

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 VAN NESS AVENUE
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298



September 26, 2013

To: Members of CASF Distribution List

Subject: Announcing the Availability of an Estimated \$965,000 in Additional Funding for CASF Regional Consortia Grants

This letter is to inform prospective applicants that the Communications Division (CD) is accepting proposals to fund activities within the guidelines outlined below.

Background

On June 23, 2011, the Commission adopted Decision 11-06-038, implementing the CASF Rural and Urban Regional Broadband Consortia Account ("Consortia Grant"). The Consortia Grant program funds "broadband deployment activities other than the capital cost of facilities, as specified by the Commission."

The Commission approved 14 consortia when it passed Resolutions T-17349 (December 2, 2011) and T-17355 (February 16, 2012). As discussed in Decision 11-06-038, the Commission must establish a schedule for a new round of applications seeking the remaining unencumbered Consortia Grant program funds before the end of the initial Consortia Grant funding period. The same eligibility criteria, filing requirements, and scoring protocols adopted for the initial filing round shall apply to subsequent rounds. A previously awarded consortia grant recipients may seek renewed funding for additional activities, based on staff determination of how efficiently and cost-effectively it spent previously granted consortia funds.

Application Process

An estimated additional \$965,000 is available to fund new consortia activities. As with the previous grants, funds will be used to promote ubiquitous broadband deployment in unserved and underserved areas and to advance broadband adoption throughout California. An eligible Consortium may include, but is not limited to, local and regional governments, public safety, K-12 education, health care, libraries, higher education, community-based organizations, tourism, parks and recreation, agricultural, and business. Additionally, an applicant is not required to have as its lead fiscal agent an entity with a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity.

Consortia activities shall be designed to promote regionally appropriate and cost-effective broadband deployment, access, and adoption within a given region. The Commission currently funds grantees for activities such as:

- Identifying potential CASF infrastructure projects, along with other opportunities where providers can expand their service offerings;
- Digital literacy training;
- Inventorying regional broadband assets;
- Mapping broadband availability in the area; and
- Local policy and ordinance planning.

Per Decision 11-06-038, the maximum award per consortium will be \$150,000 per year, for up to three years, plus \$10,000 (per consortium for up to 5 representatives) for attendance at the Annual Learning Summit. Applicants may submit proposals requesting less funding or offering services for less than three years.

All proposals will be evaluated in accordance with the scoring criteria in Decision 11-06-038. Applicants that meet a minimum threshold scoring criteria of 70 points (out of a possible 100) *may* be eligible for funding. Proposals for new consortia groups covering geographic areas in California that are not represented by the 14 existing Consortia will receive priority consideration. Where multiple applicants seek funding in the same region, the highest ranking applicant shall be considered eligible to receive a grant. As with the previous grant approvals, the Commission intends to avoid funding duplicative activities in the same area.

Decision 11-06-038 to ensure they meet Commission guidelines. Incomplete proposals will not be evaluated. To assist prospective applicants for Consortia, Decision 11-06-038 provides a series of attachments illustrating the various informational requirements and documents that must be properly completed in order for an application to be considered and approved. Key attachments include:

- Action Plan and Work Plan Contents
- Sample of Action Plan Format
- Sample of Work Plan Format
- Requested Budget
- CASF Consortia Application Checklist
- Consortium Scoring Criteria

CD will host a workshop for prospective applicants on November 4, 2013. More specific details will follow.

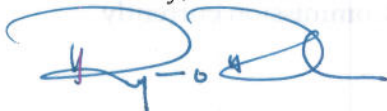
Applicants must submit their proposals by January 17, 2014 to ensure consideration. Applicants must submit their proposals via email and U.S. mail to the below addresses:

CASF_Consortia_Grant_Administrator@cpuc.ca.gov

California Public Utilities Commission
Attn: CASF Consortia Coordinator/Tom Glegola
Communications Division
505 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102-3298

If you have questions, please contact Tom Glegola at tjg@cpcuc.ca.gov or (415) 703-2438.

Sincerely,



Ryan Dulin
Communications Division Director