WaTech
Washington Technology Solutions

Using Data to Drive Digital Equity

House Innovation, Community & Economic Development, & Veterans Committee

Work Session

September 18, 2024

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Today's Agenda

- WaTech's roles and responsibilities.
- How we support our partners and Washington residents.
- How data can be used to identify investments in digital equity.

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WaTech's roles & responsibilities

- Provides strategic technology leadership that includes technology services, programs that require a high level of collaboration with state agencies, local government, higher education, and Tribes.
- Provides security and privacy services to protect our residents' data and the state infrastructure.
- Supports and collaborates on statewide broadband and digital equity efforts.

Enterprise IT Strategic Plan 2023-2025

Connected Government, Stronger Communities, Better Washington

Goal #1
Create a Government Experience that Leaves No Community Behind

Goal Statement: Through a connected government that emphasizes service delivery and the experience of those we serve, we can achieve equitable outcomes across our communities.

Goal #2
Better Data, Better Decisions, Better Government, Better Washington

Goal Statement: Use data and insights to improve the experience of those we serve, prioritize service improvements, drive strategic decisions, and improve transparency.



Goal #3
Innovative Technology Solutions Create a Better Washington

Goal Statement: Prioritize solutions emphasizing access, technology, and innovation to address systemic societal challenges and align our decision-making for those we serve.

Goal #4
Transform How We Work. Best Workforce Ever.

Goal Statement: Attract and retain technology talent, advance our agencies' skill sets, instill an innovation culture, and establish new and agile processes and practices to achieve our future vision.

Our Pillars Digital Trust | Shared Governance | Equitable Outcomes | Service Excellence

Our Values Human-Centered | Inclusive Ideas | Courageous Innovation | Accessibility | Stay Nimble | Community + Connectivity

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Supporting our partners & residents

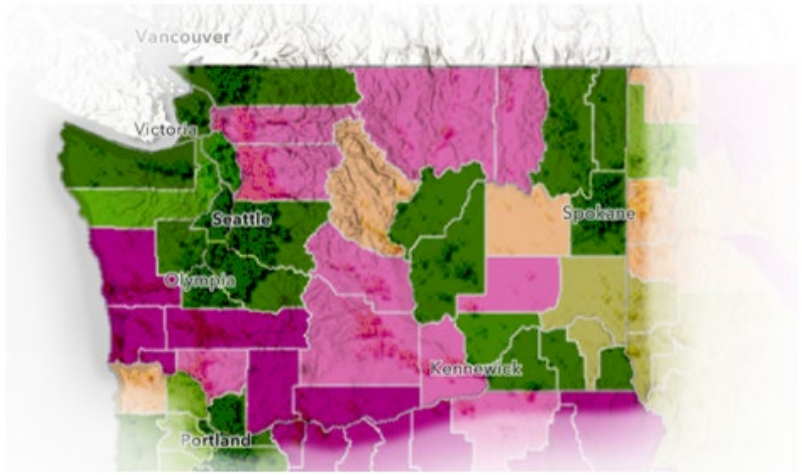
- Provides opportunities for agencies to share best practices and participate in inclusive policymaking processes.
- Supports the Washington Geospatial Open Data Portal, enhancing decision-making through geospatial technology.
- Participates in the State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program to address cybersecurity risks for local governments.
- Advances digital equity by participating in forums and initiatives aimed at reducing the digital divide.

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Identifying Digital Equity investments

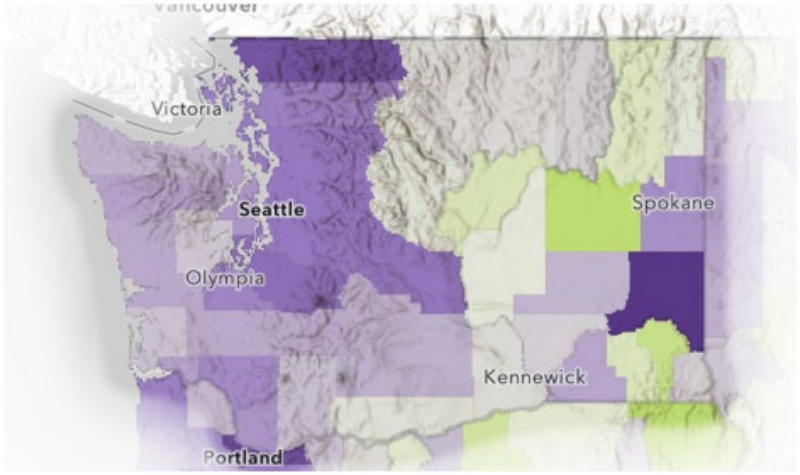
Data to match Digital Equity investments to need

Mapping areas where broadband speeds are lower…

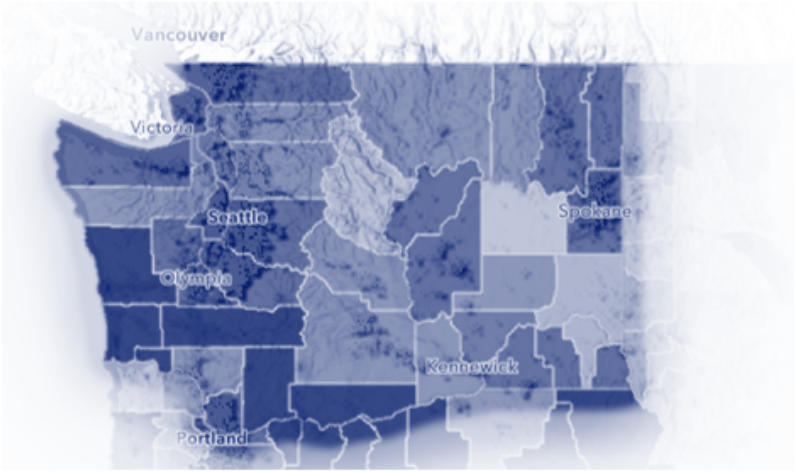


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…paired with maps where economic needs are greater…

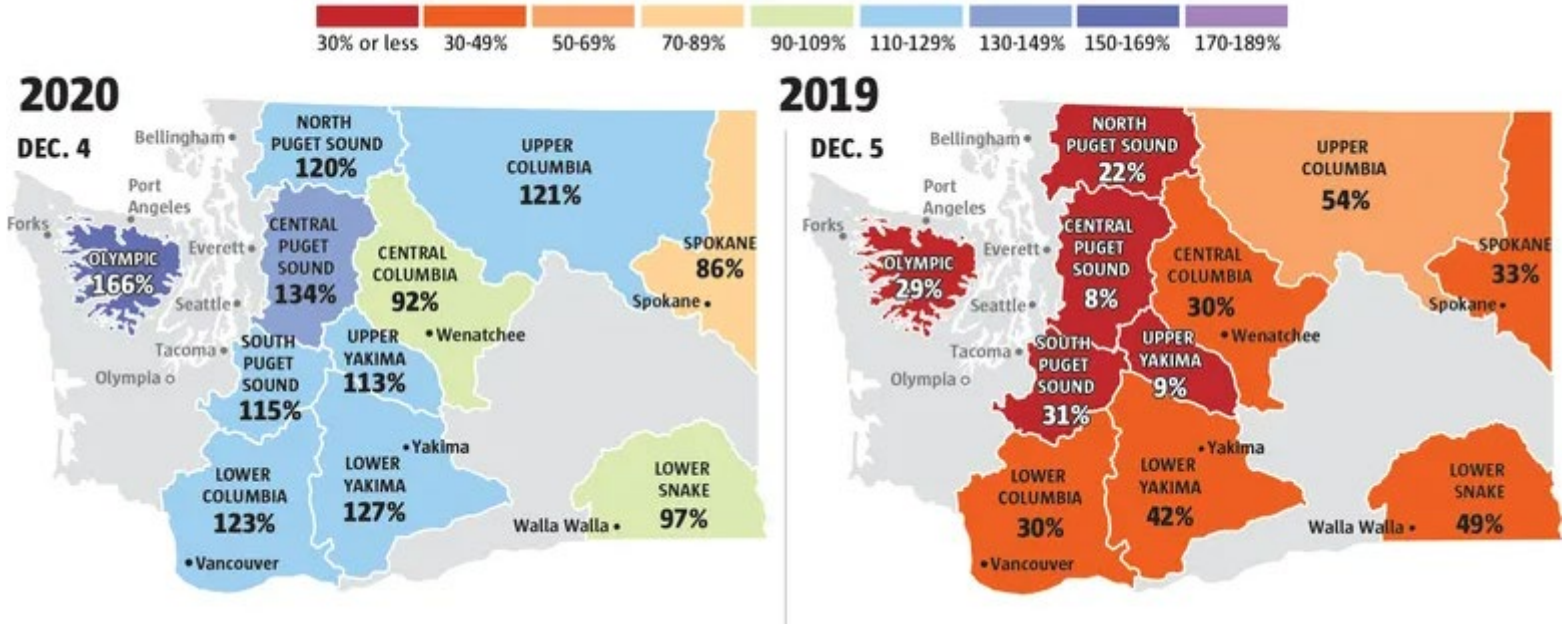


…will help the state identify areas in which targeted digital equity investments can relieve inequities.



Data to track outcomes of Digital Equity investments

We should also use data to track how broadband connectivity changes over time to see whether investments result in intended improvements.



BROADBAND AVAILABILITY

Are broadband availability improving in areas where the state made investments?

Investment portfolio should be adjusted over time to accommodate changing needs.

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Thank you.

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Angela Kleis
Director of Policy & External Affairs