



BROADBAND FOR ALL OREGONIANS

CLOSING OUR DIGITAL DIVIDE

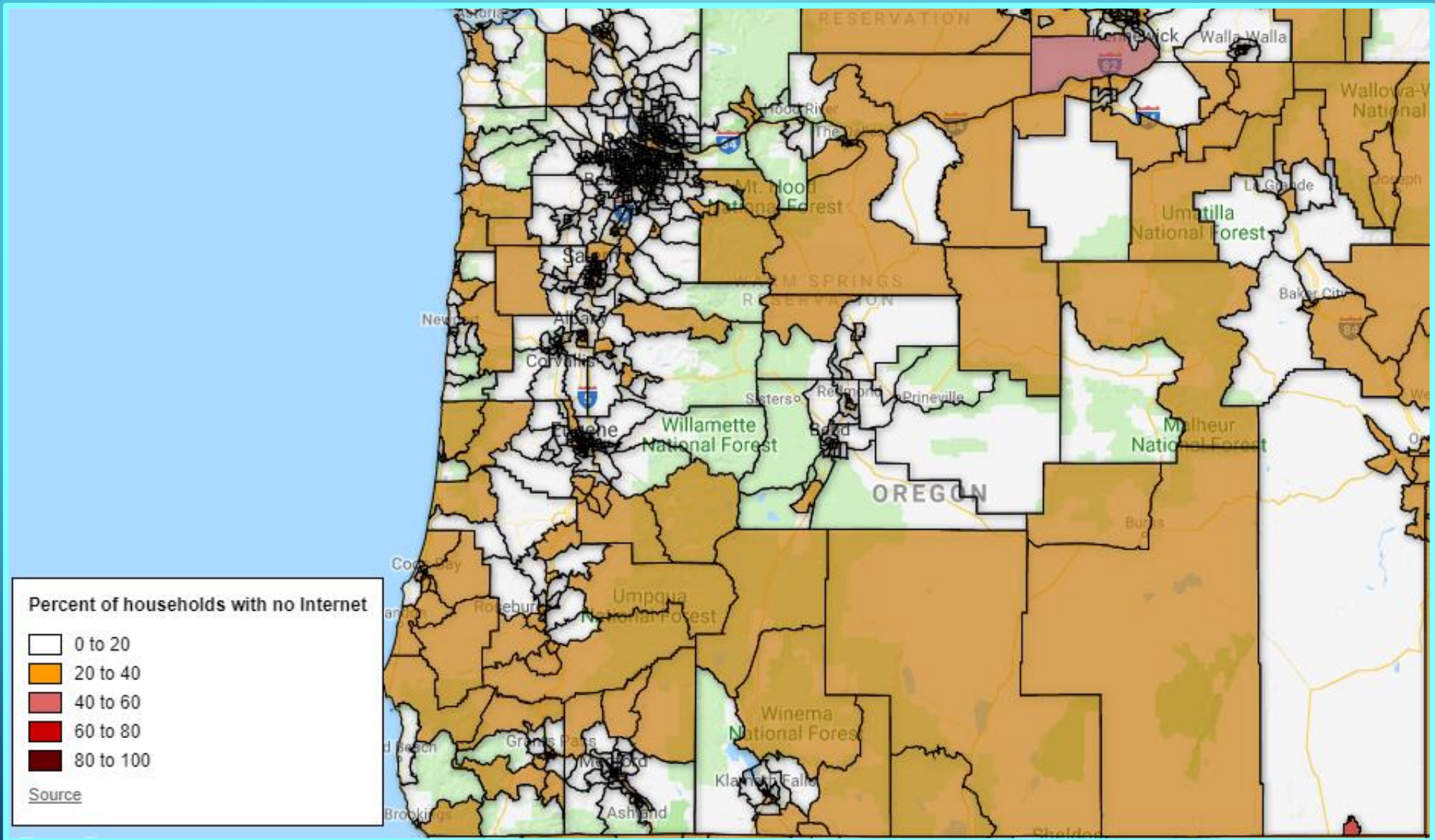
BROADBAND

- Fast internet that uses a variety of technologies, including wired and wireless
- Federal Communications Commission has established a residential broadband standard at 25 Mbps minimum download speed and 3 Mbps minimum upload speed

OREGON GAPS

- At least 400,000 Oregonians lack access to the internet at home.
Gaps are concentrated in rural and remote regions of the state.

	Total	Portland	Central Coast	Central Oregon	SW Oregon	NW Coast	North Central	South Central	Eastern
Broadband at home	82%	85%	83%	83%	79%	78%	76%	69%	67%



Percent of households with no home internet of any kind, 2017

TWENTY-SIX SCHOOL DISTRICTS HAVE NO OR INADEQUATE SERVICES

E-RATE SYSTEM

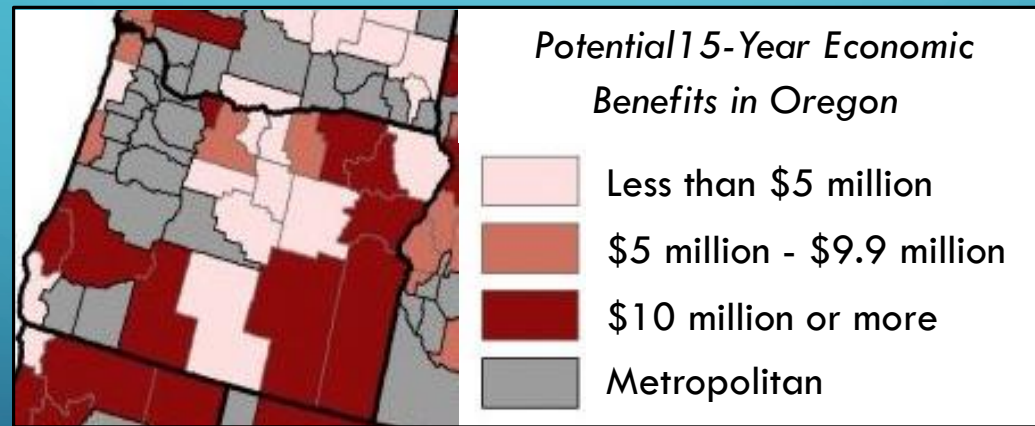
- In 2018, the Legislature established the Connecting Oregon Schools Fund
- Allows districts to use a 10% state match to acquire a 90% federal match for broadband projects
- Requires an ongoing source of match money from the state

BROADBAND BENEFITS: EDUCATION

- Enhance career & college ready standards
- Close the 'homework gap'
- Track student progress remotely
- Boost access to education through distance learning
- Enable fulfillment of professional development requirements

BROADBAND BENEFITS: ECONOMY

- \$1,850 per household - estimated in 2017 study by Ohio State University



**Assume 20 percent unserved households adopt broadband;
benefits calculated at >\$1,850 per household*

BROADBAND BENEFITS: AGRICULTURE

- Contributing more than \$8.25 billion to Oregon's economy each year, ag is a driver for broadband deployment in rural areas
- Internet based systems help increase yields and reduce environmental impacts
- Lack of high-speed internet is the main barrier for farmers to adopt new smart farm technologies and equipment

BROADBAND BENEFITS: PUBLIC HEALTH

- 'Telehealth' is remote health care delivery using telecommunication technologies, e.g. video-conferencing
- Part of the solution to the current healthcare access, outcomes and financing issues, e.g. access to specialists and transportation costs
- Improved public health education, administration and patient outcomes

BROADBAND BENEFITS: PUBLIC SAFETY

- Gives first responders the ability to send and receive voice, text, images and video
- Oregon's emergency services are at a transition point for migration from legacy systems to Next Generation 911, and to interoperable wireless broadband communications systems

BROADBAND BENEFITS: GENERATIONAL TRANSITION

- Research suggests that rural areas with widely available and adopted broadband are more likely to attract and retain young adults who require/desire modern communication technologies for education, work and entertainment

GOAL: 100% ACCESSIBILITY

Achieving Broadband for All Oregonians will require that we:

1. Build our institutional capacity
2. Develop a stream of flexible and predictable funding

OREGON BROADBAND OFFICE – HB 2173

- Governor has established via Executive Order
- Administered by Business Oregon
- Assist local communities with broadband investment and deployment strategies for unserved and under-served areas
- Promote private sector, public sector and cooperative broadband solutions
- Support and promote local and regional broadband planning
- Promote technology and service provider neutrality by focusing on desired outcomes rather than specific technological solutions

OREGON BROADBAND OFFICE – HB 2173

- Pursue and leverage federal sources of broadband funding to achieve state goals related to broadband
- Advocate for the adoption of public policies that close the digital divide by removing barriers to and supporting broadband infrastructure deployment
- HB 2173 also removes the sunset from the Oregon Broadband Advisory Council, adds a consumer member and details the council's responsibilities

OUSF EXPANSION & BROADBAND FUND – HB 2184

- Oregon Universal Services Fund was established in 1999 to support basic telecommunications service in rural and remote areas of the state
- Currently 8.5%, paid by landline and some VOIP providers
- Proposal will expand surcharge to cell & remaining VOIP providers
- For cell providers, surcharge only applies to the portion of the bill dedicated to intrastate calls
- Fund cap of \$30 million for existing uses, and \$10 million for Broadband Fund; total limit of \$40 million
- Goal: maintain current fund & establish a Broadband Fund

BROADBAND FUND

- \$10 million/year in a flexible and predictable funding stream
- Collected by the PUC, with fund administered by Business Oregon
- Distributed via grants & loans to communities without access to minimum broadband capacity
- **Priority: school district projects meeting eligibility through the Connecting Oregon Schools Fund**
- Technology and provider neutral
- Annual reports on investments; sunset in 2029

SHARING RESPONSIBILITY

Access to technology is our biggest economic development tool. We need to make sure that the race to 'faster & better' does not exacerbate the rural-urban divide, grow our income gaps, or leave anyone behind.



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