Broadband Update

March 11, 2025

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Kate Fosburgh, Digital Access Project Analyst

Recommended Actions

A. Receive update on broadband infrastructure and digital equity grants.

B. Adopt a Resolution delegating authority to the Director of the Economic Development Collaborative to apply for and negotiate and execute grant agreements and related grant documents necessary for obtaining funding from public agencies or public non-profits for digital access efforts and related initiatives, including but not limited to adoption, accessibility, training, affordability, and digital equity, in a form approved by County Counsel.

C. Approve list of affordable housing sites to be included in the County's Internet Subsidy Program, funded by American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds previously allocated by the Board.

CPUC Federal Funding Account (FFA) Award

- The CPUC did not approve the County's application for $17 million of FFA funding for the Jenner, Walsh Landing, East Cloverdale, and East Santa Rosa project areas.

- However, the CPUC did approve an award of $17 million to WiConduit and GigabitNow for two broadband expansion projects in western Sonoma County: Sonoma Coast Connect and Forestville Connect.

- Both projects will be open access, connect to the State Middle Mile, and will reach a combined 802 unserved locations.

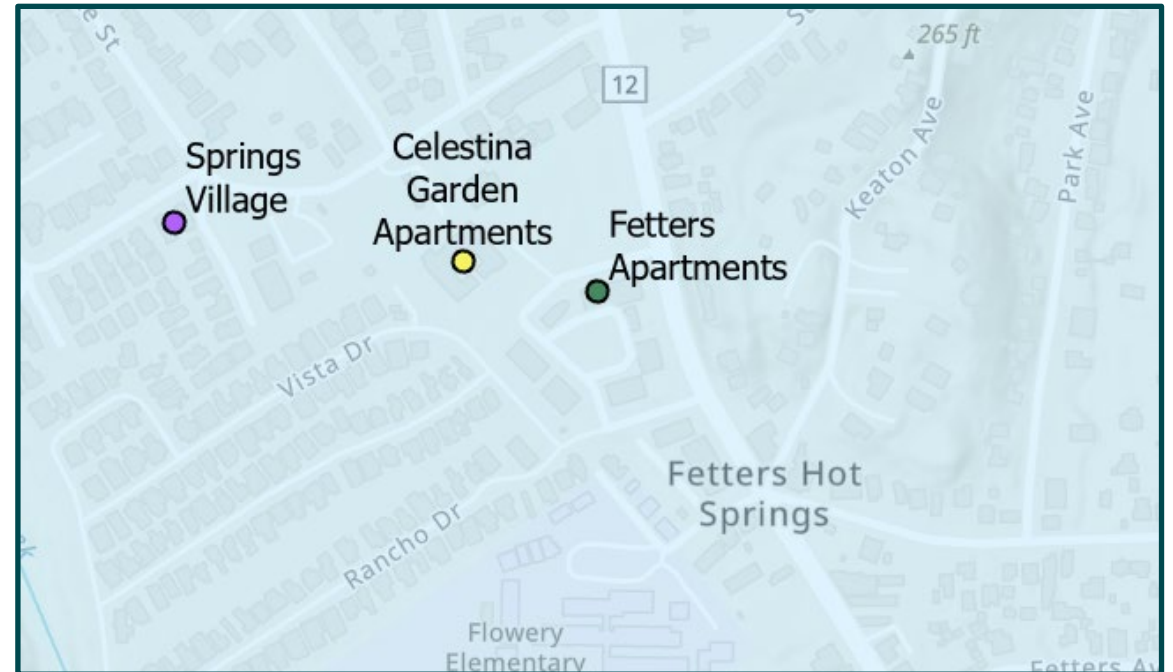# Uncertainties with Future Federal Funding

1. Broadband Equity Access and Deployment (BEAD) Grant

2. Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) Digital Equity Competitive Grant

3. Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) Digital Equity Capacity Grant

Internet Subsidy Program

- In September 2024, Digital Needs Assessment revealed residents in disadvantaged communities are receiving lower than the State and Federal standard for internet speeds and are still paying more than $50 per month.

- In December 2024, Board of Supervisors approved the creation of a Time-Limited Internet Subsidy Program using ARPA and delegated authority to EDC Director to enter into an agreement with Comcast.

- We will be distributing over 550 subscriptions for one-year of free internet at speeds up to 100/20 MBPS, through Comcast, to residents of select affordable housing sites countywide.
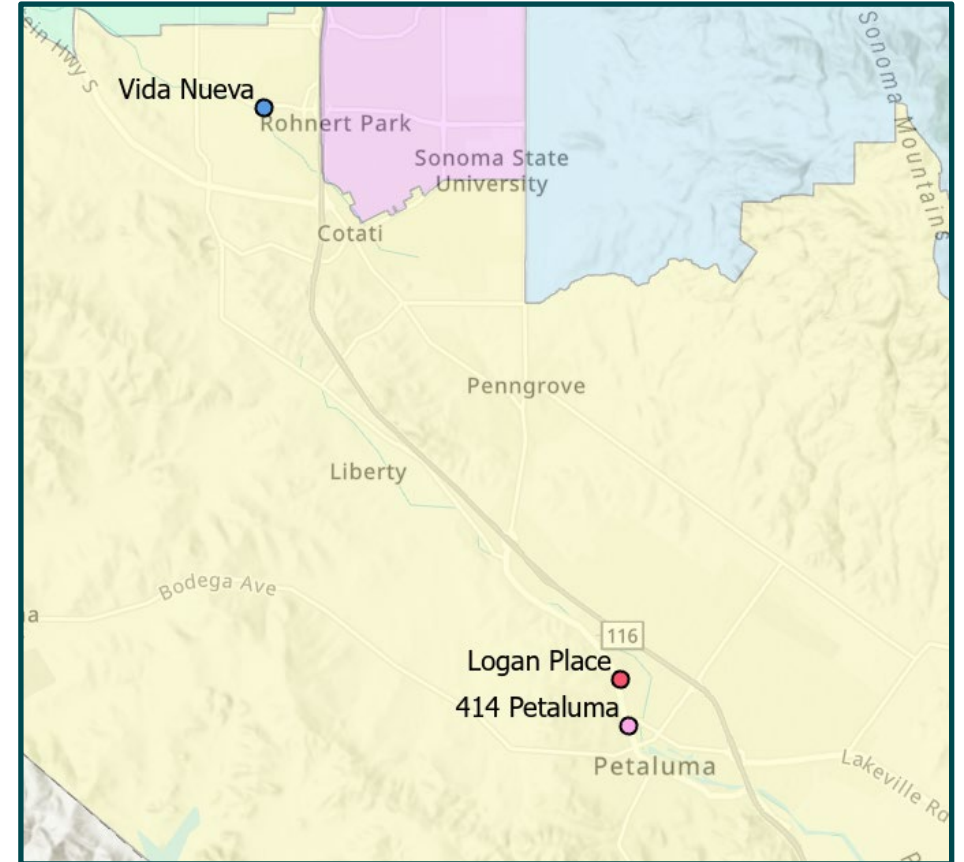
District 1

- **Springs Village (80 Units)**
  - Family + Low-Income Worker
  - 37% residents under 18 years-old
- **Celestina Garden Apts. (40 Units)**
  - Senior
  - Recommended by MidPen Housing
- **Fetters Apartments* (60 Units)**
  - Family
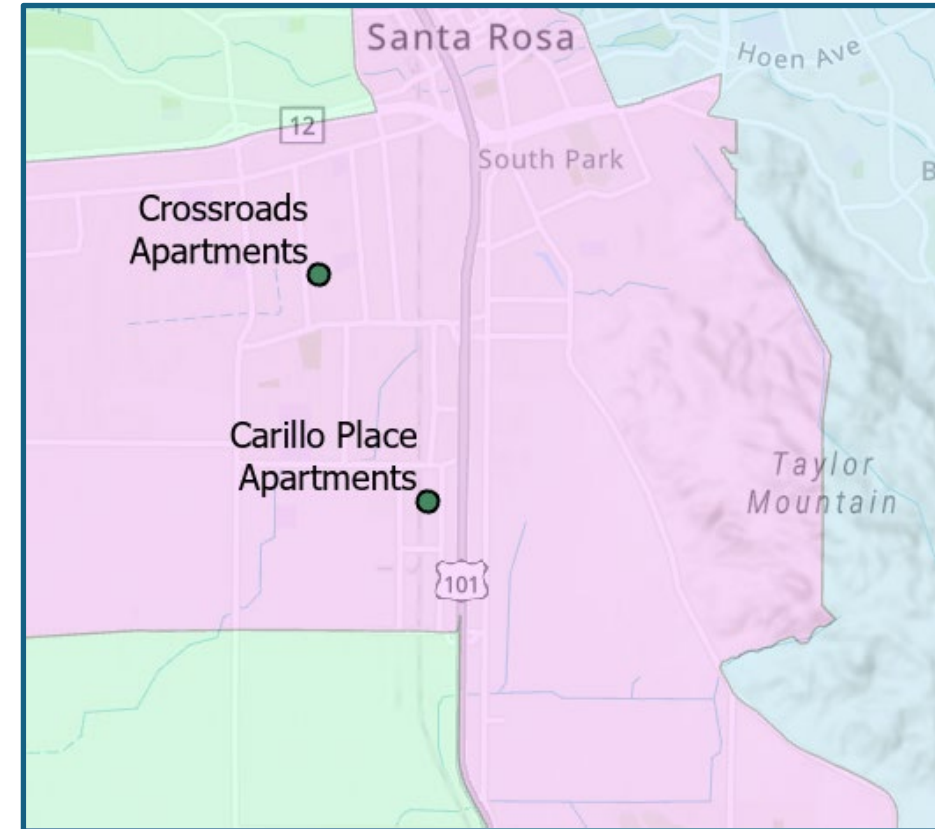 - Recommended by MidPen Housing

District 2

- **414 Petaluma (44 Units)**
  - Supportive + Low-Income Worker
  - Recommended by MidPen Housing

- **Logan Place (66 Units)**
  - Low-Income
  - Majority of units are "extremely low-income" or under 30% of the Area Median Income (AMI)

- **Vida Nueva* (24 Units)**
  - Supportive
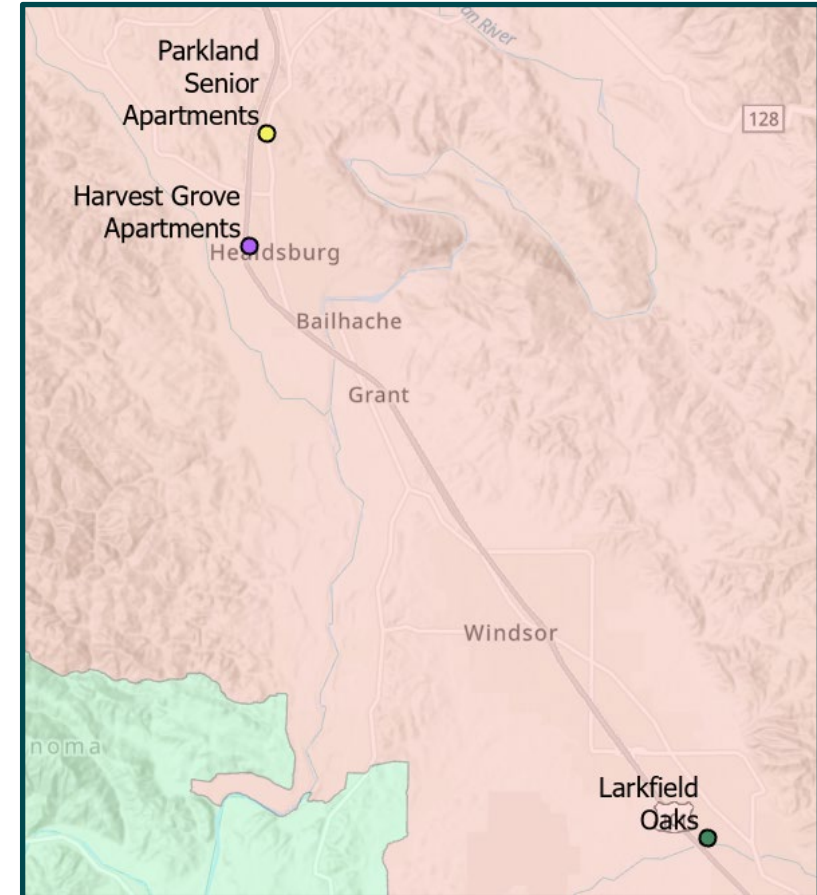 - Recommended by Burbank Housing

District 3

- **Crossroads Apts. (79 Units)**
  - Family
  - Recommended by Burbank Housing

- **Carrillo Place Apts. (68 Units)**
  - Family
  - 73% residents under 18 years-old

❖ Note: Only 2 properties were selected for District 3 because they both have high unit counts.

District 4

- **Larkfield Oaks (56 Units)**
  - Family
  - 40% of residents under 18 years-old

- **Harvest Grove Apts. (44 Units)**
  - Family + Low-Income Worker
  - All units under 50% AMI

- **Parkland Senior Apts.* (24 Units)**
  - Senior
  - Recommended by Burbank Housing

economic development collaborative
SONOMA COUNTY

District 5

- **Fife Creek (48 Units)**
  - Family
  - Recommended by WCCS

- **Elderberry Commons (31 Units)**
  - Supportive
  - Recommended by WCCS

- **George's Hideaway* (21 Units)**
  - Supportive
  - Recommended by WCCS
  - Estimated completion Summer '25

Questions?