

# WA State Broadband Office

County Leaders Conference

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Mark Vasconi, Director, State Broadband Office

NOVEMBER 16, 2022



Washington State  
Department of  
**Commerce**

# Program Engagements

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- **WSBO, PWB and CERB have awarded nearly \$270M since 2021**
  - 48 projects
  - 60,000 additional connections
- **Collaborating with Office of Equity**
  - Digital Equity Forum
  - Community outreach
  - Recently sponsored survey regarding impediments to digital equity
- **Digital Navigators**
  - Investing additional resources with partners to provide devices, subscriptions, technical support services, and skills training (digital literacy, staying safe online, etc.)
  - 22 partners statewide

# Program Engagements

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- **Broadband Action Teams**
  - Partnership with WSU-Ext to develop and facilitate County/Tribal/Regional BATs
  - Centralize local broadband conversation to inform WSBO of needs
  - Connect user groups and providers to develop project goals.
  - Digital Equity Planning funds available for County and Tribal Nations
  - \$3M in total and provides down payment on development of local/regional DE plans
- **Grant-writing services**
  - Support to governments, public-private partnerships, and tribal governments to support applications for federal funding

# Program Engagements

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- **Rapid Design Studies (feasibility study)**
  - Scope project details, bringing them closer to shovel- and proposal-ready
  - Assess current broadband assets and to develop strategies for addressing outstanding needs
- **Digital Equity Forum**
  - Co-convening in partnership with the Governor's Office of Equity
  - Listening to community perspectives and recommendations
    - Access, Affordability, Adoption

# Next NOFO

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- **Schedule**

- NOFO will be released Nov 22, 2022
- Applications by end of Jan. '23
- Awards targeted for late Feb. '23

- **Requirements**

- Projects must reliably meet or exceed 100/20 Mbps scalable to 100 Mbps scalable
- Projects must provide broadband connectivity for a minimum of 25 years
- Requires participation in the FCC's Affordable Connectivity Program
- Open Access will not be changed from first NOFO
  - First three years can be "closed" access with OA required afterward
- 10% match requirement as in first NOFO with waiver for distressed counties  
<https://esd.wa.gov/labormarketinfo/distressed-areas>

# Future Funding

ETA for funding  
allocations:  
June 30, 2023

- **BEAD program – Each State receives a Minimum is \$100M**
  - WSBO a submitted proposal to NTIA on Aug 11 for \$5M planning grant.
  - Expect approval Nov. 2022
  - WSBO will develop a state plan by mid-summer 2023 that targets projects for funding
    - Robust public input and community outreach (Digital Equity assessments and BATS)
  - Nationwide BEAD funding is \$42.5B
  - WA share will be based on FCC broadband map – Draft Release Nov 18!
- **Digital Equity State Planning Grant - \$1.1M**
  - Expect approval Nov. 2022
  - Funding will be used to conduct more outreach to create digital equity plan
    - DE Plan will be used in BEAD 5 year state plan

# Call to action!

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- **County and City participation in FCC Mapping efforts**
  - FCC availability map
    - Defines state funding
  - FCC map release on Nov 18
  - Challenge period ends January 13, 2023
  - State funding assigned June 30, 2023
- **How can Counties help?**
  - FCC mapping will be made available to public to check address-level locations and broadband availability
  - Individual users can access map and submit information to FCC if map doesn't represent a user's location or listed broadband availability
  - FCC Consumer Toolkit will be made available for user participation
  - Get the word out to Washington residents!

# Thank you!

Mark Vasconi

DIRECTOR, STATE BROADBAND OFFICE

Mark.vasconi@commerce.wa.gov

360.918-1241



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