

Washington State Broadband Office

November Update:
Broadband Access, Equity and Inclusion

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NOVEMBER 19, 2020



Washington State
Department of
Commerce

We strengthen communities



**HOUSING
HOMELESSNESS**



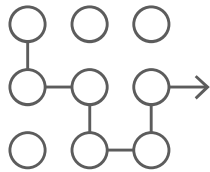
INFRASTRUCTURE



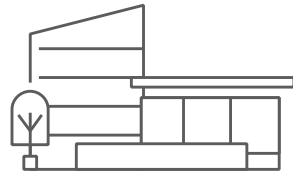
**BUSINESS
ASSISTANCE**



ENERGY



PLANNING



COMMUNITY FACILITIES



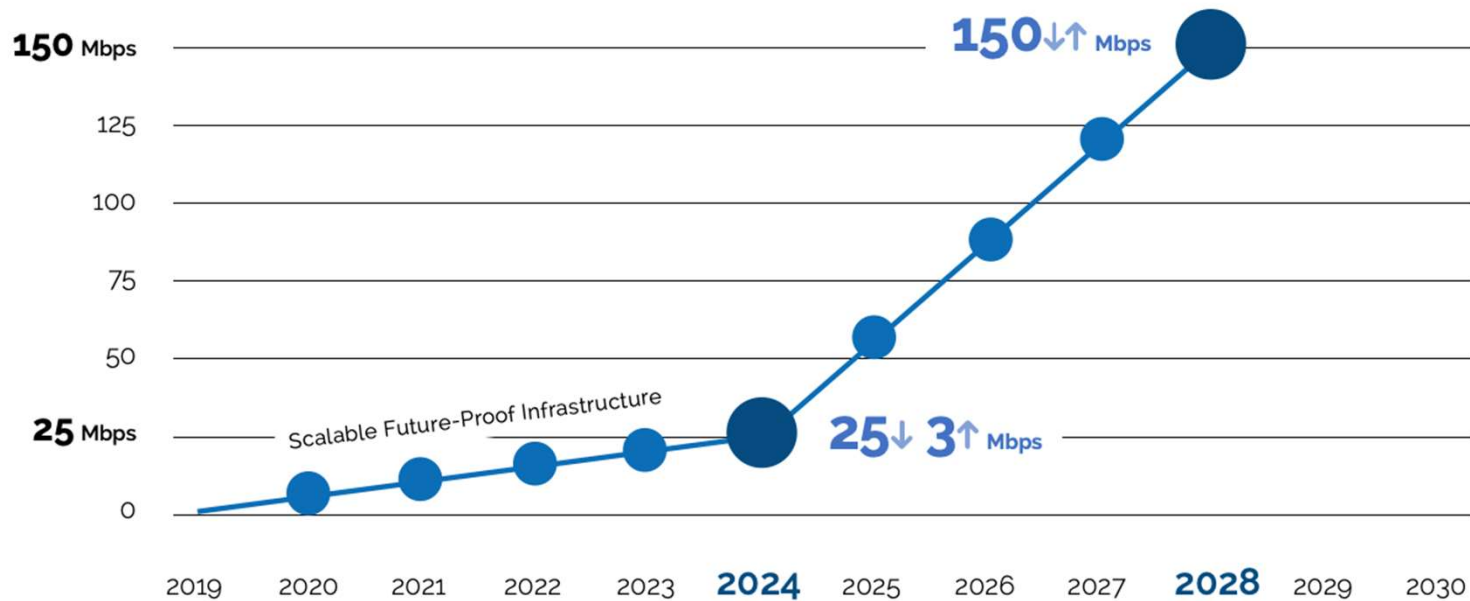
**CRIME VICTIMS &
PUBLIC SAFETY**



**COMMUNITY
SERVICES**

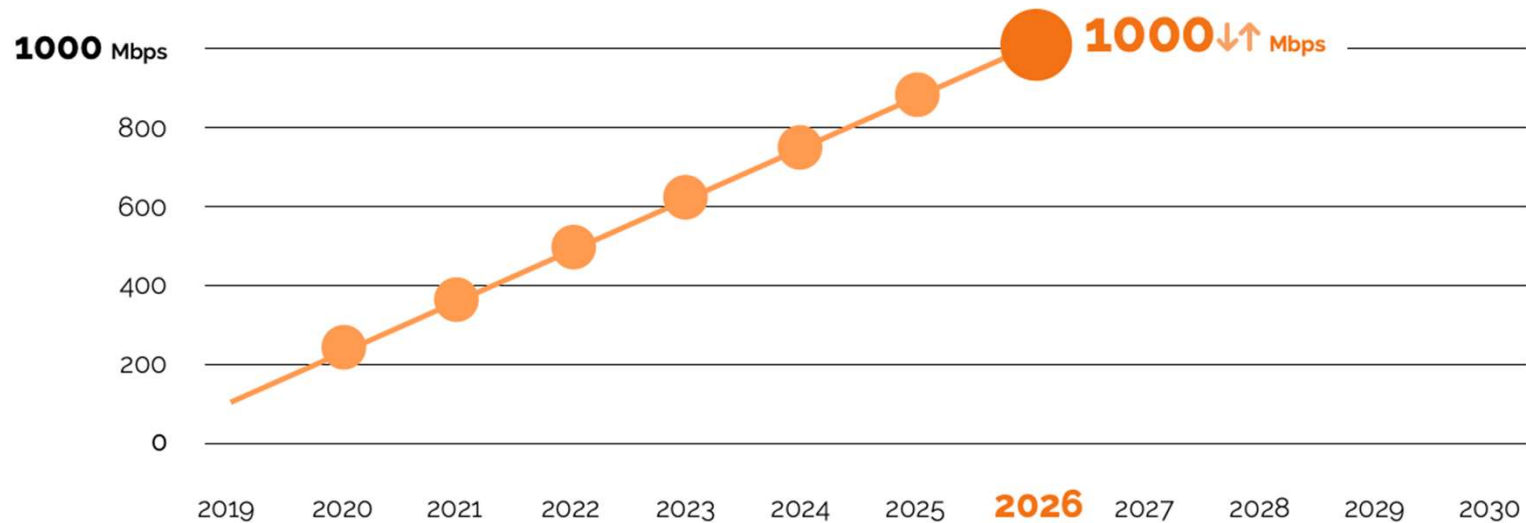
State Speed Goals - Residential

SB 5511



- 884,000 homes without fiber Est. \$2.5+B
- WSBO Plan, Policy
- PWB Programs
- UTC Evaluation

State Speed Goals - Anchor Institutions SB 5511

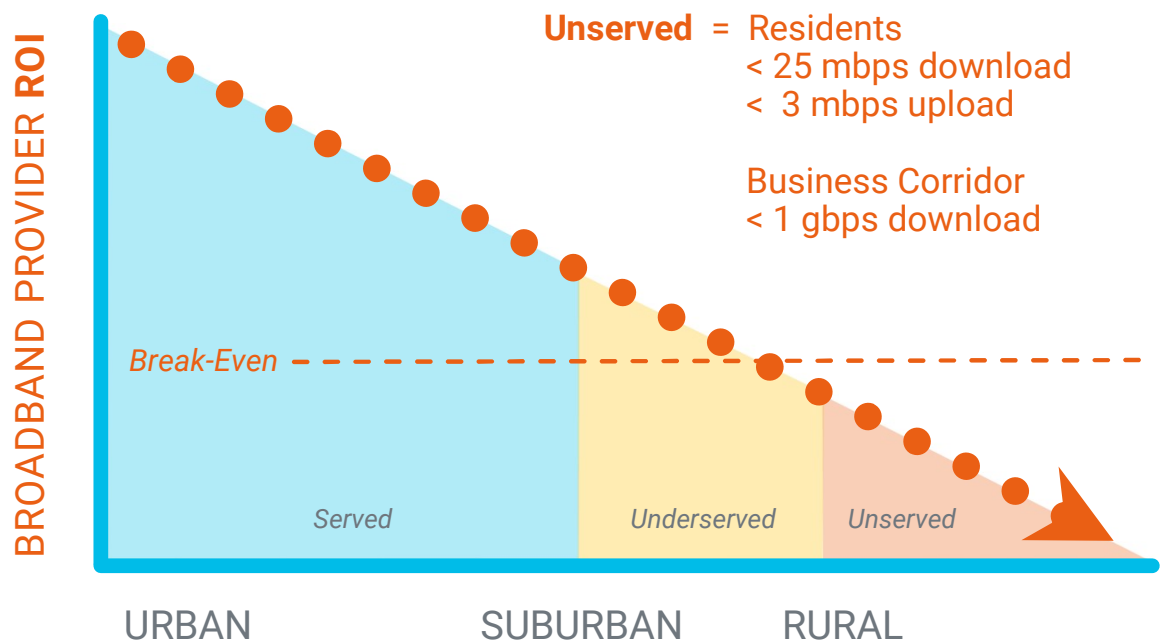


- Schools
- Libraries
- Health Care
- Public Safety
- Essential Services
- Industries
- Government

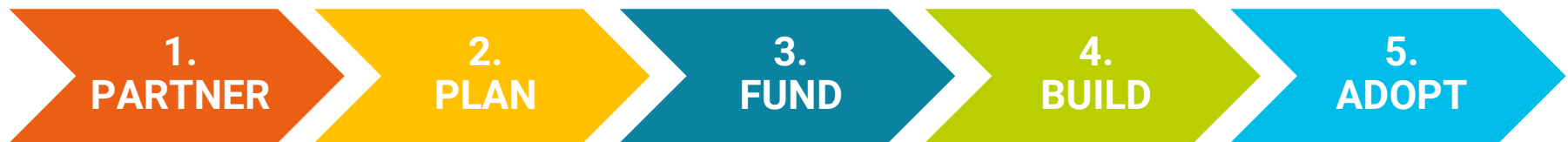
The Broadband Delivery CHALLENGE

Solutions

- USF
- State block grants from federal agencies
- Mapping to define areas
- Rallying communities to engage in conversation
- Policies supporting state broadband legislative directive
- Public-Private Partnership Cooperative model



The Path To Funding and Digital Equity



Broadband
Action Team

- Last mile
- Middle mile
- Community

- Align w/state speed goals
- Identify gaps with State Survey/Map
- Feasibility study/Network design

- Grant Writing Assistance
- **10/22/20
USDA
ReConnect
Award:
\$596,000
Whidbey
Telecom**

- Scalable, sustainable, future-proof networks

Support Digital
Equity and
Inclusion

- Access
- Affordable service
- Tools
- Skills training

WSBO - Four Areas of Focus

1. Maximize Federal and Private Sector Funding
2. Scalable, Sustainable, Future-Proof Networks
3. Address the Last Mile Issue
4. Support Digital Equity and Inclusion

1. Maximize Federal & Private Sector Funding

- Barriers to public entity participation in federal funding opportunities
- Centralize data gathering and mapping
- Local Broadband Action Teams
- Identify and develop shovel-ready projects
- State match fund to support federal applications
- Community and Tribal infrastructure funds matching program
- Considerations for Tribal Sovereignty and Private Investment
- Pilot funding model for early investment in planning stage
- Access to low income programs
- Address barriers to private sector network expansion

2. Scalable, Future-Proof Networks

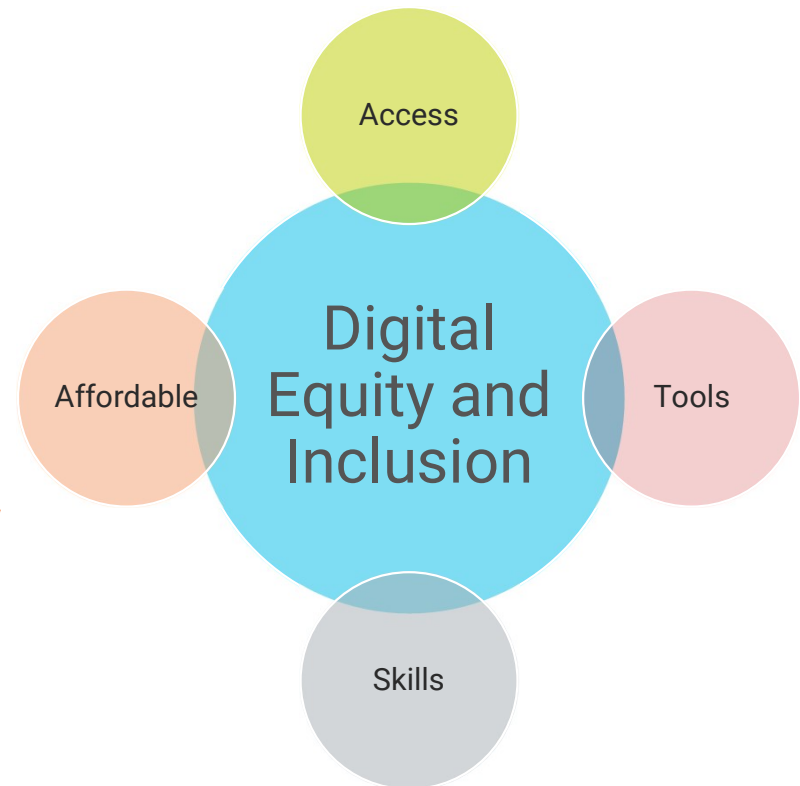
- Change the speed discussion from asymmetrical to symmetrical to fulfil 2028 directives
- Under promise-over deliver advertised speeds
- Form official state broadband advisory committee for oversight, accountability and participation in state broadband office strategy and planning
- Structure broadband governance in state and local government to strengthen alignment between authority, accountability and resources
- **Reframe the conversation from what it costs to build to what will it cost if we don't?**

3. Address the Last Mile Issue

- Anchor Plus-1 to leverage connectivity in surrounding community
- Feasibility of public use IRUs through Public-Private Partnerships
- Dig-smart climb-smart policy at the community level
- .09 local broadband discretionary fund enhancement
- Support a technology neutral approach for last mile infrastructure deployment
- Subsidy program to ensure sustainability of last mile delivery services
- Maximize utilization of existing assets including dark fiber, backhaul, mobile, etc.
- Data privacy law for providers

4. Support Digital Equity and Inclusion

- **Policy guidance and centralized coordination with statewide DEI initiatives:** *Poverty Reduction Work Group, Human Centered Design Committee, DSHS, DOH, ESD, I-ACT, Digital Equity Taskforce, Remote Learning Taskforce, OSPI, Seattle Digital Equity, All In Washington, Washington State University, Washington State Library | SOS, Digital Navigators*
- **Facilitate access to low income programs**
- **DEI planning via local Broadband Action Teams**
- **Universal service mechanisms to ensure affordability**
- **Digital equity implementation grants, outreach, staff**
- **State WiFi hotspots program expansion**

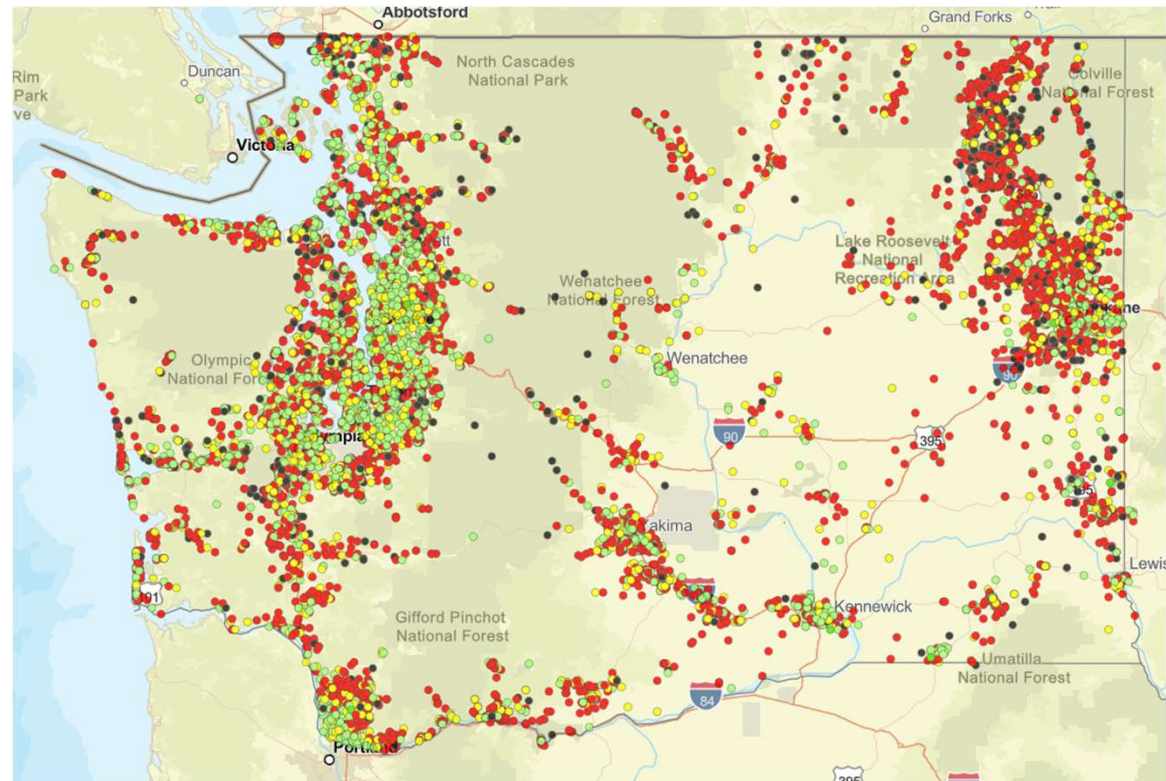


Statewide Broadband Survey

broadband.wa.gov

November 16, 2020

- **30,877**
Unique locations
- 93% (28,854)
Have broadband
- **39%** (12,004)
Less than 10 Mbps download
- **7%** (2,023)
No access
- **= 46% Unserved**
(less than 10 Mbps download)

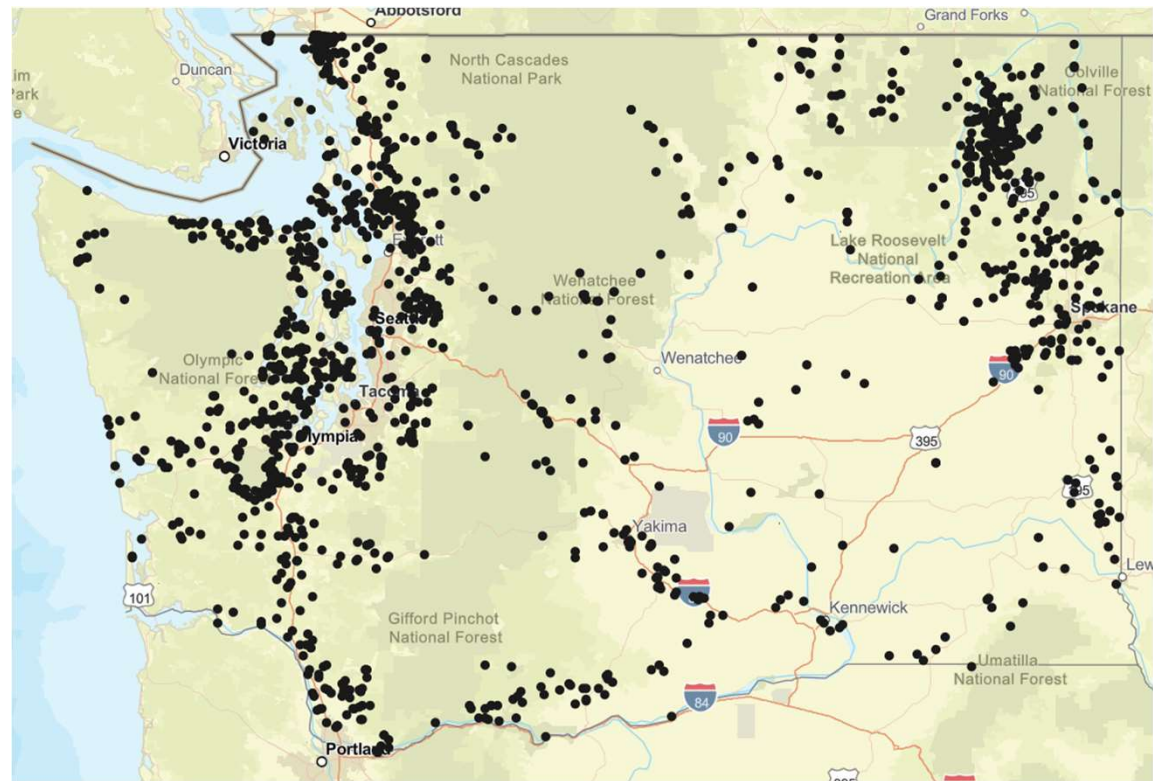


No Broadband Access

Respondents can select multiple answers

November 16, 2020 (2,023)

- Not available in area 51%
- Too expensive 9%
- Don't know how to get 0.6%
- Don't have a computer 0.6%
- Can't use a computer 0.05%
- Worried about privacy 0.1%
- Don't need it/not interested 0%
- Physical challenges 0.05%
- Use public wifi instead 0.05%



Map Dots Support Funding Opp's!

Become #1 State for receipt of federal funding

- FCC Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (*RDOF*) \$16B, \$4.4B
- USDA Rural Development Broadband *ReConnect* Loan and Grant Program \$550, \$600M
- USDA Community Connect \$35M
- Pending Stimulus \$14+B
- FCC 2.5GHz Rural Tribal Window
- PWB Construction Cycle \$17M
- USDA Distance Learning and Telemedicine \$50K-\$1M
- State Universal Service Fund
- Private / Undiscovered
- CERB Rural Broadband Construction and Planning Program

Emerging Tech

Ensuring Washington State is a friendly environment for technologically agnostic, affordable last mile solutions

Currently in discussions with:

- 5G Cellular
- Microsoft TV White Space/Airband
- SpaceX Starlink
- Amazon Kuiper
- Avista
- 2.5GHz EBS Ed. Broadband Spectrum



Hoh Tribe @TribeHoh · 3h

What a difference high-speed internet can make! Our children can participate in remote learning, residents can access [#healthcare](#). We felt like we'd been paddling up-river with a spoon on this. [@SpaceX](#) Starlink made it happen overnight. Thanks [@WAStateCommerce](#) for introduction.

1

58

293



Elon Musk ✓
@elonmusk

Replying to [@TribeHoh](#) [@SpaceX](#) and [@WAStateCommerce](#)

You're most welcome!

2:08 PM · Oct 7, 2020 · Twitter for iPhone

Next Steps

How you can help - action items:

- Visit broadband.wa.gov and take the State Broadband Access and Speed Survey
- Shovel ready projects identified and brought to the attention of WSBO

**“What gets
measured gets
done!”
Thank you.**

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Washington State
Department of
Commerce

www.commerce.wa.gov

