

**Frontier CASF Broadband Infrastructure Grant Application – Colusa  
Project Summary**

**Applicant:** Citizens Telecommunications Company of California Inc. d/b/a Frontier Communications of California (U-1024-C)

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**Project Title:** Colusa

**Location:** Colusa, Colusa County

**Type:** Last Mile

**Grant Request:** \$253,135.10

Citizens Telecommunications Company of California Inc. d/b/a Frontier Communications of California (U-1024-C) (“Frontier”) is applying for a \$253,135.10 grant from the California Advanced Services Fund (“CASF”) Broadband Infrastructure Grant Account to deploy last mile VDSL2 facilities that will enable High Speed Internet (“HSI”) broadband service to 45 unserved CASF-eligible households and to make available high speed fiber optic based broadband service to the County Fairgrounds in Colusa, California. The \$253,135.10 represents 100% of the projected costs for the 45 CASF-eligible households and the fairgrounds.

AB 1665 (Garcia, 2017) added \$330 million in new funding and made statutory changes to the CASF program codified in Section 281 of the Public Utilities Code. These changes took effect immediately upon the Governor’s signature of the bill on October 15, 2017, and provide the Commission with the authority to award 100% funding of a project on a case-by-case basis based on consideration of specified factors as well as other factors, including but not limited to, the purpose of Section 281.

Frontier’s proposed project covers approximately 7.0 square miles and upgrades facilities that are capable of providing HSI and VoIP. The majority of the build will consist of aerial facilities and leverages existing infrastructure, while a minor amount of the Fairgrounds portion of the project will be in the public right of way as underground, thereby minimizing CEQA requirements. The 45 CASF-eligible households will receive a minimum speeds of 10 Mbps download and 1 Mbps upload, and maximum speed of 115 Mbps download and 12 Mbps upload; the Fairgrounds will be eligible receive minimum speeds of 10 Mbps download and 1 Mbps upload, and maximum speeds of 18 Mbps download and 1.5

Mbps upload, and the availability of a much higher speed fiber based service. As a result of this infrastructure upgrade, an additional 2,317 non-CASF Frontier households within 10,000 feet of the DSLAM will receive improved service ranging from minimum speeds of 10 Mbps download and 1 Mbps upload, and maximum speeds of 115 Mbps download and 12 Mbps upload.

The Colusa project encompasses multiple significant public interest factors that justify the requested funding amount. First, the proposed build resides within an area that is currently not served by any form of wireline or wireless facilities-based broadband and proposes a cost-effective expansion of broadband access to 45 CASF-eligible households (and, by DSLAM proximity, upgrades service to an additional 2,317 non-CASF households) by leveraging Frontier’s existing facilities and operations.

Second, this project would enable fiber optic based HSI service to the Colusa County Fairgrounds, which would provide a service of statewide significance by enhancing emergency response efforts that promote public safety as California continues to battle the “new normal” of wildfires, mudslides, floods and other natural disasters. Providing this first-time fiber service will ensure the fairgrounds can be leveraged to aid community members during local and state emergencies, as well as federal disasters. Introducing HSI – to both the fairgrounds and the local community – will greatly enhance the ability of Colusa County to coordinate and streamline processes to implement the multiple local emergency preparedness bills that were passed this last legislative session, many of which require emergency alert planning communications.

Additionally, all of proposed census block groups fall well below the state Median household income of \$63,783, with four of the six also falling under the \$49,200 low-income standard. No households in the proposed project area are eligible for funding from the federal Connect America Fund (“CAF”), and no other provider has ever submitted a CASF application to provide first-time broadband service as there is no business case to do so. Thus, for Frontier the Colusa project does not present a business case for deployment absent 100% public support; the proposed project aligns with legislative intent in AB 1665 that the CASF program fund projects where private investment and CAF funds are not available

The proposed project also lies within the Upstate California Connect Consortium region, which has yet to meet the 98% service goal as established by AB 1665 (Garcia, 2017); currently the region is 97.56%

served by wireline/wires and 83.53% by wireline only.<sup>1</sup> Frontier has worked closely with the Upstate California Connect Consortium (“UCCC”) who have been supportive throughout the planning process. Both Frontier and the UCCC share the goal of helping bridge the Digital Divide, leveraging the fairgrounds to enhance emergency services, and ultimately achieving the 98% goal for this consortia region in the most cost-effective manner possible as required by AB 1665.

All together, these factors provide a substantial basis for 100% funding based on the criteria set forth by the California Public Utilities Commission on Frontier’s prior CASF applications which were awarded this year. Frontier respectfully urges expeditious review and award of this grant so that the build for this important project can begin promptly in 2019.

Census Block Groups Covered

060110005001  
060110002001  
060110002003  
060110002005  
060110005002  
060110005004

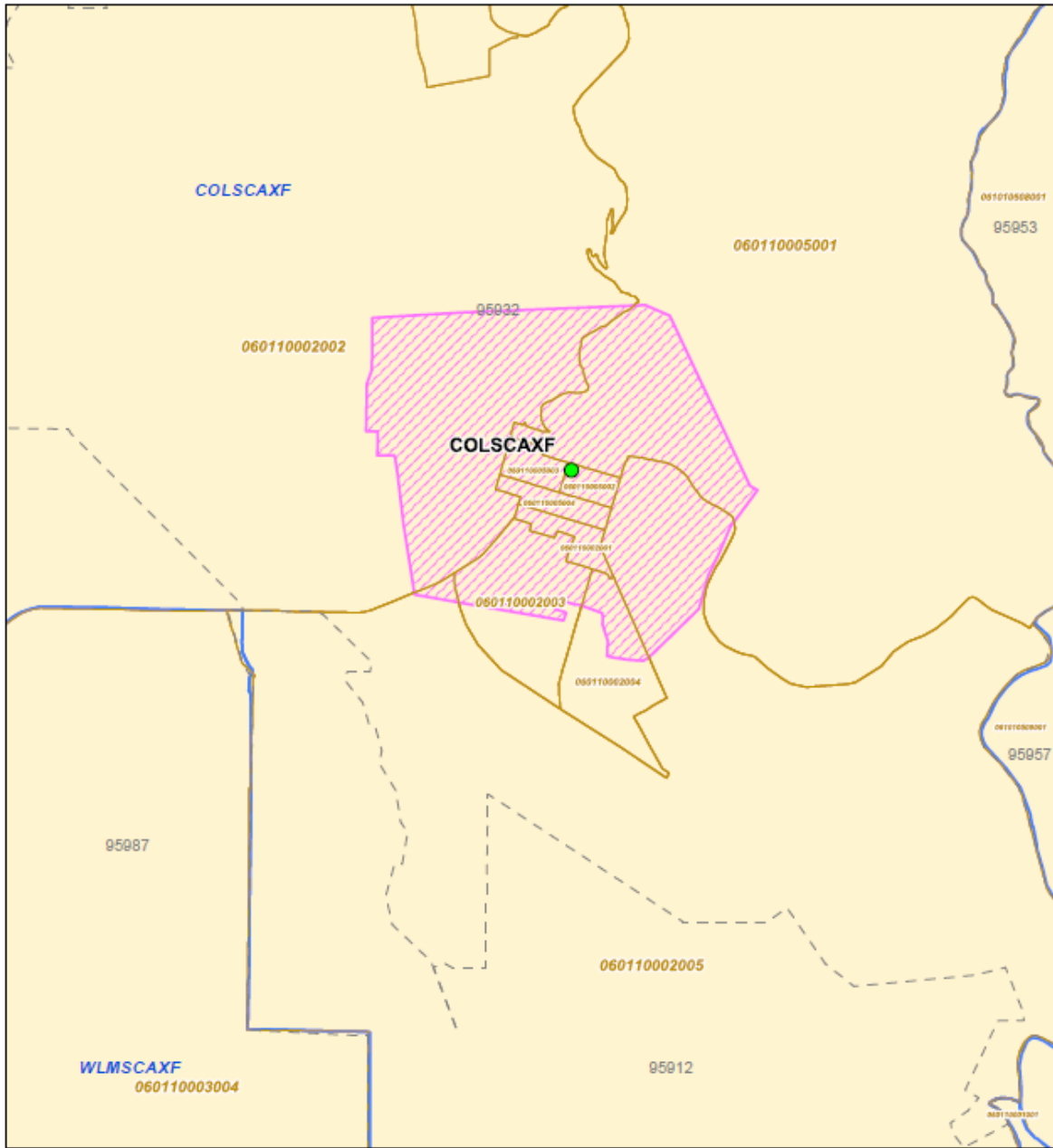
Zip Code Covered

- 95932

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<sup>1</sup> “Assembly Bill 1665 (Garcia) Senate Utilities, Energy & Communications Analysis,” (August 29, 2017), page 13.

**COLUSA CASF**



04/24/2018

**Legend**

-  Remote
-  Serving Area
-  Frontier Wirecenter Boundary
-  Census Block Groups
-  Zip Code Boundary