



Broadband Update ESCOG

August 27, 2025

<https://ConnectedEasternSierra.net/>



Overview

- Grant Program Updates
- Legacy Grant Project Awards
- Long-Term Broadband Expansion Outlook
- Website Updates ([New Speed Test](#))



Grant Programs and Updates

- NTIA BEAD
- CPUC FFA Round 1 (Mono & Mammoth Lakes Awards)
- CPUC FFA Round 2 (Inyo Applications)
- USDA BTA
- CASF Infrastructure Account
- CASF Regional Broadband Consortia



Grants: NTIA BEAD

- NTIA Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program
- Last-Mile Construction
- BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice (June 6)
 - Benefit of the Bargain round (July 19 – August 2)
 - Final Proposal Submission Deadline: September 4
- Still “All Unserved Locations”
- Now “Least Expensive Solution”



Grants: CPUC FFA Round 1

- CPUC Federal Funding Account (Round 1)
- Last-Mile Construction
- Awards in Mono County:
 - County of Mono (GSCA)
 - Town of Mammoth Lakes (GSCA)
- Expected GSCA Project Completion in 2027



Grants: CPUC FFA Round 2

- CPUC Federal Funding Account Round 2 (Limited Opportunity)
- Last-Mile Construction
- Applications Submitted in Inyo County (11)
 - Stimulus Tech (8)
 - Frontier (2)
 - GSCA (1)
 - <https://broadbandportal.cpuc.ca.gov/s/public-applications>
- Award Announcements Expected *October-December

*Scott's Estimate



Grants: USDA RD BTA

- USDA Rural Development Broadband Technical Assistance
- Design Work Only
- Mono County: Hammil (August-October)
- Inyo County: Furnace Creek & Park Village (July-September)



Grants: CASF Infrastructure Grant

- CASF Broadband Infrastructure Grant Account
- Last-Mile Construction
- Updated California Broadband Map – July 21
 - <https://broadbandmap.ca.gov/>
- Grant Application Window Closes October 31, 2025
- Variable Matching Funds Requirement
- Currently No Interest in Our Region



Grants: CASF Consortia Grant

- CASF Rural & Urban Regional Broadband Consortia Account
- Funds the IMBC Work Plan Activities
 - <https://connectedeasternsierra.net/work-plan/>
- Year 3 of 3: February 1, 2025 – January 31, 2026
- Expecting another 3-Year Grant Opportunity
 - Application Window and Procedures Not Yet Public
 - Discussions of Slightly Modified Program Objectives



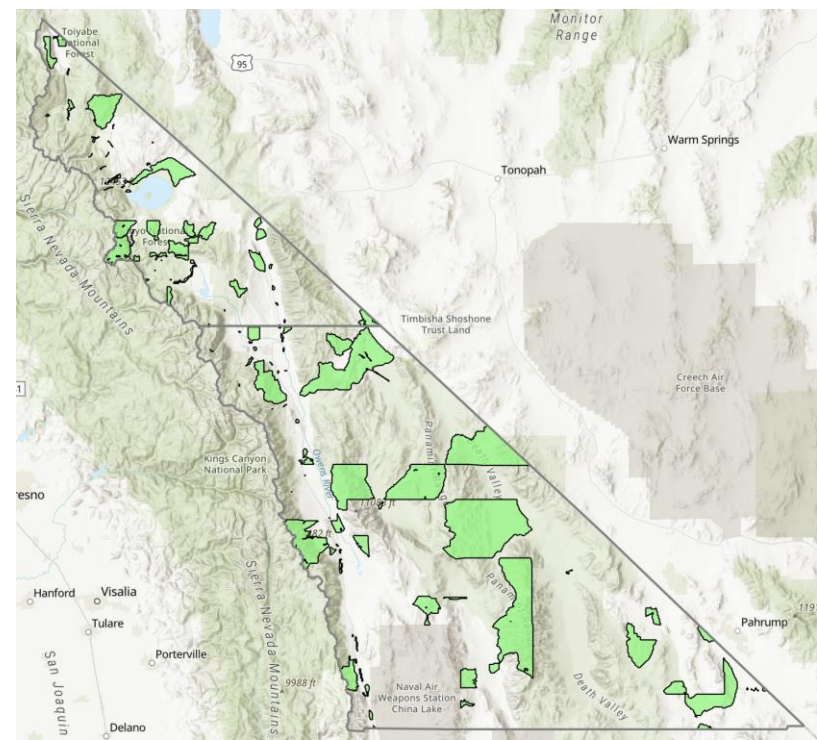
Legacy Grant Project Awards

- Connect America Fund Phase II
- Rural Digital Opportunity Fund



Legacy Grants: CAF II

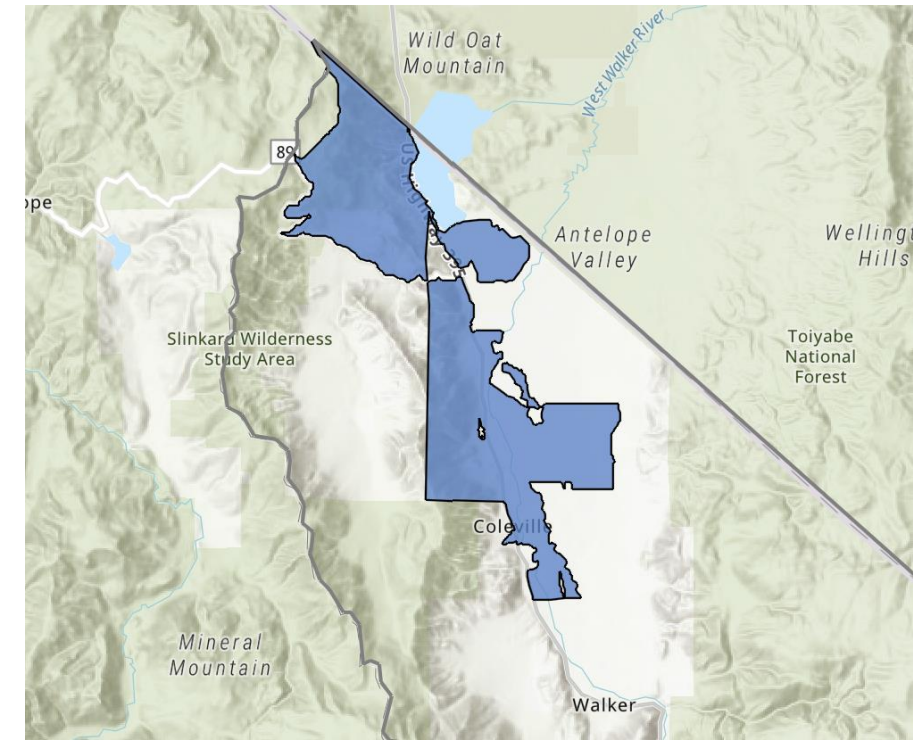
- FCC Connect America Fund Phase II
- Funded with 25Mbps/3Mbps Service Requirement
- Project Areas Funded by CAF II are Not Eligible for BEAD
- 10-Year Program, Awards in 2018
- Geolinks & Viasat Project Areas





Legacy Grants: RDOF

- FCC Rural Digital Opportunity Fund
- Funded with 25Mbps/3Mbps Service Requirement
- Project Areas Funded by RDOF are Not Eligible for BEAD
- 10-Year Program, Awards in 2018 & 2019
- Frontier Project Areas Only





Broadband Expansion Outlook

- FCC Notice July 17, 2025:
 - Solicit Comments on Continued Use of 100Mbps/20Mbps Benchmark
 - Abolish long-term goal of 1Gbps/500Mbps Benchmark
 - Continue to use FCC BDC as the Primary Data Source
 - <https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-413059A1.pdf>
- Online Innovation Requires Reliable Broadband
- Reliable, Symmetrical Gigabit Service should be the Goal
- Will Need Additional Broadband Expansion Iterations



IMBC Website Updates

- New-New IMBC Speed Test
- Broadband Needs Estimator



Website: New Speed Test

- Allows Capture of Regional Speed Test Results
- Includes Optional Survey Questions

<https://connectedeasternsierra.net/speed/>

EASTERN SIERRA REGIONAL SPEED TEST TOOL



Welcome to the IMBC Regional Speed Test Tool



Website: Broadband Estimator

- Updated Intuitive Layout
- Incorporates the M-Lab Speed Test

<https://connectedeasternsierra.net/get-connected/>

Calculate Your Suggested Bandwidth

Enter the number of devices in the blue boxes below, then click the Calculate Totals button. To reset the numbers, click the Reset Values button.

0 Desktop Computers	Suggested Bandwidth: 20	Total (Mbps): 0
3 Laptop Computers	Suggested Bandwidth: 20	Total (Mbps): 60
2 Tablet Computers	Suggested Bandwidth: 10	Total (Mbps): 20
3 Smartphones	Suggested Bandwidth: 5	Total (Mbps): 15
1 Connected TVs	Suggested Bandwidth: 20	Total (Mbps): 20
1 Gaming devices	Suggested Bandwidth: 10	Total (Mbps): 10
5 Other connected devices	Suggested Bandwidth: 2	Total (Mbps): 10

Total Suggested Bandwidth for all Devices (Mbps):

Test Your Current Broadband Speed

Server: mlab2-ord06.mlab-oti.measurement-lab.org
(Chicago)
Your public IP address: 166.181.83.31

Download: 58.75 Mb/s
Latency: 43.37 ms
Jitter: 7.96 ms

Upload: 4.28 Mb/s
Latency: 47.45 ms
Jitter: 7.80 ms



Questions & Discussion



Links to Highlight

- CPUC Federal Funding Account
 - <https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/industries-and-topics/internet-and-phone/broadband-implementation-for-california/last-mile-federal-funding-account>
- California BEAD Program
 - <https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/beadprogram/>
- California Broadband for All
 - <https://broadbandforall.cdt.ca.gov/>
- Middle-Mile Broadband Initiative
 - <https://middle-mile-broadband-initiative.cdt.ca.gov/>



Acronyms

- BEAD – Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment
- CAF II – Connect America Fund Phase II
- CASF – California Advance Services Fund (CPUC)
- CBC – California Broadband Cooperative, Digital 395
- CDT – California Department of Technology
- CPUC – California Public Utilities Commissions
- FCC – Federal Communications Commission
- FFA – CPUC Federal Funding Account
- GSCA – Golden State Connect Authority JPA (RCRC)
- GSN – Golden State Net, MMBI Network Administrator
- IMBC – Inyo-Mono Broadband Consortium
- JPA – Joint Powers Authority
- MMBI – Middle-Mile Broadband Initiative
- MMBN – Middle-Mile Broadband Network
- NTIA – National Telecommunications & Information Administration
- RCRC – Rural County Representatives of California
- RDOF – Rural Digital Opportunity Fund
- USDA RD – US Department of Agriculture Rural Development

