



Internet For All Now Act (AB 1665) Ensuring Social and Economic Justice in the Digital Age April 2017

➤ Closing the Digital Divide is Essential for the Future of California

- High-speed Internet (broadband) access is a social and economic justice issue. California must close the Digital Divide for public safety, economic development, and quality of life.
- Broadband is essential for homework, employment applications, job training, health services, and civic activities, yet 16% of Californians do not have high-speed Internet at home and 30% do not have home broadband and a computing device. To many low-income, rural, and disabled Californians are disenfranchised from our Digital Economy because of cost and lack of access. (Source: [2016 Survey on Broadband Adoption in California](#), Field Research Corporation)
- The California Legislature's goal of 98% broadband deployment in 2017 has not been met for many rural communities. The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) reports that only 47% of rural households have access to broadband Internet. (Source: [California Advanced Services 2016 Annual Report](#))

➤ Only the Legislature Can Authorize Collection of More Funds into the California Advanced Services Fund

- The California Advanced Services Fund (CASF) was established in 2008 by the Legislature and CPUC to close the Digital Divide. CASF provides: grants and loans for deployment of broadband infrastructure in unserved and underserved areas; grants to regional consortia to advance broadband deployment, access, and adoption; and grants to public housing for access and/or adoption activities.
- Over the last 9 years the Legislature has authorized a total of \$315M into CASF by collecting a few cents per month on phone bills.
- CASF has funded 58 projects to reach 110,755 unserved households at an average CASF subsidy of \$1,644 per household. CASF is cost-effective compared to the FCC Connect America Fund 2 average subsidy in California of \$2,550 per household.
- CASF will soon be out of money for infrastructure deployment.
- CASF is the only source of support for broadband unless the Legislature enacts a new fee or tax or does a General Fund budget allocation.

➤ **Internet For All Now Act Ensures that Rural Communities and Low-Income Families Won't Be Left Behind in the Digital Economy**

The Internet For All Now Act ([AB 1665](#)) was introduced in the California State Legislature on February 17, 2016 by Assemblymember Eduardo Garcia with joint and co-authorship from Assemblymembers Cecilia Aguiar-Curry, Chris Holden, Kevin McCarty, David Chiu, Susan Eggman, Kevin Mullin, Marc Levine, Anna Caballero, Mike Gipson, Reginald Jones-Sawyer, Jose Medina, Eloise Gómez Reyes, Blanca Rubio, and Jim Wood. AB 1665 authorizes additional collection of funds into CASF. It would:

- Retain that the goal of the program is to approve funding for infrastructure projects that will provide broadband access to no less than 98% of California households, but would provide that this goal is to be achieved by December 31, 2023.
- Establish a 5th account within the CASF, the Broadband Adoption Account, to ensure low-income Californians get online.
- Repeal the current authorization to collect up to \$315,000,000 for deposit in the CASF at a rate of up to \$25,000,000 per year through the 2020 calendar year, and instead authorize the commission to collect an unspecified amount for deposit into the CASF beginning January 1, 2018, and continuing through the 2027 calendar year.
- Require the commission to biennially report specified information relative to the CASF to the Legislature and would revise the information specified for inclusion.
- Require the commission to identify priority unserved and underserved areas and delineate the priority areas in the biennial reports.
- Require the commission to consult regional consortia, stakeholders, and consumers regarding priority areas and cost-effective strategies to achieve the broadband access goal through public workshops conducted at least annually no later than April 30 of each year.

Internet For All Now is a campaign of the [California Emerging Technology Fund \(CETF\)](#) and its partners. The campaign's goal is to replenish the California Advanced Services Fund, in order to get rural communities and poor communities connected to high-speed Internet. Since 2007, CETF has provided leadership statewide to close the Digital Divide by accelerating the deployment and adoption of broadband to unserved and underserved communities and populations.