

State Broadband Data and Development Grant Program

Executive Summary of the California Public Utilities Commission

The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) was designated by Governor Schwarzenegger as the California entity eligible to receive a federal mapping grant under the National Telecommunications and Information Administration's (NTIA) State Broadband Data and Development Grant Program. The CPUC applied for \$1,843,760 to cover broadband mapping activities for the first two years of this program, as well as \$500,000 for broadband planning purposes.

The CPUC will collect broadband mapping data sought by the NTIA, and the data will be verified through an interagency agreement with California State University, Chico. CPUC staff will create an interactive state broadband inventory map from the verified data and forward the verified data to the NTIA. In furtherance of this plan, the CPUC has sent a Data Request to companies that may be providing broadband services in California, seeking return of the data requested by October 30, 2009.

The CPUC's planning activities will be carried out by CSU Chico, through a four-year interagency agreement. CSU Chico will identify subscribership levels within census blocks to develop a plan to identify barriers to broadband adoption, develop marketing and promotional material that will be utilized to promote broadband adoption and usage, and work with broadband providers to encourage high speed Internet services. These tasks will fulfill the requirements of the broadband planning portion of this grant program while helping the CPUC in its efforts to close the digital divide.

California's 20 percent non-federal matching will be met through in-kind contributions. These contributions include existing hardware and software currently in use to undertake existing broadband mapping programs at the CPUC, existing personnel positions staffed by highly skilled GIS and policy experts, and other contributions in the form of broadband availability maps and previously collected broadband data. The combined total of this in-kind contribution is more than sufficient to meet the 20 percent requirement.

The funding will allow the CPUC to fulfill the requirements of the State Broadband Data and Development Grant Program, Notice of Funds Availability and Solicitation of Applications (NOFA).