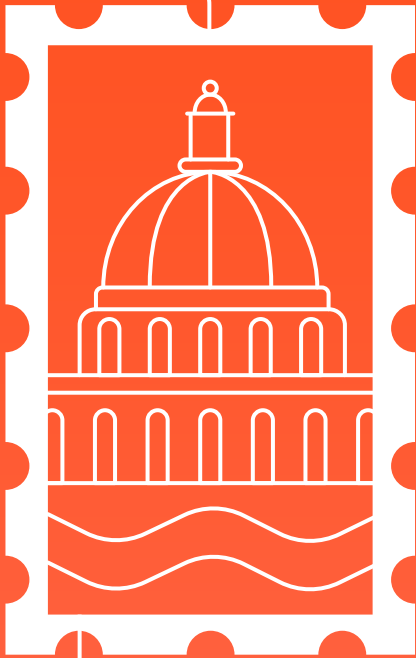


CALIFORNIA

**POPULATION: 39.98 MILLION
58 COUNTIES AND 1 CONSOLIDATED CITY-COUNTY GOVERNMENT**



With more than \$3 trillion in economic output, California has the largest state economy in the U.S.

The FCC evaluated 39.5 million people in California. Overall, the FCC found that 38.9 million people (98.5%) had access to a fixed broadband connection at minimum 25/3 Mbps speeds. In rural California, the agency also evaluated 2.4 million people and found that 2 million people (84.2%) have fixed broadband access.

In Riverside County, an NCC member municipality, the Commission evaluated approximately 2.5 million people. The FCC found that 96.1% of those evaluated had access to a fixed connection at minimum speeds. Almost 400 miles away in Santa Cruz County, also a NCC member municipality, the Commission evaluated approximately 276,000 people and found that 100% had fixed broadband access. Another 200 miles north in NCC member Sonoma County, the Commission evaluated approximately 504,000 people and found that 95.6% of people had fixed broadband access. Finally, another 120 miles north in NCC member Mendocino County, the FCC concluded that 75.3% of 88,000 residents surveyed had access to a fixed connection at minimum speeds.

Congresswoman Anna Eshoo has [supported](#) the inclusion of anchor institutions on any new federal broadband maps. Similarly, Senator Klobuchar has been a [major proponent](#) of increasing both granularity and accuracy of new federal broadband maps.

The State of California Public Utility Code Sec 281 [provides \\$645 million for the California Public Utilities Commission \(CPUC\)](#) to provide

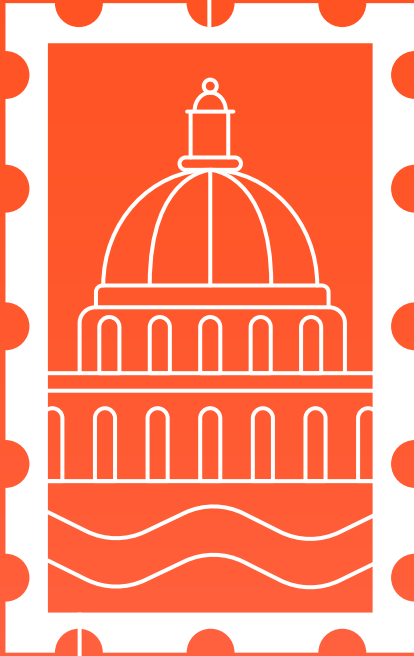
funding to 98% of residents in each county, a goal it admits it has not met. As of July 2020, the CPUC estimates that [383,609 Californians](#) statewide still lack access to the Internet with speeds of at least 6/1 Mbps. That number jumps to 490,413 residents with access to the Internet faster than the FCC's minimum 25/3 Mbps speeds, and to 673,730 for 100 Mbps download speeds with any upload speeds. In 2017, CPUC staff released a [whitepaper identifying high impact areas for broadband availability](#).

California offers a robust [interactive broadband map](#). Notably, the map includes layers for broadband adoption, which include the percentage of households with broadband subscriptions compared to the level of broadband deployment as well as income and poverty statistics for comparison. The map also incorporates public speed test results, community anchor institutions, and political boundaries. Providers can use the map to locate areas that are eligible for state broadband funding and residents can search for providers available at specific addresses. Residents who note discrepancies can provide feedback through [speed tests and surveys](#).

According to Governor Gavin Newsom's August 2020 [Executive Order N-73-20](#) on expanding broadband access, "over 2,000,000 Californians do not have access to high-speed broadband service at benchmark speeds of 100 megabits per second download, including 50 percent of rural housing units." It also states that, in 2018, 8.4 million residents in California housing units did not have

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broadband subscriptions. Despite the increasing importance of broadband for employment, health, public safety information and community connections, 34% of California's senior populations, including adults 60 and over, do not currently use the Internet.

The California Emerging Technology Fund (CETF) is a nonprofit foundation that studies Internet infrastructure expansion and connectivity in the state. In March 2021, CETF released a report summarizing the results of its 2021 Statewide Broadband Adoption Survey written in partnership with the University of Southern California. For the first time since beginning the survey in 2008, CETF found that over 90% of California households have Internet access through either a home computer or smartphone and 85% use the Internet through either a desktop, laptop, or tablet. Unfortunately, 9.6% remain entirely disconnected.

BroadbandNow estimates that in California, 94.1% of the state has terrestrial broadband access and 70% has access to a wired plan priced below \$60 a month. Microsoft estimates that around 15.2 million people do not use the Internet at broadband speeds.

Additional Resources:

- [New State Broadband Action Plan Seeks Community-Based Input](#)
- [Newsom's budget revision hints at broadband policy change, adds money for mapping](#)
- [Pressure is on to close the digital divide under California governor's executive order](#)
- [Closing California's Digital Divide: One Rural Teacher's Fight to Get Her Students Connected](#)
- [Next Century Cities Case Study: Long Beach, California](#)