

Broadband Access & Digital Equity

Mary Beth Henry
Digital Equity/Broadband Advocate
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What is Digital Equity?

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Digital Equity ensures all individuals and communities have the information technology capacity needed for full participation in our society, democracy, and economy.

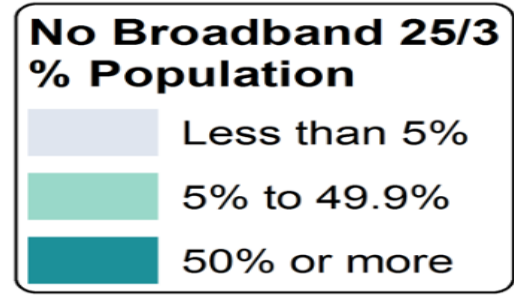
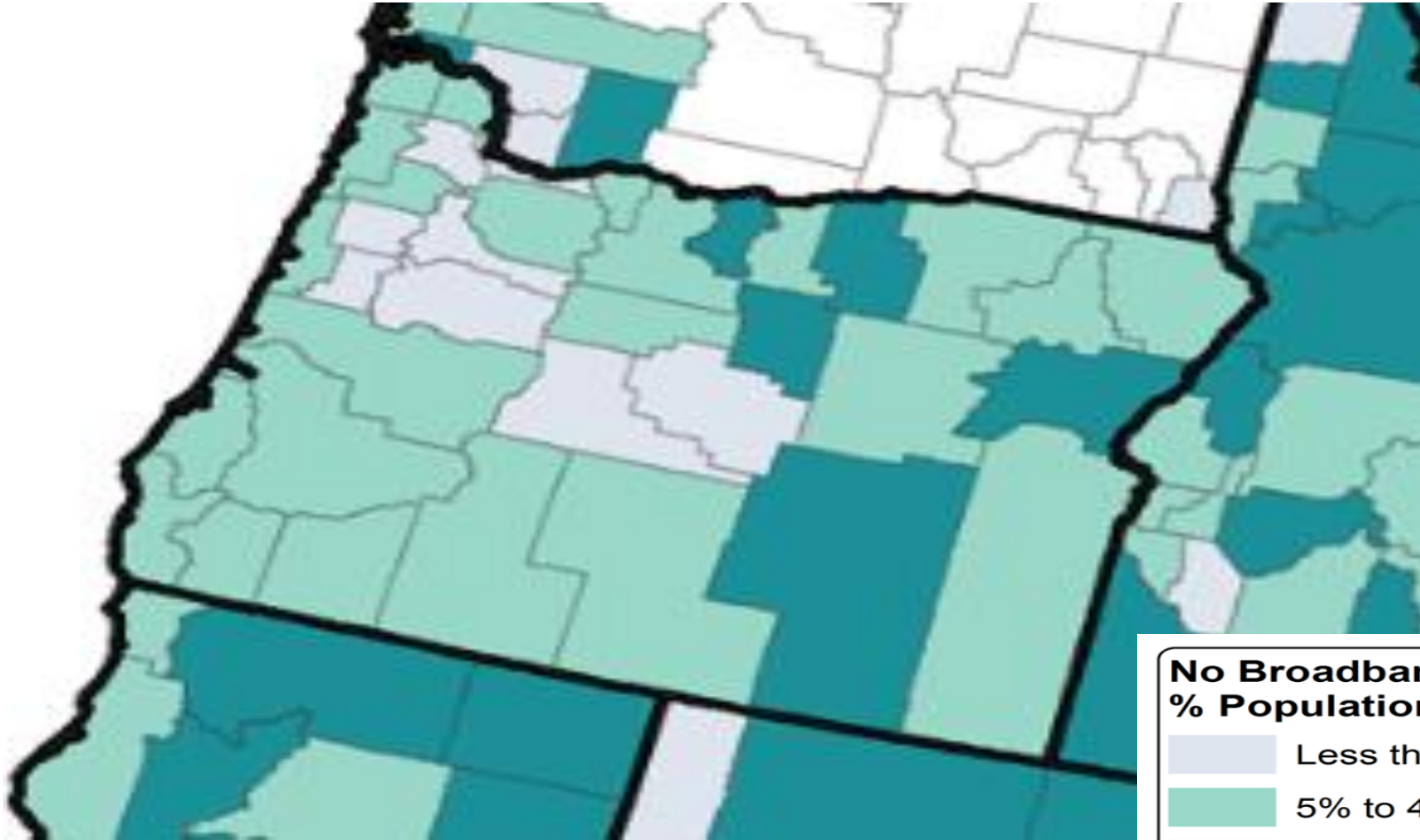
Digital Equity is necessary for civic and cultural participation, employment, lifelong learning, and access to essential services

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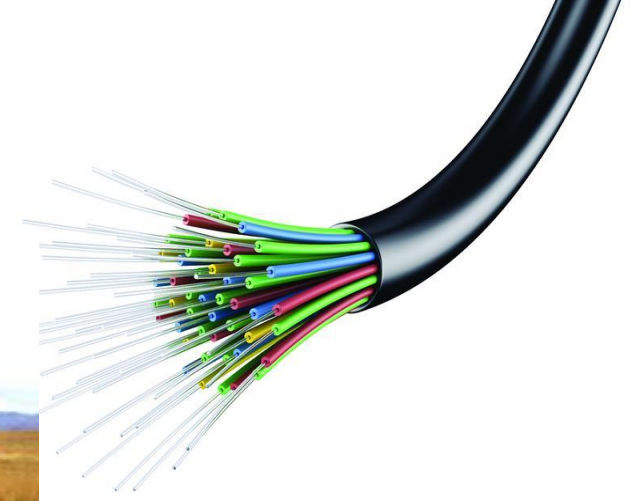
What is the Digital Divide?

- ▶ Refers to the difference/gap between people who have easy access to the Internet, have devices, have digital skills and those who don't.
- ▶ The digital divide is really “digital divides”:
 - Differences between rural and urban Internet access
 - Socioeconomic differences, people of different races, income levels, education, special needs or disabilities, etc. that affects their ability to access the internet

Broadband Availability in Oregon



Broadband: A Rural-Urban Shared Imperative



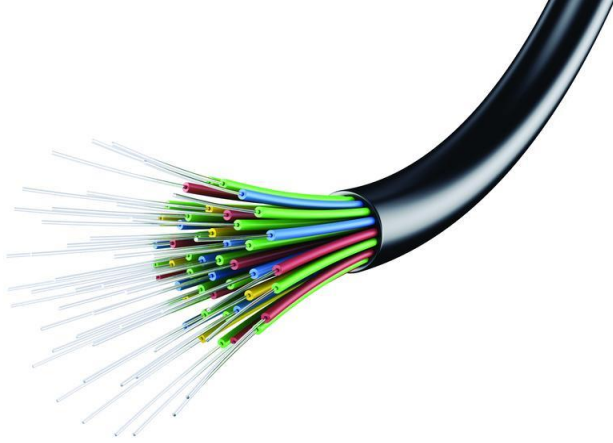
Oregon's Homegrown Success Stories: Broadband Access

Electric
Cooperatives

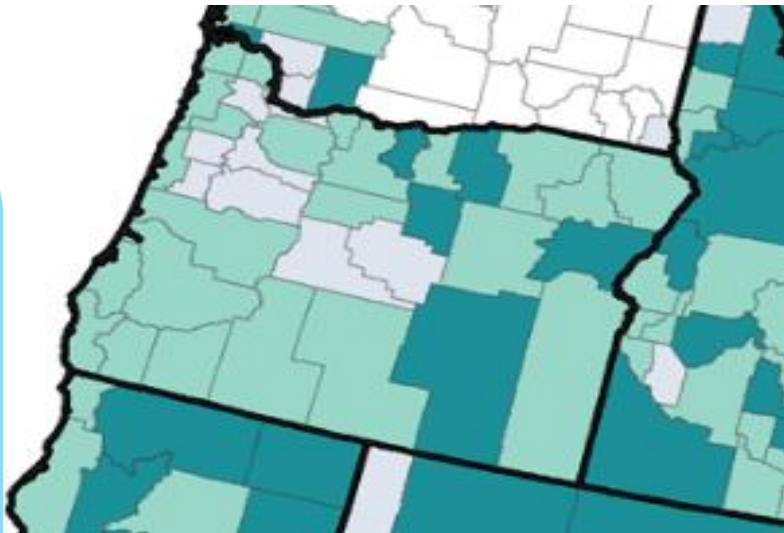
LS Networks

SandyNet

OnlineNW



Final Thoughts



The internet is the new essential utility, yet many Oregonians lack broadband access

The digital divide(s) is a critical economic challenge for both rural and urban areas.

Oregon has home-grown success stories that can inform broadband access strategies going forward.

Oregon should expand the OUSF so that all of Oregon can prosper in the digital age.