total CASF funding | Round 1 application window |
|------------------------------|---|---|------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| Unserved | Service is either unavailable or no better than dial-up. | 70% | 20% with \$500K cap | 90% | 1 October 2012 |
| Underserved | No wireline or wireless facilities-based provider offers service at advertised speeds of at least 6 mbps download and 1.5 mbps upload. No prior CASF funding. | 60% | 20% with \$500K cap | 80% | 1 February 2013 |
| Hybrid applications | Under and unserved areas may be combined in a project for efficiency. | Prorated | 20% with \$500K cap | 80% to 90% | 1 February 2013 |
| Previously funded | Meets definition of underserved, but existing service 1. began more than 3 years prior and 2. was funded by CASF. | 60% | 20% with \$500K cap | 80% | TBD |
| Served | Service of 6 mbps download and 1.5 mbps upload or better is available. | Served areas are not eligible and must be excluded from last mile proposals. If served areas are included in a middle mile project, then associated and/or prorated costs must be subtracted from the total budget before calculating CASF funding percentages. Data associated with a served area (e.g. households, revenue, demographics, geographic parameters) cannot be included in the application. | | | |
| Eligibility | Telephone corporations holding a CPCN or the wireless equivalent. Ineligible organizations may participate in a consortium application, but the lead financial agent must be an eligible company. | | | | |
| Service availability | CPUC publishes Broadband Availability Maps showing under and unserved areas, but applicants may offer documentation (e.g. studies, maps, letters) challenging that data for consideration by the commission. | | | | |
| Middle mile projects | Middle mile facilities that span different types of areas (including served areas) may comprise part or all of a project, subject to the pro-rating requirements above. Middle mile facilities will be evaluated on the basis of last mile criteria (e.g. households and subscribers) and are only fundable if "indispensable" to an applicant's plan for reaching under and unserved communities. | | | | |
| Definition of an area | Up to the applicant. CPUC maps show presumptive availability to at least the Census Block level, and in some cases to the street level. However, CPUC uses Census Block Groups as its standard way of defining project areas, so applicants must reference CBGs when describing a proposed service area. CBGs must be contiguous in a given application, but the areas proposed for funded service within those CBGs need not be. If two or more CBGs with non-contiguous areas are involved, applicants should consider submitting separate applications for each CBG. | | | | |
| Challenges | During the review process, existing service providers can challenge any claim that a given CBG is unserved or underserved. Applications must be revised to exclude successfully challenged areas before proceeding. | | | | |
| Application elements | Basis for claiming the area is under and/or unserved. Adoption and sustainability plan, with potential households, subscriber estimates and marketing plan. Price plan, with fixed monthly fees and no installation charges to subscribers for two years. Financial qualifications, viability and reporting requirements, including performance bond. Organization chart and description of "readiness to construct and manage". Project plan, including technology, up and down load speeds and construction plans. Project budget and schedule, with build out within 24 months. Estimate of economic life of assets funded by CASF. Geographic and demographic information about service area. Description of applicant's current facilities or service within 5 miles of project, if any. Basic voice service is encouraged (not mandatory), but if included must meet certain standards. Projects that serve low income areas and/or have community support are given extra weight. | | | | |