

Broadband & Telecommunication Services

A major impediment to business attraction is the lack of reliable County broadband coverage. The Central Coast Broadband Consortium is a broad-based ad hoc group of local governments and agencies, economic development proponents, education and health organizations, community groups and private businesses, dedicated to improving service in Monterey, Santa Cruz, and San Benito Counties. Expanding broadband service throughout the region is important to the County's economic health – and supports the education, medical, military, and research industries.

Additionally, there is a need to develop telecommunication services (cellular services) particularly in remote highly trafficked tourist destinations such as Big Sur. Reliable access to cellular service in these areas is important for both economic and public safety reasons.

Key Objective:

- Support efforts to fund the expansion of broadband and cellular service to underserved areas of Monterey County.

Proposed Additions

- Support/co-sponsor efforts to secure funding for the expansion of broadband and cellular services to underserved areas of Monterey County (e.g., state universal broadband bond) and increase internet speeds.
- Support efforts to reform existing state programs to expand internet access, generate needed revenue, and make it easier for local governments to obtain funding to move local projects forward.
- Support efforts to regulate broadband/internet access as a utility by the Federal Communications Commission and California Public Utilities Commission.
- Support efforts that ensure quality distance learning through expanded broadband access and technology supports, and digital literacy programs especially in rural and underserved communities.