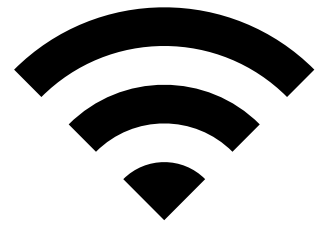


BROADBAND SGV2*

AN UPDATED GUIDE ON REGIONAL BROADBAND
PLANNING RESOURCES IN THE SAN GABRIEL VALLEY



What is Broadband?



Broadband is the transmission of telecommunication signals across wide areas, usually in the form of high speed internet.

Broadband infrastructure comes in many shapes and sizes spanning from communication towers or direct fiber optic lines that run underground to provide internet access in our home devices. This also includes our internet routers, mobile hotspots, computers and more.



Broadband is a comparable utility service to energy, water, and transportation infrastructure given it's importance in modern day life. Connectivity is essential for many basic digital tasks such as sending emails, completing phone calls, and saving documents online.

Closing the Digital Divide

In Los Angeles County alone, 365,000 households do not have internet at home, which has revealed a “digital divide” of accessible, reliable broadband and internet service especially among disadvantaged communities.

This digital divide, exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, continues to affect communities, as the shift to hybrid work and new learning models and technology has made reliable internet access and digital tools more essential than ever in daily life.

Without being addressed, the digital divide will continue to hamper economic, safety, and social inequalities such as access to public information, paying bills, government and emergency services, and educational and employment opportunities.



According to data from the SGVCOG’s broadband community survey and the Federal Communications Commission’s [Affordable Connectivity Program](#) (ACP), the San Gabriel Valley also has its own digital divide gaps:

- **SGV Residents on average pay 2 to 4 times more** per megabit per second (Mbps) than the national average.
- **Nearly half of surveyed SGV residents** had daily to weekly occurrences of slower service.
- **96% of SGV residents** have indicated performance issues with their internet services.
- **30% of low income eligible** SGV households are enrolled in the FCC’s Affordable Connectivity Program to help minimize their internet utility costs (around 160,000 households).

SGVCOG's Broadband Role

Since 2021, the SGVCOG has expanded its role in broadband planning to better support its member agencies and help close the digital divide in communities throughout the San Gabriel Valley. Key actions to date include:

01

Updated Broadband Guide

In December 2021, the SGVCOG developed a Broadband 101 Resource Guide for its member agencies that identified broadband funding opportunities and regional efforts underway to address the digital divide.

In April 2024, SGVCOG developed a revised broadband guide that details the roles of the SGVCOG and other public agencies in broadband deployment, provides policy and permitting guidelines to streamline broadband projects, and outlines key funding opportunities for local jurisdictions.

03

State Digital Equity Grant

In September 2024, the SGVCOG partnered with the County of Los Angeles Intergovernmental Broadband Coordinating Committee (IBCC) to submit a joint grant application to the State Digital Equity Competitive Grant Program. Funding from this grant award would support the SGVCOG to provide digital equity outreach activities for SGV residents, such as providing free mobile hotspots and laptops to residents.

02

Regional Broadband Plan

In November 2022, the SGVCOG received a Local Agency Technical Assistance (LATA) Grant from the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to complete a regional broadband needs assessment and strategic plan. The purpose of the plan is to serve as a roadmap to address the digital divide and help identify opportunities for connecting unserved and underserved communities to high-speed internet throughout the San Gabriel Valley.

The SGVCOG used surveys, focus groups, regional presentations, and a Regional Broadband Summit to gather stakeholder input for the Regional Broadband Plan. The main findings ultimately showed that the SGVCOG could help its member agencies streamline broadband policies and support partnerships that incentivize more accessible and reliable local broadband infrastructure in the San Gabriel Valley. These actions altogether could promote more equitable distribution of accessible and reliable broadband service for cities and residents. The SGVCOG's Governing Board ultimately approved the plan in September 2024.

04

Legislative Platform

The SGVCOG updated its 2025-26 Legislative Platform to continue showing support for reliable broadband coverage in the San Gabriel Valley, and continues to track broadband legislation that could affect its member agencies.



SGVCOG Broadband Activities Timeline

2021

SCAG Regional Council adopted a resolution to develop broadband action to assist in bridging the divide in the SCAG jurisdiction. SGVCOG created a Broadband 101 guide on funding availability and future countywide plans.

2022

SGVCOG developed a broadband interest form with member agencies for the Local and Technical Assistance Grant (LATA). SGVCOG applied and received nearly \$500,000 in funding from the CPUC's Local and Technical Assistance Grant to develop a Regional Broadband Plan.

2023

SGVCOG hired Entrust Solutions as a consultant to develop the Regional Broadband Plan for the San Gabriel Valley.

2024

SGVCOG hosted a Regional Broadband Summit as part of the LATA grant. SGVCOG joined the County of Los Angeles IBCC as a collaborator to promote regional broadband planning efforts.

2025

SGVCOG staff updated the Broadband 101 Resource Guide into a new version to better engage and educate member agencies about the SGVCOG's completed Regional Broadband Plan, broadband resources, funding opportunities, and policy and permitting guidelines.



Federal and State Broadband Stakeholders

NTIA

National
Telecommunications
and Information
Administration
Agency

The NTIA is the federal agency assigned to bolster broadband and digital equity efforts at the national level. This includes strengthening and securing digital infrastructure to expand broadband access across the country. Funding programs included the Internet for All, Public Wireless Supply Chain and Innovation Fund, and the 5G Challenge.

More information at www.ntia.gov/funding-programs.

CDT

California
Department
of Technology

The CDT leads the state's drive to deliver clear, fast, dependable, and equitable public services. The CDT is leading the statewide broadband planning and execution to deliver digital equity and internet reliability to Californians.

More information at: www.cdt.ca.gov/technology-innovation.

CPUC

California Public
Utilities
Commission

The CPUC is tasked with protecting consumers and ensure the provision of safe, reliable utility service and infrastructure at reasonable rates. The CPUC oversees several broadband programs that support tribes and local agencies in their efforts to expand broadband service to underserved and unserved Californians.

More information at www.cpuc.ca.gov/industries-and-topics/internet-and-phone/broadband-implementation-for-california.

Regional Broadband Stakeholders

SCAG

Southern
California
Association of
Governments

In February 2021, SCAG's regional council pledged to assist in bridging the digital divide in underserved communities and directed staff to develop a broadband action plan and/or program. Since the pledge, SCAG has developed several regional broadband planning and permitting resources for local governments to utilize.

Resources can be found at scag.ca.gov/broadband.

LA DEAL

Los Angeles Digital
Equity Action League

Launched by the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation (LAEDC), LA DEAL is a regional initiative to eliminate the digital divide across Los Angeles County. In 2024, LA DEAL convened a wide-reaching coalition of stakeholders to implement an actionable roadmap to overcome specific barriers such as infrastructure, internet affordability, digital literacy, devices, and public policy to achieve universal broadband access and adoption across Los Angeles County.

Resources can be found at www.ladeal.org/events.

IBCC

Intergovernmental
Broadband
Coordinating
Committee

Led by the Los Angeles County Internal Services Department since November 2023 as part of LA County's broadband action plan, the IBCC is a regional body and standing committee of multidisciplinary stakeholder organizations and community members collaborating to pursue federal and state grant program funding to address the digital divide in all of Los Angeles County. Through county-led intergovernmental and cross-sector regional coordination, the IBCC convenes general membership, steering committee, and working group meetings to achieve its goals.

For more information, contact Rebecca F. Kauma, Los Angeles County Director of Digital Equity, at rkauma@isd.lacounty.gov.

Broadband Toolkit & Resources

Supporting the development of broadband infrastructure and addressing the digital divide are relatively newer areas for public agencies to tackle.

Historically, broadband and internet services have been provided by the private sector via private telecommunication and utility providers (such as Verizon, AT&T and Spectrum). To help your city streamline its own broadband planning efforts, policies, and regulations the following toolkits and resources can be used as references when developing your own municipal framework and rules. These include the following:



[NTIA Local Permitting](#)

[Importance, Challenges, and Strategies](#)

The NTIA explains the importance of local permitting and offers strategies and examples for local governments, providing information to increase processing efficiency, address local permitting, and right-of-way permits for municipalities.



[NTIA Environmental Impact](#)

[Application Mapping Tool](#)

This tool can help municipalities and others deploying infrastructure identify permit requirements and avoid potential environmental impact when connecting a particular location to high-speed internet service.



[CDT Local Jurisdiction Permitting Playbook](#)

[Provided by CDT and Go-Biz](#)

The CDT and Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (Go-Biz) created the Permitting Playbook to share best-practices, example policies, and a checklist to streamline broadband deployment. This Playbook also lists technical assistance for project construction, approvals, easements, permitting, environmental compliance, and historic preservation.



[CDT Broadband Planning](#)

[Implementation Examples](#)

The CDT lists out broadband planning and implementation plans related to fiber deployment, permitting, and city-wide broadband networks completed by other cities including in San Diego and Ventura Counties.



[SCAG Broadband Permit Streamlining](#)

[Promoting Transparency & Successful Models](#)

Released in September 2024, SCAG's Broadband Permit Streamlining Report and Ordinance aims to assist with removing permitting challenges such as lack of process transparency, high resource requirements, inconsistencies in fees, and long permitting processes. The report provides model permitting standards and practices to help local governments and permitting agencies streamline the deployment of broadband infrastructure in underserved areas.

Funding Opportunities

Broadband Equity and Access Deployment Program

The CPUC received \$1.86 billion in broadband planning, infrastructure deployment, and adoption programs. The BEAD Prequalification application is now open until April 24th, 2025. The main application is due by May 2nd, 2025.

More information about the application can be found online at <https://broadbandusa.ntia.gov/funding-programs/broadband-equity-access-and-deployment-bead-program>.

California Digital Equity Program

This CDT subprogram will provide funding to statewide, regional and local entities to conduct activities to support implementation of the State Digital Equity Plan (SDEP). There are two funding tracks below:

- **Track 1: Focuses on developing and refining regional and local digital equity plans**, and provides capacity to implement digital equity activities. A \$43 million total funding pool to be awarded based on county allocations.
- **Track 2: Focuses on support ecosystem development, planning, and innovation** for a specific State Outcome Area or Covered Population. A \$7 million total funding pool will be split into awards within an expected range of \$400,000 and \$1 million.

Applications for either track are due May 30, 2025. More information can be found online at <https://broadbandforall.cdt.ca.gov/caldep-grant-guidelines-and-request-for-applications/>.

California Advanced Services Fund

The CPUC developed the California Advanced Services Fund (CASF) to promote broadband access and infrastructure projects in public housing and residential households.

Applications for this year's cycle are due by October 31st, 2025. To find out your eligibility, funding amounts, and other application information online, please check out <https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/industries-and-topics/internet-and-phone/california-advanced-services-fund>.

NEXT STEPS

Apply for Funding

The SGVCOG encourages public agencies to apply for broadband grants to address the digital divide and improve city services. If your agency is interested in submitting joint grant applications or needs other types of assistance, please reach out to SGVCOG staff.

Read our Strategic Plan

Have questions about the SGVCOG's Regional Broadband Plan and key findings? Please visit the SGVCOG's website at **www.sgvkog.org/broadband**.

Meet With Us

SGVCOG staff are available to host individual or joint meetings with cities and partner agencies to explore broadband policies, projects, funding opportunities, and areas for collaboration in greater detail.

Who to Contact

Please reach out to SGVCOG Broadband Program Manager, Nicholas Ryu at nryu@sgvcog.org or (626) 373-9365.



SGVCOG

San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments