Broadband Funding Sources
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This resource was initially developed through the Local Technology Program Teams Grant Program made available from the Washington State Broadband Office in the state Department of Commerce and the 2019 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds. Partners include Washington State University Extension, Mid-Columbia Economic Development District (MCEDD), Community Enrichment for Klickitat County (CEKC), Tri-county Economic Development and Lincoln County Economic Development Council. It has since been updated with support from Business Oregon to include funding sources available in Oregon as well as Washington State. This is a working document and additional sources will be added as identified. This should be used as a guide as funding, regulations and program availability can vary from year to year.

Many of these programs or funding sources may seem unrelated to broadband at first glance, but in working to fund a broadband project you should think creatively about partners and funding sources that can come together to add up to a full project. Broadband is necessary for communities to function for businesses, education, public safety, health care, and many other areas. This funding guide reflects these diverse needs.

<u>FEDERAL RESOURCES</u>

US DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA)
Note: USDA programs are offered each year and dependent on funding availability. Many of the telecommunications programs are included in the Farm Bill. On February 7, 2014, President Obama passed a five year Farm Bill entitled, the Agricultural Act of 2014. More information will be available as budgets are set and program requirements are finalized.

Cool and Connected
Cool & Connected, is a pilot program announced in 1Q 2016 by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Utilities Service and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Office of Sustainable Communities, to help rural communities use broadband service to revitalize small-town main streets and promote economic development. The program does not provide funding but offers technical assistance to awardees.
https://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/cool-connected

Community Connect (Community –Oriented Connectivity Broadband Grant Program)
The Community Connect program serves rural communities where broadband service is least likely to be available, but where it can make a tremendous difference in the quality of life for citizens. Funds may be used to build broadband infrastructure and establish a community center which offers free public access to broadband for two years. Eligibility – A proposed funded service area can encompass multiple cities and/or an unincorporated area which does not have Broadband Transmission Service. Grants NOFAs are posted at the Federal Register and include the broadband definition in use for this program. http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/utp_commconnect.html

Community Facilities Direct Loan & Grant Program
Community Programs provides grants to assist in the development of essential community facilities in rural areas and towns of up to 20,000 in population. Grants are authorized on a graduated scale. Applicants located in small communities with low populations and low incomes will receive a higher percentage of grants. Eligibility – Grants are available to public entities such as municipalities, counties, and special-purpose districts, as well as non-profit

corporations and tribal governments. In addition, applicants must have the legal authority necessary for construction, operation, and maintenance of the proposed facility and also be unable to obtain needed funds from commercial sources at reasonable rates and terms. These facilities can become anchor tenants for a broadband build out and the grant program is in the process of modernizing to incorporate broadband specific projects. http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/HAD-CF_Grants.html

Distance Learning & Telemedicine (DLT)
The Distance Learning and Telemedicine Program (DLT) is designed specifically to meet the educational and health care needs of rural America. Through loans, grants and loan/grant combinations, advanced telecommunications technologies provide enhanced learning and health care opportunities for rural residents. Eligibility – Entities providing education and medical care via telecommunications including corporations or partnerships, Indian tribes or tribal organizations, state or local units of government, consortia, and private for-profit or not-for profit corporations. Individuals are not eligible. When available, DLT notification is posted via a NOFA at the Federal Register. http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/UTP_DLT.html

Farm Bill Broadband Program
This program is designed to provide loans for funding, on a technology neutral basis, for the costs of construction, improvement, and acquisition of facilities and equipment to provide broadband service to eligible rural communities. Eligibility – Not less than 25 percent of the households in the proposed service territory is offered broadband service by not more than one incumbent service provider. Broadband service is not provided in any part of the service territory by three or more incumbent service providers. In past years, this loan program has been available year round. http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/utp_farmbill.html

Strategic Economic and Community Development (SECD) Program, Section 6025, 2015 Farm Bill, provides additional funding for prioritization of projects that support the implementation of a multi-jurisdictional plan. Although not a broadband fund, it could be used to help support broadband for eligible programs such as Community Facility Loans and Grants, Guaranteed Community Program Loans, Business and Industry Guaranteed Loans, Rural Business Development Grants, Water and Environmental Programs These set asides were announced to external stakeholders in January 2016 and the SECD set asides will close on June 30, 2016. http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/strategic-economic-and-community-development

Rural Gigabit Network Pilot Project
The 2014 Farm Bill, signed into law by President Obama on February 7, 2014, contains provisions for a Rural Gigabit Network Pilot Program. Under the program, up to $10 million will be available every year from 2014-2018 (a total of $50 million), for grants, loans, or loan guarantees to extend ultra-high-speed Internet service to rural areas where such service is not currently available. USDA will announce additional details when available. http://usda.gov/farmbill

Rural Community Development Initiative
Provides technical assistance and training funds to qualified intermediary organizations to develop their capacity to undertake housing, community facilities, and community and economic development projects in rural areas. Grants may be used for but are not limited to (a) training sub-grantees to conduct a program on home-ownership education; (b) training sub- grantees to conduct a program for minority business entrepreneurs; (c) providing technical assistance to sub-grantees on how to effectively prepare a strategic plan; (d) provide technical assistance to sub-grantees on how to access alternative funding sources; (e) building organizational capacity through board training; (f) developing training tools, such as videos, workbooks, and reference guides to be used by the sub-grantee; (g) providing technical assistance and training on how to develop successful child care

facilities; and (h) providing training on effective fundraising techniques. http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/HAD-RCDI_Grants.html

Rural Business Development Grant (RBDG)
RBDG is a competitive grant designed to support targeted technical assistance, training and other activities leading to the development or expansion of small and emerging private businesses in rural areas that have fewer than 50 employees and less than $1 million in gross revenues. Programmatic activities are separated into enterprise or opportunity type grant activities. Enterprise type grant funds must be used on projects to benefit small and emerging businesses in rural areas as specified in the grant application. Opportunity type grant funding must be used for projects in rural areas and they can be used for community and technology-based economic development, feasibility studies, business plans, training, rural business incubators and long-term business strategic planning

RBDG applications compete at the state office level, which are dependent on appropriations. Applications are accepted through USDA Rural Development's local or State offices once per year. More information about this program, including links to USDA offices, is available at http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/rural-business-development-grants

Substantially Underserved Trust Area
The Substantially Underserved Trust Area (SUTA) provisions give the RUS tools to finance improvements in electric, telecommunications, water and sewer infrastructure in underserved tribal communities. The statute gives the RUS discretionary authority to offer interest rates as low as 2%; waive non-duplication requirements; waive matching or credit support requirements; extend repayment terms and give eligible applications the highest funding priority when projects serve substantially underserved trust territories. Eligibility – Tribes and non-tribal entities however the later must be eligible under RUS's regular loan and grant program authorities and then may request consideration showing documentation that tribes in the service area agree with the proposed project. http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/suta.html

Telecommunications Infrastructure Loan Program
This program makes long-term direct and guaranteed loans to qualified organizations for financing the improvement, expansion, construction, acquisition, and operation of telephone lines, facilities, or systems to furnish and improve telecommunications service in rural areas. Eligibility – Entities providing telephone service in rural areas. Traditionally these have been telecommunications companies and cooperatives. http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/utp_infrastructure.html

Additional information about USDA Rural Utility Service Telecommunications is available at http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/RUStelecomprograms.html

U.S. Rural Infrastructure Opportunity Fund
The Rural Infrastructure Opportunity Fund is a collaborative effort between USDA, CoBank and Capitol Peak Asset Management. Capitol Peak Asset Management (CPAM) will manage the fund's operation and recruit other investors. CoBank has pledged up to $10 billion to make loans in conjunction with the fund. USDA is helping to identify and prioritize projects. Eligible projects – broadband expansion, community facilities, water and waste systems, energy projects, local and regional food systems and other rural infrastructure needs. While USDA may help identify projects, projects need not be vetted by USDA to secure a loan. The fund was launched in July 2014 and is currently accepting applications. Project funding inquiries may be submitted at any time as the program is designed to operate as a sustainable investment platform. Interested parties can apply through CPAM at http://www.capitol-peak.com (follow the contact link).

Value Added Producer Grants
The primary objective of the Value Added Producer Grants (VAPG) program is to help agricultural producers enter into value-added activities related to the processing and/or marketing of bio-based value-added products. Eligibility – Eligible applicant types include Independent Producer, Agricultural Producer Group, Farmer or Rancher Cooperative, or Majority-Controlled Producer-Based Business Venture. Grant funds may be used for economic planning activities or for eligible working capital expenses. Economic planning activities include conducting feasibility studies and developing business plans for processing and marketing (i.e. websites for farms, tourism, online farmers markets) of the proposed value-added product. Eligible working capital expenses include processing costs, marketing and advertising expenses, and some inventory and salary expenses directly related to your value-added project. For additional information visit http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/BCP_VAPG.html

There may also be opportunities to include broadband requests as a critical element in other USDA offerings such as the:
Business and Industry (B&I) Guaranteed Loan Program http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs/busp/b&i_gar.htm,
Water and Environmental Programs http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/uwep_HomePage.html or
Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant (REDLG) http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs/busp/redlg.htm

US DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION (EDA)

Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance
EDA oversees two Economic Development Assistance grant programs—Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance—that make awards to states, counties, cities, institutions of higher education, and nonprofits to support a wide array of projects benefiting distressed communities. EDA awards are intended to leverage existing regional assets and support the implementation of economic development strategies that lead to job creation and private investment in distressed communities.

Public broadband projects are eligible for funding under both programs. EDA's description of the Public Works program, for example, refers to investments that will help a community transform "from being distressed to becoming competitive in the worldwide economy by developing key public infrastructure, such as technology-based facilities that utilize distance learning networks … and business and industrial parks with fiber optic cable…." The Economic Adjustment Assistance program supports construction and non-construction activities, which may include infrastructure, design and engineering, technical assistance, and economic recovery strategies. http://www.eda.gov/funding-opportunities/

In recent years under its Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistant Programs (CFDA 11.300 and 11.307) EDA has provided financial assistance to develop broadband infrastructure for select capital construction projects involving job centers such as industrial parks. EDA typically would not fund point-to-point broadband infrastructure, i.e. bring broadband service into a community from another location.

Planning and Technical Assistance Program
EDA provides financial assistance to eligible applicants in the form of "Planning and Local Technical Assistance" grants. Such grants are usually in the range of $50,000-75,000 with a one to one local match required. Funds are typically used for feasibility studies, market research, economic analysis, or strategic planning. These funds also provide support for development of regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies as well as their implementation. Funds may not be used for construction-related projects or the acquisition of capital equipment. Planning grant funds are available to designated planning organizations (districts) serving EDA-designated Economic Development Districts. The FY 2016 – FY 2019 EDA Planning Program and Local Technical Assistance

Program announcement was made on December 10, 2015. http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=280447

US DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION ADMINISTRATION (NTIA)

FirstNet
The Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 created the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet), an independent authority within the Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA). Congress charged FirstNet to take "all actions necessary" to build, deploy, and operate the network, in consultation with Federal, state, tribal, and local public policy entities. The Act provides $7 billion in funding towards deployment of this network, as well as $135 million for a new State and Local Implementation Grant Program administered by NTIA to support State, regional, tribal and local jurisdictions' efforts to plan and work with FirstNet to ensure the network meets their wireless public safety communications needs. http://www.ntia.doc.gov/category/firstnet

The 2012 law that established FirstNet allotted $7 billion for the initiative through FCC spectrum auction revenues. Given successful spectrum auction activity in 2014 it appears likely that FirstNet will receive the $7 billion in funding.

Each state received grant funds to lead consultation that includes outreach, education and governance as well as data collection to determine how best to build the network. In Washington State, the State Interoperability Executive Committee (SIEC) is the grant's governing body and these activities are branded as Washington OneNet (WON) http://onenet.wa.gov/ In Oregon, the SIEC is also the grant's governing body, and information can be found on the State of Oregon's website. http://www.oregon.gov/SIEC/Pages/FirstNet_Ore.aspx

BroadbandUSA Initiative
In January 2015, National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) launched BroadbandUSA, an initiative to help communities make sure their citizens have the broadband capacity they need to advance economic development, education, health care, and public safety. BroadbandUSA promotes broadband deployment and adoption by using everything from toolkits and training programs, to webinars and workshops, to providing technical assistance, funding leads and basic guidance to communities as they grow their broadband capacity and use. It also coordinates among federal agencies to promote broadband deployment and adoption. http://www2.ntia.doc.gov NTIA published the "BroadbandUSA: Guide to Federal Funding of Broadband Projects," in September 2015. http://www2.ntia.doc.gov/files/broadband_fed_funding_guide.pdf . 7

Community Connectivity Initiative
The Broadband USA Team is developing a set of new tools to support communities who are working toward improved broadband access, adoption, and utilization. These tools include a self-assessment tool that once completed will result in a report that incorporates recommendations and a way to understand how each community stacks up against others. After prioritization of a community's broadband objectives Broadband USA's experts will be available for technical assistance as the community moves toward implementation. For more details visit their website. https://www.ntia.doc.gov/category/community-connectivity-initiative

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION (FCC)

Connect America Fund (CAF)
In 2012, the FCC introduced the Connect America Fund (CAF) as a way to modernize the Universal Service Fund (USF) and intercarrier compensation (ICC) programs. CAF is intended to help make broadband available to homes, businesses and community anchor institutions in areas that do not, or would not otherwise, have broadband, including mobile voice and broadband networks in the most remote areas of the nation. Two phases of funding have been announced over the past two years. http://www.fcc.gov/encyclopedia/connecting-americaIn early 2014, the FCC solicited Expressions of Interest regarding **IP Technology Transitions** to expand CAF availability http://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-oks-voluntary-experiments-testing-impact-technology-transitions-0 This led to CAF Rural Broadband Experiment http://www.fcc.gov/encyclopedia/rural-broadband-experiments On July 11, 2014, the FCC adopted a $100 million budget for the Rural Broadband Experiments and established an objective methodology for selecting projects among formal applications. The first round received 181 applications with total project expenses of $885 million. Pilots are underway in 15 states (including Washington and Oregon).

In 2015, Phase II of the CAF program began. The goal of CAF II is to provide these areas with broadband at speeds of at least 10 Mbps for download and 1 Mbps upload. Funds were offered to large "price cap" carriers first. In Washington and Oregon CenturyLink, Frontier FCC and Fair Point were the eligible carriers, and all accepted the funds and obligations for service provision. They will invest over $21.6 million in Oregon and $34.4 in Washington state to fund the deployment of voice and broadband-capable networks in rural areas between 2015 and 2020 (six years). For more information on eligible locations, view the map here: https://www.fcc.gov/reports-research/maps/connect-america-phase-ii-final-eligible-areas-map

On May 25, 2016, the FCC established rules for allocating over $2 billion in additional Connect America Fund Phase II support through competitive bidding, https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-takes-next-steps-expanding-rural-broadband-access-0

ConnectED
In June 2013, President Obama announced the ConnectED initiative where within five years, connect 99 percent of America's students to the digital age through next-generation broadband and high-speed wireless in their schools and libraries. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and companies like Apple, Microsoft, Sprint, and Verizon are already providing their support, collectively pledging to connect more than 15,000 schools and 20 million students by the end of 2018.

ConnectED will also provide better broadband access for students in rural areas, by expanding successful efforts to connect parts of the country that typically have trouble attracting investment in broadband infrastructure. In early 2014, private-sector companies committed more than $750 million to deliver cutting-edge technologies to classrooms. http://www.whitehouse.gov/issues/education/k-12/connected

E-rate
E-rate is the program that makes telecommunications and information services more affordable for schools and libraries in America. Congress mandated in 1996 that the FCC use the federal Universal Service Fund (USF) to provide discounted eligible telecommunications, Internet access and special construction projects, and internal connections to eligible schools and libraries. On February 3, 2014, the FCC announced an investment of an additional $2 billion over the next two years to support broadband networks in our nation's schools. http://www.fcc.gov/guides/universal-service-program-schools-and-libraries On July 23, 2014 the FCC issued the E-rate Modernization Order to expand robust Wi-Fi to 10 million more students and thousands of libraries nationwide. https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-releases-e-rate-modernization-order
Healthcare Connect Fund (Rural Health Care Program)

The Healthcare Connect Fund (HCF) Program provides support for broadband connectivity to eligible health care providers (HCPs) and encourages the formation of state and regional broadband networks. Under the HCF Program, eligible HCPs can apply as individual HCPs or as part of a consortium. Individual HCPs and consortium applicants will be able to receive a 65 percent discount on all eligible services and equipment. Consortium applicants will also be able to receive this discount on HCP-constructed and owned network facilities. The application process began in late summer of 2013 with funding scheduled to start in January 1, 2014. The Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) administers the program and will accept new applications beginning in January of each year with funding beginning in June. For first time applicants, contact them to set up a one-on-one appointment to discuss the process. The FCC Telecommunications Program (Primary Program) will operate alongside the new HCF but migration will probably occur to the HCF. This source replaces the FCC Internet Access Program. More information about HCF is available at http://www.usac.org/rhc/healthcare-connect/default.aspx

Lifeline
Since 1985, the Lifeline program has provided a discount on phone service for qualifying low-income consumers to ensure that all Americans have the opportunities and security that phone service brings, including being able to connect to jobs, family and emergency services. On March 31, 2016, the Commission adopted a Lifeline modernization order to support stand-alone broadband service as well as bundled voice and data service packages. http://transition.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Business/2016/db0506/FCC-16-38A1.pdf

Mobility Fund and Tribal Mobility Fund
The FCC USF/ICC Transformation Order recognized the growing importance of mobile broadband and set an independent universal service objective. The order created the Mobile Fund and the Tribal Mobility Fund. This resource was created to provide support for mobile broadband networks in areas lacking 3rd generation (3G) and 4th generation (4G) wireless broadband services.

On Tribal lands, eligible telecommunications carriers (ETCs) that provide service on these lands, have access to spectrum capable of 3G or better, and are financially capable of providing service are eligible to participate in spectrum auctions. Provisions have also been provided for a tribally-owned or controlled entity that is not yet an ETC to participate in an auction as long as that entity has a pending ETC designation application using a short-form application in time to meet a set deadline. It is possible for non-tribal owned and tribal owned companies to apply for subsidies. Non-tribal owned companies have to be designated as an ETC for the areas they wish to serve. http://www.fcc.gov/encyclopedia/mobility-fund and Tribal Mobility Fund Phase 1 Eligible Areas (as of February 2014) http://www.fcc.gov/maps/tribal-mobility-fund-phase-1-eligible-areas

HOMELAND SECURITY AND FEMA

Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP)—provides more than **$1 billion** for states and urban areas to prevent, protect against, mitigate, respond to, and recover from acts of terrorism and other threats.
- **State Homeland Security Program (SHSP)**—provides more than **$402 million** to all states and territories to support the implementation of risk-driven, capabilities-based State Homeland Security Strategies to address capability targets.
- **Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI)**—provides **$587 million** to enhance regional preparedness and capabilities the nation's 28 highest-risk, highest-threat, highest-density urban areas.
- **Operation Stonegarden (OPSG)**—provides **$55 million** to enhance cooperation and coordination among local, tribal, territorial, state and Federal law enforcement agencies to jointly enhance security along the United States land and water borders.

Since the 9/11 Act, FEMA has required states to ensure that at least 25 percent (25%) of the total funds awarded to them under SHSP and UASI are dedicated toward law enforcement terrorism prevention activities (LETPA). The total LETPA allocation can be satisfied from SHSP, UASI or both. In addition, states must obligate at least 80 percent (80%) of the funds awarded under SHSP and UASI to local or tribal units of government within 45 days of receipt of the funds.

Tribal Homeland Security Grant Program (THSGP)—provides **$10 million** to eligible tribal nations to implement preparedness initiatives to help strengthen the nation against risk associated with potential terrorist attacks and other hazards.

Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP)—provides **$13 million** to support target hardening and other physical security enhancements for nonprofit organizations that are at high risk of a terrorist attack and located within one of the FY 2015 UASI-eligible urban areas.

Intercity Passenger Rail - Amtrak (IPR) Program—provides more than **$10 million** to protect critical surface transportation infrastructure and the traveling public from acts of terrorism and increase the resilience of the Amtrak rail system.

Port Security Grant Program (PSGP)—provides more than **$100 million** to help protect critical port infrastructure from terrorism, enhance maritime domain awareness, improve port-wide maritime security risk management, and maintain or reestablish maritime security mitigation protocols that support port recovery and resiliency capabilities.

Transit Security Grant Program (TSGP)—provides more than **$87 million** to owners and operators of transit systems to protect critical surface transportation and the traveling public from acts of terrorism and to increase the resilience of transit infrastructure.

Intercity Bus Security Grant Program (IBSGP)—provides **$3 million** to owners and operators of intercity bus systems to protect critical surface transportation infrastructure and the traveling public from acts of terrorism and to increase the resilience of transit infrastructure.

All preparedness Notices of Funding Opportunity can be found at *www.grants.gov*. There are some key changes to DHS grant programs this year including a 36-month period of performance and compliance with the requirements at 2 C.F.R. Part 200. Please see the Notice of Funding Opportunity – Key Changes – for each grant program.

Further information on DHS's preparedness grant programs is available at *www.dhs.gov* and *http://www.fema.gov/grants*.

HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

Note: In May of 2016 HUD proposed a new rule requiring installation of broadband technology during construction or substantial rehabilitation of most HUD-funded multi-family housing, including several of the programs listed below. This effort recognizes that it is more cost effective to install this internal infrastructure during construction than to install it later.

Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grants Program

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development has publicly announced the availability of $10 million for the Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grants Program. Communities can apply for up to $2 million to foster community and economic development that can help to transform distressed neighborhoods. The focus of the Choice program is on reclaiming and recycling vacant property, community beautification and arts projects, homeowner and business façade improvement projects, neighborhood internet connectivity, and gap financing for economic development.

There are two types of program grants available, the second of which is new this year:
1.   Planning Grants: Two-year grants that assist communities with severely distressed public or HUD-assisted housing in developing a successful neighborhood transformation plan and building the support necessary for implementation.
2.   Planning and Action Grants: Three-year planning grants that demonstrate a commitment to "doing while planning," building community momentum with early, tangible actions to improve confidence and community enthusiasm and attracting more engagement, stakeholders, and resources.
 Information about these grants is available at
http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program_offices/public_indian_housing/programs/ph/cn

ConnectHome

In 2015 HUD and the Obama Administration are launching ConnectHome – a pilot initiative that will accelerate broadband adoption by children and families living in HUD-assisted housing across the nation. ConnectHome is a platform for collaboration between local governments, public housing agencies, Internet service providers, philanthropic foundations, nonprofit organizations, and other relevant stakeholders that will produce local solutions for narrowing the digital divide. The pilot program was launched in twenty-seven cities and one tribal nation. http://connecthome.hud.gov

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Entitlement Program and State CDBG Program

HUD continues its efforts to narrow the digital divide in low-income communities served by HUD by providing, where feasible and with HUD funding, broadband infrastructure to communities in need of such infrastructure. Broadband is the common term used to refer to a very fast connection to the Internet. Such connections are also referred to as high-speed.

Although HUD plans to issue regulations that will formalize its steps for narrowing the digital divide, current CDBG funds can be used for broadband installation infrastructure and service delivery. HUD has published CDBG Entitlement Program and State CDBG Program Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) regarding broadband infrastructure.

CDBG funds may be used to install wiring, fiber optic cables, and permanently affixed equipment such as receivers for areas to receive broadband/internet access. Eligible activities include:

•The acquisition, construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation, or installation of public facilities and improvements (which include infrastructure improvements) under 24 CFR 570.201(c);

•Rehabilitation of privately owned buildings for residential purposes and non-profit owned, non-residential buildings and improvements not eligible under 570.201(c) under 24 CFR 570.202(a);

•New housing construction carried out by a qualified Community Based Development Organization under 24 CFR 570.204(a);

•The acquisition, construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation, or installation of distribution lines and facilities of privately-owned utilities, which includes the placing underground of new or existing distribution facilities and lines under 24 CFR 570.201(l);

•Digital literacy classes as a public service under 24 CFR 570.201(e); and
•Economic development – grants/loans to for-profit businesses, particularly businesses that focus on broadband/Internet access and technology under 24 CFR 570.203(b).

https://www.hudexchange.info/cdbg-entitlement/faqs/#?topic=Broadband%20Infrastructure&id=8C7CE694-1800-43B8-812FDC9299301E85

HOME Investment Partnerships Program
The HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) provides formula grants to States and localities that communities use - often in partnership with local nonprofit groups - to fund a wide range of activities including building, buying, and/or rehabilitating affordable housing for rent or homeownership or providing direct rental assistance to low-income people. HOME funds are awarded annually as formula grants to participating jurisdictions (PJs).The program's flexibility allows States and local governments to use HOME funds for grants, direct loans, loan guarantees or other forms of credit enhancements, or rental assistance or security deposits.
http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program_offices/comm_planning/affordablehousing/programs/home
HUD will be issuing regulations that will formalize its steps for narrowing the digital divide, current HOME funds can be used for installation of broadband infrastructure both within the home and to the home from the adjacent street. HOME funds may also be used to build a computer room in a mutli-unit facility, but cannot pay for equipment or furniture for the room. Additional information is available at
https://www.hudexchange.info/onecpd/assets/File/HOME-FAQs-Broadband.pdf

Public Housing Capital and Operating Funds
There are a variety of public housing funds that can be used to incorporate improvements needed to establish and run a Neighborhood Network center.

INSTITUTE OF MUSEUM AND LIBRARY SERVICES

Library Services and Technology Act Grants to States
Each year, over 2,500 Grants to States projects support the purposes and priorities outlined in the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA). SLAAs may use the funds to support statewide initiatives and services, and they may also distribute the funds through competitive sub-awards to, or cooperative agreements with, public, academic, research, school, or special libraries or consortia (for-profit and federal libraries are not eligible).

States and sub-recipients have partnered with community organizations to provide a variety of services and programs, including access to electronic databases, computer instruction, homework centers, summer reading programs, digitization of special collections, access to e-books and adaptive technology, bookmobile service, and development of outreach programs to the underserved. https://www.imls.gov/grants/grants-states

Native American Library Services: Basic Grants
Basic Grants are available to support existing library operations and to maintain core library services for Native American Tribes, Regional Corporations, and Village Corporations. The Education/Assessment Option is supplemental to the Basic Grants. It is also noncompetitive and must be requested. The purpose of the Education/Assessment Option is to provide funding for library staff to attend continuing education courses and training workshops on- or off-site, for library staff to attend or give presentations at conferences related to library services, and to hire a consultant for an on-site professional library assessment.
https://www.imls.gov/grants/available/native-american-library-services-basic-grants

US DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION OFFICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES

Technology and Media Services for Individuals with Disabilities
The program seeks to improve results for children with disabilities by promoting development, demonstration, and use of technology; support educational media service activities designed to be of value in the classroom setting to children with disabilities; provide support for captioning and video description that is appropriate for use in a classroom setting; and provide accessible educational materials to children with disabilities in a timely manner.

US DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH RESOURCES AND SERVICES ADMINISTRATION (HHS)

Rural Child Poverty Telehealth Network Grant Program
The RCP-TNGP is a three-year pilot program to support established telehealth networks to develop innovative ways to address the unique health care challenges faced by children living in impoverished rural areas. Many of the largest drivers of health care costs fall outside the clinical care environment. These non-medical drivers have costly implications for health care utilization: 500,000 hospitalizations would be averted annually if the rate of preventable hospitalizations were the same for residents of low-income neighborhoods as for those of high-income neighborhoods, and hospital readmission rates are more closely related to community characteristics than to hospital characteristics.

The goal of the RCP-TNGP is to demonstrate how telehealth networks can expand access to, coordinate and improve the quality of health care services for children living in impoverished rural areas and in particular how such networks can be enhanced through the integration of social and human service organizations.
http://www2.ed.gov/programs/oseptms/index.html

Telehealth Resource Center
Telehealth Resource Centers (TRCs) have been established to provide assistance, education and information to organizations and individuals who are actively providing or interested in providing medical care at a distance. Our simple charter from the Office for Advancement of Telehealth is to assist in expanding of the availability of health care to underserved populations. Assistance provided is usually free to the provider.

Washington State is served by the Northwest Regional Telehealth Resource Center that provides technical assistance in developing Telehealth networks and applications to serve rural and underserved communities.
https://www.nrtrc.org

WHITE HOUSE BROADBAND OPPORTUNITY COUNCIL

On March 23, 2015, the White House announced the "Next Steps in Delivering Fast, Affordable Broadband", which included the establishment of a White House Broadband Opportunity Council (BOC). Led by USDA and NTIA, the BOC consists of 25 cabinet agencies focused on increasing broadband investment and adoption. Comments were solicited and the BOC published the Broadband Opportunity Council Report and Recommendations on August 20, 2015. The recommendations contained in this report to be implemented by the associated agencies need to be investigated to determine what addition resources are available to assist with increasing broadband awareness, access and adoption.

The Council presents four overarching recommendations:
1. Modernize Federal programs to expand program support for broadband investments.
2. Empower communities with tools and resources to attract broadband investment and promote meaningful use.
3. Promote increased broadband deployment and competition through expanded access to Federal assets.
4. Improve data collection, analysis and research on broadband.

To pursue the above objectives, federal agencies will take action between now and 2018. These commitments include:
• Modernize Federal programs valued at approximately $10 billion to include broadband as an eligible program expenditure
• Create an online inventory of data on Federal assets, such as Department of the Interior (DOI) telecommunications towers, that can help support faster and more economical broadband deployments to remote areas of the country;
• Streamline the applications for programs and broadband permitting processes to support broadband deployment and foster competition;
• Create a portal for information on Federal broadband funding and loan programs to help communities easily identify resources as they seek to expand access to broadband.

For updates and to read the report visit the BOC website.
 https://www.ntia.doc.gov/report/2015/broadband-opportunity-council-report-and-recommendations

Note: We will continue to update this guide to incorporate changes to programs as they occur to further open up opportunities for broadband funding.

WASHINGTON STATE RESOURCES

Community Economic Revitalization Board (CERB)
Community Economic Revitalization Board (CERB) program is a conduit for funding that supports healthy and viable communities and job creation. The Board works to enhance public infrastructure and facility development that lead to economic development by providing loans at low interest rates with favorable terms to port districts, counties, cities, towns, special purpose districts and federally recognized Indian tribes. The Washington State Broadband Office (WSBO) has been working with CERB to encourage funding of broadband both as individual requests and also as part of other infrastructure requests. WSBO has recommended the development and adoption of a model project amendment that would allow an applicant to easily add public conduit to any project that opens a trench in a right of way or add a fiber fed antenna site to any raised public structure suitable for use in wireless service. Additional information about CERB is available at
http://www.commerce.wa.gov/commissions/communityeconomicrevitalizationboard/pages/default.aspx

Growth Management/Comprehensive Planning Efforts
Incorporating broadband infrastructure assets and needs into Growth Management or other comprehensive planning efforts is needed given the importance of broadband to community and economic development. This might lead to "Dig Once" policies or procedures. Other planning efforts could include the identification of ways to streamline permitting and to reduce other regulatory requirements that impact the expansion of broadband services within a region. Although these are not necessarily funding sources, there are opportunities to save money by integrating broadband into other infrastructure projects. The Washington State Department of

Commerce provides information and assistance for Growth Management and Comprehensive Planning Efforts
http://www.commerce.wa.gov/Services/localgovernment/GrowthManagement/Pages/default.aspx

Tech Teams
Tech Teams are a resource utilized to explore funding opportunities for specific infrastructure projects in Washington State through the Public Works Board http://www.pwb.wa.gov/pages/default.aspx A panel of funders from various agencies come together to discuss a detailed proposal for a specific project. They explore potential funding packages and help develop next steps for pursuing funding. This resource can be pulled together and brought to the region after a proposal is developed or the region can send representatives to the Infrastructure Assistance Coordinating Council Conference (IACC) http://www.infrafunding.wa.gov for this opportunity as well.

Washington State Library (WSL)
The WSL vision is to ensure that Washingtonians have access to the information they need today and to the history of Washington for tomorrow. WSL provides resources (information, training, access to funding, etc.) for libraries in Washington State. Funding sources includes government, foundation and association grants, including assistance with FCC e-rate. Digital literacy training is also available online, at library branch locations and through conferences and other venues. http://www.sos.wa.gov/library

OREGON STATE RESOURCES

Special Public Works Fund
STATE OF OREGON Special Public Works Fund (SPWF) The Oregon Business Development Department administers the Special Public Works Fund (SPWF) which provides funds (primarily loans) for publically owned facilities that support economic and community development in Oregon. Public agencies that are eligible to apply for funding are cities, counties, county service districts (organized under ORS Chapter 451), tribal councils, ports, districts as defined in ORS 198.010, and airport districts as defined in ORS 838). Facilities and infrastructure projects that are eligible for funding include telecommunications facilities, however, for telecommunications projects the applicant must establish that the proposed telecommunications system project is necessary and would not otherwise be provided by a for-profit entity within a reasonable time and for a reasonable cost.
orinfrastructure.org/InfrastructurePrograms/SPWF/

Oregon Broadband Outreach and Strategic Planning Project
The Broadband Outreach and Strategic Planning Project is part of the State Broadband Data and Development Program. This Oregon project has been funded with a grant from the NTIA and was implemented by Business Oregon. The project facilitated and supported the development of eight plans in communities around the state that seek to advance the individual community's goals through the increased adoption of broadband services and the increased utilization of broadband-enabled applications. These communities worked with project staff to support development of a broadband strategic plan template that others can use as they are holding community conversations around broadband adoption and utilization. oregonbroadbandplanning.org

Oregon Broadband Advisory Council
 The mission of the council is to encourage coordination and collaboration between organizations and economic sectors to leverage the development and utilization of broadband for education, workforce development and telehealth, and to promote broadband utilization by citizens and communities. broadband-oregon.org

Oregon Connections Telecommunications Conference

The conference draws attendees from all regions of the state to share ideas, experiences and knowledge about telecommunications. The 2015 conference presenters and attendees will explore aspects of Broadband as it comes of age twenty years after the commercialization of the Internet. Program topics will include cyber-security, smart communities, challenge of infrastructure, Internet and Broadband Public Policy, Broadband enabled applications, and the status of Broadband in Oregon. www.oregonconnections.info

OTHER RESOURCES

Connect to Compete
Connect to Compete is a national private and nonprofit sector partnership created to increase broadband adoption and digital literacy training in disadvantaged communities throughout the United States. The initiative is designed to help residents improve outcomes in education, health, and employment through broadband opportunities and technology solutions. Depending on future funding and program offerings, this may be a program that could provide broadband access assistance to residents of the region.
http://www.connect2compete.org

Google dot org
The main mission of Google.org is to seek out and support people who are innovating and using technology to combat the world's biggest challenges. Grantees are not just awarded money but are also given access to Google resources. Focus areas are global giving, local giving, special programs and Google products.
https://www.google.org

Microsoft Philanthropies
In December 2015 Microsoft announced an expanded commitment to their corporate philanthropy around the world with a broader ambition and a new organization within the company, Microsoft Philanthropies. Microsoft Philanthropies contributions include technology, investments, employees and their voice. Their direct giving focuses on expanding access to computer science educational opportunities.
https://www.microsoft.com/about/philanthropies

NetGain
In February 2015, a group of the nation's leading foundations, NetGain, made a public commitment to jointly address the challenges and opportunities of the digital age. This new NetGain partnership is supported by five founding partners: the Ford Foundation, John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, Open Society Foundations and Mozilla Foundation has committed a combined $18M in grants to strengthen the emerging field of public interest technology. The NetGain partners released their first report in 2016 detailing opportunities and best practices for others to join the movement to build and expand public interest technology. https://netgainpartnership.org/report or netgainpartnership.org.

Your input is welcome. If you have additions or questions, please contact Monica Babine, WSU Extension, babinem@wsu.edu or 206.999.8032, Carrie Pipinich, MCEDD, at carrie@mcedd.org or 541.296.2266, or Chris Tamarin, Business Oregon, at Christopher.Tamarin@oregon.gov.