



# Broadband Update ESCOG

February 28, 2024

<https://ConnectedEasternSierra.net/>



# Overview

- Grants Update
- Middle-Mile Broadband Initiative
- IMBC Work Plan Updates
- Links to Highlight
- Other Updates
- Acronyms for Reference



# Grants Updates

- CASF Consortia Grant
- CPUC FFA Grant
- CPUC LATA Grant
- BEAD
- CASF Infrastructure Account
- USDA RD Broadband Technical Assistance



# Grants: Consortia Grant

- Started Grant Year 2 of 3 on February 1, 2024
- Working on 2nd Semiannual Reporting and Audit



# Grants: FFA

- 5 Grant Applications Submitted for Our Region
- CPUC is Currently Reviewing [Applications](#)
- Expected Award Notifications in *March or April*
- Second Application Window Pending Awards



# Grants: LATA

- Current Status of Mono & Mammoth LATA Grants
  - Grant Activities are through the GSCA JPA
  - Low-Level Design In Progress
- Current Status of Inyo LATA Grant
  - Phases 1-A and 1B Complete
  - Phase 2-A RFP to be Posted in March



# Grants: BEAD

- NTIA BEAD Allocation for California: \$1.86B
- Goal: Broadband Service at 100Mbps/10Mbps for All
- CPUC Submitted Initial Proposal in December 2023
- CDT to Release Digital Equity Plan in Spring 2024
- Next Step: NTIA Approves Initial Proposal in 2024
- Deployment Details in [Initial Proposal, Section 5](#)
- *High-Cost-per-Location Threshold will Impact Our Region*



# Grants: CASF Infrastructure

- Next Grant Application Window is Not Yet Open
- Providers and Local Governments can Apply
- Allows Fixed Wireless for Last Mile





# Grants: USDA RD

- USDA RD Broadband Technical Assistance:
  - Awaiting USDA Announcement to send Press Releases
  - Starting work on RFPs for Both Grants



# Middle-Mile Broadband Initiative

- MMBI (the Project) & MMBN (the Network)
  - Current [MMBI Network Map](#)
- MMBI Purchase of Digital 395 Network
  - Asset Purchase Agreement (APA) Signed
  - NTIA Petition for Waiver Submitted September 29
  - Next Step: Class A Membership Board & CPUC Approvals
  - Expected APA Closing by June 30, 2024



# Work Plan Updates

- [Website](#) Update Efforts:
  - Improving Navigation & Readability
  - Simplifying Long-Term Maintenance
- BEAD Program Preparation
- Updated [Unserved Data](#) for all Potential Project Areas
- Speed Test Reporting: Latency Data Fields for BEAD



# Links to Highlight

- <https://connectedeasternsierra.net/broadband/get-involved/>
- [California's BEAD Program](#) (and Initial Proposal volumes)
- [FFA Broadband Portal](#) (Grant Applications)



# Other Updates

- AT&T Application for Relief from Carrier of Last Resort Obligations
- ACP Enrollments Ended on February 8, 2024
- NTIA Broadband Fabric Licenses for the Region
  - Tier 2 – FCC Broadband data
  - Tier E – NTIA BEAD Broadband Data
- [SB717](#) Broadband Access Point Investment Acceleration Study Act



# Acronyms

- ACP – Affordable Connectivity Program
- BEAD – Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (NTIA grant program)
- CASF – California Advance Services Fund (within the CPUC)
- CBC – California Broadband Cooperative (Digital 395 network)
- CDT – California Department of Technology
- CPUC – California Public Utilities Commissions
- FCC – Federal Communications Commission
- GSCA – Golden State Connect Authority (JPA – RCRC)
- GSN – Golden State Net – MMBI Third Party Network Administrator
- IMBC – Inyo-Mono Broadband Consortium (ESCOG, CASF Consortia Grant)
- JPA – Joint Powers Authority
- MMBI – Middle-Mile Broadband Initiative (State of California project)
- MMBN – Middle-Mile Broadband Network (GSN-managed network)
- NTIA – National Telecommunications & Information Administration
- RCRC – Rural County Representatives of California
- USDA RD – US Department of Agriculture Rural Development

