

Broadband & Digital Equity Local Action Plan

Spokane County



Prepared By



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Introduction

Spokane County provides core services to over 500,000 residents in Eastern Washington as the 4th most populous county in Washington State. Spokane County encompasses almost 1,781 square miles, including 17 square miles of water. Spokane demographics range from dense urban living in the City of Spokane core to remote rural living where access to essential services and utilities, like broadband internet, can be challenging. To respond to these challenges, the Spokane County Broadband Action Team (BAT) was formed in April 2022.

Key community indicators for resiliency rely on the stability and sustainability of

- Economic development incubation and opportunity
- Public safety preparedness and response
- Access to tele-healthcare, including behavioral and mental health supports
- Remote education capacity
- Workforce development and access

A strong broadband, or high capacity, internet connection is essential for rural and urban populations alike. **Broadband Infrastructure** enhancements to unserved and underserved populations for connectivity must be a high priority investment. **Digital Equity & Access** must include a robust approach to address increased participation among eligible populations to available subscriber subsidy, devices access and training in digital navigation and literacy. This includes non-digital information pieces available and promoted at locations of wrap around services in the region like housing vouchers, utility assistance, food security and others.

Abstract

This report may be summarized in the Spokane Broadband Action Team (BAT) Mission and Vision statements. Our mission statement is what we are doing *right now*, while keeping our focus on the vision for the future.

Mission

Spokane County BAT will focus on (1) Broadband Infrastructure enhancements for unserved and underserved populations for connectivity and (2) Digital Equity & Access to increase participation among eligible populations to available programming, devices, subscription access and training in digital navigation.

Vision

Broadband is the new essential utility, as vital to economic growth as reliable energy, clean water, and good roads. Access to, and use of, high-speed Internet is vital for today's communities – large and small.

Broadband has revolutionized business, government, education, health care, remote job creation and lifestyles. Without robust broadband access and fully technologically literate populations, many communities will be unable to take advantage of the extraordinary benefits that ultra-high-speed, next-generation Internet can provide.

Broadband is essential to a thriving community – and we see connected communities that have broadband as successful and sustainable because they also have strong public-private partnerships and a strategy for using it. It's imperative that we put policies and practices in place that ensure all our communities can thrive in this technology-driven economic landscape.

Key takeaways covered in this plan can be summarized in several important categories:

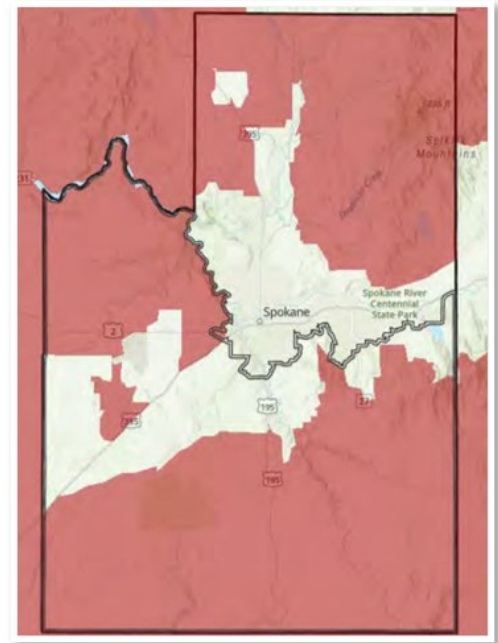
- Areas of greatest need
- Unserved/underserved locations and/or remote areas of the county are geographically isolated by the varied terrain in our region. These areas lack access to the middle mile infrastructure to provide fiber to the home solutions.
- The importance of engagement with, and support for, anchor institutions such as schools, tribal centers, libraries, community granges, fire stations and post offices that serve this region are unserved due to lack of infrastructure. Locations must be a trusted location for populations seeking Digital Equity assistance.
- Building upon current or existing successful work
- Identifying and addressing barriers and obstacles that have impeded broadband deployment to unserved areas, namely: Funding, Capacity, and Sustainability

The Current State of Broadband in Spokane County

During the BAT meetings, the question was asked, “How do the mapping results compare with members’ actual experiences (if there is mapping available)?” The responses varied greatly depending on where the respondent lived. Those living in the urban areas of Spokane County reported having adequate service, while those living in the rural communities said they could not carry out most of their broadband needs from home, work, or anchor institution.

Local crowd-sourced speed test sites findings were reviewed in BAT meetings. Private providers that attended the BAT meetings contributed to their own barriers to capital investment in the private sector for rural, sparsely populated areas. The figure to the right from the Spokane Rapid Design Study reflects these findings.

In BAT meetings Spokane County residents were also asked, “Does existing broadband access meet your needs?” Residents served by DSL services said they appreciated the low cost of services but reported having insufficient bandwidth to perform work or school from home. Those with access to wireless services reported better speeds but expressed concern with the high prices in comparison to the offers available in urban areas with competition among providers. Generally, those who took a speed test or spoke publicly in a BAT team meeting reported their internet service was too slow for their household’s needs. This is typical of previous experience elsewhere where generally, people satisfied with their internet service do not attend meetings or take speed tests.



Unserved/Underserved Areas

When asked how they use broadband currently, most community members in the BAT meetings commented that they purchase data, or data and phone service, from broadband providers in order to stream video services, work or school from home, access banking services and pay bills online. Using the internet for safety and security presents a concern as well, as most people do not have land-based telephone lines and use the internet for IP phone calling to public safety agencies. Cell phone coverage is intermittent in the rural farmlands of Spokane County.

Spokane County is home to a population of 539,339 people, including about 227,877 households with the median demographics included in Table 1 below.

Demographic	Population 2020	Housing Units/ Households	Median Household Income	Median Home Value	Total Employment	Persons in Poverty
Spokane County	539,339	227,877	\$60,101 (lower in rural areas \$42K)	\$245,400 (lower in rural areas \$114K)	200,563	13.4% (higher in rural areas 35%)

Local Broadband Needs and Goals

The economics of providing services in the rural areas of Spokane County has become increasingly difficult for a variety of reasons. A declining population base in the agricultural areas of Spokane County poses a challenge for telecommunications providers aiming to provide services. As noted above, there is not the density of homes and businesses for the private sector to justify making an investment to serve customers with terrestrial based infrastructure. Rural communities, as well as those in urban areas without adequate disposable income, cannot substantiate a traditional private sector ISP business model and generate a return on investment without subsidy.

Broadband is no longer a socially desirable good, but an economic necessity and basic consumer utility. Without access to broadband, citizens of Spokane County cannot participate in the digital economy or take advantage of the opportunity broadband brings for better education, healthcare, civic and social engagement.

Digital Equity

Spokane County has invested in a robust Digital Divide Index (DDI) and Digital Equity Inventory as part of their desire to understand Digital Equity in Spokane County. The DDI Story Map is a composite of data from Purdue University, the U.S. Census Bureau, verified broadband crowdsourced data and gracious template sharing from a similar site developed for Whatcom County. The results measure equity for economic, geographical, educational and racial/ethnic (including BIPOC) elements to ensure gaps of wide digital divide, whether in urban or rural areas, are visible for direct and near-term efforts to improve.

In accordance with the Washington State Broadband Office (WSBO) and Community Economic Revitalization Board (CERB) Board, the Spokane BAT has defined “underserved” as communities with access to service less than 100/20 Mbps, and “unserved” as groups with service less than 25/3 Mbps. The quantified results of the DDI Index, crowd-sourced speed tests and discussion at Broadband Action Team meetings have defined the results in this broadband feasibility study.

Leveraged Benefits - Community Health and Safety

Solid Digital Equity strategies enhance work already in place in the Spokane region that acknowledges broadband access and corresponding service levels promote community health and safety. The Spokane Collaborative was founded in 2019 as part of the WA State Integrative Managed Care (IMC) implementation for the Spokane Region. The region includes Spokane, Stevens, Pond Oreille, Adams and Lincoln counties. Four of these counties are also in the Washington State Broadband Region 3.

With a focus on ensuring the connection between physical and mental and behavioral health for all six counties in urban and rural areas, the Collaborative received funding from the Healthcare Authority to invest in Broadband initiatives to promote Telehealth, MH/BH, Educational Access and opportunities for remote workforce development. During and after COVID-19, the Spokane Collaborative and their parent entity, Better Health Together: The Accountable Community of Health (ACH) for the Spokane Region, retained their commitment for broadband access, services and adoptable rated efforts. Additional information may be found at the Spokane Collaborative Overview on the [Better Health Together](#) website.

Leveraged Benefits – Remote Educational Capacity (for all ages)

Educational access, for all ages, is a high priority for Spokane County. Dozens of school districts in rural and urban areas provide K-12 classroom-based education. NorthEast Washington ESD 101 services multiple counties, many of which have very limited services and often cannot include technology-based instruction in the classroom and as homework requirements due to the lack of broadband access and bandwidth for their classrooms and students. Superintendents have expressed much support and excitement at the opportunity for additional broadband capacity and the resulting impact on student success as well as educator supports. Many districts have experienced a lack of digital equity among students at home, which particularly impacted the quality of student instruction during remote learning amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

For students in high school through age 24, Spokane County has invested \$5 million of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds for programmatic elements as a key partner with the Innovia Community Foundation in an initiative called “LaunchNW.” This effort is a two-pronged effort to assist high school students in their next steps after high school graduation for either two-year, four year or vocational attainment through a scholarship incentive and, if needed, robust wrap-around services for their life and family readiness. This includes the ability for wrap-around services to assist siblings and parents with services and education, like a GED, if not previously an option. All of the LaunchNW initiative programs rely on the ability for students and families to have broadband access, as well as subscriber awareness for eligibility service subsidy programming.

Leveraged Benefits – Identified Unserved or Underserved Communities

Spokane is a funded Federal HUD Entitlement region (including both eligible cities and well as the Spokane County) for which the advisory consortium, Spokane Continuum of Care (CoC), has determined that broadband access is component of individual and community Social Determinants of Health (SDoH). As defined by the Center for Disease Controls (CDC)2020-2025 Strategic Plan, SDoH are “conditions in the places where people live, learn, work, and play that affect a wide range of health and quality-of life-risks and outcomes.” In the adopted by the CoC Board, the Spokane County Commissioners, City of Spokane and City of Spokane Valley expressed that access to technology, for both vulnerable populations and the providers serving them, is vital to ensuring connections to services, identification, pre-employment and employment readiness and housing stability. Spokane continues to focus on **key indicators, prioritized projects and measures outcomes** for:

- Areas of greatest need including geographic areas, sectors and populations
- Most prominent barriers to digital equity among the covered populations
- Most prominent barriers to the successful provision of digital inclusion services
- Current/previous successes or existing work with trusted entities that can be leveraged

With a dedicated Public Development Authority, BROADLINC oversees more than 50 entities and 100+ individual on the Spokane County Broadband Action Team (BAT) attendee list, the Spokane BAT has strong foundation of key partners across multiple sectors including the Covered Populations in the Digital Equity Act. These include, but are not limited to:

- Populations whose income is under 150% of the federal poverty level
- Aging Individuals
- Incarcerated, or formerly incarcerated, individuals
- Veterans
- Individuals with disabilities
- Individuals of racial or ethnic minority groups
- Individuals who primarily reside in a rural area
- Individuals with a language barrier
- Individuals with low levels of literacy
- Children and youth in foster care
- Individuals experiencing housing instability

Below is a sampling of our proud partnership within the Spokane BAT (<https://www.broadlinc.org/bat>)

BROADLINC — BAT Lead/Facilitator

Tribal

Kalispel Tribe
Spokane Tribe

**Local Government/Public
Entities**

Spokane County
City of Spokane
City of Spokane Valley
City of Airway Heights
City of Latah
City of Fairfield
City of Medical Lake
City of Rockford
City of Spangle
City of Waverly
City of Deer Park
S3R3 PDA
NEPDA
U District PDA
SREC PDA
Spokane Veterans Department
Spokane Public Libraries
Spokane Regional Health
District
Spokane Public Libraries
Spokane Region IMC BH-
ASO
FD10
FD3
FD4
Spokane County Sheriff’s
Office
Better Health Together (BHT)

Spokane Workforce Council
NOANet
Petrichor

State Government

Washington State Commerce
Washington State Broadband
Office (WSBO)
Washington Association of
Counties - WSAC
Washington State Broadband
Office
Washington Emergency
Management County (Spokane
DEM)

Federal Government

Senator Cantwell’s Office
Congresswoman Cathy
McMorris Rodgers’ Office
NTIA

Education

Liberty School District
Freeman School District
ESD 101
WSU
EWU
Gonzaga
WSU Extension
Spokane Community Colleges

Nonprofits

AHANA

Spokane Valley Partners
Innovia/LaunchNW
Greater Spokane Incorporated
Spokane Valley Chamber of
Commerce
West Plains Chamber of
Commerce

Healthcare

CHAS
MultiCare
Providence

Service Providers

Comcast
Ziply/Ptera
WoW
Lumen
New J
Peak Industries
ViaSat
Hughes Network
Cougar Wireless
T-Mobile
SpaceX/Starlink
Inland Net
Davis Communications Inc
Declaration Networks Group
Inland Cellular
TDS
Verizon

Utility

Avista

Broadband Infrastructure Summary

I. Broadband Base Map Review

The Spokane Base Map is a composite summary from several map tools including, but not limited to:

- **Measuring Spokane County Digital Equity & Inclusion**
(<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/e436f23b15b54860a222cc8808db9b60>)
- **NOANet Map for Spokane County**
(<https://noanet.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=832d1b8aadfb4475b25d0e6350d7aa15>)
- **Spokane Rapid Design Study**
(<https://expressoptimizer.net/projects/WA%20Spokane/providers.html>)
- Student led work under Eastern Washington University (EWU) professor Alex Paparas to design a project creating a digital equity index for the capstone project of a business analytics class.
(<https://app.powerbi.com/view?r=eyJrIjoiZDRiMzg0YzMtMzM4Ny00Y2I4LWlyOTYtOGY5Y2FkYzRjNGQwIiwidCI6ImNiYjg1ODVhLTU4YmUtNGM2Ny1hOWU4LWFhNDZIYTk2N2JiMSIsImMiOiJZ9>)

Service providers within this report are reflected on the map are contain within the FCC v2 and v3 fabric.

Spokane County submitted to the FCC over 20,000 points for eligible missing Broadband Serviceable Locations (BLS) review in March 2023 using a comparison with the Emergency Response (E911) point layer. We received response from the FCC that some or all of the requested BLS additional points had been accepted in the v3 fabric update.

II. Local Broadband Asset Inventory

Existing broadband infrastructure in the Spokane County varies greatly. In the rural areas of the County, wireless providers and more recently SpaceX, a low orbit satellite service, provide relatively high-cost services. Monopolistic market forces (low competition and limited customer choice) create higher-cost offerings, often providing lower bandwidth with inconsistent speeds. This is common in rural areas. There has been private sector investment in the deployment of broadband infrastructure in the urban areas of Spokane County by the legacy cable television provider Comcast, incumbent exchange carrier Lumen Technologies and competitive licensed exchange carriers. Rural fiber networks have been limited in scope and slow to roll out due to the cost and need for a quick return on investment. Fiber assets in the County service anchor institutions and some companies that purchase enterprise business services. There are no extensions of urban-rate services to lower-density areas, especially outside the city limits of Spokane and the surrounding communities adjacent to the city limits. There remains a lack of ubiquitous broadband access and capacity in the rural areas that comprise the project area.

As the cable television company in the urban region, Comcast has nearly 100% coverage of the City of Spokane and surrounding urban areas of Spokane County. Comcast, doing business as Xfinity in Spokane County, advertises traditional cable television services and business internet services with 1.2 Gbps Internet for \$80.00 per month on an introductory offer on their website.

Many local ISPs, with Comcast having a dedicated national resources center, also participate in the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP), in which qualified customers can receive internet at a subsidized rate or free service. Urban service networks consist of fiber and a coaxial cable outside plant.

Traditionally, cable companies built out communities with different sizes of coaxial cable to perform different functions on the network – the larger the diameter of cable, the lower the signal loss and higher carrier-to-noise ratio of the signal allowing the company to reach out into the community farther. As the use of fiber optic cable became more common, fiber replaced the coaxial trunk runs. Fiber is run from a centralized location to fiber nodes located in the community. At the node, the fiber is terminated, and the existing coaxial cable plant is still used to service the home. As speeds of service have increased, companies deploy fiber deeper into the community and eliminate their aging coaxial cable.

Table 2 gives a summary of organizations providing data for the Spokane BAT community broadband map and details on approximate current speeds and pricing offered across Spokane County.

Additional internet accessibility options may be available to students through their institution of enrollment.

Provider	Tech	Best Speed	Best Mo. Price
Comcast (Xfinity)	CATV	50 Mbps	\$24.95
Comcast (Xfinity)	CATV	600 Mbps	\$60.00
Comcast (Xfinity)	CATV	1.2 Gbps	\$80.00
Charter Communications	CATV	1 Gbps	\$164.97
Davis Communications	CATV	30 Mbps	\$89.95
Hughes Networks	Satellite	25 Mbps	\$64.99
Lumen	Fiber	940 Mbps	\$65.00
Lumen	ADSL	10 Mbps	\$50.00
Lumen	ADSL	40 Mbps	\$50.00
Lumen	ADSL	80 Mbps	
Ptera	Wireless	25Mbps	
Star Touch	Wireless	20Mbps	
T Mobile	Wireless	25Mbps	\$55.00
Ulltra Internet	Wireless	100Mbps	\$114.99
ViaSat	Satellite	35Mbps	\$99.99
VSAT	Satellite	2 Mbps	
WiFiber	Wireless	50Mbps	
Wired or Wireless	Wireless	30 Mbps	
Ziply	ADSL	12 Mbps	

Source: FCC Part 477 Mapping

III. Broadband Infrastructure Needs Assessment

Gaps in existing infrastructure data analysis identified underserved and unserved premises that fall under 100/20 Mbps speed in all small towns, cities and unincorporated communities of Spokane County that are outside the “urban core” of the City of Spokane, City of Spokane Valley, Millwood, Liberty Lake, Fairchild Airforce base, and Spokane Internationals Airport. Even though in the color areas of the map as served, the cities of Airway Heights, Medical Lake, Cheney and Spokane campus of the Kalispel Tribe report subscriber experience lower than the reported FCC fabric map findings.



The construction needed to reach residential homes, business and anchor institutions in the underserved and unserved areas consists of both aerial and underground fiber builds to build the necessary infrastructure to assumptions and methodology used by Northwest Open Access Networks (NoaNet) to create a construction cost estimate. BLS locations that are estimated to cost more than \$10,000 to connect have been identified for alternative connections methods like semi-fixed or fixed wireless capacity.

The large rural areas in North and South Spokane County have a lower density of homes per square mile than the urban core. Roughly 31,000 address points in the western and southern portions of Spokane County alone fall under the 100/20 Mbps speed definition of underserved by the Washington State definition of broadband (RCW43.330.530). Broadband speed reporting is sourced from Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Part 477 reporting for this estimate. The exercise of creating a cost estimate for the larger rural study area is to illustrate the magnitude of the scope of work to build necessary broadband infrastructure.

Another way to gauge the broadband landscape of Spokane County is to analyze the broadband speeds published by the FCC5 in conjunction with the prices and offers advertised by internet service providers.

Community Anchor Institutions (CAIs) include such entities as schools, libraries, tribal centers, hospitals and other medical providers, public safety entities, institutions of higher education, and community support organizations that facilitate greater use of broadband by vulnerable populations, including low-income, the unemployed, and the aged.

Many CAIs reported that they are in need of improved services, or the cost of services is too high. The stakeholders below reported that they, as well as the individuals they serve, largely are not satisfied with your current service. This is due to a combination of issues that include infrastructure available for internet, the disposability income to afford a service plan, lack of awareness for ACP

eligible or enrollment, insufficient devices to access the internet, language barriers, cultural barriers, need for additional literacy. The institutions providing this information include, but are not limited to, Better Health Together, WSU Extension Office, WSU, CHAS Health, City of Medical Lake, City of Spokane, City of Spokane Valley, Community Colleges of Spokane, EWU, Fairchild Air Force Base, Gonzaga University, Innovia Foundation/LaunchNW, Joya Child & Family Development, Kalispel Development, Liberty School District, MultiCare, Providence, Spokane Public Library, Spokane County, Spokane County BH-ASO, Spokane County Veterans Services, constituent responses, Spokane County Fire District 3, Spokane Regional Health District, Spokane Workforce Council, SREC 9-1-1, S3R3, NEPDA, U District PDA, Town of Fairfield, Town of Latah, Town of Rockford, Town of Spangle, Town of Waverly, University of WA, Whitworth University, City of Airway Heights, AHANA, Spokane Valley Partners, MLK Jr. Community Center, West Central Community Center, Northeast Community Center Zone.

Digital Deserts

As noted, the rural portions of North and South Spokane County are in largely a broadband digital “desert.” Additionally, people that live near incorporated towns, but outside the legal city limits do not have high speed internet that those living inside the city limits have access to, so even within populated areas, access is limited and often cost prohibitive for households.

The highest areas with access to only unlicensed wireless are the unincorporated county, but also include some areas in south Spokane county in the small towns. The Spokane Rapid Design Study has this in further detail at <https://expressoptimizer.net/projects/WA%20Spokane/providers.html>.

Rural areas in South Spokane County from Hwy 195 to the small towns and cities of Spangle, Waverly, Latah, Fairfield and Rockford are in need of mid mile infrastructure. Additional areas include the west/northwest corridor from Hwy to Nine Mile Dam and portions around Mt. Spokane State Park.

There are many households in need of end user connection infrastructure in all areas of the county outside the larger urban centers. This number is estimated at thousands of households with many as broadband serviceable eligible but not listed in the current FCC Fabric Map.

IV. Obstacles And Barriers To Broadband Infrastructure Deployment

In short, lack of funding to construct additional capacity combined with financial need at the household level are the two most predominant contributing factors preventing broadband infrastructure deployment and accessibility.

Furthermore, as previously mentioned, population density creates high cost per passing in rural areas, escalated cost of materials and scarcity of workforce for projects, pole contact fees/make ready fees, insurance costs, cost to complete applications, ability for public entities to have match funds, cost of tower stie leases, cost to prepare grant applications for small towns.

Workforce Gaps & Solutions

Workforce gaps preventing broadband infrastructure deployment include availability of training and labor force in the broadband sector. The Spokane BAT has been actively engaging with Spokane Workforce Council for awareness and incentives related to broadband occupational opportunities. Additionally, high schools, post-secondary institutions and trade schools have all be brought into the conversation to make a variety of careers related to the broadband industry from STEM to field work an integrating pathway for young adults and older adults seeking a career change.

Policy Advancement

Many policy barriers spanning local, state and federal jurisdictions may inhibit broadband infrastructure deployment. These include zoning issues, permitting issues (both by public entities and utilities) and clarification of actual user experience from ISP reported service are barriers to expansion. The lack of state and federal definition of Open Access is causing unnecessary tension between public and private entities that should be working on mutually beneficial partnerships for infrastructure and deployment project solutions.

Overall Inhibitors

Community awareness issues inhibiting broadband infrastructure deployment exist because many in the community do not know about ACP or how to sign up for assistance. Geographic issues like underlying rock formations and topography not conducive to underground fiber or pole installation as well as the need to find effective way to utilize railroad beds, trails as fiber pathway options. Topographic also plays a major factor in dead zone when using wireless coverage to augment fiber. Lack of funding in addition to funding distribution models that promote competition between entities instead of collaboration in project areas are another large inhibitor to broadband infrastructure deployment.

V. Potential Paths Forward

Potential paths forward for planned expansion areas include active conversation with private ISPs, franchises, other potential infrastructure partners for their planned work and incentives to connect unserved location. Additional projects for areas that are not likely for private sector investment have been identified by Spokane County through the BROADLINC PDA for funding from state and federal sources. These include mid-mile expansion in South Spokane County, Fiber to the Home (FTTH) for the five small towns of South Spokane County, WSBO Pilot project for Semi-fixed Wireless Capacity in South Spokane County, Open Access investment with the City of Medical Lake and USDA Community Connect Project in North Spokane County. Additional work underway with the City of Spokane for way to utilize for public benefit unused capacity in current conduit and fiber optic cable owned by the City. Conversation began in late 2022 with ongoing conversation with Tribe for efforts to support tribal economic development as part of overall vitality in the Spokane region.

The Spokane Rapid Design study with traditional and wireless providers showed the current limitations of the study, areas of concern and foundation for analysis in the cost modeling for currently unserved or underserved areas. The Spokane County Rapid Design study provides USDA Grant Analysis of all known USDA Reconnect points and potential application issues. Spokane will

use the result to discuss with the local USDA representative the opportunities for USDA funding and any challenges, limitations.

All of the above information guides elected decision makers in the best deployment model(s) and data transport equipment to meet the specific needs of each community. This includes, but is not limited to ground cable, pole cable, proposed tower locations and owners of the site as well as areas that may be served by semi-fixed solutions temporarily while long-term solutions are under construction. The semi-fixed equipment may then be moved to another location in need when long-term service is complete.

Possible Funding Sources

Spokane is seeking funding from numerous local, state, federal and other funding sources. To date there have been successful awards from the CERB Board for a Broadband Feasibility Study, Washington State Broadband Office for a pilot project, match award for a submitted scope with NOANet in a NTIA mid-mile scope and one unsuccessful, but yet highly praised proposal for a WSBO ARP Round 2 Fiber to the Home project for five (5) unserved towns in South Spokane County.

Additional local funds have come from Spokane County Commissioners through the direction and obligation of SLFRF ARP funds within Broadband Eligible Categories and Revenue Replacement funds. The City of Spokane has allocated some funds from their SLFRF from Revenue Replacement. Better Health Together, with assistance from Spokane County, received a Digital Navigator Round 1 award.

Discussions with other local public entities needing broadband for their supported populations include the Spokane Region BH-ASO, SREC PDA, Spokane Regional Health District.

State funds, Public Works Board, State BEAD announcements, Healthcare Authority Accountable Communities of Health funding are under review.

Upcoming Federal funding sources currently include the above mentioned, yet unannounced, NTIA mid-mile proposal, USDA Community Connect grant, preparations for BEAD funding, opportunities for rural communities in CERB and Smart Cities initiatives.

Discussion with other counties, tribes, and school districts for collaboration on project areas with current available capacity along with future education grants. Private foundations have been a topic of discussion as well.

VI. Attachments

[CERB Spokane County Broadband Feasibility Study](https://static1.squarespace.com/static/643054f448eaa86c60e9d32d/t/6467e8e4ca7e395618245c9f/1684531433122/Final+Spokane+County+Broadband+Feasibility+Study.pdf)

(<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/643054f448eaa86c60e9d32d/t/6467e8e4ca7e395618245c9f/1684531433122/Final+Spokane+County+Broadband+Feasibility+Study.pdf>)