

**Table 1: Broadband Funding Invested in the State of Washington, as of June 2023**

Program Name	Purpose	Total Allocation
<b>FEDERAL FUNDING SOURCE</b>		
<b>Rural Digital Opportunity Fund</b>	An FCC initiative designed to invest \$20.4 billion in grant funding to develop rural broadband networks.	\$215,768,532 <sup>35</sup>
<b>Infrastructure Acceleration Grant</b>	An ARPA – SLFRF program, administered by the WSBO, to fund broadband infrastructure construction projects designed to deliver broadband service as part of a contiguous network.	\$138,836,515 <sup>36</sup>
<b>Broadband Infrastructure Grant</b>	An ARPA, Capital Projects Fund, program, administered by the WSBO, to fund broadband infrastructure construction projects designed to deliver broadband service as part of a contiguous network.	\$121,523,711
<b>PWB Broadband Construction Federally Funded Grants</b>	A PWB administered program that used funding from the ARPA, Capital Projects Fund, to fund additional broadband planning and construction projects through low-interest loans or grants, to local governments, federally recognized tribes, nonprofit organizations, cooperative associations, multiparty entries, LLCs, and incorporated businesses or partnerships, to provide high-speed, open-access broadband services to unserved populations in rural and urban communities across the state.	\$44,676,617
<b>Broadband Infrastructure Program (BIP)</b>	An NTIA funded program, administered by the WSBO, to fund broadband infrastructure construction projects designed to deliver broadband service as part of a contiguous network.	\$30,000,000
<b>CERB Rural Broadband Projects</b>	A CERB administered program that used funding from the ARPA, Capital Projects Fund, to support additional broadband construction projects through low-interest loans or grants, to local governments and federally recognized tribes, to provide high-speed, open-access broadband services to unserved and underserved populations in rural communities across the state.	\$23,544,200
<b>FCC Connect America Fund Phase II - Auction 903</b>	An FCC program that uses competitive bidding to allocate up to \$1.98 billion over 10 years to typically larger telephone providers for voice and broadband service at or above specific performance levels in high-cost areas.	\$19,943,507
<b>ReConnect Broadband Program</b>	A Rural Development Investment to deploy a fiber-to-the-premises network to connect 4,330 people, 61 businesses and 21 farms to high-speed internet in rural Cowlitz County. Kalama Telephone Company will make high-speed internet affordable by participating in the FCC's Affordable Connectivity and Lifeline programs.	\$8,637,540

<sup>35</sup> Funding originally included \$7 million for a project overseen by the ISP St. John's Telco, but after the federal government awarded funding, the ISP declared bankruptcy. Since this funding will be returned to the FCC, we have removed it from the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund's total allocation amount. However, this figure does still include more than \$80 million in funding for satellite service through Starlink and an additional \$7.7 million for Commnet Wireless projects that will rely on unlicensed fixed wireless. According to the BEAD NOFO, both delivery systems do not meet the criteria for reliable broadband service, and, therefore, project locations will still be considered unserved.

<sup>36</sup> This amount only includes funding that the WSBO has awarded for broadband projects. Overall, the WSBO received more than \$145 million from the federal government from the ARPA SLFRF. Not included in this amount is \$2.1 million for program administration and \$5 million that the WSBO has reserved to cover any increase in project material costs.

Program Name	Purpose	Total Allocation
<b>USDA Community Connect Grants</b>	A program that provides financial assistance to eligible applicants that will provide broadband service in rural, economically challenged communities where service does not exist.	\$4,001,885
<b>ReConnect Broadband Program</b>	A Rural Development Investment to provide Mason County Public Utility District No. 3 with the opportunity to use funding to provide necessary broadband services to the Three Fingers community in Grapeview, WA.	\$2,476,279
<b>Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grants</b>	A program that uses competitive grants to help rural communities use advanced telecommunications technology to connect to each other - and the world - overcoming the effects of remoteness and low population density.	\$1,048,433
<b>ReConnect Broadband Program</b>	A Rural Development investment to deploy fiber-to-the-premises broadband service in rural Washington. The funded service area includes 144 households spread over 0.16 square miles.	\$596,781
<b>Alternative Connect America Cost Model</b>	A program that provides set monthly payments, based on a cost model, to Rate of Return carriers to build broadband to a specific number of fixed locations in areas eligible for funding.	Providers receive variable monthly payments based on a cost-model <sup>37</sup>
<b>Broadband Loop Support</b>	A program that provides support for voice and broadband service, including stand-alone broadband. The fund helps carriers recover the difference between loop costs associated with providing voice and/or broadband service and consumer loop revenues.	Providers receive variable monthly payments based on a cost-model <sup>38</sup>
<b>STATE FUNDING SOURCE</b>		
<b>State Match Program</b>	A state program that provides matching grant funding for federal broadband infrastructure funding opportunities.	\$21,090,934
<b>OSPI Digital Equity and Inclusion Grant</b>	A state program that provides grants to schools or school districts to help close opportunity gaps related to educational technology by attaining a 1:1 student to learning device ratio, expanding technical support and training for educators, and develop district or school-based capacity to assist families and students.	\$18,606,030
<b>CERB Rural Broadband Projects</b>	A CERB administered program that funds broadband construction projects through low-interest loans or grants, to local governments and federally recognized tribes, to provide high-speed, open-access broadband services to unserved and underserved populations in rural communities across the state.	\$11,748,361

<sup>37</sup> Universal Service Administrative Co. (July 2023), Detailed Payment Data Search. Accessed at: [Detailed Payment Data Search - High-Cost Program - USAC.org](#)

<sup>38</sup> Ibid

Program Name	Purpose	Total Allocation
<b>PWB Broadband Construction State Funded Grants</b>	A PWB administered program that funds broadband planning and construction projects through low-interest loans or grants, to local governments, federally recognized tribes, nonprofit organizations, cooperative associations, multiparty entries, LLCs, and incorporated businesses or partnerships, to provide high-speed, open-access broadband services to unserved populations in rural and urban communities across the state.	\$10,067,553
<b>Washington Universal Communications Services Program</b>	A program established by the Washington legislature to help small rural telecommunications companies maintain voice services and provide and enhance broadband services in high-cost areas.	\$4,850,000
<b>CERB Planning Program</b>	A program that provides grants for planning projects that lead to economic development. Activities can include feasibility studies, environmental planning work, and pre-construction engineering.	\$1,767,225
<b>Rapid Design Study</b>	A program to provide counties and tribes, that volunteer to participate, with a technical review that analyzes the costs of up to six different broadband buildout options need to expand broadband with the participant's jurisdiction.	\$120,000

### 3.1.3 Programs Administered by State Entities

The recent increase in funding has directly resulted in an increase in state administered programs. As **Table 2** describes, the state has used this funding to aggressively address issues broadband availability and close the digital divide.

**Table 2: Current Broadband Activities the State Administers or Oversees**

Activity Name	Description	Intended Outcome(s)
<b>Digital Equity Forum</b>	A group of appointed members that develop recommendations to advance digital equity in Washington state.	Provide feedback on the digital equity plan, review grant applications, and determine priority for new programs. <sup>39</sup>
<b>Statewide Digital Equity Plan</b>	Worked conducted by the WSBO to create a statewide digital equity plan as part of the federal broadband infrastructure requirements under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.	Develop Washington's first statewide digital equity plan.
<b>BEAD Program Grants</b>	A program to fund broadband deployment through grants to public and private organizations in unserved and underserved locations.	Increase access to affordable and reliable broadband in unserved and underserved locations throughout the state of Washington.

<sup>39</sup> The Digital Equity Forum reviews grant applicants, but programs are currently unfunded to date.

Activity Name	Description	Intended Outcome(s)
<b>Broadband Action Teams</b>	Community-driven collaborations that identify the connectivity and accessibility needs of their communities.	Helps communities centralize broadband conversations with the WSBO and develop relations between participants to achieve community and project-specific goals.
<b>Connect Washington Coalition</b>	A collaboration of public and private partners to build statewide strategies for universal, affordable, and sufficient internet access and digital participation.	Provide affordable, robust internet service and access to digital literacy training, internet-enabled devices, and technical support, designed to enable self-sufficiency and collaboration.
<b>CERB Rural Broadband Program</b>	A program that funds broadband construction projects through low-interest loans or grants, to local governments and federally recognized tribes, to provide high-speed, open-access broadband services to unserved and underserved populations in rural communities across the state.	Increase community development and access to broadband services.
<b>PWB Broadband Construction Funding</b>	A program that funds broadband planning and construction projects through low-interest loans or grants, to local governments, federally recognized tribes, nonprofit organizations, cooperative associations, multiparty entries, LLCs, and incorporated businesses or partnerships, to provide high-speed, open-access broadband service, to unserved populations in rural and urban communities across the state.	Increase community development and access to broadband services.
<b>Public Retail Broadband</b>	A town, second class city, county or public utility district or port district may construct, purchase, acquire, develop, finance, lease, license, provide, contract for, interconnect, alter, improve, repair, operate, and maintain telecommunications services or telecommunications facilities.	Purpose of furnishing its inhabitants with telecommunications services.
<b>Digital Navigators Program</b>	A program to help Washington residents navigate the Internet, provide free digital literacy skills training, and connect with government and community services, among other digital services.	Help community members improve internet adoption and their use of computing devices.
<b>Rapid Design Study</b>	A program to provide counties and tribes, that volunteer to participate, with a technical review that analyzes the costs of up to six different broadband buildout options need to expand broadband with the participant's jurisdiction.	Provides participating counties and tribes with a broadband infrastructure cost assessment.
<b>Grant Writing Assistance</b>	A program that provides contracted grant writing services to local governments and tribes seeking funding from a federal agency for broadband infrastructure development.	Helps participants apply to federal broadband funding opportunities.