

Washington State Broadband Office

October 2020 Update:
Broadband Accessibility and Digital Equity

Russ Elliott

DIRECTOR, WASHINGTON STATE BROADBAND OFFICE

OCTOBER 28, 2020



Washington State
Department of
Commerce

We strengthen communities



**HOUSING
HOMELESSNESS**



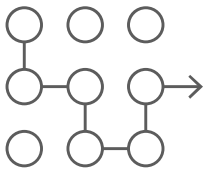
INFRASTRUCTURE



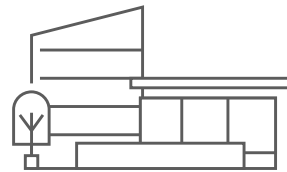
**BUSINESS
ASSISTANCE**



ENERGY



PLANNING



COMMUNITY FACILITIES



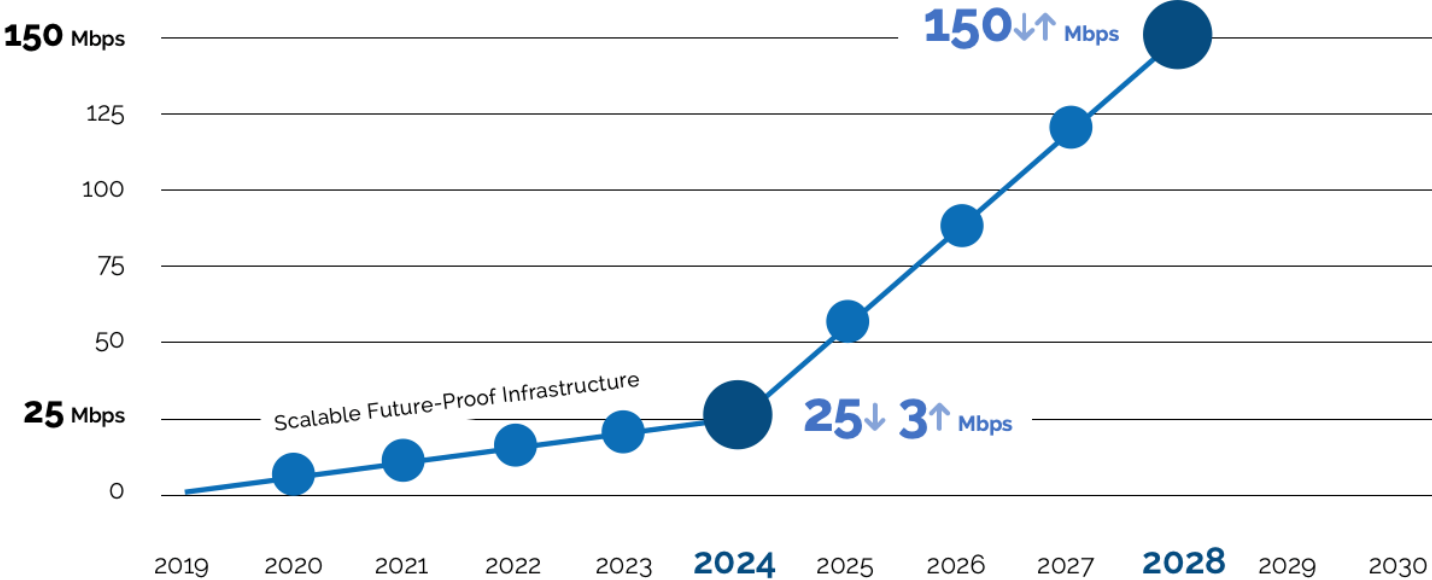
**CRIME VICTIMS &
PUBLIC SAFETY**



**COMMUNITY
SERVICES**

State Speed Goals - Residential

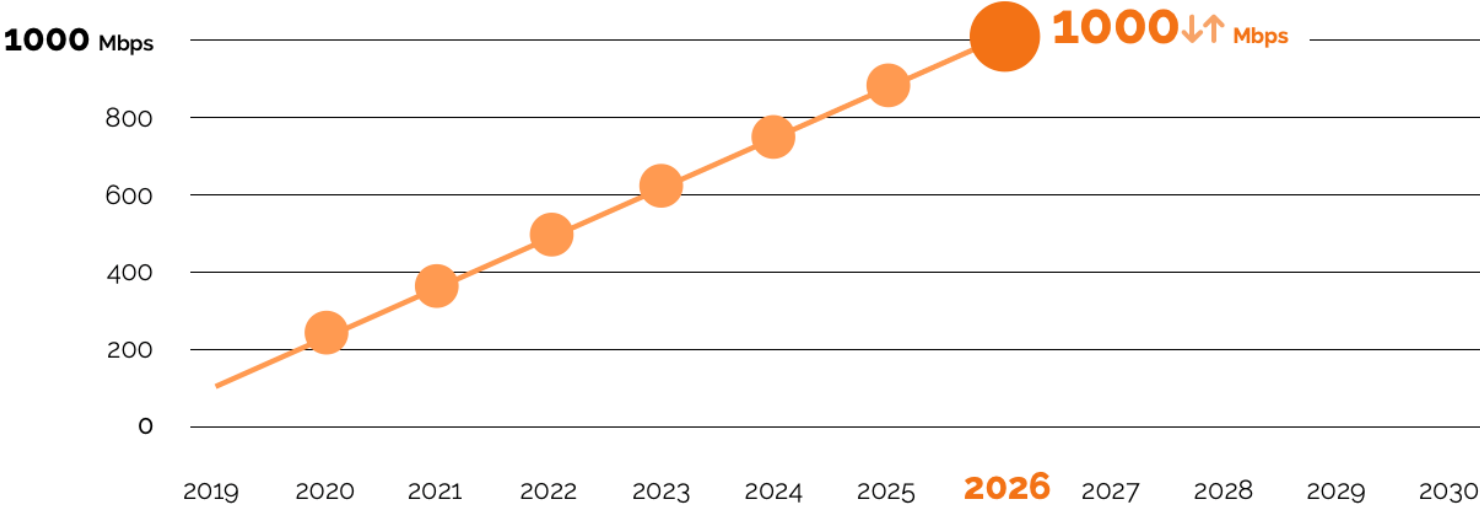
SB 5511



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

State Speed Goals - Anchor Institutions

SB 5511

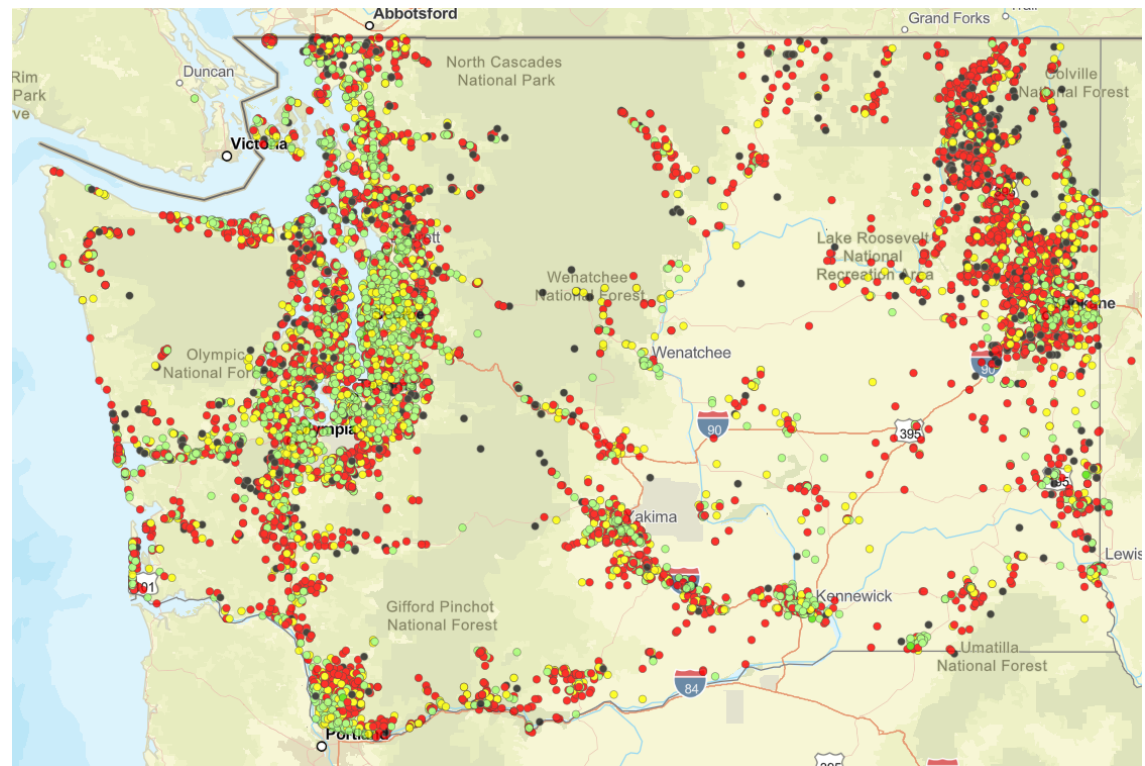


- Schools
- Libraries
- Health Care
- Public Safety
- Essential Services
- Industries
- Government

Statewide Broadband Survey

October 25, 2020

- **29,026**
Respondents
- 93% (27,125)
Have broadband
- **37% (10,870)**
Less than 10 Mbps download
- **7% (1,901)**
No access
- **= 44% Unserved**
(less than 10 Mbps download)

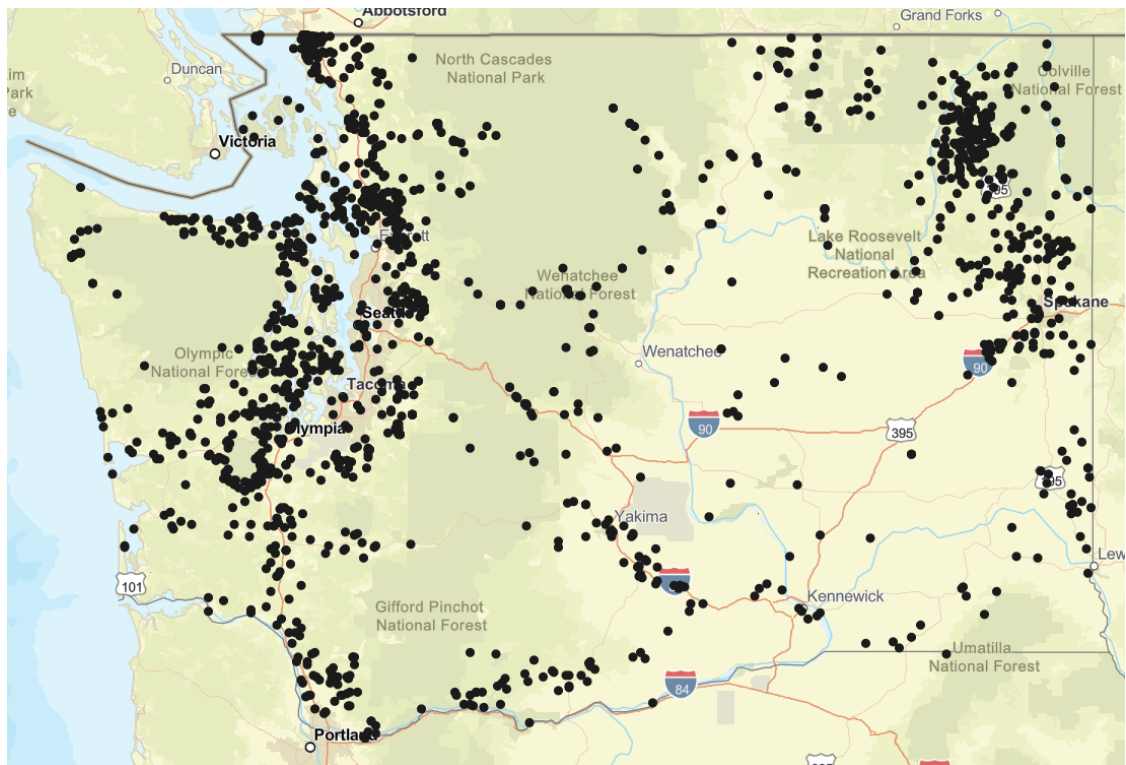


No Broadband Access

Respondents can select multiple answers

October 25, 2020 (1,901)

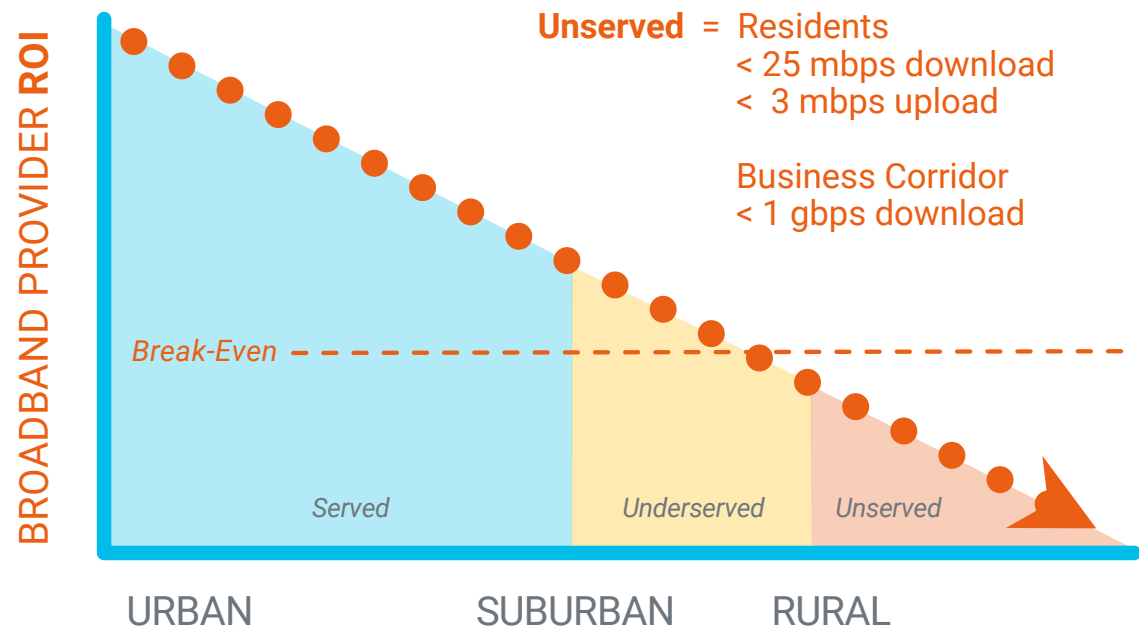
- Not available in area 49%
- No access 47%
- Too expensive 8%
- Don't know how to get 0.7%
- Don't have a computer 0.6%
- Can't use a computer 0.05%
- Worried about privacy 0.05%
- Don't need it/not interested 0%
- Physical challenges 0%
- Use public wifi instead 0%



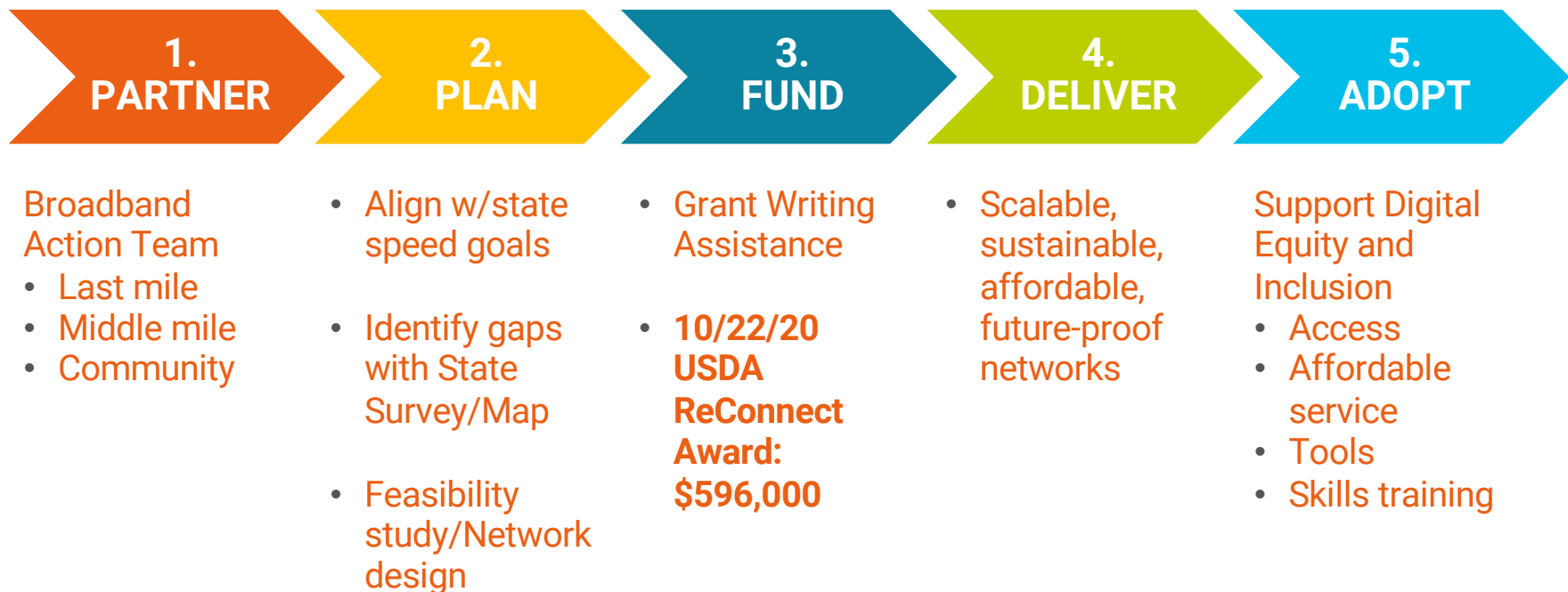
The Broadband Delivery CHALLENGE

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



Best Practice: Whidbey Telecom/USDA



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

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**



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 [@WASateCommerce](#) for introduction.

1

58

293



Elon Musk ✓
@elonmusk

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

You're most welcome!

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

FUNDING Opportunities

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

Rapid Feasibility and Grant Maximization

September 9, 2020

- **Better Health Together**
- **\$207,000** to support access to federal broadband funding
- **18** broadband feasibility and grant writing applications
- 2 projects each to be awarded in: Spokane, Adams, Lincoln, Stevens, Ferry, Pend Oreille counties; Spokane Tribe of Indians Reservation, Kalispel Tribe of Indians Reservation, Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation

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
- Matching funds for federal opportunities
- Feasibility and technical assistance

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

Russ Elliott

DIRECTOR, WASHINGTON STATE BROADBAND OFFICE

Russ.Elliott@commerce.wa.gov

564.999.0326



Washington State
Department of
Commerce

www.commerce.wa.gov

