



ReConnect Loan and Grant Program

The ReConnect Loan and Grant Program provides funds for the costs of construction, improvement, or acquisition of facilities and equipment needed to provide broadband service in eligible rural areas.

Davis - U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Secretary Tom Vilsack recently announced that the Department will be investing more than \$40 million to provide access to high-speed internet for rural residents and businesses in California, part of the Biden-Harris Administration's commitment to investing in rural infrastructure and affordable high-speed internet for all. This announcement includes a group of investments from the ReConnect Program, and an award funded through USDA's Telecommunications Infrastructure Loan and Loan Guarantee program.

"Connectivity is critical to economic success in rural America," Vilsack said. "The internet is vital to our growth and continues to act as a catalyst for our prosperity. From the farm to the school, from households to international markets, connectivity drives positive change in our communities. The investments I am announcing today will help 31,000 people and businesses in large and diverse regions across the country access new and critical opportunities. Under the leadership of President Biden and Vice President Harris, USDA knows rural America is America's backbone, and prosperity here means prosperity for all."

"We are honored to announce investments to increase access for high-speed internet in communities across the Central Valley," said Maria Gallegos-Herrera, USDA Rural Development California State Director. "Many rural communities have historically lacked reliable and affordable internet service. Historic wildfires and the impacts of the pandemic have further worsened these inequities. Today marks a significant step towards addressing these long-standing and recently exacerbated needs in rural communities. While we have more work ahead in meeting these challenges, we celebrate the progress this new round of investments promises in closing the digital divide."

Volcano Telephone Company was happy to learn that a loan of more than \$28 million has been awarded to us. This Rural Development investment will be used to help fund the Volcano Telephone Company's deployment of a fiber-to-the-home network. This network will connect 5,191 people, 119 businesses, seven educational facilities, and 15 farms in Alpine, Amador, Calaveras, and El Dorado counties.