Broadband Alliance
of Mendocino County

Highlights of the Broadband Adoption Moneys available through AB 1665

Purpose of the new "Adoption" program is created within CASF:

- Increasing publicly available broadband access and digital inclusion
- Increasing **After-school Broadband Access** and **Digital Inclusion** by means such as grants for digital literacy training programs and public education to communities with limited broadband adoption.
- No grant recipient is allowed to charge for these classes nor make a profit of any kind from these funds.

Communities with limited broadband adoption includes:

- Low income communities
    - with a median household income below the threshold set by the Commission for a family of four in the California Alternate Rates for Energy (CARE) program.
- Senior Communities
- Communities facing socioeconomic barriers to broadband adoption
    - low income communities
    - communities with a high percentage of residents with limited English Proficiency
    - communities with a high percentage of residents with disabilities
    - communities with a high percentage of residents with limited educational attainment
    - communities with some other demonstrated disadvantage which affects broadband adoption

Moneys in this account shall not be used to subsidize the costs of providing broadband service to households.

Eligible applicants:

- Local governments
- Senior centers
- Schools
- Public libraries
- Nonprofit organizations

- Community-based organizations with programs to increase publicly available or after school broadband access and digital inclusion, such as digital literacy training programs.
- (Publicly supported communities are eligible to submit an application for funding from the Adoption Account only after all funds available for adoption projects from the Housing Account have been awarded.)

Digital Literacy Projects

Staff recommends limiting funding to $50K/project and 85% funding to cover costs for:

- Education and outreach efforts and materials;

- Acceptable devices and software ($250 limit/participant excluding smartphones) and $1000/public center with 20 devices/center.

- Printers;

- Routers;

- Provision of technical support for the installation of equipment subsidized through this program;

- Desks and chairs to furnish a designated space for digital literacy;

- Gathering, preparing and distributing digital literacy curriculum (not creating new

- curriculum);

- Digital literacy instructors.

Broadband Access Projects for increasing Publicly available or after-school access broadband

Staff recommends limiting funding to $50K/project 85% funding for projects that:

- provide free broadband access in public spaces such as
    - community training rooms
    - local government centers
    - senior centers
    - schools
    - public libraries
    - nonprofit organizations
    - community based organizations.

The Commission will also fund:

- Community outreach, such as analysis and comparison of Internet plans within the community that will increase broadband access and adoption.

- Education and outreach efforts and materials;

- Acceptable devices ($250 limit/participant excluding smartphones; and $1000/public center with 20 devices/center)

- Printers and software;

- Routers;

- Provision of technical support for the installation of equipment subsidized through this program;

- Desks and chairs to furnish a designated space for broadband access;

- Staffing for monitoring the designated space.

Application requirements

Please see page 5,6 and 7 of Appendix C for application requirements. All of the requirements seem reasonable.

- Highly recommended: submit endorsements or letters of support from the state or local government, community groups, and anchor institutions supporting their proposed adoption project

Evaluation Criteria

See page 7 and 8 of Appendix C for evaluation criteria. Projects will need a minimum score of 70 out of 100 to be considered.

Application Deadline

A program process must be developed by the Commission by June 30, 2018.

The Commission shall be ready to accept applications by July 1st, 2018

Applicants will file their applications electronically at http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/puc/

Applications may be submitted at any time, but staff will consider applications submitted on or before each 6-month deadline listed below as a batch, until all funds have been awarded. Any deadline falling on a holiday or a weekend will be extended to the following business day.

Six-month deadlines:
- July 1, 2018
- January 1, 2019
- July 1, 2019
- January 1, 2020
- July 1, 2020
- January 1, 2021
- July 1, 2021
- January 1, 2022
- July 1, 2022

A project may be eligible for "expedited review" by the Commission if certain requirements are met, such as having experience in digital literacy programs, providing 8 hours training/participant, and available technical support for devices. See the full list on page 9 and 10 of Appendix C.

After approval, projects should be started within 6 months and completed within 12 months. A completion report will be required.

Other questions for consideration in evaluating programs are found on page 10 and 11 of Appendix C.