

# BROADBAND PROGRAM



SCAG SERVES AS THE UNIFIED VOICE OF THE REGION, ADVOCATING FOR THE NEEDS OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA'S DIVERSE AND GROWING COMMUNITIES, LIKE BRIDGING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE THROUGH OUR GROWING BROADBAND PROGRAM.

## OVERVIEW

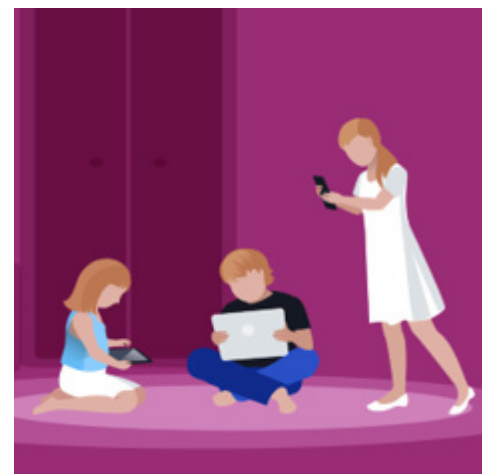
**Broadband is considered essential infrastructure for the 21st century.** Schools, offices, retail, entertainment, medical and public services and governments all rely on online platforms, offering people significant time savings and a digital avenue for economic prosperity. However, broadband is still far from a universal service across the state. Within the SCAG region alone, approximately 15 percent of all households do not have access to adequate internet speeds or no internet access. SCAG's Regional Council adopted Resolution No. 21-629-2 in February 2021, which pledged SCAG to assist in bridging the digital divide in underserved and unserved communities.

SCAG's Broadband Program aims to increase broadband access in communities throughout Southern California by:

- Securing broadband funding for local jurisdictions and stakeholders to advance digital equity initiatives and deploy broadband infrastructure and digital devices.
- Building partnerships with public agencies, local jurisdictions and stakeholders to align work efforts for regional cohesiveness.
- Advocating for open access to the broadband network.
- Conducting broadband technical and strategic studies, disseminating findings and informing stakeholders.

## FUNDING SOURCES

The Broadband Program is a multi-year effort with mixed funding sources from the Federal Highway Administration, California Department of Transportation and other grants.



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## SCAG'S DIGITAL ACTION PLAN

SCAG's Digital Action Plan provides an overview of the digital divide and lays out the actions SCAG will take to provide accessibility and foster a more equitable, prosperous and resilient region for all its residents. The Digital Action Plan is divided into four major goals, each with its own strategies, guiding principles and supporting actions:

1. **Accessibility and Affordability:** Every household in the region should have access to affordable high-speed broadband services and high-quality devices.
2. **Adoption:** All residents should have the confidence and skills to participate in digital activities.
3. **Consensus:** Build partnerships and reach consensus that high-quality and affordable broadband is an essential service to everyone and provides economic, environmental and safety benefits to the region.
4. **Planning:** Develop broadband technical tools and studies which provide value to the region.

The Digital Action Plan was adopted by SCAG's Regional Council in April 2023. The deliverables within the plan will be executed on an ongoing basis. Read the full Digital Action Plan at [scag.ca.gov/post/scag-digital-action-plan](https://scag.ca.gov/post/scag-digital-action-plan).



## BROADBAND PERMIT STREAMLINING PROJECT

SCAG is developing a broadband permit streamlining report, model permit and ordinance template that can be readily adopted by local jurisdictions within the SCAG region. The report will identify streamlined broadband permitting practices that may lead to lower cost of entry and operation of broadband systems, reduce the risk of delays during the planning, permitting and construction phases, provide opportunities for increasing revenue, and create new avenues for competitive entries.

## DIGITAL EQUITY CALL FOR ACTION GO HUMAN AFFORDABLE CONNECTIVITY PROGRAM PILOT PROGRAM

SCAG is currently carrying out a regional outreach initiative to promote the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP). This program offers a \$30 monthly subsidy for qualified households experiencing underconnectivity to access affordable internet services. The ACP campaign by SCAG is an integral component of the "Go Human Evolution" project. This project not only builds upon Go Human's effective community engagement tactics in active transportation and mobility justice but also expands its scope to encompass various sectors such as housing, broadband, and more.