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**California Cable & Telecommunications Association Releases New Report on  
Unserved Households Lacking Broadband Access**

*Data demonstrates about 93,000 CA households will remain “unserved” after ongoing RDOF and CASF projects are complete*

**Sacramento, CA**— Today, the [California Cable & Telecommunications Association \(CCTA\)](#) released a new report titled, [Advancing A Sound Broadband Strategy](#), which aggregates state reported data to provide an assessment of the current landscape of California’s digital divide.

According to the report, the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) estimates that, as of December 2019, about 462,000 households were unserved — where no Internet Service Provider offered service at the 25/3 Megabits per second (Mbps) speed.

However, given broadband grants that were awarded since then in 2020 and 2021 through the federal Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF) and the California Advanced Services Fund (CASF), nearly 369,000 households will become served, leaving the total number of unserved households in California at about 93,592.

“Funds from CASF and RDOF have already been approved to connect an estimated 369,000 California households,” **said Carolyn McIntyre, President of the California Cable & Telecommunications Association (CCTA).** “Once these projects are complete, less than 1% of California households will continue to lack access to high-speed broadband. We must establish policies that foster more private investments and target public funds to build the infrastructure needed to connect these unserved households.”

While bills such as SB 4, AB 14 and AB 34 have been introduced to help close the digital divide, California should implement effective solutions that are based on sound data and do not look to waste public funds. As the state legislature is currently faced with a number of broadband bills that include both new and old proposed solutions, some with price tags in the billions, many do little to remove the existing barriers to broadband adoption, which is the significant cause of digital inequality.

“Effective solutions to close California’s digital divide must be based on data and a clear understanding of the challenges at hand – we developed this report to support this process,” **added McIntyre.**

California’s cable and broadband industry understands that Internet adoption is a much larger issue than Internet access. While we know that we will still have roughly 93,592 unserved households even after the ongoing CASF and RDOF projects are complete, there are currently [1.9 million California households](#) that have access to high-speed Internet but do not subscribe to service. Bringing this population online will require California to address the real underlying adoption hurdles – which include gaps in digital literacy,

access to devices, affordability of service, public awareness of programs available to assist low-income families and language barriers.

CCTA is sponsoring, [SB 743, The Public Housing Broadband Bill](#), which would authorize grants to fund free or low-cost Internet services, devices, on-site computer labs and digital literacy trainings for public housing residents. Additionally, CCTA has sponsored [AB 1560, The California K-12 Internet Inclusion Act](#), which provides an immediate pathway to connect more low-income K-12 students with free or low-cost Internet services in their homes without receiving a bill or facing eligibility hurdles to sign up. Collectively, both of these proposed policies will do more to immediately remove barriers to broadband adoption and expand digital inclusion for low-income public housing residents and families of K-12 students than any other proposed policy solution.

As California is about to receive nearly \$26 billion of discretionary funding from federal COVID-19 relief funds passed in March of this year through the American Rescue Plan Act, CCTA has [called](#) on Governor Newsom and state legislative leaders to urge them to make at least \$2 billion of the Rescue Plan funds available immediately to address internet infrastructure and adoption priorities. Similarly, CCTA applauds California State Senate Pro Tem Toni Atkins along with members of the Budget Committee who have also emphasized their interest in using federal relief dollars to be allocated to broadband infrastructure and expansion through their [Build Back Boldly Budget Proposal](#).

CCTA and its members have served as key partners and collaborators for decades, working in lockstep with regulators and legislators to advance forward-looking, common-sense broadband policy proposals in California to close the digital divide.

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**About the California Cable & Telecommunications Association:**

The California Cable & Telecommunications Association (CCTA) is the industry's largest state cable and telecommunications association. CCTA is a leader in the development of video, broadband and communications policy in California, and represents the industry before the California State Legislature, state regulatory agencies and the state and federal courts.