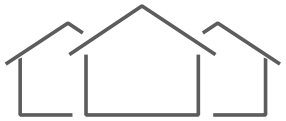
Broadband and digital equity

Jasmine Vasavada, Legislative & Policy Director
Emily Grossman, Policy and Strategy Advisor
Russ Elliott, Director, State Broadband Office

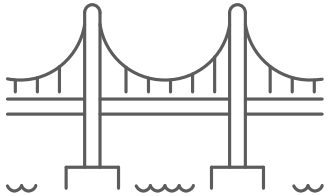
March 2021

Washington State Department of Commerce

We strengthen communities



HOUSING
HOMELESSNESS



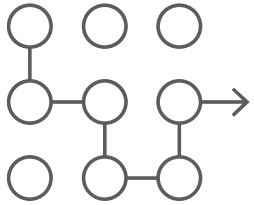
INFRASTRUCTURE



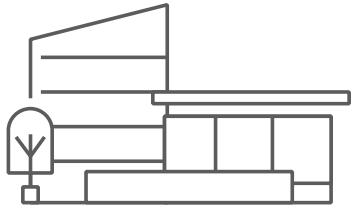
BUSINESS
ASSISTANCE



ENERGY



PLANNING



COMMUNITY FACILITIES



CRIME VICTIMS &
PUBLIC SAFETY



COMMUNITY
SERVICES

The Ten Year Plan to Dismantle Poverty in WA: Eight Strategies.60 Recommendations. One Goal

Undo Structural Racism	Increase Economic Opportunity	Prioritize Urgent Needs	Decriminalize Poverty
Balance Power	Ensure Foundational Well-being	**Build a Holistic Continuum of Care**	Prepare for the Future of Work

The digital divide has long been a concern for people with low incomes, and has become especially acute during COVID-19. Digital equity is necessary for full engagement in education and employment, and is increasingly important to support civic participation.

Human-Centered Poverty Reduction system design team















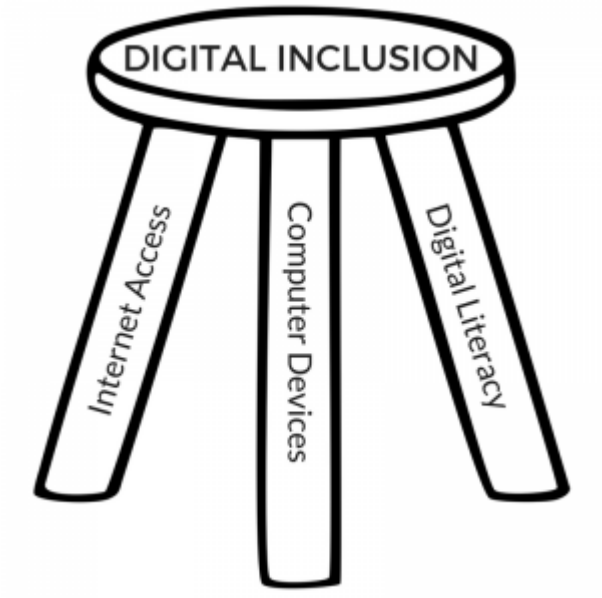
Purpose

This team is empowered to make recommendations about what our seven agencies should begin working on together, to create a human-centered poverty reduction system.

The Charter and the Poverty Reduction Work Group's (PRWG) draft report provide a menu of recommended actions.

You are empowered to recommend which of those items we should begin working on together.

Addressing the digitaldivide



1) Affordable , robust broadband internet service;
2) Internet-enabled devices that meet the needs of the user
3) Access to digital literacy training;
4) Quality technical support
5) Applications and online content designed to enable and encourage self-sufficiency, participation and collaboration.

Digital Inclusion: major intersections with state government

Home and Community Services Offices	Community Health Workers	Public Schools
Coordinated Entry Agencies	Washington State Housing Authorities	Area Agencies on Aging
Community Action Agencies	Community Colleges	Accountable Communities of Health
Worksource	ECEAP and Head Start Agencies	Local Health Departments

Digital inclusion in Governor Inslee's budget

Broadband equity and access - $3.19 million

- Includes support for county -level BAT teams
  - Template for BATs to use to guide engagement on digital equity
- Funds Digital Equity Manager within WA State Broadband Office
  - Funding for translation services and culturally competent outreach
- State broadband data acquisition and analysis
- WI-FI hotspot expansion
- Workgroup on universal service funding mechanisms
- Community feasibility study funding, and technical assistance grants – helping tee up projects for capital and federal funding

Digital Navigators

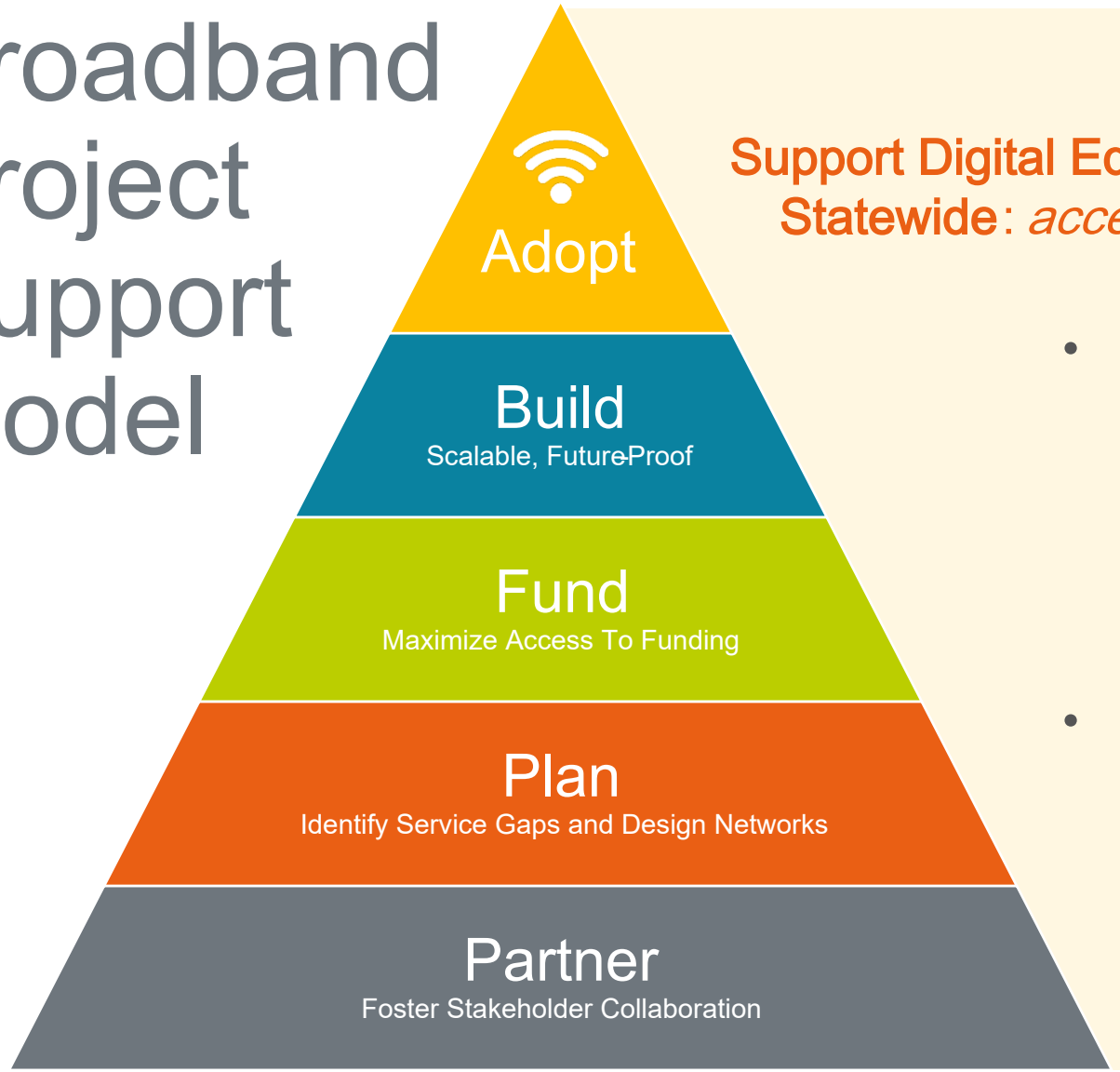
$6,000,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2022 is provided solely for the department to **provide grant funding to an organization that will create a digital navigator program in ten regions across the state, with two navigators in each region**.

- ✓Individuals seeking work
- ✓Families supporting students
- ✓English language learners
- ✓Elders

Other Investments

- $9 million to expand broadband access for licensed child care businesses that serve about 20,500 school-age children (DCYF)
- $79 million to support residential broadband connections for families across Washington who cannot afford connection services in their area. (OSPI– students and their families)

Broadband Project Support Model



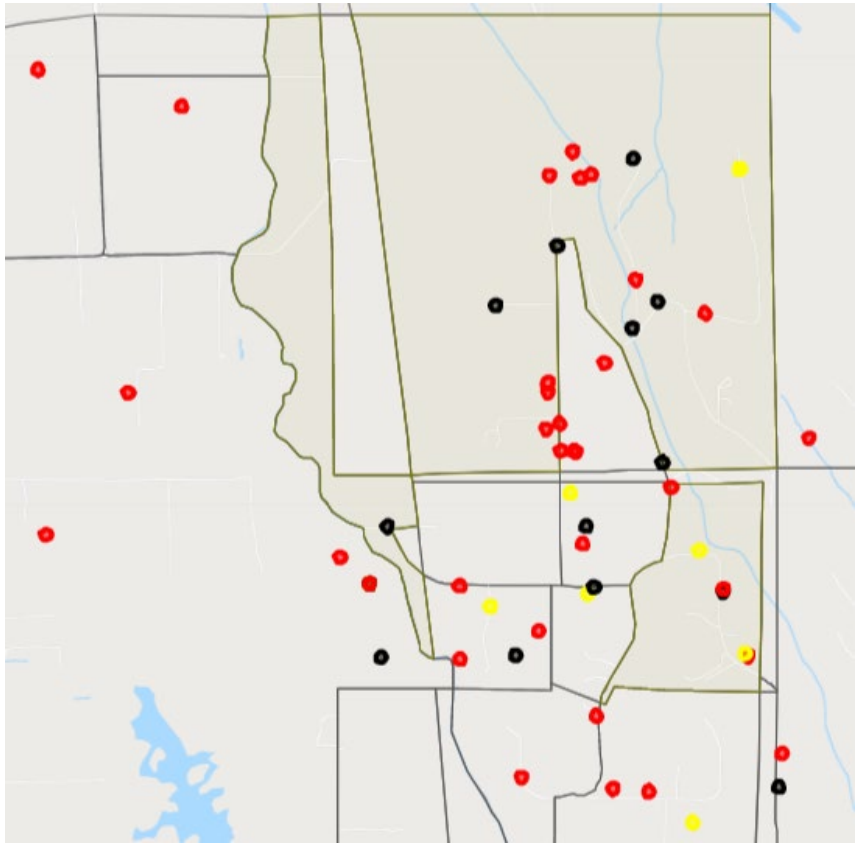
Support Digital Equity and Inclusion Initiatives Statewide: *access, affordability, devices, skills*

- State Broadband Office
  - Centralize Conversations
  - Coordinate with DEI Partners
  - State DEI Support Programs (Proposed)
  - Digital Equity Manager
- Federal DEI Programs
  - Provider & Resident Outreach
  - Resident Outreach

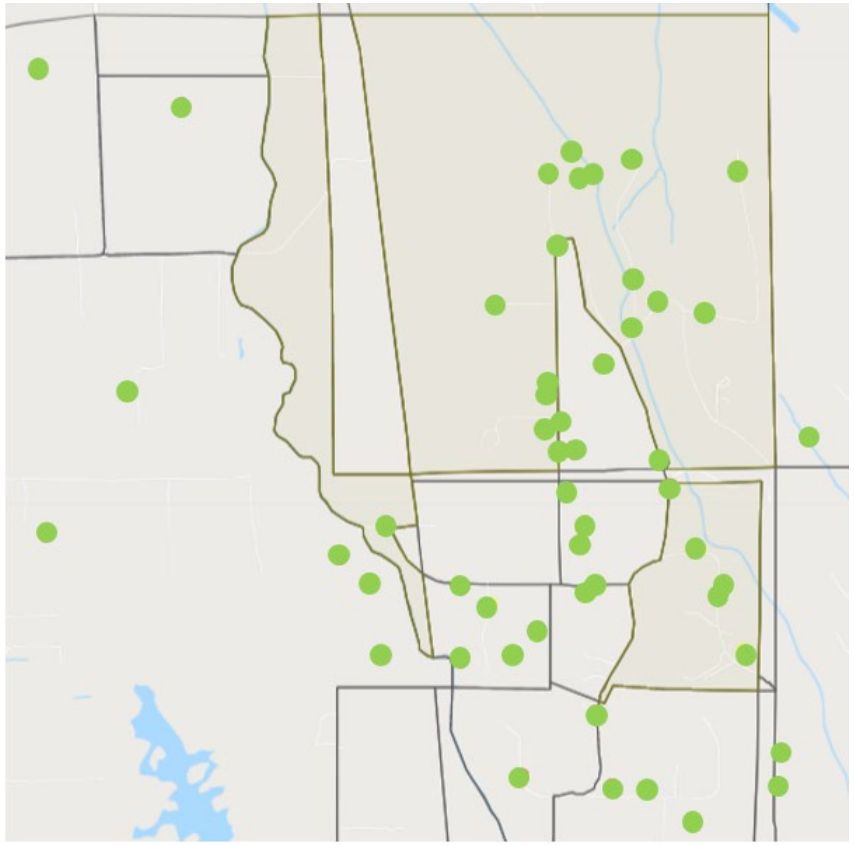
Federal Digital Equity and Inclusion Programs

- 2021 Consolidated Appropriations Act (The Act)
  - FCCEmergency Broadband Benefit Program (EBBP)
    $3.2B Est. WA 885K Households $44M/m
- 2021 American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)
  - $7.2B E-Rate
- Accessible Affordable Internet for All Act – (Clyburn)
  - Proposed $94B, $6B enhances EBB Program

How Do We Measure Success?



Before / After



2020: Black - No Service Red < 10 Mbps Yellow < 25 Mbps

2024: Green > 25 Mbps Scalable to 2028: 150/150 Mbps

Thank you!

Washington State Department of Commerce

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