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Capital Projects Request

Grant County has broadband connectivity 30% less than the rest of Oregon. Even where it may be available fixed income and poverty rates reduce the ability to connect. Grant County CyberMill is a 501c3 that currently operates two locations in Grant County attempting to break the barriers of the technology gap and digital divide. This has been a very successful project impacting Grant County residents. Data continues to surpass expectations in both community locations. From design we have pivoted and learned so that we can implement this project in our largest population in the city of John Day.

The John Day site is a remodel of a main street building that has been unused for over 15 years. It is a 2 story main street building in need of complete renovation. The plans call for a CyberMill downstairs and much needed office space and short term living apartment rentals upstairs.

The CyberMill project has been utilized by local residents, visitors, and seasonal employees. Data has shown extended stays with families, advancing certifications, small business development, continuing education, and health care options near home which in turn is creating more resilient communities and diverse economic opportunity

Currently the CyberMill project has 434 members. 260 of the members in remote Seneca which has a population of 180, membership is 130% of the population. 200 members in Prairie City 23% of the population, of 825. The impact of these sites is felt across all demographics young students accessing education to senior citizens on a fixed income accessing technology they can't afford. Opportunities from these sites span across many sectors including education, telehealth, social determinants of health, entrepreneurial, business sector growth, access to technology and broadband overall increasing the quality of life in remote frontier Grant County.

Support has been shown by local, state and federal leaders as well as multiple community based organizations, educational institutions and major employers.

Interest in replication of this project across the state and the west thru inquiries has been of particular interest because of the level of data collection and impact.

Please support capital funding for this successful model for bridging the digital divide in frontier Oregon.