

# Fiber-Up My Neighborhood

Who we are...

- Laura Santos, Trustee, Mt SAC
- Stan Santos, Digital Equity Director, Communications Workers of America
- Michael Thomas, Business Services Representative, Pomona Valley America's Job Center
- Lorena Gonzalez, Board member, Pomona Unified School District
- Robert Lazo, Business Sector Representative
- Larry Ortega, Co-Founder, Fiber-Up My Neighborhood Initiative, Non-profit Sector Representative



# Agenda

August 2, 2022

## 1. Introduction to the Opportunity

1. Mt. SAC has opportunity to lead on LATA grant application
2. Further municipality engagement and regional fiber-optic planning activities
3. Creates jobs for Mt. SAC students
  1. Digital Navigator
  2. Testing and Mapping Technicians

## 2. Fiber-Up My Neighborhood

1. Tee'd Up For Success
2. Work Completed to Date

# Regional Broadband Maps – Fails to depict true picture in region

- Maps for the region show that only 800 households in Pomona are without broadband service
- Superintendent of Schools at Pomona Unified School District told us he gave-out at least 4,000 wifi devices during pandemic
- Mt. SAC's Tami Pearson told us also thousands of wifi devices delivered to students, many living in Pomona
- Opportunity:
  - Mt. SAC can control the narrative of true need in the region with legion of employed Testing and Mapping Technicians and Digital Navigators
  - Short term Vocational training
    - Developing career pathways, pipelines
    - Upskilling, upward mobility and backfilling

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# LA DEAL

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The Los Angeles Digital Equity Action League (LA DEAL) is the only **California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) approved and funded Regional Broadband Consortium for L.A. County**. It is co-convened by LAEDC and UNITE-LA.

LA DEAL is responsible for a **collaborative community-driven process to assess and tackle the broadband gaps that exist in communities across the L.A. region**, and seeks to address broadband access in a systemic and equitable way through true community representation and a strong infrastructure of civic leaders representing business, education, nonprofits, and government, *so that underserved and disadvantaged people have equal access to affordable, reliable, and high-speed internet service, and the devices and training to optimize their use.*

[www.ladeal.org](http://www.ladeal.org)



## Partner with LA DEAL

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LA DEAL can:

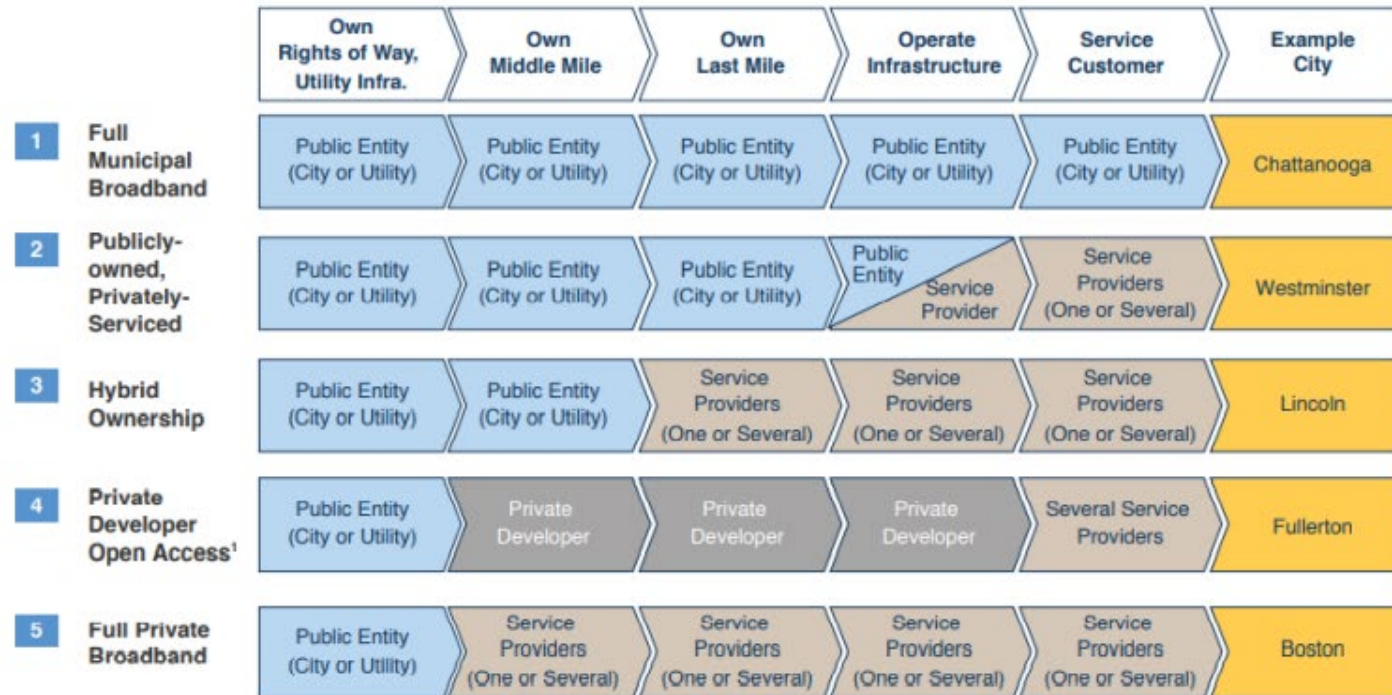
- Support your applications for California Advanced Services Fund grants to bring broadband infrastructure to your under-served areas;
- Serve as a thought partner as you develop out and execute plans to tackle the digital divide;
- Connect you to advisors, resources, and other local and state partners;

Please let us know how else you need support.

Thank you in advance! We will be reaching out for letters of support for renewal application to continue serving as your RBC.

# Public Broadband Models

## City Main Business Model Options for Broadband Expansion



Note: 1) Private Developer is defined as private company that builds, owns and operates the network infrastructure and offers open access to it to several retail SPs that provide service on the top

[US Ignite Whitepaper on Broadband Models \(July 2020\)](#)



**THE PRESIDENT'S FIBER-FIRST DIGITAL  
DIVIDE/DIGITAL EQUITY SOLUTION**

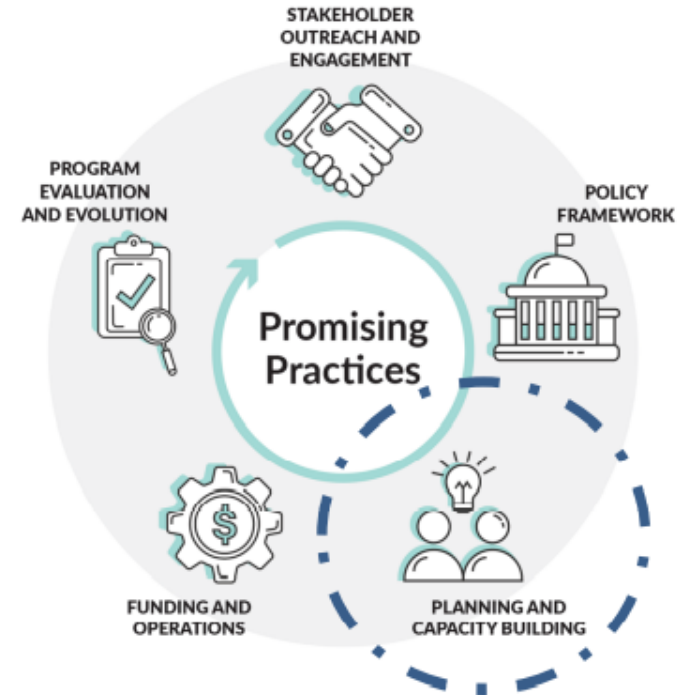
- On May 13, 2022, the President's National Telecommunications and Information Agency released its [Notice of Funding Opportunity](#) (NOFO) for [grants](#) in connection with the [Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment \(BEAD\) Program](#), authorized by the [Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021, Division F, Title I, Section 60102, Public Law 117-58, 135 Stat. 429 \(November 15, 2021\)](#)
  - NTIA has determined that "Priority Broadband Projects" are those that use end-to-end fiber-optic architecture; in essence a "fiber first" policy.

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# Local Agency Technical Assistance (LATA)

- **\$50 million** for **technical assistance grants** to local agencies and Tribes.
- Funding can be used for public entity or consultant costs to create **Joint Powers Authorities** and other public organizations for costs to prepare to deploy broadband infrastructure and for **environmental permitting, engineering, and design** activities.
- **Timing** - Applications open June/July 2022.
- **Actions** - identify your needs and prepare to apply June through July/August 2022.
- [More information](#)





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## Eligibility: “Local Agencies”

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- City
- County, including county service area
- Community services district
- Public utility district
- Joint powers authority
- Local education agency
- Electric cooperative
- Sovereign tribal government

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## More Eligibility

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- “Unserved and underserved households or businesses” means one or more households or businesses that are not currently served by a wireline connection that reliably delivers 25 Mbps/3 Mbps.
- The unserved or underserved locations need not be the only locations served by the proposed project.



## What's **\*Not\*** Required

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- A “shovel-ready” project
- An existing broadband plan
- A public-private partnership
- Proof of eligibility for follow-on funding (i.e. FFA or CASF)

Our recommendation: Access planning funds regardless of eligibility or readiness for FFA

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## Definition of “Technical Assistance”

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- Reimbursement for the cost of work products “in pursuit of the provision of service to unserved and underserved communities.”
  - Examples:
    - Environmental, feasibility, and engineering design studies
    - Needs assessments, market studies
    - Broadband strategic plans
    - Business plans
- Reimbursement of costs to form a JPA for the purpose of providing broadband services
- Reimbursement of incremental staff hours
- Reimbursement of admin costs (up to 15% of total requested)

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## The Opportunity: Think Differently About Broadband

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A different bottom line beyond profit + shareholder returns:  
proactive role, new resources, new partners, new models

- Connect chronically unserved and underserved residents
- Accelerate smart cities/communities
- Workforce development
- Economic development
- Revenue streams to support digital inclusion and more
- **Local resiliency + self-determination**



## **“Reimbursable Work Product” (RWP)**

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- Final report, study, or agreement resulting from eligible TA activities.
- Multiple RWP's per application is OK, up to a total of \$500K per local agency, per fiscal year.
- Reimbursement is rolling, as each RWP is completed
- Submit invoices/supporting documentation showing the costs of each individual work product when completed



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## LATA Grant Amounts

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- Up to \$500K per local agency per year under “ministerial review”
  - Requests don’t exceed \$500K per agency
  - No overlapping jurisdictions with another agency’s application for the same proposed time period; however, does not apply to cities located in counties that have pending applications as long as applications provide support letters describing the coordination that occurred between the city and county to prevent duplication
- Reminder: 15% of total reimbursement may be used for administrative costs, in addition to agency staff hours & RWP



## LATA Grant Amounts

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- Up to \$1M “by resolution” per local agency
  - A Commission must approve through a “reasonableness review” and may assign staff to propose administrative changes via resolution, including budget adjustments
  - All applications shall be approved or denied through the Ministerial Review process or marked for further review with potential award by the Commission through a resolution

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## Application Requirements

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- Application form to be posted on CPUC website (any day) + supporting documents
  - [Tribal TA Application Package](#)
- Project summary
- TA will “advance communications services...that will promote economic growth, job creation, and the substantial social benefits of advanced information and communications technologies.”
- Description of specific steps of actions taken or will be taken to address disparities in access to and adoption of advanced communications services.

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## Application Requirements

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- TA is tied to a broadband infrastructure project that provides 100 Mbps/100 Mbps service to unserved or underserved HHs and businesses
- Reimbursement of staff hours only for tasks that would not be performed absent the grant award
- Complete scope of work within 24 months of award

## See Stan's Proposal Central Valley as Example (Stan share screen)

- LATA Grant proposal
- 53 Middle Mile Project - Central Valley



## NEXT STEPS:



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