

Guiding Principles

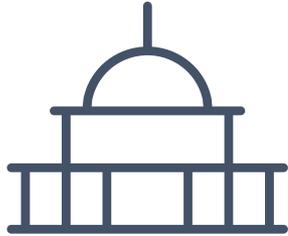
Broadband is local

- The real scope of this issue can only be measured at the local level, and real solutions happen at the local level.
- The role of the state and federal government is to facilitate local action in solving this problem.

Provider neutral, technology neutral

Public ownership of the middle mile and private operation of the last mile

Statement of Need



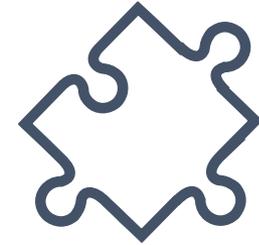
Organization

To avoid wasting scarce public resources, and to expediently connect the state, Washington needs a detailed statewide vision, plan, and a dedicated staff to execute that plan.



Funding

In order to connect all Washingtonians to quality, affordable, and resilient, broadband internet service, we know that substantial amounts of funding are necessary.



Flexibility & Creativity

Washington needs policies and programs that encourage new partnerships, incentivize deployment by both the public and private sectors, and capitalize on outside opportunities.

Organization

- Establishes a statewide broadband office (**\$600K, 3.5 FTE**)
- Act as the state's central broadband planning body for efforts at the local, state and federal level, and as an information clearinghouse
- Set high-level statewide policy
- Develop and implement a statewide broadband plan
- Update statewide goals and the definition of broadband service
- Seek federal funding to supplement state and local efforts, and assists applicants to both state and federal programs

Funding

- Establishes a competitive grant/loan program administered by the state's public works board (**\$25M**)
- Broad eligibility and broad use of funds
 - First priority to 'unserved' areas, and public-private partnerships
 - Any grant or loan provided to a private entity must be maintained for public benefit for a period of at least 15 years
 - Consider affordability and quality of proposed service when awarding funding
- No mapping, market demand drives funding
- Objection process
- UTC - Technical analysis and advisory opinion

Flexibility / Creativity

- State Universal Service Fund (**\$10M**) adjusted to include broadband service, and eligibility widened to include providers offering comparable services at a lower price
- “Safe Harbor” retail authority provided to Public Utility Districts
- Port districts granted authority to provide wholesale service outside of port district boundaries



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