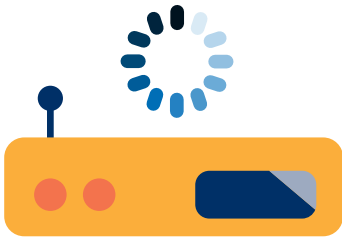


OREGON: OUR STATE OF BROADBAND



Oregon lawmakers have recognized the need for broadband funding to address the digital divide in rural and urban areas. Legislature passed SB 1603 to create the Oregon Broadband Fund. Congress also passed the bipartisan infrastructure act (IIJA) and funding from the ARPA Capital Projects. **Oregon could receive up to \$700 million to improve broadband service, infrastructure, device access, and digital skills training in order to move Oregon closer to our digital equity goals.**

THE PROBLEM

Federal agencies responsible for distributing the funds have advised we will not receive all funds to which we are entitled because of restrictions in the current Oregon Broadband Fund.

WHO'S AFFECTED?

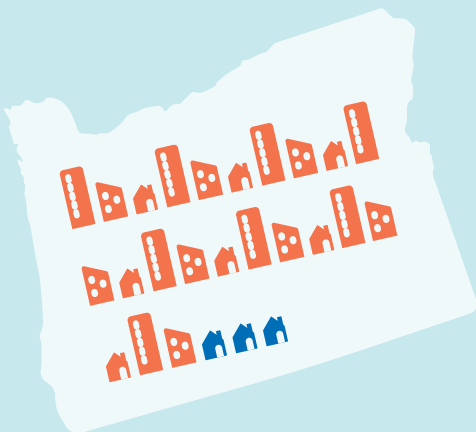


124,709
Oregon Households
without internet access



Of those **15,917**
are Portland Households

American Census Survey (ACS) Table B28002, Presence and Types of Internet Subscriptions in Households, 2021 5yr (2017-2021)



Oregon Population by area

89% Urban
11% Rural

SOLUTION(S)

- **HB3201 creates a new process** for setting speed standards through the engagement of the Oregon Broadband Advisory Council and broad stakeholders.
- The bill aims to **bring Oregon statute into alignment with federal rules**, guidance, and best practices by eliminating unnecessary restrictions on the Broadband Fund.
- **Updates how grant funds can be spent** by ensuring that unserved areas are prioritized but ensures rigid restrictions do not impact workforce issues due to readiness challenges that unserved communities may face.
- **Promotes competition in potential grant award areas** by removing the “right of first refusal” provision established under SB 1603 and ensuring a competitive grant award process that we know leads to better service and outcomes for communities; and
- **Addresses the need for a strong and fair challenge process** for grant awards by establishing an independent Judicial Review Process for grievances to be addressed.

TERMINOLOGY

While broadband and internet access might seem common knowledge to many today, it is much more complex than most know, and therefore it is important to have a reference to the common terminology. Below, you will find definitions for common terms that will make it easier to understand the digital divide and some of the deficits that communities face; whether that be zero infrastructure or no affordable providers.

- **Broadband** - A permanent connection to the internet that is faster than dial-up internet service using a modem. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) currently defines broadband as 25Mbps/3Mbps. There is a proposal to increase the speed requirement to 100Mbps/20Mbps to be considered “broadband.”
- **Bits and Bytes** - A bit is the smallest unit of data in computing. 1 Mbps is a data transfer rate of 1 million bits per second. There are 8 bits in a byte. A word document with images is likely around 1 MB (1,048,576 bytes).
- **Megabits per second (Mbps)** measures network bandwidth and throughput. When you see numbers like 25Mbps/3Mbps – the first number refers to your download speed (time to download a cloud file). The second number is your upload speed or how long it takes for you to transfer a file on your computer to another place on the internet.
- **Throughput** - Rate of successful message delivery over a communication channel. If you have multiple people in a household your throughput is limited by how much data your connection can send and receive. Over 20Mbps it takes 1.5 seconds to successfully transfer that song to your computer. Over a 1000Mbps connection, that song takes 0.03 seconds. Your throughput is determined by your available Mbps/Mbps speed. The more devices connected doing big data transfers like video-conferencing the longer it takes for information to successfully transfer.
- **Network Latency** - A delay in sending your information to the destination. So even if you pay for faster internet – network latency can significantly lower your throughput. As you are transferring information to the internet, things happen to slow down that transfer. It could be a misconfigured piece of equipment, an old and frayed cable line, or even a “glitch.”
- **Throttling** - Your internet service provider (ISP) can slow down your information transfer. They might decide you’ve exceeded your “data limits” or want you to pay more. Maybe you are a few days late on payment, suddenly you can’t use video conferencing to apply for that job but can send an email. When this happens, the ISP is “throttling” your connection.
- **Fiber** - Fiber optics is the fastest broadband infrastructure available with data being transferred at the speed of light and a massive throughput capacity. This is future-proof broadband infrastructure.
- **Fiber to the Home (FTTH)** – This is the most future-proof, fast and scalable access to the internet. High throughput, lower network latency, and necessary for full participation in a modern economy.

The City of Portland is committed to providing meaningful access. To request translation, interpretation, modifications, accommodations, or other auxiliary aids or services, contact 311, Relay: 711.

MORE INFO?

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THE BUREAU OF
**PLANNING &
SUSTAINABILITY**

Traducción o interpretación	Biên Dịch và Thông Dịch
अनुवादन तथा व्याख्या	口笔译服务
Устный и письменный перевод	Turjumaad iyo Fasiraad
Письмовий і усний переклад	Traducere și interpretariat
Chiaku me Awewen Kapas	翻訳または通訳
ການແປພາສາ ຫຼື ການອະທິບາຍ	وأثيري درحتلا تم جرتلا ةيفشلا