

Comparison of Federal Programs & the Oregon Broadband Fund

Federal agencies have advised the Oregon Broadband Office that the state may not receive all the funding that is available due to statutory restrictions in the current Broadband Fund.

	Oregon Broadband Fund	ARPA CPF – “Broadband Infrastructure Project”	Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program
“Underserved” Definition	Lacking 25/3 wireless OR wireline	n/a	Lacking 100/20
“Unservd” Definition	Lacking 10/1 wireless OR wireline	n/a	Lacking any broadband service OR 25/3
Eligible Locations	Lacking 25/3 wireless OR wireline	Lacking 100/20 wireline	Unservd, Underserved, and Community Anchor Institutions (CAIs)
Ineligible Locations	Any location with access to 25/3	Middle mile projects w/ no last mile component, locations with 100/100 wireline	n/a
Affordability	No Requirements	EBB/ACP participation & Low-cost plan	ACP and low-cost plan; Five-Year Action Plan should incorporate State Digital Equity Plan
Area Preference	1: “Unservd” 2: “Underserved”	Lacking 100/20 wireline	1: “Unservd” 2: “Underserved”
End-User Preference	1: Connecting Oregon Schools Fund 2: Public Libraries 3: Residential	“Critical Need,” “Historically Disadvantaged Communities,” work/education/health monitoring	1. End-users in unservd and underserved locations 2. CAIs
Speed Requirements	25/3 Mbps	100/100 Mbps; 100/20 for exceptions	100/20 Mbps
Municipal Affiliation	“Provider Neutral” per HB 2173	Priority	Cannot be excluded from eligibility
Technology	25/3 Mbps	Prioritize Fiber-optic	Prioritize Fiber-optic and excludes satellite and fixed wireless




Figure 1

In December, PEW Charitable Trusts gave a presentation to the Oregon Broadband Advisory Council to highlight federal broadband funding opportunities and what varying states are doing in preparation of receiving federal monies. They noted that many states are updating state statutes to avoid any conflicts between federal programs and state laws. Figure 1 is a slide from their presentation that highlights the differences between the Oregon Broadband Fund and the requirements for ARPA broadband infrastructure funds and IJJA’s Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program.

Mbps: *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 file in “the cloud”). The second number is your upload speed, or how long it takes to transfer a file on your computer to another place on the internet.

Throughput: *The rate of successful message delivery over a communication channel.* Throughput is determined by your available Mbps/Mbps speed. Over 20Mbps, it takes 1.5 seconds to successfully transfer a song to your computer; over a 1000Mbps connection, a song takes 0.03 seconds. If you have multiple people in a household or business, your throughput is limited by how much data your connection can send and receive.

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.