

Universal Service

The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) administers six legislatively mandated programs to ensure safe, reliable, affordable, and universal access to telecommunications services. These programs connect Californians to essential services such as public safety, public health, and education.

California Advanced Services Fund

Provides grants to deploy broadband infrastructure, access, digital inclusion, and to regional consortia and public housing to “bridge the digital divide” (*PU Code Sec. 281*)



Infrastructure projects potentially providing broadband access to no less than 98% of California Households in each consortia region

California High Cost Fund A

Provides financial assistance to 13 small independent telephone companies serving “high cost” rural areas to keep rates affordable (*PU Code Sec. 275.6*)



Connecting **57,271 lines** in high-cost rural areas

Connecting high-cost rural communities in **12 counties** to service **47,818 lines**

California High Cost Fund B

Provides financial assistance to “carriers of last resort” to keep basic telephone service affordable in rural areas (*PU Code Sec. 276.5*)



Connecting

- **3,907 schools**
- **519 libraries**
- **6,588 community groups**
- **223 hospitals & clinics**
- **97 community colleges**

California Teleconnect Fund

Provides discounted communications services to schools, community colleges, libraries, public hospitals and non-profit organizations (*PU Code Sec. 280*)



Connected **921,051 relay calls** to support **751,599 minutes** during fiscal year 2021-2022

Deaf & Disabled Telecom Program

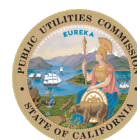
Provides telecommunication equipment, relay service and assistive equipment to customers with hearing, vision, speech, cognitive, and mobility disabilities (*PU Code Sec. 2881*)



Providing a **\$17.90 discount** in addition to **\$9.25** from Federal LifeLine, connecting **965,629 wireless** and **170,959 wireline** customers

California LifeLine Program

Provides discounts on wireline or wireless communication service to qualified low-income customers (*PU Code Sec. 871 et seq*)



California Public Utilities Commission