



# Rural Broadband Program

Washington State  
Community Economic Revitalization Board  
**2020 LEGISLATIVE REPORT**  
2019-21 Biennium

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Rural Broadband Proviso Language:

(2018) ESSB 6095 H-5170.3 Section 1008

(2019) SHB1102, Section 1020

CERB Enabling Legislation: RCW 43.160



INVESTING IN WASHINGTON'S ECONOMIC FUTURE

## Community Economic Revitalization Board

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I am pleased to introduce the 2020 Rural Broadband Legislative Report for the Washington State Community Economic Revitalization Board (CERB). This report highlights activities and outcomes between 2018-2020.

In March 2018, the supplemental capital budget passed (ESSB 6095). Section 1008 included the CERB Administered Rural Broadband Program. The proviso language included a \$10 million appropriation for fiscal year 2019. In May 2019, the capital budget passed (SHB 1102) extending the Rural Broadband Program through the 2019-21 biennium with an additional \$3.45 million.

The Rural Broadband Program has changed the conversation for many of our rural communities and Tribes. This program allows communities and Tribes to build and own the broadband infrastructure, and to collaborate with Independent Service Providers (ISPs) to provide retail service, which will allow more options for the end-user at a lower cost.

In this report you will read about partnerships across state agencies and with our stakeholders, rural broadband planning projects funded by Core CERB's planning program, and the 13 rural broadband projects funded by CERB. Our funded projects result in public private partnerships for the purpose of broadband connectivity that is affordable, reliable, and sustainable.

### **September 2018 - September 2020:**

- \$11,794,000 Invested by CERB
- 13 Projects
- 43 Communities
- 13,972 Connections
- 64 ISPs

With the stay-at-home order due the pandemic, CERB has had to shift how we do project development and Board meetings. The Board and staff meet with communities via Zoom meetings instead of in-person. CERB hasn't seen a decline in the need for economic development or broadband infrastructure investments, in fact, we have seen an increase.

CERB's 2021 Legislative priorities are based on CERB's project pipeline and the emerging need moving towards the State's economic recovery:

- Up to \$100 million for all 4 of CERB's Administrative Programs
- CERB's Rural Broadband program codified into RCW 43.160

For more information about CERB's Rural Broadband Program, please see the 2020 Rural Broadband Legislative Report.

CERB members are committed Washington citizens and professionals with a passion for economic development. The investments that CERB has made, and the return on these investments, are a testament to this dedication. On behalf of CERB, I thank you for your continued support of this essential resource for growing Washington's economy.

Randy Hayden  
Community Economic Revitalization Board Chair

# Introduction to CERB

## COMMUNITY ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION BOARD

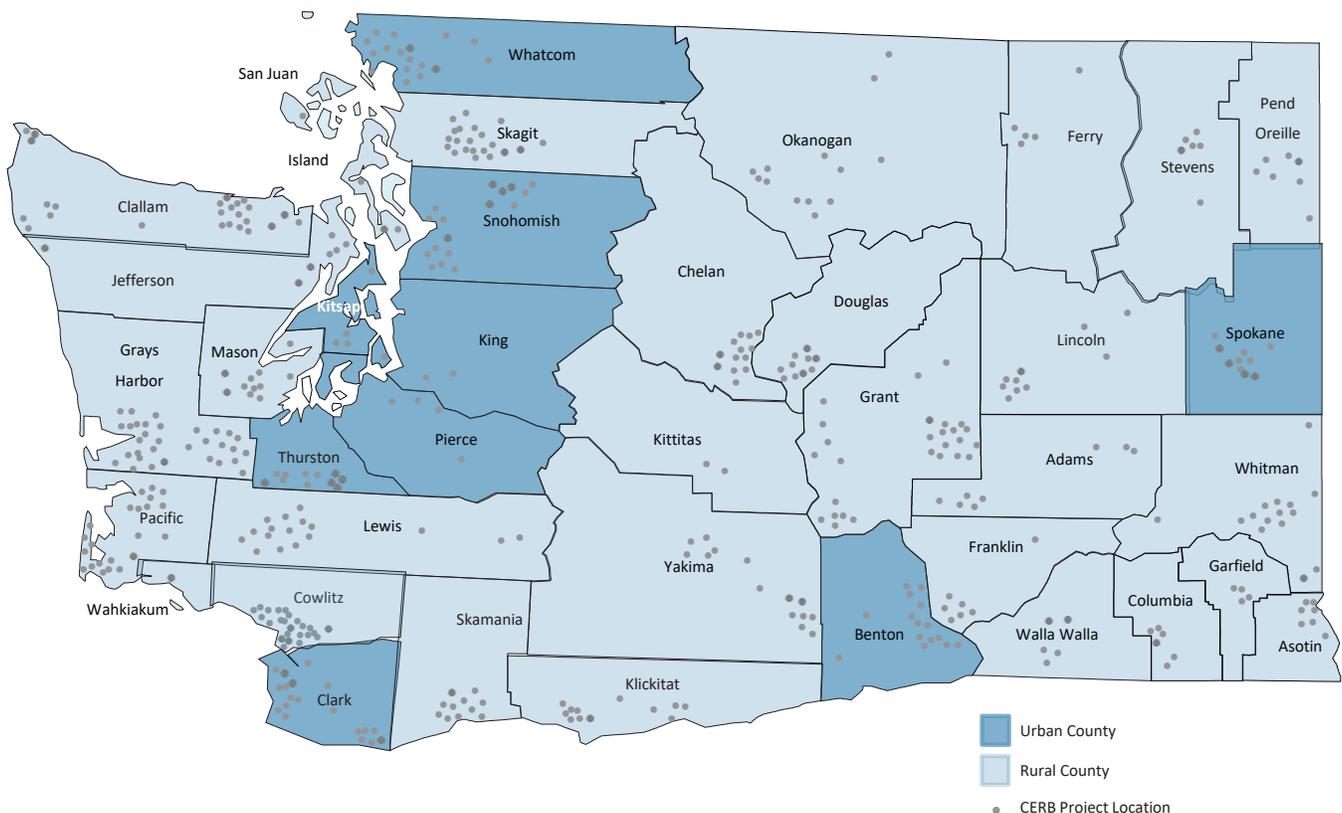
The Community Economic Revitalization Board (CERB) is a unique statewide economic development resource. CERB assistance is valued because it helps communities:

- Respond rapidly to immediate business siting and expansion needs
- Build feasible industrial sites for future business development
- Target expansions in manufacturing, food processing, assembly, warehousing, industrial distribution, advanced technology, and other key sectors
- Spur creation and retention of higher wage jobs

Since 1982, CERB has encouraged new development and expansion in areas where growth is desired. The Legislature created CERB to provide low-interest loans (and in unique circumstances, grants) to help finance the local public economic development infrastructure necessary to develop or retain stable business and industrial activity. These improvements include industrial water, general-purpose industrial buildings and port facilities, sanitary and storm sewers, industrial wastewater treatment facilities, railroad spurs, telecommunications, electricity, natural gas, roads, and bridges. CERB investments have been made in 39 counties since the program began.

The 20-member Board represents private and public sectors from across the state, as designated in statute. The Board sets policy and selects projects to receive CERB financing assistance. Administrative support to CERB is provided within the Local Government Division of the Department of Commerce. CERB's statutory authority is codified in Chapter 43.160 RCW.

### CERB Funded Projects in Washington State, 1982-2020



## Program Objective

To make broadband resources more accessible to rural underserved communities. The Community Economic Revitalization Board (CERB) is authorized to make rural broadband loans to local governments and federally recognized Indian tribes financing the cost to build infrastructure to provide high-speed, open-access broadband service, to rural and underserved communities, for the purpose of community and economic development.

## Program Overview

For projects that are located in a rural community, as defined by the board, or a rural county; that encourages, fosters, develops, and improves broadband within the state in order to:

- Drive job creation, promote innovation, and expand markets for local businesses; or
- Serve the ongoing and growing needs of local education systems, health care systems, public safety systems, industries and businesses, governmental operations, and citizens; and
- Improve accessibility for underserved communities and populations.

## Eligibility

### Applicants

Washington counties, cities, towns, port districts, special purpose districts, municipal corporations, quasi-municipal corporations, and federally recognized Indian tribes are eligible for CERB funding.

### Projects

CERB funds<sup>1</sup> construction projects<sup>2</sup> that have a nexus to positive community and economic development outcomes. In order to

measure the strength of a project, CERB requires a 25% cash match be provided; this demonstrates commitment from the applicant. In addition, to ensure local support for the project, the applicant must secure a letter of support from their Associate Development Organization. An applicant must have a committed Internet Service Provider (ISP) at the time of application.

### Public Infrastructure

Including, but not limited to, for the purpose of broadband infrastructure:

- Cable Modem
- Fiber
- Wireless (fixed wireless, wifi)
- 4G Mobile Wireless
- Broadband over Powerlines (BPL)
- Microwave

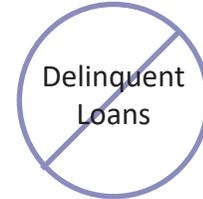
## CERB DOES NOT INVEST IN

CERB does not invest in projects if:

- The project is located outside the jurisdiction of the applicant (local government or federally recognized Indian tribe).
- The primary purpose of the project is to facilitate or promote a retail shopping development or expansion, or gambling.
- Evidence exists that the project would result in a development or expansion that would displace existing jobs in any other communities in the state.
- The project is for equipment or facilities which would enable a public entity to provide retail, telecommunications services, or services that the entity is not authorized by statute to provide.
- The project is for the deployment of publicly-owned telecommunication network infrastructure (“backbone”) solely for the sake of creating competitive, publicly-owned telecommunication network infrastructure.

## Responsible Stewardship

CERB is a responsible steward of public funds. As a result of the Board's prudent decisions, the program has no delinquent loan contracts.



<sup>1</sup>50% of CERB's biennial appropriation may be used for grants.

<sup>2</sup>The Rural Broadband Program is for construction projects ONLY. Applicants can apply for broadband planning projects through CERB's planning program.

<sup>3</sup>If the applicant meets additional requirements, the match amount may be reduced.

## Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI)

### Digital Inclusion

CERB funded rural broadband planning studies require the following to be looked at and documented:

- Affordable Internet –Describe how the community will address providing affordable internet options.
- Affordable Equipment - Describe how the community will expand the availability of affordable equipment to low-income residents.
- Digital Literacy Training – Describe how the community will teach people to use technology.
- Public Computer Access –Describe how the community will increase public computer access locations.

### Workforce

Core CERB funded construction projects, require the business, through a contingency agreement, to contact the local Workforce Development Council (WDC) and the State Employment Security Department, for assistance in filling new positions.

# Program Opportunities

## CERB Investment and Returns

CERB will track the following outcomes:

- Number of connections: households, businesses, and anchor institutions.
- Number of ISPs available for consumers.
- Internet speed being offered to consumers.

## Staff Assistance

CERB staff delivers program management, contract management, Board support, community and economic development for local projects, and works with applicants to develop and present projects for CERB review.

**Technical assistance**—Staff help each applicant identify project barriers, evaluate project feasibility, and develop funding and implementation strategies when the project is ready to proceed. Many times this involves convening a tech team with the applicant and other funders, to develop a project action plan.

**Project advocacy**—Staff prepare a comprehensive analysis of each project with recommendations to CERB. This analysis identifies the relative community and economic benefits of the project to the local community, the project dynamics, and areas of merit and/or controversy. The analysis of the project’s community and economic development goals and outcomes includes specific projections of the number of connections (households, businesses, and anchor institutions), speed service to the

end users, and number of ISPs available to the end user.

**Project monitoring**—Staff help local governments work out emergent problems during contract development and project implementation. Following construction of the public infrastructure project, project outcomes are tracked by CERB staff for five years. These outcomes include number of connections (households, businesses, and anchor institutions), speed service to the end users, and number of ISPs available to the end user. This tracking process links CERB investment to actual community and economic development outcomes.

## Key Successes

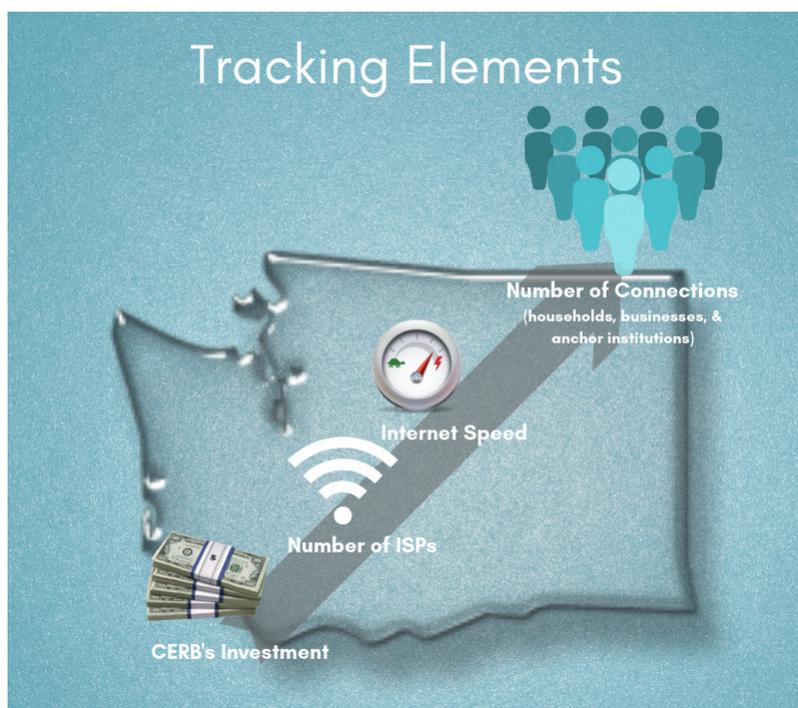
**2018-2020 - Rural Broadband** (for more information see the CERB 2020 Rural Broadband Legislative Report)

CERB received a total of \$13.45 million dedicated to rural broadband infrastructure projects.

- \$11,794,000 Invested by CERB
- 13 Projects
- 43 Communities
- 13,972 Connections
- 64 ISPs
- 5 Towers
- 292 Miles of Fiber
- \$844 Cost per Connection
- \$907,231 Average CERB Investment

## 2021 Legislative Priorities

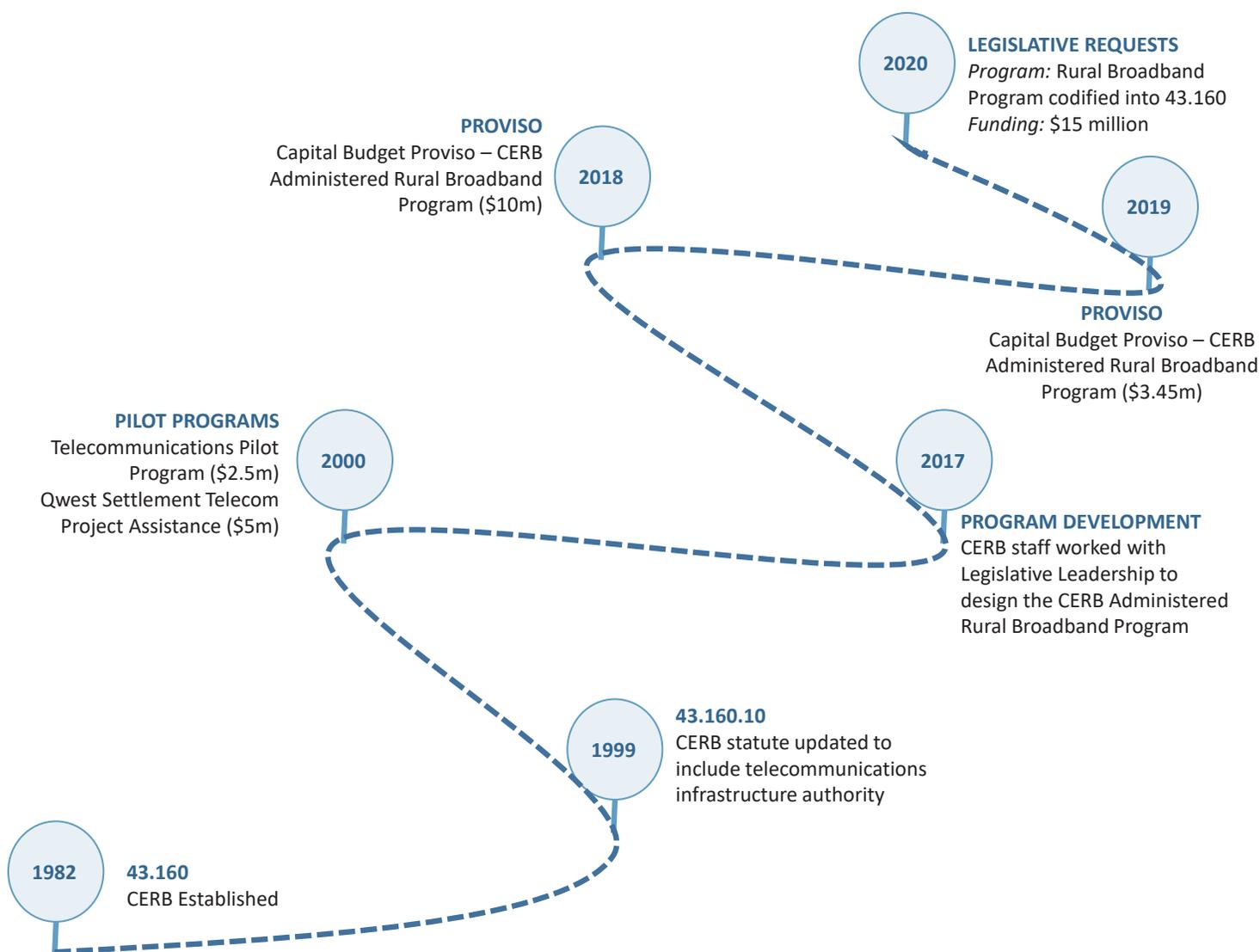
CERB is requesting up to \$100 million for all 4 of CERB’s administrative programs and the Rural Broadband Program be codified in CERB’s statute 43.160.



# CERB Telecommunications History

CERB has been in the telecommunications infrastructure business for more than 20 years. Governor Locke's administration updated CERB's statute in 1999 giving CERB the authority to fund telecommunications infrastructure. In 2000, CERB administered two telecommunications pilot programs. One funded by CERB for \$2.5m and one funded by a Qwest Settlement for \$5m. Both of these programs were successful and led to great economic development projects.

Throughout the last 20 years, CERB has encouraged that broadband infrastructure be included as part of larger infrastructure projects, knowing that businesses needed connectivity for a multitude of reasons. In 2017, when CERB was approached by House Capital Budget leadership to discuss a rural broadband program, both parties were ready to take funding in a different direction than traditional economic development infrastructure funding. CERB's Rural Broadband program was approved in 2018 via the Capital Budget and extended in 2019. CERB has had success with providing planning dollars through Core CERB's Planning Program. Through funding and technical assistance CERB has helped communities build projects for success and sustainability, and to ultimately be prepared to apply to CERB for construction funding. CERB's goal is to codify the Rural Broadband Program into RCW 43.160, making it one of CERB's core programs. This will build trust and secure funding for the communities that currently planning for their broadband future.

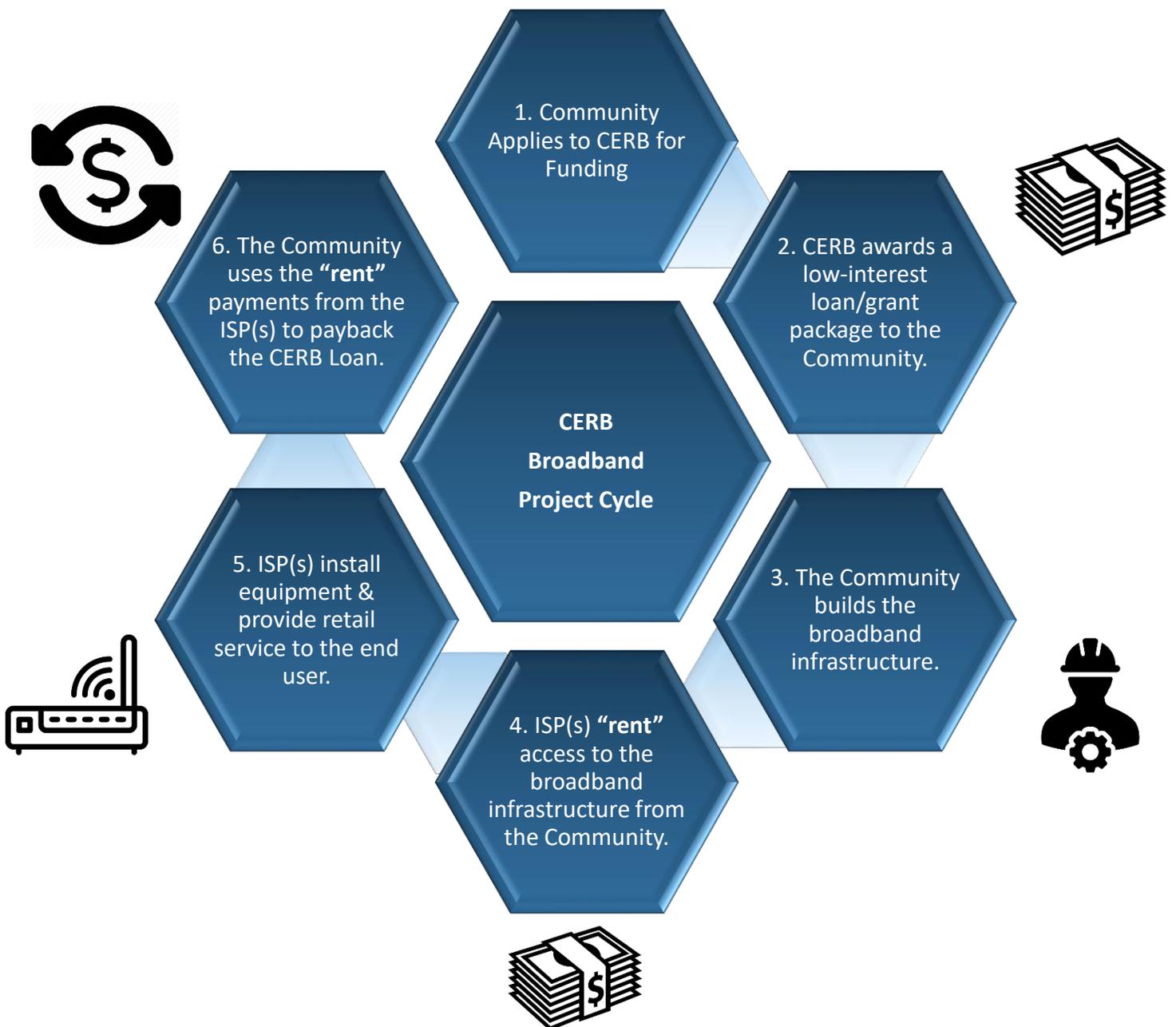


# Project Life Cycle

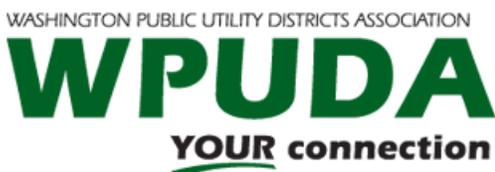
CERB's Rural Broadband Program is primarily a loan program. CERB has heard many times these projects can't be built by communities that have to take on loans. As you review the project highlights and the 5-year tracking, you will see that these projects can be built with loan funding.

As with most infrastructure projects, there is a revenue source that will be generated. This will allow the applicant to pay back a loan to CERB and have reserves for operation and maintenance. The applicant determines where the break even point is, during the planning process for the broadband project. This is one of the many benefits of CERB's planning grant funds for a potential rural broadband construction projects.

## How can a community pay back CERB for broadband construction?



Community and economic development is all about relationships. Without these relationships that ultimately lead to partnerships, the great work that we do, would never get done. Broadband is an extension of community and economic development. We all have a section of the broadband sandbox, but we have to work together to make these projects happen. CERB has had the great opportunity work with all of stakeholders to build our Rural Broadband Program. Through our partnerships with the State Broadband Office, the Public Works Board, and the Department of Commerce, CERB's goal is to build programs and policies that benefit every citizen in Washington to get connected. This is a heavy lift, as our communities and Tribes are not all the same, with that, there is no cookie cutter fix to the connectivity problem. With all of us working together, focused on the issue at hand; listening to each other and to our communities, we will find solutions that can benefit everyone.



Shelley Westall, PWB Broadband; Crystal Hottowe, Makah Tribe;  
Russ Elliott, State Broadband Office; Janea Delk, CERB



Lisa Brown, Department of Commerce;  
Janea Delk, CERB

# Community and Economic Development

With CERB's focus on outreach and education, CERB has seen an increase in planning grants. Even before the Rural Broadband Program, communities were using CERB's planning grants to plan for broadband projects.

CERB has created minimum broadband planning requirements to be completed throughout the study. These minimum requirements will set-up the community to be prepared to apply for CERB construction funding. These minimum requirements also help the community decide if the project is feasible.

Prior to 2018, most of our local governments didn't have funding options for broadband construction. CERB's planning and construction funding allows our local governments and federally recognized Indian tribes to plan for the future.

## CERB Funded Broadband Planning Projects 2014-2020

Approval Date	County	Applicant	Project Title	CERB Grant	Match	Project Total
9/18/2014	Clallam	Makah Tribe	Makah Broadband Project Feasibility Study	\$46,875	\$18,938	\$65,813
1/15/2015	Clallam	Quileute Tribal Council	Quileute Broadband Access Planning	\$45,000	\$15,000	\$60,000
9/15/2016	Clark	Port of Ridgefield	Dark Fiber Optics - Needs Assessment/Feasibility Study	\$50,000	\$35,337	\$85,337
3/16/2017	Skagit	Port of Skagit County	Skagit County Dark Fiber Optic Assessment and Feasibility Study	\$50,000	\$67,125	\$117,125
3/16/2017	Jefferson	Hoh Indian Tribe	Hoh Tribe Broadband Feasibility Study	\$37,350	\$12,800	\$50,150
5/18/2017	Cowlitz	Port of Woodland	Dark Fiber Feasibility and Market Analysis	\$30,000	\$10,000	\$40,000
9/20/2018	Klickitat	City of Goldendale	Goldendale Broadband Plan	\$50,000	\$16,440	\$66,440
9/20/2018	Jefferson	Jefferson County Public Utility District #1	Jefferson County Broadband Infrastructure Expansion Plan	\$50,000	\$22,666	\$72,666
11/15/2018	Whatcom	Lummi Nation	Lummi Community Broadband Roadmap Plan	\$50,000	\$16,625	\$66,625
11/15/2018	Whatcom	Port of Bellingham	Rural Broadband Feasibility Study	\$43,875	\$14,625	\$58,500
1/17/2019	Wahkiakum	Wahkiakum Public Utility District # 1	Wahkiakum Broadband Needs Assessment and Feasibility Study	\$50,000	\$16,667	\$66,667
3/21/2019	Ferry	Ferry County	Broadband Action Team Planning Study	\$50,000	\$16,667	\$66,667
3/21/2019	Columbia	Port of Columbia	Port of Columbia Broadband Planning Study	\$26,625	\$8,875	\$35,500
3/21/2019	Island	Port of Coupeville	Broadband Needs Assessment Study	\$50,000	\$16,667	\$66,667
7/18/2019	Clallam	Makah Tribe	Makah Tribe Communications Master Plan	\$50,000	\$16,667	\$66,667
7/18/2019	Okanogan	Twisp Public Development Authority (PDA)	Methow Valley Broadband Action Team (BAT) Planning Study	\$50,000	\$16,667	\$66,667
7/18/2019	Pacific	Port of Ilwaco	Pacific County Broadband Assessment	\$50,000	\$66,800	\$116,800
9/19/2019	Okanogan	Okanogan County	Okanogan County Broadband Action Team Planning Study	\$50,000	\$17,000	\$67,000
9/19/2019	Thurston	Nisqually Indian Tribe	Nisqually Broadband Regional Feasibility Project - Proposal 1	\$50,000	\$16,667	\$66,667
9/19/2019	Clallam	Port of Port Angeles	Clallam County Broadband Feasibility Study	\$50,000	\$16,667	\$66,667
9/19/2019	Pend Oreille	Pend Oreille County Public Utility District #1	North Pend Oreille County Broadband Feasibility Study	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$100,000
11/21/2019	Lewis	Public Utility District #1 of Lewis County	Lewis County PUD Broadband Planning Study	\$50,000	\$16,667	\$66,667
11/21/2019	Thurston	Nisqually Indian Tribe	Nisqually Broadband Regional Feasibility Project - Proposal 2	\$50,000	\$16,667	\$66,667
1/16/2020	Lincoln	Lincoln County	Lincoln County Broadband Planning Study	\$37,500	\$12,500	\$50,000
7/16/2020	Walla Walla	Port of Walla Walla	Walla Walla County Broadband Feasibility Study	\$35,000	\$15,000	\$50,000
9/17/2020	Thurston	Nisqually Indian Tribe	Nisqually Broadband Regional Feasibility Study – Proposal 3	\$50,000	\$16,667	\$66,667
<b>TOTALS</b>				<b>\$1,202,225</b>	<b>\$566,401</b>	<b>\$1,768,626</b>



# Asotin - Port of Clarkston

In 2019, the Community Economic Revitalization Board (CERB) approved a \$207,285 loan and a \$207,285 grant to the Port of Clarkston for the Port of Clarkston to City of Asotin+ Fiber Expansion Project. The rural broadband project consists of engineering and construction of approximately 6 miles of primarily aerial fiber. There are two build out components in the Southern expansion: Clarkston Heights to Asotin, and the Westside expansion, Naslund Disposal Service to Field of Dreams. The project estimates that 351 connections in the project area will have increased internet speed up to 1G/1G, and increase the number of ISPs available to seven, when the project is completed. CERB funds were matched by \$138,190 in local resources.



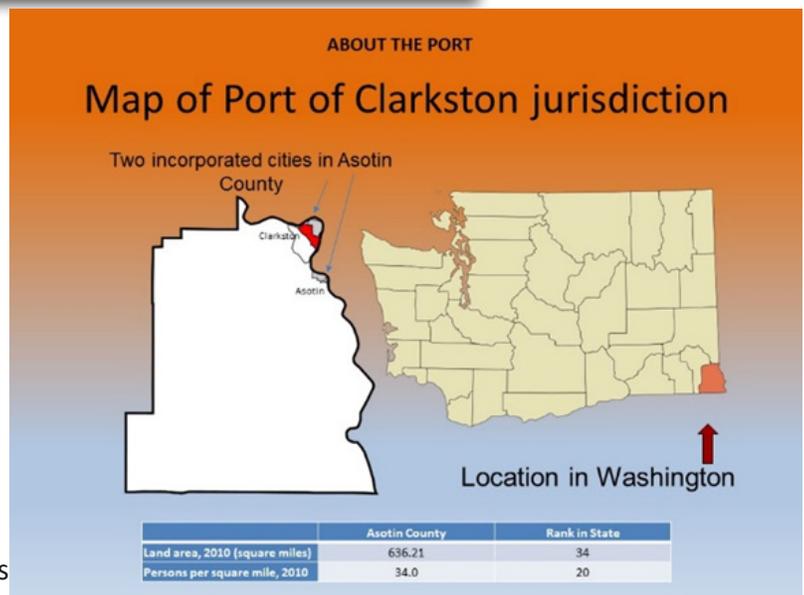
Asotin County, one of the smallest, least populated counties in the state, is located in southeast Washington. Residents of Asotin County are a disadvantaged population. As such, they are less likely to have affordable, high-speed telecommunications options. According to census data, there are over 45 businesses and 300 homes located on the routes of the planned expansion. With two income families, balancing home and work life is a challenge that is frequently solved when one or more wage earners can fulfill some of their responsibilities at home. Some

residents on the direct route, work 100% from home. Other families have home-based businesses. This project provides greater opportunity for telecommuting, work-at-home, e-commerce and more.

*“The Port’s application and investment into this infrastructure will drive job creation, promote innovation and address the growing needs of local education systems, health care systems, government operations, and citizens within the community, by allowing them access to high-quality and affordable broadband services.”*

- Dawn Smith, Executive Director  
Southeast Washington Economic Development Association

This project allows County law enforcement access to port security cameras and equipment, and puts them on par with the City of Clarkston police department for access to information. Increased cooperation is desired and necessary in a world of shrinking funds. The switch to an e-education system in the public schools (K-12) requires broadband. This project allows more residents access, so students can work outside public library and school hours. Whether it’s an employer filing tax forms, a family looking to purchase their first home, or a retired citizen responding on social security or medical issues, the increasing reliance on digital communications makes broadband access essential.

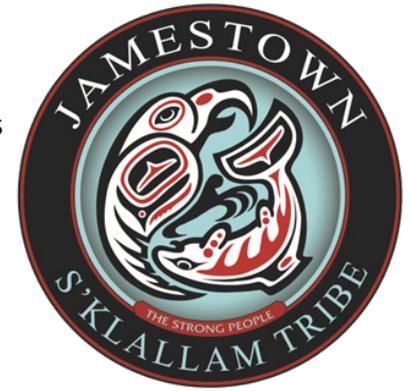


The Port of Clarkston completed this project in August 2020.

CERB	Match	Actual # of Connections	Actual # of ISPs
\$414,570	\$157,200	345	11

# Clallam - Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe EDA

In 2019, CERB approved a \$225,000 loan and a \$225,000 grant to the Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe for the Jamestown Cell Tower Project. This Rural Broadband program project consists of site preparation, fiber build and tower construction of a “carrier ready” tower that can support several 5G carriers, multiple wireless broadband ISPs to provide services to residents, businesses, Tribal government, administration and Tribal enterprises, as well as public safety entities such as the Clallam County Fire and Sheriff’s Departments. Their partner Internet Service Provider is Jamestown Networks (JNET). CERB funds were matched by \$150,000 in local resources.



Blyn and the surrounding areas at the head of Sequim Bay have little to no cell coverage from any carriers and limited broadband connectivity. This lack of service impacts communication and safety for over 500 Tribal employees working at the Tribal government,, the Tribal library,

the Tribal Resort business, the Tribal library, the Tribal library, the Longhouse Market and Deli, the Tribal Artisan and Gift Shops, the Tribal Seafood operation as well as Tribal fishermen and the Little Brown Church of Blyn. , Various tourism-based companies that operate in the area Bed and Breakfasts, etc., are also affected.

The lack of service also impacts communication and safety for the Dental Clinic, which serves more

*“The Blyn area and the area that encompasses the head of Sequim Bay does not have adequate cellular phone coverage for residents, businesses, tribal employees or travelers on Highway 101. Cellular phones and a good cellular signal can make a huge difference in emergency situations. Clallam County Fire District 3 also uses cellular coverage to provide connectivity to its mobile units for computer aided dispatch and electronic patient care reporting. In addition to improving the cellular coverage in that area, Clallam County Fire District 3 is very interested in using the tower to mount an antenna and associated equipment to improve our emergency radio system coverage in the Blyn area. We currently have a staffed station located at the head of Sequim Bay and our emergency radio communications for that station and the units located there are poor at best.”*

- Ben Andrews, Fire Chief  
Clallam County Fire District 3

Medicaid patients than any other clinic on the Olympia Peninsula, Clallam Fire Department #3, and the Public Safety and Justice Center, which houses the Clallam County Sheriff. The Tribe’s children’s program has 20 kids during the school year and an additional 54 kids in the summer. Because of COVID 19 especially, learning has moved towards virtual learning devices. The lack of wireless coverage on the South campus prohibits the use of these technologies.



The Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe project was officially completed as of October 2020.

CERB	Match	Est # of Connections	Est # of ISPs
\$450,000	\$150,000	214	3

# Clark - Port of Ridgefield

In 2016, CERB approved a \$50,000 grant to the Port of Ridgefield for the Dark Fiber Optics Needs Assessment. This Planning program project consists of a feasibility study to assess the need, cost, and rate of return related to constructing a fiber optic broadband “loop” around the Ridgefield Port District. CERB funds were matched by \$50,000 in local resources.



In 2019, CERB approved a \$473,250 loan and a \$473,250 grant to the Port of Ridgefield for the Discovery Corridor Phase I project. The project consists of the construction of approximately 25.5 miles of aerial and buried fiber along the Discovery Corridor to serve the City of Ridgefield. Their partner Internet Service Provider is Wholesail Networks. CERB funds were matched by \$315,500 in local resources.

Fast and reliable broadband services are essential to the economic vitality of Southwest Washington’s Discovery Corridor where economic growth has been affected by inadequate broadband access. The Port of Ridgefield is

looking to change this dynamic by investing in dark fiber infrastructure to promote world-class, high performance economic development in the Corridor. Businesses need fast and reliable Internet connections that allow e-commerce and online processing and transactions in order to stay competitive.

*“The addition of open-access fiber optic infrastructure in our area will address the detrimental lack of ubiquitous, high-capacity broadband connectivity – which is a growing impediment to private sector job investment and economic growth in Ridgefield. Additionally, state-of-the-art fiber infrastructure is critical to the current and future success of educational programs as well as efficient emergency preparedness and response in our community. For these reasons, CREDC supports the Port’s work to build a high-capacity, high-speed and resilient broadband backbone in Ridgefield and the Discovery Corridor.”*

- Jennifer Baker, President  
CREDC – Columbia River Economic Development Council

The Discovery Corridor has excellent infrastructure to serve business growth, with the exception of a dark fiber network. Area businesses have expressed strong support and real-time need for expanded broadband to serve existing and planned business expansion and modernization activities.

Washington State University Vancouver requires additional broadband services in order to transfer data between campuses; expand important programs, such as medical and media-related studies; and provide Wi-Fi bandwidth for students. Clark College is expanding their Ridgefield campus, and improved broadband is required to support new programs, such as mechatronics, advanced manufacturing, advanced composites, health care, and others. The Ridgefield School District has developed a dark fiber network to connect its facilities, and provides all students with tablets for online materials and textbooks, yet fiber is not available to serve students’ homes. High-capacity Internet allows the use of a wide variety of applications with positive impacts for people’s everyday lives and the broader economy. Whether the operation is a small business or a multinational conglomerate, broadband applications continue to change its way of doing business. The backbone will also be able to service police, sheriff, fire, and emergency services. Another benefit will be for medical clinics in Ridgefield that require higher broadband speeds than currently offered for telemedicine to be used.

The Port of Ridgefield project is currently under construction.

CERB	Match	Est # of Connections	Est # of ISPs
\$946,500	\$315,500	6,097	7



In 2017, CERB approved a \$50,000 grant to the Port of Woodland for the Dark Fiber Feasibility and Market Analysis study. This project consists of a feasibility study and market analysis to determine the practicality of constructing the dark fiber infrastructure for two routes independently, the

Return on Investment (ROI) for infrastructure, and the market needs based on the rural makeup of the routes. CERB funds were matched by \$25,000 in local resources.

In 2020, CERB approved a \$375,000 loan and a \$375,000 grant to the Port of Woodland for the Ariel to Cougar Build. This project consists of engineering and construction of dark fiber infrastructure on aerial poles with last mile components between Ariel and Cougar along highway 503. Their partner Internet Service Providers are Wholesail Networks and Ziplly. CERB funds were matched by \$187,500 in local resources.

Due to the lack of providers and consistent affordable internet services, the impact on economic growth could be at 6.4% per the Cowlitz-Wahkiakum Council of Governments (CWCOG) study in fields like utilities, tourism, professional services and scientific study. The largest impact would be on potential growth of micro and small businesses along the route. With more people moving into the Woodland area and those moving along the route desiring more rural setting but requiring technology, the growth for residential

*“The ability to provide critical infrastructure like fiber, is necessary for attracting and retaining industries, ensuring public safety, and access to education and workforce development in rural communities. The Port of Woodland Commission will provide the matching funds through cash reserves. The route is one of two areas studied from the 2017 study, funded partially from CERB Dark Fiber funding, to connect Woodland fiber to homes and businesses outside the Woodland city limits and within the Port District. Currently, the Port district experiences higher than average unemployment, lower than average household income, and higher than average rates of poverty in comparison to the state. Yet, potential growth in residential housing up State Route 503 is pulling the last of capacity on established lines with the potential of 400 plus homes within area route in the near future. During these unusual times of COVID-19, the necessity of dependable internet with acceptable speeds for telecommuting and tele-education has been trying for these businesses and residents. The potential development of dark fiber infrastructure will enable residents, businesses and agencies access to future cell and internet services from the private market through public investment of the leasing of fiber by the Port of Woodland.”*

- Ted Sprague, President  
Cowlitz Economic Development Council

could be significant. There are approximately 15 traditional businesses in the area: restaurant, bar, campground, dam, water district, school, gas stations, grocery mart and other small businesses. It is difficult to identify the work-at-home or telecommuter opportunities that this project would enable, because both are impossible at this time due to current broadband connectivity.

The PacifiCorp dams and public access areas generate 400,000 visitors annually to the campgrounds and lacks broadband connectivity, adding to the need for accessibility for public safety, recreation and tourism and the services to those operations. The lack of accessible high speed internet has been recognized with COVID-19 and the requirements of educating at home. Woodland School District has had to make accommodations to numerous families with paper copies and handouts to students without access.

The Port of Woodland project is currently under construction.

CERB	Match	Est # of Connections	Est # of ISPs
\$750,000	\$187,500	115	3

# Garfield - Port of Garfield

In 2019, CERB approved a \$412,500 loan and \$137,500 grant to the Port of Garfield County for the Pomeroy Broadband Project. This Rural Broadband program project consists of engineering and construction of dark fiber infrastructure on aerial poles with last mile components in the City of Pomeroy. Their partner Internet Service Provider is Pocket iNet Communications, Inc. CERB funds were matched by \$300,000 in local resources.



Garfield County currently has broadband infrastructure that is unaffordable or insufficient for the needs of the community. While some of the anchor institutions have broadband fiber, most of the county is limited to aging copper systems that exceed the distance limitations for all except the slowest DSL services. Common speeds for rural Garfield County do not exceed 15 Mbps. The residents and most of the businesses and community suffer inadequate or unreliable necessary broadband services. It is critical that their citizens have access to reliable, high-speed internet services to support their businesses and also their needs for information, education, healthcare and safety. It currently

proves difficult to get any commitments from current providers regarding upgrades to their infrastructure.

Pomeroy is located near the Blue Mountains, so it would improve command centers for fire and other disasters.

*“Our support is based upon the understanding of the local economy and the strategic value that broadband throughout the county will ultimately accomplish. We have been working with the Port of Garfield, the City of Pomeroy, and Garfield County over the past years to improve the economic climate. The development and expansion of broadband is supported through the planning that has been performed over time, through the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) process.”*

- Jack Peasley, Garfield County Managing Director  
Southeast Washington Economic Development Association

They have a high number of retirees - this would allow access to health records, telemedicine, and use of digital healthcare devices for improved health. This project would open up online learning programs for those in and out of high school. Students would be able to perform school assignments at home, businesses can deploy online training programs and apprentice programs, and online health classes would be available. The citizens of Pomeroy would be able to participate in the digital world. Everything from taking classes and doing homework online to having access to a world of information and entertainment. Their citizens would come closer to what urban citizens have access to now.



As a result of this project moving forward, Garfield County committed funds to extend the Port’s backbone to the Garfield County Fairgrounds and reach another twenty-five homes along this path. The design for this extension is complete and permitting is underway.

Three providers have signed master lease agreements with the Port of Garfield to sell internet services over the Port’s fiber system. The Port of Garfield project is currently under construction and the anticipated completion date is December 31, 2020.

CERB	Match	Est # of Connections	Est # of ISPs
\$550,000	\$300,000	684	4



In 2019, CERB approved a \$500,000 loan and a \$500,000 grant to the Public Utility District #1 of Kitsap County for the Last Mile Broadband Big Valley project. This rural broadband program project consists of construction of broadband infrastructure to Big Valley, which includes engineering, permitting, construction, and material procurement. Their partner Internet Service Providers are Advanced Stream Broadband, iFiber, Net253, North Olympic Peninsula Data Centers, and Telebyte Northwest as noted at KPUD.BROADBANDPORTAL.NET. CERB funds were matched by \$420,000 in local resources.

Of the 102 residents who responded to the Kitsap PUD countywide survey and the 36 that have responded most recently to a survey about Big Valley and the grant specifically, all have stated that they do not have access to broadband. The FCC map shows that there is broadband availability, but both the Kitsap PUD data and the residents themselves state there is not. Most residents stated that they could not perform simple tasks, including downloading homework files, video conferencing, or even posting to social media. There are multiple families with pre-school to college-aged children. In 2019 there are just over 200 lots with 17 businesses, including home-based businesses and

13 telecommuters in the service area pre Covid-19. These businesses depend on reliable high-speed broadband access to operate their businesses, whether it is to upload files, or to allow customers to connect, broadband is essential for their day-to-day operations. In 2020 the demand for telecommuting has increased as more companies are requiring many of their employees to work from home.

*“This project is centered on Big Valley Road, extending their fiber optic infrastructure to 145 lots. Lot occupancy includes at least three stand-alone businesses, ten home-based businesses, 12 telecommuters and 143 homes. The expansion of home-based businesses, consulting jobs, gig jobs, and telecommuting will likely lead to an increased demand for broadband. Homes with school-age children also benefit greatly from access to the internet. Digital learning tools, the ability to check in with instructors, and research for projects provides another level in their learning infrastructure. KEDA and KPUD are strategic partners as we position Kitsap County for technology growth and access. Providing the level playing field that broadband creates cannot be underestimated. KEDA is excited about the expansion of broadband to those areas unserved and underserved.”*

- Kathy S. Cocus, Business Development Director  
KEDA – Kitsap Economic Development Alliance

Having access to a reliable network will ensure residents are able to contact first responders. In North Kitsap School District, where Big Valley is located, students are encouraged to use online systems at home. This includes multiple math, reading, social studies, and other sites. In higher grades, it’s mandatory to use online materials to succeed. In 2020 the need became more apparent as the students are unable to attend in person classes and now rely on distance learning. According to the residents surveyed, the DSL connections that are available to most residents are providing less than 3 Mbps download speeds and are unreliable.

The Public Utility District #1 of Kitsap County project is currently under construction.

CERB	Match	Est # of Connections	Est # of ISPs
\$1,000,000	\$420,000	158	4

# Mason - Mason County PUD 3 (1)

In 2018, CERB approved a \$483,325 loan and a \$483,324 grant to Mason PUD 3 for the Mason County Rural Broadband Fiber Expansion project. This rural broadband project consists of construction and extension of ready-to-connect fiber networks to six unserved rural communities in Mason County. Mason PUD 3 operates an open access network and is partnering with Hood Canal Communications, iFiber Communications, Advanced Stream, and other ISPs on this project. CERB funds were matched by \$911,324 in local resources.



The project locations that have been identified are very rural. There is no other broadband infrastructure out there; existing DSL does not meet speed standards. Rural employers and cottage industries make up 49% of employers and 78% of the employed workforce in Mason County. Employers with strong needs for broadband include the Bingham Creek Fish Hatchery, Schafer State Park, Girl Scouts' Camp Lyle McLeod, Campbell Enterprises, Salish Seafoods, The Raucus Group, and Tahuya River Valley Community Center.

*"The Squaxin Island Tribe has a particular interest in the success of this application because the proposed project will extend gigabit speed broadband to an area on Harstine Island that serves Salish Seafoods, a division of the Tribe's Island Enterprises, Inc. ... As of right now there are no service providers able to provide those speeds to Harstine Island, and, by extension, none available to Salish Seafoods. ... A thriving Salish Seafoods is critical to the retention of jobs and expansion of employment opportunities that are core elements that support the mission of the Squaxin Island Tribe and its enterprises."*

- Arnold Cooper, Council Chairman, Squaxin Island Tribe

Gigabit broadband access allows for telemedicine for citizens that can't make the long drive into the doctor, particularly the elderly. We are seeing this becoming even more important in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. Public safety is improved by using Wi-Fi calling on cell phones

where there is no cell coverage. Joe Fernandez of Washington State Parks has indicated that his team has better communication access at Schafer State Park since the completion of the project and the installation of a wireless access point. Students from K-12 through college are required to have high-speed broadband access for research, completion of assignments, distance learning, and participation in classroom discussions. This project has been leveraged to install a free Public Wi-Fi hotspot in Southwest Mason County to provide immediate access to high-speed broadband in that community while homes are getting connected. Just as electrification was essential to rural communities decades ago, citizens can survive and thrive in the modern economy only if they have affordable high-speed broadband internet connections. The project areas consist of over 500 households that will be within reach of the PUD 3 fiber optic network.

The Mason PUD #3 project has reached several major milestones this year. The Southwest Mason County areas including Fish Hatchery Road, Ripplewood, Ford Loop Road, Matlock-Brady Road, Satsop Maple Glen, the Schafer State Park area, Haven Drive, and Lillie Road now have a brand-new fiber distribution network serving about 300 homes and home-based businesses. New customers are being connected in these areas every day. PUD #3 received 50 applications in the first several weeks of availability. The Tahuya River Valley project, which will bring fiber to about 225 homes, is currently under construction. The Lake Christine and Island View projects will be going out to bid shortly.

The Mason County PUD 3 project is currently under construction.

CERB	Match	Est # of Connections	Est # of ISPs
\$816,649	\$911,324	523	7



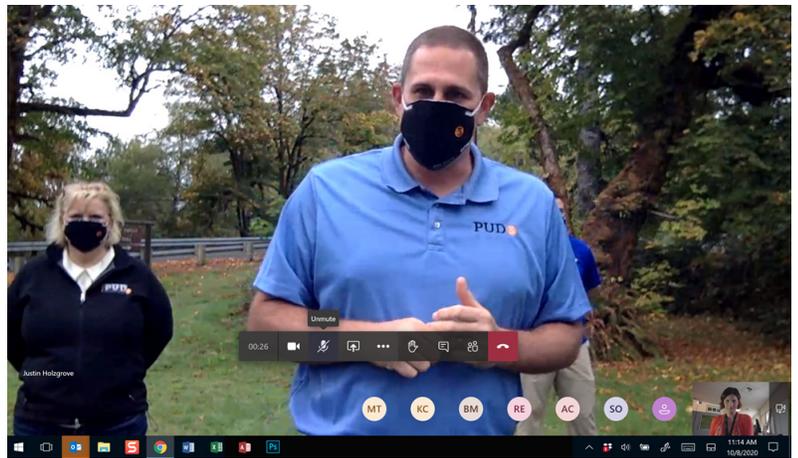
In 2019, CERB approved a \$1,000,000 loan and a \$1,000,000 grant to Mason PUD 3 for the Mason County Rural Broadband Fiber Expansion Phase 2 project. This rural broadband program project consists of construction of ready-to-connect fiber networks to six unserved rural communities in Mason County, allowing access for improved education, economic development, public safety, and telehealth services. Mason PUD 3 operates an open access network and is partnering with Hood Canal Communications, iFiber Communications, Advanced Stream, and others as their ISPs on this project. CERB funds were matched by \$689,260 in local resources.

The project locations that have been identified are Panther Lake, Tiger Lake, Mission Lake, Dana Drive & Briscoe Point, Phillips Road, Totten Shores, and the surrounding areas. These are very rural. There is no other broadband infrastructure out there, and existing DSL does not meet speed standards. Rural employers and cottage industries make up 49% of employers and 78% of the employed workforce in Mason County. Employers with strong needs for broadband include the North Mason Regional Fire Authority Tiger Lake Station; TriLakes Community Center; Totten Shores Improvement Club; Representative Kilmer’s Office Staff; Palo Alto Networks; Thian’s Thai Fusion; and various professional services, including portfolio managers, tech startup advisers, and local government telecommuters. Also impacted are shellfish industry workers, the hospitality industry, and many others.

*“With Mason County being among the most rural counties in the state, access to broadband will support every aspect of our communities including educational access, telemedicine, and business competitive advantage. The award will fund extension of gigabit speed broadband to six communities in Mason County and the benefits will be wide reaching.”*

- Jennifer Baria, Executive Director  
EDCMason (the Economic Development Council of Mason County)

Gigabit broadband access allows for telemedicine for citizens that can’t make the long drive into the doctor, especially the elderly needing frequent trips. Public safety is improved by using Wi-Fi calling on cell phones where there is no cell coverage. Today’s students, up through college and continuing education, are required to have high speed broadband access for research, completion of assignments, distance learning, and participation in classroom discussions. Gigabit fiber removes this barrier. The project area consists of 672 households and businesses that are near or within reach of existing PUD 3 fiber optic network, and are served by PUD 3 overhead electric distribution and poles or underground facilities with fiber conduit. This allows the PUD 3 streamline installation at less cost than other potential providers.



Justin Holzgrove, Mason County PUD 3/Virtual Ribbon Cutting for Phase 1 Project

The Mason PUD #3 project is currently under construction.

CERB	Match	Est # of Connections	Est # of ISPs
\$2,000,000	\$689,260	675	6

# Pacific - Port of Willapa Harbor

In 2019, CERB approved a \$48,750 loan and a \$48,750 grant to the Port of Willapa Harbor for the Raymond Port Dock Fiber Optic Extension. This rural broadband program project consists of construction of approximately 2,400 feet of fiber from the Pacific County PUD backbone system to the Raymond Port Dock Industrial Area, to support the Harbor Trade & Technology Center (HTTC). Their partner Internet Service Provider is Silver Star Telecom. CERB funds were matched by \$32,500 in local resources.



South Bend School District and Raymond School District approved the implementation of a joint CTE (Career & Technical Education) partnership between both school districts. Targeted to begin during the 2019-20 school year, Raymond and South Bend will use engineering curriculum from Project Lead the Way, (PLTW.org) as well as both schools' current construction programs. One of the goals in developing a joint school district program included finding a central location that could accommodate the type of hands-on learning and vocational training desired. The Port of Willapa Harbor has a 9,000 square foot Port building that could be utilized. However, the Port building and property do not have adequate broadband capacity for the Technology Center. The internet speeds currently

available are very low. The businesses need to have access to the high-speed broadband this project will provide and for the new technology center higher speeds are mandatory. This service will also make this industrial area much more viable for new businesses.

*“The Pacific County Economic Development Council is pleased to support the proposed fiber optic broadband extension to the Port to the proposed educational training center being developed in partnership with the Port and the South Bend School District. Access to high speed broadband is critical to any business or educational venture now and in the future. This proposal will bring increased capacity access to current and future port businesses, the port office, and the educational training center.”*

– James R. Sayce, Former Executive Director  
Pacific County Economic Development Council



The impetus for this project is the development of the HTTC. This center will be operated by the local schools and will provide currently unavailable training programs for high school students, as well as the larger community. The HTTC will be a cooperative venture between the Raymond School District (RSD), the South Bend School District (SBSD) and the Port of Willapa Harbor. Its primary purpose is to give students in RSD and SBSB training and simulated real life work experience in design, construction, and operating a business. It will have a variety of tools such as CNC

machines, 3-D printers, a range of online courses and trained staff, none of which are now available locally.

The Port of Willapa Harbor project was completed October 2019.

2020 Update: The extension of broadband fiber to the Harbor Trade & Technology Center HTTC also resulted in an additional 9 client businesses at the Port of Willapa having broadband fiber access.

CERB	Match	Actual # of Connections	Actual # of ISPs
\$97,500	\$32,500	11	2



## Port of Skagit

In 2017, CERB approved a \$50,000 grant to the Port of Skagit County for the Skagit County Dark Fiber Optic Assessment and Feasibility Study. This Planning program project consists of a feasibility study for construction of a community dark fiber optic

network throughout Skagit County, linking existing infrastructure and expanding infrastructure to underserved areas of the county. CERB funds were matched by \$50,000 in local resources.

In 2018, CERB approved a \$500,000 loan and a \$500,000 grant to the Port of Skagit County for the Skagit Community Fiber Optic Backbone project. This Rural Broadband program project consists of Construction of aerial fiber on existing poles to premises within the Towns of Lyman, Hamilton, and Concrete, and the Community of Marblemount. Their partner Internet Service Provider is Ziplay.



**WASHINGTON STATE**  
**PUBLIC WORKS BOARD**  
*INFRASTRUCTURE IS FUNDAMENTAL*

In 2020, PWB approved a \$1,687,500 loan and a \$1,687,500 grant for Sauk-Suiattle Construction project. Design, permitting, and construction of 8 miles of aerial fiber between the Town of Concrete and the Community of Rockport, and 13 miles

of underground fiber between Rockport and a point 1 mile south of the Sauk-Suiattle tribe where existing fiber optic infrastructure will be met. Approximately 0.6 mile of underground FTTP construction within the Sauk-Suiattle Community and approximately 1 mile of aerial FTTP construction within the Town of Rockport.

CERB funds were matched by \$3,696,800 by funds from PWB and local resources.

Several rural areas and east county communities, including Lyman, Hamilton, and Concrete lack access to fiber optics in significant ways and are desperately in need of economic opportunity growth. The Town of Concrete has identified 48 businesses that need improved

*“The lack of broadband has been an obstacle to recruitment, retention and expansion of businesses and continued inadequacies in this area will preclude future success. Skagit County’s target sectors of advanced manufacturing, maritime, aerospace and agriculture all depend on fast and reliable communications to compete in the economy. Indeed, even small-scale entrepreneurs and home-based businesses and telecommuters share this need.”*

- John B. Sternlicht, CEO  
Economic Development Association of Skagit County (EDASC)

broadband service. The initial project is estimated to connect 15 businesses in downtown Concrete with future plans to expand services. The Town of Concrete is located in a geographically isolated, rural area, where residents have to commute 30 miles or more to reach urban employment cores. The potential to operate a successful home-based business or small business with online sales capability is a significant economic opportunity for this area. Reliable, affordable high-speed broadband access is critical for this reason.

Communities win because they gain access to high-speed broadband sooner than they would if the Port was not involved. And because the fiber is open access, consumers may get choice of providers, allowing for competition that improves service. Similar to rural electrification in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century, enabling businesses and families to have access to adequate carrier-grade broadband will permit them to enter the stream of commerce and compete globally. Without it, competitiveness is impossible. Health, public safety, and education are all impacted by the lack of reliable high-speed broadband service in this area.



CERB	Match	Est # of Connections	Est # of ISPs
\$1,000,000	\$3,696,800	1,307	11

# Thurston - Nisqually Indian Tribe

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In 2019, CERB approved a \$450,000 loan and a \$150,000 grant to the Nisqually Indian Tribe for the Nisqually Community Broadband Project. The rural broadband project consists of construction of approximately 4.8 miles of above and below ground fiber to serve the Nisqually Indian Tribe reservation. The project estimates that 111 connections in the project area will have increased internet speed up to 1G/1G, and increase the number of ISPs available from zero to one, when the project is completed. CERB funds were matched by \$200,000 in local resources.



**Nisqually Indian Tribe**  
*Squally-Absch*

People of the river, people of the grass

The broadband project will provide increased access to broadband services to a number of tribal businesses, including the tribe's convenience store, the tribe's construction enterprise, and the tribe's communications enterprise. Also served will be the tenants in the tribe's phase II Nisqually markets project, in which several tribal owned businesses (copying and printing, seafood sales) have been provided retail space. In order for these businesses to continue to grow, they will need access to better broadband services than are currently available,

that can accommodate their planned expanded activities.

The project will provide improved access to broadband services for the Tribe's new health clinic and Elders Center. The project will provide improved access to broadband services for the Tribe's educational

*"The Nisqually Tribe in 2016 completed a broadband feasibility assessment for the reservation area, with the finding that high-speed internet service is currently not available to Nisqually community residents. The feasibility assessment also determined that the most effective means of securing high-speed internet services for the community is for the Tribe to take the lead in project planning and development, in conjunction with available grant and loan funding available from state and federal programs."*

– Nisqually Indian Tribe Resolution 126-18  
Signed December 5, 2018

facilities and programs (Library, Northwest Indian College, Head Start, and Tutoring). Community residents and tribal facilities will have better access to broadband services in their homes and at their work.

In 2019 and 2020, the Nisqually Tribe noticed there was a lack of connectivity in their neighboring rural communities. The Tribe came to CERB for three separate planning studies to work with these communities and to address these issues.

Nisqually Broadband Regional Feasibility Project – Proposal 1. This project consists of a feasibility study to review the potential viability of a Fiber-Optic Open Access Network (OPN) in the Thurston County towns of Roy, Yelm, and McKenna and the surrounding areas, to include analysis of the project concept, financial feasibility, permitting requirements, regional market, and sustainability. CERB awarded a \$50,000 grant and funds were matched by \$16,667 in local resources.

Nisqually Broadband Regional Feasibility Project – Proposal 2. The project consists of a feasibility study to review the potential viability of a Fiber-Optic Open Access Network (OPN) in the Thurston County towns of Rainier and Tenino and the surrounding areas, to include analysis of the project concept, financial feasibility, permitting requirements, regional market, and sustainability. CERB awarded a \$50,000 grant and funds were matched by \$16,667 in local resources.

Nisqually Broadband Regional Feasibility Study – Proposal 3. This project consists of a feasibility study to review the potential viability of a Fiber-Optic Open Access Network (OPN) in the Thurston County town of Tenino, west to Interstate 5, and the surrounding areas north to the Olympia Airport, to include analysis of the project concept,

# Thurston - Nisqually Indian Tribe (continued)

financial feasibility, permitting requirements, regional market, and sustainability. CERB awarded a \$50,000 grant and funds were matched by \$16,667 in local resources.

The Tribe also has a broadband construction company, Nisqually Communications Services, Government Group, that not only constructs their broadband projects, but also other regional broadband projects. With the demand for a qualified workforce, the Tribe partnered with RedLine Communications who created a hands on training program, which has created a future workforce for Nisqually Communications, transitioning soldiers, and other broadband construction companies.

The Nisqually Tribe project is currently under construction.



CERB	Match	Est # of Connections	Est # of ISPs
\$600,000	\$200,000	111	1

# Whatcom - Port of Bellingham

In 2018, CERB approved a \$50,000 grant to the Port of Bellingham for the Rural Broadband Feasibility Study. This planning program project consists of a feasibility study to identify which areas in Whatcom County are unserved or underserved by broadband, and to identify the most feasible path to extend broadband infrastructure to these communities, and identify existing infrastructure and needed infrastructure to implement a countywide broadband system. CERB funds were matched by \$30,000 in local resources.



In 2019, the Community Economic Revitalization Board (CERB) approved a \$584,391 loan and a \$584,390 grant to the Port of Bellingham for the Whatcom County Rural Broadband Construction Project. This Rural Broadband program project consists of engineering and construction of 40.6 miles of open access dark fiber route, to serve unserved/underserved Cedarville and Cedarville East. Their partner Internet Service Provider is Noel

Communications. CERB funds were matched by \$869,415 in local resources.

There are approximately 30 businesses that are located along this initial route, that range from agriculture, to

*“In Whatcom County, we have many rural communities who either do not have broadband access or have it but the speed is inadequate. Like water, roads, and electricity, broadband is of fundamental importance to social and economic development. Increasing capacity is essential to the economic growth of Whatcom County. It will enable businesses in our mostly rural county to thrive and compete in an increasingly digital world.”*

- Don Goldberg, Director, Regional Economic Partnership  
Port of Bellingham

trucking companies, to retail businesses. Most of them are at speeds below 25 Mbps, with just a few over that speed. The increased internet will enable them to grow their businesses, and create a better online presence for their customers. There will be improved opportunities for businesses to relocate in this area, due to its proximity to Highways 542 and 9, and Skagit County. Providing broadband will have a significant positive impact on the economy. This project will be vital in increasing the opportunity for small in-home businesses and for telecommuters, as well.

First responders rely on cell service when responding to calls in rural areas, and service is severely lacking in those areas throughout the county. The lack of cell coverage makes it challenging when responding to calls and limits community members’ access to 911. Cell towers not connected to fiber add to the limited cell coverage. Many students in the area do not have access to broadband internet due to affordability and availability. This project will provide them with accessibility and level the disparity between those who have internet and those who do not. Businesses will be able to grow. Community members will be able to engage in the digital age. Children will have increased access to additional educational tools to advance their education. The community as a whole will be safer.

The Port of Bellingham project is currently under construction.

CERB	Match	Est # of Connections	Est # of ISPs
\$1,168,781	\$869,415	751	6



In 2018, the Community Economic Revitalization Board (CERB) approved a \$1,000,000 loan and a \$1,000,000 grant to the Port of Whitman County for the Last Mile Fiber Construction project. This Rural Broadband program project consists of construction of aerial fiber on existing poles to five rural communities in Whitman County. Their partner Internet Service Provider at the time of award was Noel Communications, now Wholesail Networks. CERB funds were matched by \$2,000,000 in local resources.

In 2020, the Port of Whitman County partnered with Ziplly Fiber and negotiated an irrevocable right of use agreement (IRU), enabling the Port to expand the scope of work and have a greater impact with CERB investment.

To be constructed under the IRU:

Construction of aerial fiber on existing poles to five rural communities in Whitman County. Communities:

Oakesdale, Palouse, Rosalia, Garfield, Tekoa

Approximately: 1,423 connections.

To be constructed by the Port of Whitman County:

Construction of mid-mile fiber backbone to:

- Albion to Hwy 195 to existing tower on Halpin Rd (12.43 miles)
- Garfield to existing tower on Silver Creek Rd (5.67 miles)
- Hwy 27 (outside Garfield) to tower on Bunny Rd (.89 miles)

Design, permitting and construction of the additional fiber extensions listed below:

- Plaza, WA -- S 36510 Old SR 195 (.25 miles)
- Oakesdale Windmill Tower (6.5 miles)
- Chase Rd Tower (4 miles)
- Lamont Tower Site (9 miles)
- Lamont Tower to Anchor Institutions (1 miles)

Approximately: 1,552 connections

At the time of the initial application, the incumbent telco in these rural communities would not invest the capital for this project, because there was not an economy of scale for them to do so and it would erode their existing copper-based platform, leaving a low revenue margin. Someone else

*"The Port's proposed last mile network has the potential to improve the quality of life in these remote communities, by allowing them access to high-quality and affordable broadband services. The Port's project aligns with SEWEDA's (CEDS), Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy. ... Installing fiber and encouraging the development of broadband infrastructure countywide, is essential for Whitman County residents and business owners, and will provide higher quality opportunities to the lives of those who have access to broadband service."*

- Sarah McKnight, Whitman County Managing Director  
Southeast Washington Economic Development Association (SEWEDA)

needed to take this technology forward. Residents in these communities have been very vocal about their desire for better services. There are over 182 businesses and 2,766 homes located across these communities. Agricultural-based markets in these communities rely on digital commerce and required broadband capacity and reliability. Washington State University and large employers in Pullman have started initiatives to support work-at-home to reduce their carbon footprint. Today's economy offers many opportunities for home-based businesses. Upload speeds that are not existent today in these communities are essential to the telecommuting, work-at-home, and e-commerce business sectors. For these communities to remain competitive or ideally grow, fiber to the premise is an excellent economic development and marketing tool.

# Whitman - Port of Whitman County (continued)



The local community hospital districts are supported by hospitals in Colfax and Pullman. Remote medical clinics in these communities require higher broadband speeds than currently offered for telemedicine to be used. The switch to an e-education system in our public schools requires broadband usage and this project will make it available in homes, so students can access school work outside of the public library hours and school hours. Urban speed broadband telecommunications is essential to rural America to stay vibrant, both for economic development and quality of life within the community. Our educational system requires broadband speeds greater than currently available in these communities for every child fifth grade and above. Today's economy of living wage jobs has many offerings for work-at-home careers that can be supported by the workforce in these rural communities. The Port's partnership with the internet service provider builds infrastructure that permits speeds of 1G/1G at prices that are competitive with urban rates. The project is a commitment to the longevity of these communities and the existing and potential workforce residing within them.

The Port of Whitman County project is currently under construction.

CERB	Match	Est # of Connections	Est # of ISPs
\$2,000,000	\$2,043,800	2,975	6

## City of Palouse



\* Designed by TownMapsUSA.com



\* Designed by TownMapsUSA.com

# County & Legislative District Totals

## County Investments

County	Number of Projects	Est # of Connections	CERB Grant	CERB Loan	Match	Project Total
Asotin	1	351	\$207,285	\$207,285	\$157,200	\$571,770
Clallam	1	214	\$225,000	\$225,000	\$150,000	\$600,000
Clark	1	6,097	\$473,250	\$473,250	\$315,500	\$1,262,000
Cowlitz	1	115	\$375,000	\$375,000	\$187,500	\$937,500
Garfield	1	684	\$137,500	\$412,500	\$300,000	\$850,000
Kitsap	1	158	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$420,000	\$1,420,000
Mason	2	1,198	\$1,408,324	\$1,408,325	\$1,600,584	\$4,417,233
Pacific	1	11	\$48,750	\$48,750	\$32,500	\$130,000
Skagit	1	1,307	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$2,300,000	\$3,300,000
Thurston	1	111	\$150,000	\$450,000	\$200,000	\$800,000
Whatcom	1	751	\$584,390	\$584,391	\$869,415	\$2,038,196
Whitman	1	2,975	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$2,043,800	\$4,043,800
<b>GRAND TOTALS</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>13,972</b>	<b>\$5,609,499</b>	<b>\$6,184,501</b>	<b>\$8,576,499</b>	<b>\$20,370,499</b>

## Legislative District Investments

Leg District	Number of Projects	Number of Connections	CERB Grant	CERB Loan	Match	Project Total
2	1	111	\$150,000	\$450,000	\$200,000	\$800,000
9	3	4,010	\$1,344,785	\$1,619,785	\$2,501,000	\$5,465,570
10	1	1,307	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$2,300,000	\$3,300,000
18	1	6,097	\$473,250	\$473,250	\$315,500	\$1,262,000
19	1	11	\$48,750	\$48,750	\$32,500	\$130,000
20	1	115	\$375,000	\$375,000	\$187,500	\$937,500
23	1	158	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$420,000	\$1,420,000
24	1	214	\$225,000	\$225,000	\$150,000	\$600,000
35	2	1,198	\$1,408,324	\$1,408,325	\$1,600,584	\$4,417,233
42	1	751	\$584,390	\$584,391	\$869,415	\$2,038,196
<b>GRAND TOTALS</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>13,972</b>	<b>\$5,609,499</b>	<b>\$6,184,501</b>	<b>\$8,576,499</b>	<b>\$20,370,499</b>



## ASOTIN

<b>Port of Clarkston†</b>		Project Title:		Port of Clarkston to City of Asotin+ Fiber Expansion Project		
Awarded	CERB Loan	CERB Grant	TOTAL CERB	Match	Total Project Cost	
3/21/2019	\$207,285	\$207,285	\$414,570	\$157,200	\$571,770	
<b>Before CERB Project</b>						
Households	Speed	Businesses	Speed	Anchor Institutions	Speed	ISPs
300	<25/3	45	<100/20	6	<25/3	3
<b>ACTUALS</b>						
Households	Speed	Businesses	Speed	Anchor Institutions	Speed	ISPs
295	1/1G	41	1/1G	9	1/1G	11
ACT # of Connections	345	Estimated cost per connection				\$1,202

## CLALLAM

<b>Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe Economic Development Authority†</b>		Project Title:		Jamestown Cell Tower Project (emergency management)		
Awarded	CERB Loan	CERB Grant	TOTAL CERB	Match	Total Project Cost	
5/16/2019	\$225,000	\$225,000	\$450,000	\$150,000	\$600,000	
<b>Current</b>						
Households	Speed	Businesses	Speed	Anchor Institutions	Speed	ISPs
200	0/0	10	0/0	4	0/0	
<b>Estimates</b>						
Households	Speed	Businesses	Speed	Anchor Institutions	Speed	ISPs
200	25/5	10	25/5	4	25/5	3
Est # of Connections	214	Estimated cost per connection				\$2,103

## CLARK

<b>Port of Ridgefield†</b>		Project Title:		Discovery Corridor Phase I		
Awarded	CERB Loan	CERB Grant	TOTAL CERB	Match	Total Project Cost	
11/21/2019	\$473,250	\$473,250	\$946,500	\$315,500	\$1,262,000	
<b>Current</b>						
Households	Speed	Businesses	Speed	Anchor Institutions	Speed	ISPs
5,686	<25/3	399	<25/3	12	<25/3	4
<b>Estimates</b>						
Households	Speed	Businesses	Speed	Anchor Institutions	Speed	ISPs
5,686	1/1G	399	1/1G	12	1/1G	7
Est # of Connections	6,097	Estimated cost per connection				\$155

# 5-Year Project Tracking

## COWLITZ

<b>Port of Woodland†</b>		Project Title:		Ariel to Cougar Build		
Awarded	CERB Loan	CERB Grant	TOTAL CERB	Match	Total Project Cost	
7/16/2020	\$375,000	\$375,000	\$750,000	\$187,500	\$937,500	
Current						
Households	Speed	Businesses	Speed	Anchor Institutions	Speed	ISPs
100	<10/1	13	<10/1	2	<10/1	2
Estimates						
Households	Speed	Businesses	Speed	Anchor Institutions	Speed	ISPs
100	1/1G	13	1/1G	2	1/1G	3
Est # of Connections		115	Estimated cost per connection			\$6,522

## GARFIELD

<b>Port of Garfield†</b>		Project Title:		Pomeroy Broadband Project		
Awarded	CERB Loan	CERB Grant	TOTAL CERB	Match	Total Project Cost	
1/17/2019	\$412,500	\$137,500	\$550,000	\$300,000	\$850,000	
Current						
Households	Speed	Businesses	Speed	Anchor Institutions	Speed	ISPs
598	<25/3	78	<100/20	8	<100/20	3
Estimates						
Households	Speed	Businesses	Speed	Anchor Institutions	Speed	ISPs
598	1/1G	78	1/1G	8	1/1G	4
Est # of Connections		684	Estimated cost per connection			\$804

## KITSAP

<b>PUD #1 of Kitsap County†</b>		Project Title:		Last Mile Broadband Big Valley Project		
Awarded	CERB Loan	CERB Grant	TOTAL CERB	Match	Total Project Cost	
5/16/2019	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$1,000,000	\$420,000	\$1,420,000	
Current						
Households	Speed	Businesses	Speed	Anchor Institutions	Speed	ISPs
141	<10/1	17	<10/1		<100/20	1
Estimates						
Households	Speed	Businesses	Speed	Anchor Institutions	Speed	ISPs
141	1/1G	17	1/1G		1/1G	6
Est # of Connections		158	Estimated cost per connection			\$6,329

## MASON

<b>Mason County PUD 3</b>		Project Title:		Mason County Rural Broadband Fiber Expansion		
Awarded	CERB Loan	CERB Grant	TOTAL CERB	Match	Total Project Cost	
9/20/2018	\$408,325	\$408,324	\$816,649	\$911,324	\$1,727,973	
<b>Current</b>						
Households	Speed	Businesses	Speed	Anchor Institutions	Speed	ISPs
500	<10/1	20	<10/1	3	<10/1	1
<b>Estimates</b>						
Households	Speed	Businesses	Speed	Anchor Institutions	Speed	ISPs
500	1/1G	20	1/1G	3	1/1G	7
Est # of Connections		523	Estimated cost per connection			\$1,561

<b>Mason County PUD 3†</b>		Project Title:		Mason County Rural Broadband Fiber Expansion Phase 2		
Awarded	CERB Loan	CERB Grant	TOTAL CERB	Match	Total Project Cost	
5/16/2019	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$2,000,000	\$689,260	\$2,689,260	
<b>Current</b>						
Households	Speed	Businesses	Speed	Anchor Institutions	Speed	ISPs
625	<10/1	45	<10/1	5	<10/1	1
<b>Estimates</b>						
Households	Speed	Businesses	Speed	Anchor Institutions	Speed	ISPs
625	1/1G	45	1/1G	5	1/1G	6
Est # of Connections		675	Estimated cost per connection			\$2,963

## PACIFIC

<b>Port of Willapa Harbort*</b>		Project Title:		Raymond Port Dock Optic Extension		
Awarded	CERB Loan	CERB Grant	TOTAL CERB	Match	Total Project Cost	
7/18/2019	\$48,750	\$48,750	\$97,500	\$32,500	\$130,000	
<b>Before CERB Project</b>						
Households	Speed	Businesses	Speed	Anchor Institutions	Speed	ISPs
	<25/3	9	<10/1	2	<10/1	2
<b>ACTUALS</b>						
Households	Speed	Businesses	Speed	Anchor Institutions	Speed	ISPs
	1/1G	9	1/1G	2	1/1G	2
ACT # of Connections		11	Estimated cost per connection			\$8,864

# 5-Year Project Tracking

## SKAGIT

Port of Skagit County		Project Title:		Skagit Community Fiber Optic Backbone Project			
Awarded	CERB Loan	CERB Grant	TOTAL CERB	Match	Total Project Cost		
9/20/2018	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$1,000,000	\$3,696,800	\$4,696,800		
Current							
Households	Speed	Businesses	Speed	Anchor Institutions	Speed	ISPs	
337	<100/20	15	<100/100	9	<100/100	2	
Estimates							
Households	Speed	Businesses	Speed	Anchor Institutions	Speed	ISPs	
1,281	up to 1/1G	17	up to 1/1G	9	1/1G	4	
Est # of Connections		1,307	Estimated cost per connection			\$765	

## THURSTON

Nisqually Indian Tribe†		Project Title:		Nisqually Community Broadband Project			
Awarded	CERB Loan	CERB Grant	TOTAL CERB	Match	Total Project Cost		
3/21/2019	\$450,000	\$150,000	\$600,000	\$200,000	\$800,000		
Current							
Households	Speed	Businesses	Speed	Anchor Institutions	Speed	ISPs	
100	0/0	5	0/0	6	0/0	0	
Estimates							
Households	Speed	Businesses	Speed	Anchor Institutions	Speed	ISPs	
100	1/1G	5	1/1G	6	1/1G	1	
Est # of Connections		111	Estimated cost per connection			\$5,405	

## WHATCOM

Port of Bellingham†		Project Title:		Whatcom County Rural Broadband Construction			
Awarded	CERB Loan	CERB Grant	TOTAL CERB	Match	Total Project Cost		
5/16/2019	\$584,390	\$584,391	\$1,168,781	\$869,415	\$2,038,196		
Current							
Households	Speed	Businesses	Speed	Anchor Institutions	Speed	ISPs	
700	<25/3	27	<25/3	9	<100/20	3	
Estimates							
Households	Speed	Businesses	Speed	Anchor Institutions	Speed	ISPs	
715	100/20	27	100/20	9	100/20	6	
Est # of Connections		751	Estimated cost per connection			\$1,556	

**WHITMAN**

<b>Port of Whitman County</b>		Project Title:		Last Mile Fiber Construction Project		
Awarded	CERB Loan	CERB Grant	TOTAL CERB	Match	Total Project Cost	
9/20/2018	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$2,000,000	\$2,043,800	\$4,043,800	
Current						
Households	Speed	Businesses	Speed	Anchor Institutions	Speed	ISPs
1,548	<25/3	150	<25/3	25	<100/20	3
Estimates						
Households	Speed	Businesses	Speed	Anchor Institutions	Speed	ISPs
2,766	up to 1/1G	182	1/1G	27	1/1G	6
Est # of Connections		2,975	Estimated cost per connection			\$672



## 2020 Annual Virtual Convention

### RESOLUTION #2020 - 46

#### “SUPPORT FOR THE WASHINGTON STATE COMMUNITY ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION BOARD”

#### PREAMBLE

We, the members of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians of the United States, invoking the divine blessing of the Creator upon our efforts and purposes, in order to preserve for ourselves and our descendants rights secured under Indian Treaties, Executive Orders, and benefits to which we are entitled under the laws and constitution of the United States and several states, to enlighten the public toward a better understanding of the Indian people, to preserve Indian cultural values, and otherwise to promote the welfare of the Indian people, do hereby establish and submit the following resolution:

**WHEREAS**, the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians (ATNI) are representatives of and advocates for national, regional, and specific tribal concerns; and

**WHEREAS**, ATNI is a regional organization comprised of American Indians/Alaska Natives and tribes in the states of Washington, Idaho, Oregon, Montana, Nevada, Northern California, and Alaska; and

**WHEREAS**, the health, safety, welfare, education, economic and employment opportunity, and preservation of cultural and natural resources are primary goals and objectives of the ATNI; and

**WHEREAS**, the ATNI Telecommunications Committee has been working diligently to address the lack of access to infrastructure that provides high speed internet and cell phone coverage in rural native communities; and

**WHEREAS**, ATNI member Tribes have made significant progress to inform, educate and advocate on broadband needs to the United States Congress as well as State Legislatures, the impact on Tribal economic development from the lack of broadband access; and

**WHEREAS**, the Community Economic Revitalization Board (CERB) in Washington State is authorized to make economic development loans and grants, which includes funding for rural broadband infrastructure to local governments and to federally recognized Indian tribes; and

**WHEREAS**, CERB’s Legislative Members have submitted proposed legislation to codify the Board’s rural broadband program; and

**WHEREAS**, the codification of this program into RCW 43.160 will make this a core function of CERB; and

**WHEREAS**, this will give stability and confidence to local governments and federally recognized Indian tribes, as they are planning for future broadband projects, that there is a permanent funding mechanism for them to access; and

**WHEREAS**, CERB has submitted a capital budget legislative request in the amount of \$40 million (\$25 million Core CERB and \$15 million Rural Broadband) which will allow CERB to continue funding community and economic development infrastructure projects and increase project development opportunities for local governments and federally recognized Indian tribes; and

**WHEREAS**, this will empower CERB to continue making grants and loans to local governments and federally recognized Indian tribes to build public infrastructure, which includes high-speed, open-access broadband service to rural and underserved communities for the purpose of community and economic development; and

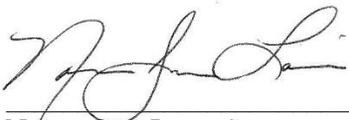
**WHEREAS**, given the increased demand for community and economic development infrastructure funding, without requested funding of \$40 million, CERB’s funding will not last through the 2021-2023 biennium; now

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that ATNI fully supports the \$40 million budget increase and codification of the rural broadband program for the State of Washington Community Economic Revitalization Board to support future community and economic development infrastructure investments.

**CERTIFICATION**

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2020 Virtual Annual Convention of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, Portland, Oregon, on October 5 – October 8, 2020, with a quorum present.

  
Leonard Forsman, President

  
Norma Jean Loue, Secretary



*Pomeroy Broadband Workshop - July 2019*

*Left to Right: Kara Riebold, Port of Whitman County; Janea Delk, CERB; Representative Mary Dye, WA Legislative District 9; Congresswoman Cathy McMorris Rodgers, WA Congressional District 5*

## CERB Members Through December 2020

### Agency Appointments

**Randy Hayden, Chair**

Pasco - Port Official

**Michael Echanove, Vice Chair**

Palouse - Public

**Andrea Alexander**

Mount Lake Terrace - Small Business

**Richard Bogert**

Pasco - Small Business

**George Brady**

Pateros - Small Business

**Paul Cross**

Richland - Large Business

**William Glassford**

Seattle - Large Business

**Mike Mason**

Olympia -  
Federally Recognized Indian Tribe

**Candace Mumm**

Spokane - City Official

**Vange Ocasio Hochheimer**

Spokane - Economist

**Randy Ross**

Aberdeen - County Official

**Daniel J. Seydel**

Shelton - Small Business

### Legislative Appointments

**Representative Mike Chapman**

House Majority Caucus

**Representative Jim Walsh**

House Minority Caucus

**Senator Dean Takko**

Senate Majority Caucus

**Senator Judy Warnick**

Senate Minority Caucus

### Agency Representatives

**Mark Barkley**

Department of Commerce

**Matthew Largent**

Department of Revenue

**Paul Turek**

Employment Security Department

**Kerri Woehler**

Department of Transportation

### A Special Thank you

CERB members and staff acknowledge the contribution of the following former members who served during the last two years.

**Randy Asplund**

Large Business

**Ken Casavant**

Economist

**James Jaime**

Federally Recognized Indian Tribe

**Senator Maralyn Chase**

**Elizabeth Robbins**

Department of Transportation

**Aaron Deggs**

Department of Revenue

*Special thanks to the businesses, local governments, federally recognized Indian tribes, and port officials who provided updates for this report.*