

California Public Utilities Commission surveying broadband access

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A survey developed by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) is available to Californians to verify that they really have the reliable broadband access reported by Internet Service Providers.

The California Interactive Broadband Map had previously been developed using reports from Internet Service Providers twice a year. The map is then used to determine which regions are eligible for grants from the California Advanced Services Fund (CASF) to improve infrastructure.

According to a CPUC document, the public survey is meant to “populate, or correct, the broadband availability information we currently have.”

The survey can be submitted online via <http://www.broadbandmap.ca.gov/> by using the address lookup tool to find providers who report that they have service in that area. Clicking “Send Feedback” gives the user access to the survey, which asks for their street address and what speeds the broadband service provides.

A paper version of the form can also be mailed to CPUC. The information from either version of the form will be uploaded to the California Interactive Broadband Map, which shows what regions of California are online.

“We applaud the work of the CPUC to develop the most accurate maps possible so California can target its resources most effectively to finish the job of closing the Digital Divide,” said Gladys Palpallatoc, associate vice president for the California Emerging Technology Fund in a statement. “As a result of new legislation, there is an additional \$90 million in the California Advanced Services Fund, and we encourage local communities up and down the state to submit their surveys as soon as possible so CPUC staff can work with local leaders to identify areas of greatest need and prioritize funding requests.”

Users can also download the CalSPEED mobile app for Android devices that will test the quality of service at that location and report the results automatically.

“The [Broadband Availability] Public Feedback Survey and the CalSPEED mobile app are crowdsourcing efforts the CPUC is using to validate broadband coverage at the street address level,” said Terrie Prosper, press officer for CPUC. “These data collection efforts leverage local knowledge and empower citizens to map their communities.”