
State of Washington

Performance Report

Capital Project Fund:
Third Annual Report

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Executive summary

A stable broadband infrastructure provides equitable distance learning opportunities, drives job creation, promotes innovation, improves economic vitality, expands health care access, and develops new markets for Washington state businesses. It is crucial to advancing our state's education, public health, commerce, public safety, and transportation systems.

In 2019, Washington's technology sector accounted for over 22% of the state's economy, the highest share of any state in the nation.¹ Yet many Washingtonians lacked access to the very digital tools that Washington businesses were deploying to the world. Recognizing that economic development and quality of life were becoming increasingly dependent on reliable and affordable broadband, Governor Jay Inslee signed [Second Substitute Senate Bill 5511 \(Chapter 365, Laws of 2019\)](#), establishing broadband infrastructure as an essential governmental function and a public benefit to all residents of Washington. The bill created the [Washington State Broadband Office](#) (WSBO) to expand services to unserved and underserved areas in the state.

Less than a year later, Washington became the first state in the nation to confront COVID-19, marking the beginning of our country's first pandemic of the digital age. The crisis revealed how a lack of digital access amplified existing vulnerabilities during a national emergency, including:

- Without a good internet connection, students could not participate in online learning, contributing to more significant learning losses than students with reliable online services.
- Workers living in areas with limited broadband couldn't work remotely, so they were more likely to do jobs outside of the home. Unfortunately, working outside the home increased the risk of getting COVID-19 and spreading it to household members.
- Lack of high-speed internet access widened health disparities by preventing people from accessing online health care and behavioral health services.
- Digitally excluded individuals faced greater difficulty maintaining social connections during quarantine. For many managing mental health conditions, the sudden loss of contact and communal support increased mental health symptoms.
- When using cell phones, digitally excluded communities had higher dropped-call rates with crisis intervention, suicide prevention, and emergency services.

¹ [WashingtonTechnologyIndustryAssociation-WTIA-ATC-2023-Impact-Summary_v2.pdf](#)

- Washington businesses in areas with insufficient broadband could not remain competitive in their markets by shifting to online service delivery, resulting in increased revenue loss and higher closure rates.
- Communities with limited digital connectivity could not access pandemic relief services — such as cash and food benefits — as quickly as communities with adequate broadband.

These trends exacerbated the pandemic's health, safety, and economic impacts on marginalized populations nationwide. In response, the federal government enacted groundbreaking legislation to address the disproportionate effects of COVID-19. Before the pandemic, federal support for high-speed broadband and digital literacy was limited.² However, the crisis highlighted the urgent need to address unequal access to technology and connectivity, prompting significant federal investments to help close the nation's digital divide.

Key federal investments in broadband access included:

- *Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act:*
Allocated \$150 billion through the Coronavirus Relief Fund to help governments manage the public health and economic impacts of the pandemic, including broadband access.
- *American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA):*
Provided \$350 billion in Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds to support continued pandemic recovery, including broadband and internet access projects.
- *ARPA Capital Project Fund (CPF):*
Dedicated an additional \$10 billion to states, territories, and Tribal governments specifically for digital literacy programs and broadband infrastructure investments.
- *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA):*
Created the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program, with over \$42 billion in grants to expand broadband access nationwide.

This performance report focuses on the **\$195,749,000 CPF** award made to Washington in June 2022. It provides updated implementation information and illustrates how CPF is helping our state overcome long-standing barriers to affordable high-speed internet for all. Broadband access is essential to building a responsible, modern infrastructure that can keep pace with technological advancements and dependencies.

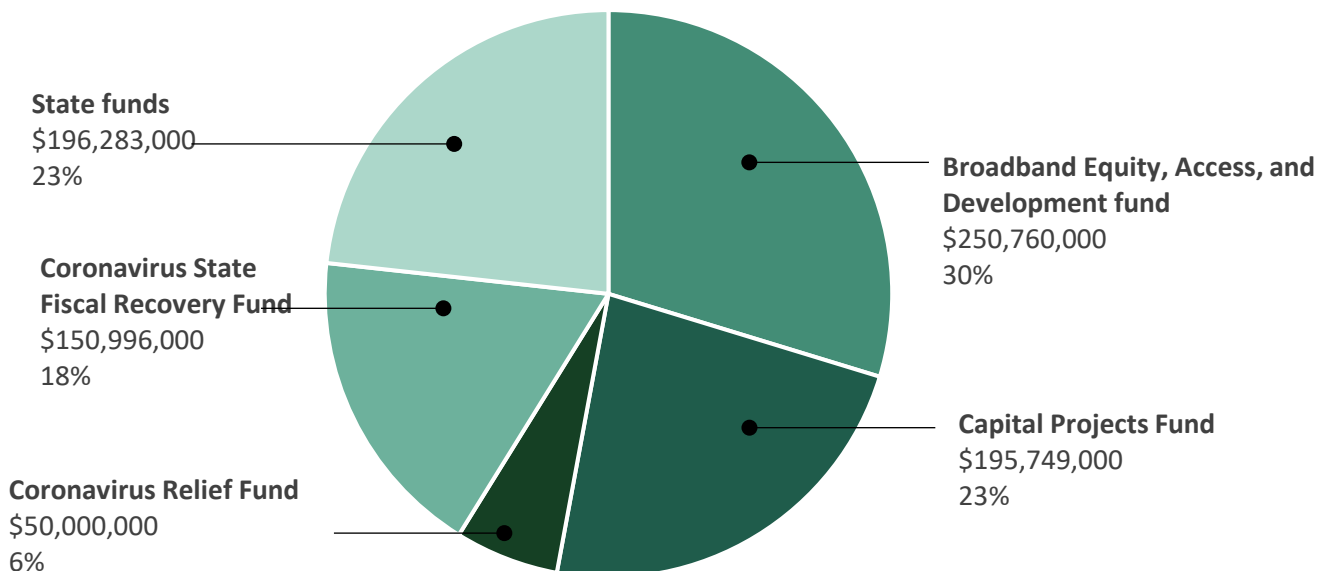
² [Broadband fed funding guide 2015.pdf \(doc.gov\)](#)

Broadband funding updates

According to the most recently completed federal broadband data survey, Washington has over 236,000 unserved or underserved homes, businesses, and [community anchor institutions](#) (including schools, hospitals, libraries, and government buildings).³ However, these findings relied on outdated and lower speed benchmarks, so the actual number is likely higher. Washington's diverse geography — including 20 mountains (five of them stratovolcanoes), 157 miles of ocean coastline, four rainforests, and desert regions in the east — poses significant challenges to broadband construction. Now, with the support of federal investments, Washington state is paving the way toward digital equity.

The [2024 CPF Performance Report](#) details prior state and federal appropriations for broadband. Since then, funding for broadband has increased. In 2025, the Washington State Legislature appropriated an additional \$64 million in state funds, increasing the total broadband appropriations to \$843,788,000. These investments draw from a variety of sources, with the majority coming from federal funds. Figure 1 shows a breakdown of Washington's current broadband appropriations by funding source.

Figure 1: State of Washington broadband appropriations since July 2021



Of the \$843,788,000 total funding noted above, the state appropriated **\$195,749,000 CPF** for universal broadband during the 2022 state legislative session for three grantees. The U.S. Department of the Treasury approved the CPF grantee project plans on June 23, 2023. Washington's total expenditures

³ [Broadband Data Collection | Federal Communications Commission \(fcc.gov\)](#)

equal **\$61,224,327 CPF** (31% of the total award). This total represents cumulative expenditures through May 2025.

Capital Project Fund performance outcomes

Washington's CPF projects comply with federal program eligibility requirements and include additional state requirements codified in [Chapter 296, Laws of 2022](#). The three CPF grantee projects focus on households and businesses that lack broadband or have broadband connections that do not meet current minimally acceptable speeds.

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) sets those minimum standards. In 2024, the FCC raised the broadband benchmark from 25 megabits per second (Mbps) download and 3 Mbps upload (25/3 Mbps) to 100 Mbps download and 20 Mbps upload (100/20 Mbps).⁴

Our state's broadband survey provides real-time baseline data on internet speeds by geographic location. The [survey data](#) is publicly available on WSBO's website. While the data show that broadband access has improved across Washington in recent years, gaps persist primarily in rural areas, on Tribal lands, in high-poverty communities, and within dense urban pockets throughout the state.

Washington's CPF grantees designed their projects with future-ready speed goals in mind. Two projects adopted the 100/20 Mbps standard before the FCC updated the minimum benchmark in 2024, and the third grantee exceeded the updated definition by requiring symmetrical speeds of at least 1 gigabit (1G/1G) for both download and upload. Exceptions are made for [Designated Difficult Development Areas](#) where the federal government recognizes that deployment is especially complex. Even in these areas, networks must be built to support higher speeds in the future when technology or funding allows.

Speed requirements are just one of several differences among Washington's CPF projects. These variations allow each grantee to address the unique challenges of delivering affordable broadband across the state. In addition to the geographic barriers noted earlier, Washington faces other construction challenges such as extreme weather, floods, wildfires, and landslides. The state is also home to 29 federally recognized Tribes with land rights, and they can require right-of-way authorization to build towers and broadband corridors on sovereign Tribal lands.

The [2023 Capital Project Fund Performance Report](#) provides additional detail about each project's eligibility, goals, and challenges. The [2024 Capital Project Fund Performance Report](#) includes project start-up data and tracks progress through May 2024. The information below, organized by project, summarizes our most significant advances and outcomes for CPF projects over the last year.

⁴ [DOCS.FCC Increases Broadband Speed Benchmarks-401205A1.pdf \(fcc.gov\)](#)

Competitive grants by the Washington State Broadband Office

The state appropriated **\$124,749,000 CPF** to WSBO for competitive broadband grants to public entities. Public entities are federally recognized Tribes and local governments, including [port districts](#) and [public utility districts](#) (PUD). WSBO is the only entity providing CPF awards to electrical co-operatives (private nonprofit companies), which are often a community's only local light and power resource.

Originally, WSBO allocated \$6.2 million in CPF for administrative costs, representing 5% of the total appropriation. In 2025, after reviewing actual expenditures, WSBO reduced this estimate to \$500,000. After receiving approval from the U.S. Treasury in May 2025, WSBO redirected \$5.7 million from administrative costs to construction expenses.

To date, **19 grantees** have received CPF awards totaling over **\$121,523,711 CPF**. Eight of the 19 grantees will bring broadband to a **distressed area**, which is defined as:

- A rural county with a population density of fewer than 100 persons per square mile.
- A rural county that is geographically smaller than 225 square miles.
- Indian country as defined by [WAC 458-20-192](#).
- A county with a three-year unemployment rate greater than or equal to the statewide rate, which was 5.4% at the time of CPF application review.

To reduce financial barriers for these historically marginalized communities, WSBO waived the minimum 10% cash match requirement for projects in distressed areas. In total, distressed areas will receive \$60.2 million CPF. This includes one award for services on a [federally recognized Indian reservation](#). The remaining eleven projects, located outside of distressed areas, total \$61.3 million CPF — an average match rate of 15%. This exceeds the minimum requirement and reflects a strong commitment from local partners to advance broadband infrastructure across the state.

To date, WSBO has **spent \$26,426,491 CPF**. Of that amount, \$206,338 went toward managing the competitive grant process. Eight grantees began construction in 2024 and are now more than 50% complete. An additional five projects have broken ground, while six projects will start this summer. Grantees have until December 31, 2026, to complete projects and report required CPF expenditures and data to WSBO. This timeline allows for steady buildout and accountability throughout the grant cycle.

In total, the WSBO grants will construct three towers and deploy 876 miles of fiber-optic broadband cables to complete an estimated 12,947 high-speed internet connections, most of which do not currently meet the FCC minimally acceptable speed benchmark. Of the total new connections, 11,314

will serve homes, 1,471 will serve businesses, and 162 will serve community anchor institutions. By filling long-standing speed gaps, these communities will be better positioned to attract new industries and strengthen local employment opportunities.

While WSBO is working to improve slow or unreliable service in many communities, it is also helping areas that lack broadband access entirely. Through strategic partnerships with electrical cooperatives, WSBO is bringing first-time connections to the remote San Juan Islands and the Methow Valley of Okanogan County.

The San Juan Islands, accessible only by ferry, will gain 1,050 new connections. In the Methow Valley, known for its 120 miles of groomed cross-country ski trails, 1,482 new residential connections will be established. The new connections will support remote learning, telemedicine, and work-from-home options for Washingtonians in places where weather, distance, or transportation challenges have limited their online opportunities.

Project highlight: Bringing broadband to the Channeled Scablands

With its high elevation of expansive flatlands, much of Franklin County experiences 17 hours of sunlight during summer days. Fruit grown in this region ripens quickly, with lush flavors and acidity that maintains freshness. It houses 45 grape vineyards and 157 orchards of apples, sweet cherries, and pears. Post-pandemic, agriculture remains a significant employment sector, though the work is highly seasonal and crop production can be volatile from year to year. With a three-year average unemployment rate of 6.1%, it qualifies as a distressed area.⁵

Between the flatlands reside deep coulees and steep canyons, distinct features carved into the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains. The rugged terrain and barren rock formations make up a desert known as the [Channeled Scablands](#). This remote area includes the City of Connell (population 5,441) and the unincorporated community of Basin City (population 1,063).

The scablands pose challenges for broadband construction for these residents. Several types of broadband infrastructure must be integrated to navigate the region's complex topography. To provide affordable broadband to the two communities, over 306,000 feet of fiber-optic cable must be installed using three design methods. While standard shallow trenches will suffice for 175,000 feet of cable, over 56,000 feet must be laid underground through boring, and 75,000 feet require aerial installation. The three methods must be interlaced repeatedly to traverse the Channeled Scablands.

TWSBO awarded the PUD of Franklin County **\$4,854,610 CPF** to do just that. It is the first public assistance broadband grant that Franklin County has received to date.

According to the 2020 United States Census, roughly 41% of City of Connell residents identify as Hispanic, and roughly 85% of Basin City residents identify as Hispanic.⁶ The census further indicates that 1,019 residents (16% of the total population) lack health care coverage and that both cities experience higher poverty rates compared to the state average. Randy Hayden, Executive Director of the Port of Pasco, illustrates just how much the grant means to their remote neighbors:

“As a majority Hispanic county with incomes well under the state median, the extension of broadband is seen as a key tool to provide equity in economic opportunities for our residents and businesses. The expansion will reach the underserved communities of Connell and Basin City with 1,375 new fiber connections to improve public safety, telehealth accessibility, economic diversity, and education and digital equity. ... By funding this project, WSBO is investing in a partner with a proven track record of successful open-access broadband and reaching a disproportionately underserved segment of our population.”

Upon completion, the project will deliver service to 937 total locations, including 790 homes, 145 businesses, and two community anchor institutions across Connell and Basin City. Residential services will cost less than \$40 a month, and businesses will pay less than \$100 a month. Discounts will be offered to low-income customers, senior citizens, and individuals with disabilities.

Introducing affordable high-speed internet to these remote areas will reduce social isolation and unlock new opportunities for work, education, and civic participation. It will also support economic growth through tourism. The Channeled Scablands, a geological marvel featuring state parks and basalt-carved caves, are expected to draw more outdoor enthusiasts as broadband improves visitor safety, supports modern navigation systems, and helps local economies capitalize on growing interest in the region’s natural beauty.

As of spring 2025, construction is approximately 85 percent complete, with service expected to go live in September, bringing reliable connectivity across the Channeled Scablands for the first time.

Rural broadband grants by the Community Economic Revitalization Board

The state appropriated **\$25,000,000 CPF** to the [Community Economic Revitalization Board \(CERB\)](#) for grants to local governments and federally recognized Tribes. It prioritizes broadband projects that promote private business growth to unserved and underserved communities in rural areas. The awards require symmetrical broadband speeds at a minimum of 1G/1G.

⁶ [Data.census.gov Resources](https://data.census.gov/Resources)

CERB projects were among the first to start. CERB provided extensive outreach, coordination, and technical assistance to help local governments and Tribes prepare strong grant applications supported by complete feasibility studies. This upfront support helped shorten the time between project planning and construction.

Because CERB was first to break ground, it was also the first to face the full impact of supply chain disruptions and cost increases driven by record inflation in labor, transportation, and raw materials. Grants were awarded based on 2022 cost estimates and delivery timelines, which did not anticipate these sharp price increases. To help mitigate these impacts, CERB reduced administrative costs and reallocated the funds to construction cost overruns.

Initially, CERB estimated \$1.8 million in CPF for administrative costs. In 2025, CERB revised that estimate to \$375,000, equal to 2% of its total CPF appropriation. The U.S. Treasury approved the change in May 2025, and CERB redirected the remaining \$1.4 million in CPF to address increased construction costs.

Twelve grantees have received CPF awards, totaling approximately **\$20.8 million** in grants. The grantees provided a cash match of \$12.8 million, far exceeding the project's minimum cash match requirement of 15%. Once again, investing in upfront coordination efforts and technical support paid off for CERB.

To date, CERB has spent \$13,380,301 in CPF, including \$35,786 in administrative costs. All twelve grantees have started construction, with four projects completed and the remaining eight projects more than 50% complete. Grantees have until December 31, 2026, to complete projects and report required CPF expenditures and data to CERB. See the CPF Awards Inventory, Progress, and Spending section of this report for additional detail on individual project status.

In total, CERB projects will install approximately 225 miles of fiber-optic broadband cable, enabling an estimated 6,323 new connections at minimum speeds of 1G/1G. Of these, 5,807 connections will serve homes, 543 will serve businesses, and 44 will serve community anchor institutions. The four completed projects have already laid 88.8 miles of fiber and delivered 1,551 connections.

Tribal governments received \$5.1 million in CPF grants, matched by \$1.9 million in Tribal funds for a total match rate of 27%. Approximately 41.5 miles of fiber will be installed, bringing 2,150 new high-speed connections to the Chehalis and Nisqually reservations.

The CPF-funded broadband program administered by CERB demonstrates the success of combining federal funding, state-level expertise, and strong local partnerships. These high-speed connections directly support CERB's mission to promote private business growth and economic development in underserved communities, helping move Washington closer to universal broadband access.

Project highlight: Bringing broadband to communities devastated by wildfires

Wide, rolling prairies make up the fertile region known as Whitman County. Before the pandemic, its agricultural industry produced more barley, wheat, dry peas, and lentils than any other county in the country.⁷ The region is also prone to seasonal wildfires.

Once a thriving rural community in Whitman County, Elberton had more than 500 residents before it was ravaged by wildfires. Fires destroyed the sawmill, flour mill, grain silos, homes, and railroad station. By the 1960s, Whitman County had no choice but to disincorporate Elberton and reclassify it as a ghost town. Today, it is a haunting reminder that wildfires can wipe out entire communities.

Just 30 miles north of the ghost town sit the rural communities of Malden and Pine City, with a combined population of fewer than 300. On Labor Day 2020, wildfires destroyed 85% of the homes and buildings in the two towns, including the city hall, post office, library, gas station, Masonic Lodge, firehouse, and a century-old covered wooden bridge. More than 120 homes were burned to their foundations.

Before the fire, Malden and Pine City had a poverty rate of 12.4%, and people commuted an average of 40 minutes.⁸ After the fire, residents grappled with a familiar question: whether to move on or stay and rebuild. With support from donations, emergency management services, and state and federal funds, the communities chose to stay. Not only did they decide to rebuild, but they also embraced a long-term vision for economic revitalization by investing in infrastructure needed to support a modern economy.

The communities' revitalization plan centers on securing a new and improved broadband infrastructure capable of delivering top-speed internet services for teleworking, online learning, and business innovation. In late 2023, CERB awarded **\$1,734,921 CPF** to the Port of Whitman County to bring high-speed broadband to Malden and Pine City.

The project has completed 28 miles of fiber and is now delivering broadband service at 1G/1G speeds — the gold standard for rural connectivity — to 55 homes and five new businesses.

Whitman County is currently applying for competitive grants through the Creating Helpful Incentives to Produce Semiconductors and Science Act to attract advanced manufacturing industries such as semiconductor fabrication, battery production, and precision tooling, with the goal of creating high-quality jobs in the Malden and Pine City areas. Access to top-speed broadband gives these communities a significant competitive advantage over other rural areas in the nation.

⁷ [Heart of Washington 2019 \(archive.org\)](#)

⁸ [Malden, WA | Data USA](#)

Rural and urban broadband grants by the Public Works Board

The state appropriated **\$46,000,000 CPF** to the [Public Works Board \(PWB\)](#) to administer broadband grants to rural, distressed areas led by local governments, port or public utility districts, and federally recognized Tribes.

PWB awards prioritize **severely distressed areas**, defined as rural areas with an unemployment rate 20% above the state average and a median household income less than 75% of the state median (for the previous three years). The awards also prioritize grantees that are ready for last-mile broadband delivery. *Last-mile* refers to the final stretch of broadband infrastructure that brings internet service from a main line directly to customers' premises.

Initially, PWB estimated \$2.3 million in CPF for administrative costs, representing five percent of the total appropriation. That estimate was reduced to \$350,000, or one percent of the total. Some grantees are experiencing high pole attachment fees to install new broadband cables on preexisting utility poles that are owned by electric or telecommunications companies. By lowering administrative costs, PWB was able to reallocate \$1.9 million in CPF to help cover these fees. The U.S. Treasury approved this change in May 2025. Additional reimbursements are capped at \$500,000 in CPF per project.

PWB awarded approximately **\$44.8 million CPF to 15 grantees**. Five grantees secured a cash match totaling \$1.33 million. To date, PWB has spent over **\$21,231,132 CPF**. Of the total spent, \$185,751 was allocated to administrative costs. All grantees have started construction, with three projects now complete and four projects to be completed this calendar year. Grantees have until December 31, 2026, to complete projects and report required CPF expenditures and data to CERB. See the CPF Awards Inventory, Progress, and Spending section of this report for additional detail on individual project status.

Of the 15 grants awarded by PWB, 11 projects will complete last-mile construction only, and seven will serve severely distressed areas.

PWB funding will construct 11 towers and deploy 450 miles of fiber-optic broadband cables to deploy an estimated 8,459 high-speed internet connections. Of the total new connections, 7,537 will serve homes, 878 will serve businesses, and 44 will serve community anchor institutions.

The Town of Skykomish recently constructed 17 miles of cable, bringing broadband at 1G/1G speeds to 353 homes and two businesses (\$568,763 CPF). Previously, the community only had four connections that met the 2024 FCC minimum speed benchmark. With so few past connections, King County is now focused on digital literacy. This includes operating an internet clinic in Skykomish to provide technical assistance and computer skills for the next two years (\$51,000 CPF).

Project highlight: Bringing broadband to communities in the foothills of stratovolcanoes

Northeast Lewis County is the gateway to [Paradise in Mount Rainier National Park](#). Southeast Lewis County is the gateway to the [Johnston Ridge Observatory on Mount St. Helens](#), located in the heart of the 1980 volcanic blast zone. With mountainsides of alpine trees, glacial lakes, and over 245 species of wildflowers, these [stratovolcanoes](#) attract millions of visitors and outdoor enthusiasts each year. Nestled around the mountains are small rural communities, including Mineral, Ashford, and Elbe near Mount Rainier.

In the 1940s, Lewis County's logging and mining industries began to decline gradually. In 2020, the average unemployment rate reached 9.4%.⁹ In 2023, poor health outcomes were at an all-time high of 17% (three percentage points higher than the national average).¹⁰ The county's rate of domestic violence has exceeded the state average rate since 2002.¹¹

Aerial distribution poles flank state highways, bringing broadband to many park businesses, lodges, museums, visitor centers, ranger stations, and firehouses. However, very few high-speed broadband connections extend to homes in the surrounding communities. A 2021 speed survey off State Route 7 found that only two of 64 residential connections near Mineral met the former FCC benchmark speed of 25/3 Mbps.¹² The foothill communities of Mineral, Ashford, and Elbe are no exception.

With mountain ranges disrupting satellite signals and little reliable broadband available beyond the main roads, emergency services and crisis response providers struggle to maintain reliable mobile telecommunications — including cell phone calls and GPS navigation — when responding to residents in Mineral, Elbe, and Ashford. The lack of broadband services in these areas has become a barrier to equitable access to public health and safety services.

PWB awarded Lewis County PUD with **\$4,733,011 CPF** to complete last-mile broadband delivery. Over 85% of cables will use existing highway distribution poles to extend 1G/1G broadband by 83 miles, serving 1,234 homes. The last-mile extensions will also provide upgraded connections to 123 businesses and six anchor institutions.

This comprehensive broadband coverage will help reduce dropped 911 calls, improve navigation for emergency and crisis response providers, and expand access to telemedicine in communities facing some of the state's poorest health outcomes.

⁹ [Data.census.gov Resources](#)

¹⁰ [Lewis, Washington | County Health Rankings & Roadmaps](#)

¹¹ [WA Statistical Analysis Center | CJDB90_22.xlsx \(live.com\)](#)

¹² [Broadband Service Comparison | Washington SBO Digital Equity \(arcgis.com\)](#)

The project is now more than halfway complete. It includes enhancements to support search and rescue operations; improve response to water-related emergencies; strengthen crisis coordination among local, state, and federal agencies; and protect public safety in a remote mountain region that attracts over a million visitors annually. Improved broadband access makes it easier for search and rescue teams to quickly mobilize local volunteers who are familiar with the area's backroads, trails, and conditions.

CPF awards inventory, progress, and spending

As of May 2024, the state has spent **\$61,224,327 CPF**, including \$428,526 toward administrative costs. The chart below lists each project by award grantee and program title. It includes the grant amount, cumulative expenditures through May 2025, and the project's completion status.

With a federal expenditure deadline of December 31, 2026, projects marked as “not started” remain within the allowable timeframe and are actively monitored to ensure timely progress.

Agency	Grantee	Title	Status	Award Amount	Cumulative Expenditures
WSBO	Lincoln County	Project to Serve Deer Meadows and Seven Bays	Less than 50% complete	\$ 8,921,342	\$ 88,542
WSBO	Lewis County	Bunker Creek Broadband Infrastructure	Less than 50% complete	\$ 11,958,421	\$907,873
WSBO	Okanogan County	Okanogan County Connects	Less than 50% complete	\$ 11,985,014	\$1,512,223
WSBO	Port of Whitman County	Port of Whitman Fiber Networks	Not started	\$ 1,135,475	-
WSBO	Spokane Tribe	Spokane Tribe HWY 231 Fiber-to-the-home Networks	Not started	\$ 3,418,063	-
WSBO	Mason County Public Utility District 3	Cloquallum Communities Rural Fiber Expansion	More than 50% complete	\$ 3,645,768	\$ 2,105,286
WSBO	Orcas Power & Light Co-Op	Orcas Island East Broadband	More than 50% complete	\$ 3,911,649	\$ 2,329,962
WSBO	Orcas Power & Light Co-Op	San Juan Island Broadband	More than 50% complete	\$3,352,904	\$ 2,281,596
WSBO	Orcas Power & Light Co-Op	Orcas Island West Broadband	Nearing completion	\$ 1,242,168	\$ 1,241,321
WSBO	Orcas Power & Light Co-Op	Outer Islands Broadband	More than 50% complete	\$ 6,446,206	\$ 4,863,410
WSBO	Franklin County Public Utility District 1	Connell and Basin Fiber-to-the-home Networks	Less than 50% complete	\$ 4,854,610	\$ 2,105,286
WSBO	Yakima County	Yakima County Broadband 2022	Not started	\$ 11,310,004	-
WSBO	Grays Harbor Public Utility District 1	South Elma, Porter and Cedarville Broadband	Less than 50% complete	\$ 6,916,366	\$326,480
WSBO	Whatcom Public Utility District - Point Roberts	Point Roberts Fiber-to-the-home Networks	Not started	\$ 3,150,000	-
WSBO	Tri County Economic Development District	Central Stevens County Hybrid Broadband	Less than 50% complete	\$ 12,000,000	\$4,662,149
WSBO	Jefferson County Public Utility District 1	The Inbetweens Fiber Collaborations	More than 50% complete	\$ 6,087,687	\$ 3,298,894

Agency	Grantee	Title	Status	Award Amount	Cumulative Expenditures
WSBO	Port of Skagit County	Bow Outlying Areas Fiber-to-the-home Networks	Less than 50% complete	\$ 8,054,251	\$175,731
WSBO	Kittitas County	Kittitas County Broadband 2022	Not started	\$ 11,366,102	-
WSBO	King County and Ziply	Ziply Fiber in Duvall	Not started	\$ 1,767,681	-
CERB	Chehalis Tribe	Chehalis Reservation Broadband	More than 50% complete	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 1,881,406
CERB	Nisqually Indian Tribe	Nisqually Reservation Open Access Network Phase 1	Nearing completion	\$ 2,000,000	\$1,881,406
CERB	Port of Clarkston	NW Clarkston Heights Fiber-to-the-home Networks	Complete	\$ 808,287	\$ 808,287
CERB	Port of Woodland	Ariel to Cougar Fiber-to-the-home Networks	More than 50% complete	\$ 1,976,496	\$ 1,778,846
CERB	Kitsap County Public Utility District 1	Larson Lane Fiber-to-the-home Networks	More than 50% complete	\$ 1,565,363	\$ 927,717
CERB	Kitsap County Public Utility District 1	Hintzville Fiber-to-the-home Networks	More than 50% complete	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 1,881,406
CERB	Port of Columbia	Dayton Community Broadband	Complete	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 1,992,748
CERB	Port of Garfield	Garfield County Fiber-to-the-home Networks Phase 2	Complete	\$ 285,375	\$ 285,375
CERB	Lincoln County	Almira, Creston and Harrington Broadband	Nearing completion	\$ 1,963,920	\$ 1,853,922
CERB	Port of Whitman County	Malden/Pine City Fiber-to-the-home Networks	Complete	\$ 1,734,921	\$ 1,734,921
CERB	Port of Bellingham	Whatcom County Rural Broadband	Less than 50% complete	\$ 2,000,000	-
CERB	Mason County Public Utility District 1	Hood Canal - 101 Broadband	More than 50% complete	\$ 1,024,133	\$ 921,710
PWB	Kittitas County	Thorp and Edgemont Fiber-to-the-home Networks	Not started	\$ 3,338,946	-
PWB	Port of Clarkston	Federal Census Tract 9604 Fiber-to-the-home Networks	More than 50% complete	\$ 2,444,381	\$ 2,304,774
PWB	Lewis County Public Utility District	Connecting the Mineral, Elbe, & Ashford Communities	More than 50% complete	\$ 4,733,011	\$ 3,515,516
PWB	Port of Clarkston	Grantham Elementary Service Area Fiber-to-the-home Networks	Complete	\$ 1,775,282	\$ 1,772,012
PWB	Town of Skykomish	Skykomish Broadband	Complete	\$ 568,763	\$ 568,763
PWB	Lincoln County	Connecting Lincoln County	Less than 50% complete	\$ 4,162,072	\$ 689,356
PWB	Jefferson County Public Utility District	Discovery Bay East Fiber	Less than 50% complete	\$ 1,096,046	\$ 184,503

Agency	Grantee	Title	Status	Award Amount	Cumulative Expenditures
PWB	Port of Columbia	Touchet Valley Broadband	Complete	\$ 1,165,000	\$ 934,5701
PWB	Clallam County	Clallam County Broadband	Less than 50% complete	\$ 4,525,174	\$ 765,758
PWB	Pacific County Public Utility District	Broadband Build Bay City to Nemah	More than 50% complete	\$ 5,500,000	\$ 5,052,145
PWB	Lewis County Public Utility District	Connecting the Greater Vader Community	More than 50% complete	\$ 5,226,647	\$ 3,813,201
PWB	Port of Skagit	Fir Island Fiber	Less than 50% complete	\$ 2,152,791	\$ 134,024
PWB	Town of Washtucna	Washtucna Fiber-to-the- Premise	Less than 50% complete	\$ 1,288,946	\$ 1,224,499
PWB	Port of Coupeville	Central Whidbey Island Fiber	Less than 50% complete	\$ 4,842,933	\$ 322,012
PWB	Kitsap County Public Utility District 1	Rural Kitsap Fiber-to-the-home Networks	Not started	\$ 1,939,356	-
TOTAL				\$ 187,856,519	\$ 23,289,349

Note: Total expenditures may change because these values do not reflect our final accounting reconciliation process for state fiscal year 2025.

Community outreach and engagement

Washington seeks direct feedback from the public about barriers to accessing affordable broadband in historically marginalized communities to understand the digital divide better. To facilitate transparency, feedback is published widely to the public. The information below includes several links to supporting documentation, such as meeting notes, recommendations and public comments.

In December 2021, WSBO and the Washington State Office of Equity held the first Digital Equity Forum (DEF). The public is invited to participate in DEF meetings, in which participants represent Tribal governments, underserved and unserved communities, and historically disadvantaged populations. It also includes state agency leaders and legislators. The forums consolidate all voices to develop recommendations to the Legislature that advance equitable access, affordability, and digital literacy. To date, 20 forums have been held. Agendas, documents, and recommendations are available on the [Digital Equity Forum](#) website.

In March 2022, Governor Jay Inslee signed the Digital Equity Act ([Engrossed Second Substitute House Bill 1723 \(Chapter 265, Laws of 2022\)](#)). Among other things, the act codified the Digital Equity Forum and required further outreach efforts from WSBO, specifically to additional remote locations and low-income communities across the state.

In 2022, WSBO increased collaborations with local and Tribal governments' Broadband Action Teams (BATs). BATs are community-driven collaborations that identify the unique connectivity and accessibility needs of their area. Sixteen of 29 Tribes and all 39 counties provided WSBO with comprehensive [Community Action Plans](#), all of which are available to the public on WSBO's website.

Also, in 2022, WSBO launched the Digital Navigator Program using state funds. A digital navigator is a trusted community member or organization who assists individuals, groups, and households in accessing internet services and computer literacy services. Digital navigators distribute internet-supportive devices (laptops, computers, hot spots), provide real-time technical assistance, and teach in-home or web-based digital literacy classes. In 2023, a total of 32 digital navigators served 155,603 Washingtonians with:

- 145,067 digital literacy services
- 106,349 internet-supportive devices
- 18,516 Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) applications
- 112,773 households served
- 2,921 formally incarcerated individuals served

Between June 2022 and January 2024, WSBO conducted over 30 public outreach and engagement activities focused on historically marginalized communities. These events hosted over 4,000 Washington residents. In-person meetings were held at libraries, food banks, festivals, school buildings, health

centers, and community centers near bus routes. The meetings also accommodated virtual participation.

The culmination of these outreach efforts greatly informed the statewide [Digital Equity Plan](#), which was finalized in early 2024. WSBO incorporated feedback from 72 public comments before finalizing the plan. All public comments are available [online](#). One-page briefing documents were distributed across the state in seven languages.

Washington has several data resources attempting to quantify the digital divide for the public. Our statewide broadband survey provides current access and speed information by geographical location. It is available on the [WSBO website](#). Our [statewide demographics dashboard](#) provides county-level details about internet access and computer ownership by characteristics such as race, age, income, and English-speaking ability. Again, these findings are based on lower speed metrics than we have today and likely underrepresent the number of underserved households. The state is currently reassessing data using the new FCC minimally acceptable speed benchmark and will report the information in December 2025.

Fair labor practices and civil rights compliance

States must provide information about fair labor practices and civil rights compliance followed for CPF projects. These practices are described below.

- All laborers and mechanics employed through state contractors and subcontractors must follow the laws that govern hourly wages, benefits, overtime, and other related labor practices for public works projects ([Chapter 39.12 RCW](#)).
- The [Washington State Department of Labor and Industries](#) (L&I) reviews contract compliance with the statutory requirements of Chapter 39.12 RCW. Industrial statisticians at L&I use collective bargaining agreements or market rate wage data to ensure state contractors provide prevailing wages for their workers. The prevailing wage is defined in [RCW 39.12.010](#).

The state prioritizes contractors who commit to local hires and small businesses certified by the [Washington State Office of Minority and Women's Business Enterprises](#). This increases equitable employment opportunities for owners and workers.

- All employers are prohibited from discrimination or preferential treatment due to race, creed, color, national origin, citizenship or immigration status, families with children, sex, marital status, sexual orientation, age, honorably discharged veteran or military status, the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal by a person with a disability ([Chapter 49.60 RCW](#)).