



Rural Digital Opportunity Fund

California Public Utilities Commission – Information Sheet

<https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/communications/federal/funding/>

What

Up to approximately **\$1.6 billion**¹ in federal subsidies is available to build broadband internet infrastructure in California through an FCC reverse auction (lowest bidder with best service wins). California service providers must propose low-latency (preferably fiber) projects to maximize the benefits for the state.²

- California has the largest number of eligible locations in the country (475,671).
- Eligible households and small businesses located in 4,587 census block groups where no provider offers service at 25 megabits per second (Mbps) download and 3 Mbps upload.

Goal

To maximize federal money available to the state by mobilizing local governments and service providers to create projects and bid for locations in the upcoming Phase I reverse auction.

Timing

The FCC's Phase I Reverse Auction is proposed to begin October 29, 2020. The FCC plans to award up to \$16.4 billion in Phase I and \$4 billion in Phase II the following May. The auction is nationwide, which means states will **compete** for the money.

- The FCC is expected to finalize bidding procedures on June 9, 2020.
- Providers must submit their intent to bid during the July 1-15 window using the FCC's Short Form process.
- Winners must be Eligible Telecommunications Carriers (ETCs) or become ETCs shortly after the auction to receive funding. The CPUC adopted an expedited ETC process for RDOF bidders in Resolution [T-17693](#).

Next Steps

- May-June 2020 - Reconcile CASF and RDOF timelines to meet statutory requirements and maximize federal dollars available to the state.
- June-October 2020 – Outreach and mobilization, technical assistance, and local government consultation.
- July 1-15 2020 – Short Form Filing due to FCC
- October 29, 2020 (planned) – Phase I Reverse Auction

¹ CostQuest Feb 2020 estimate; subsidies to winners distributed in equal amounts over 10 years.

² California missed the opportunity to have \$150 Million in Connect America Fund Phase II money based on similar rules because there were no bidders in multiple areas.

Background

Key CPUC Filings in the FCC RDOF docket (WC 19-126)

- [September 20, 2019 Comments](#)
- [October 21, 2019 Reply Comments](#)
- [President Batjer January 22, 2020 Letter to FCC](#)
- [March 27, 2020 Comments](#)
- [Robert Osborn May 18, 2020 Letter to FCC](#)

Proposed RDOF (Auction 904) Timeline

Phase I auction (Auction 904) bidding is expected to start October 29, 2020 (on May 19, the FCC proposed moving the start date of Auction 904 back a week; the FCC is expected to adopt the May 19 draft order at their June 9 meeting).

The FCC's proposed Auction 904 Dates and Deadlines are:

| | |
|--|------------------------------|
| Auction Application Tutorial Available (via Internet) | By June 15, 2020 |
| Short-Form Application (FCC Form 183) Filing Window Opens | July 1, 2020; 12:00 noon EDT |
| Short-Form Application (FCC Form 183) Filing Window Closes | July 15, 2020; 6:00 p.m. EDT |
| Auction Bidding Tutorial Available (via Internet) | By October 14, 2020 |
| Mock Auction Begins | October 26, 2020 |
| Auction Begins | October 29, 2020 |

Key RDOF Info

CPUC page on federal funding and RDOF

<https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/communications/federalfunding/>

CPUC California RDOF eligibility map (Internet Explorer results may vary)

<https://www.broadbandmap.ca.gov/federalfunding/>

Phase I auction (Auction 904)

<https://www.fcc.gov/auction/904>