

# Washington State Broadband Office

October 2020 Update:  
Broadband Accessibility and Digital Equity

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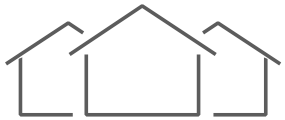
OCTOBER 27, 2020



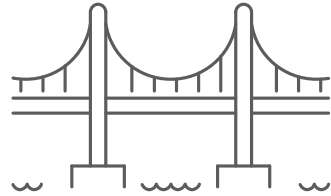
Washington State  
Department of  
**Commerce**

# We strengthen communities

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**HOUSING  
HOMELESSNESS**



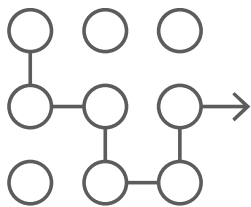
**INFRASTRUCTURE**



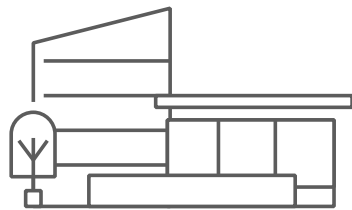
**BUSINESS  
ASSISTANCE**



**ENERGY**



**PLANNING**



**COMMUNITY FACILITIES**



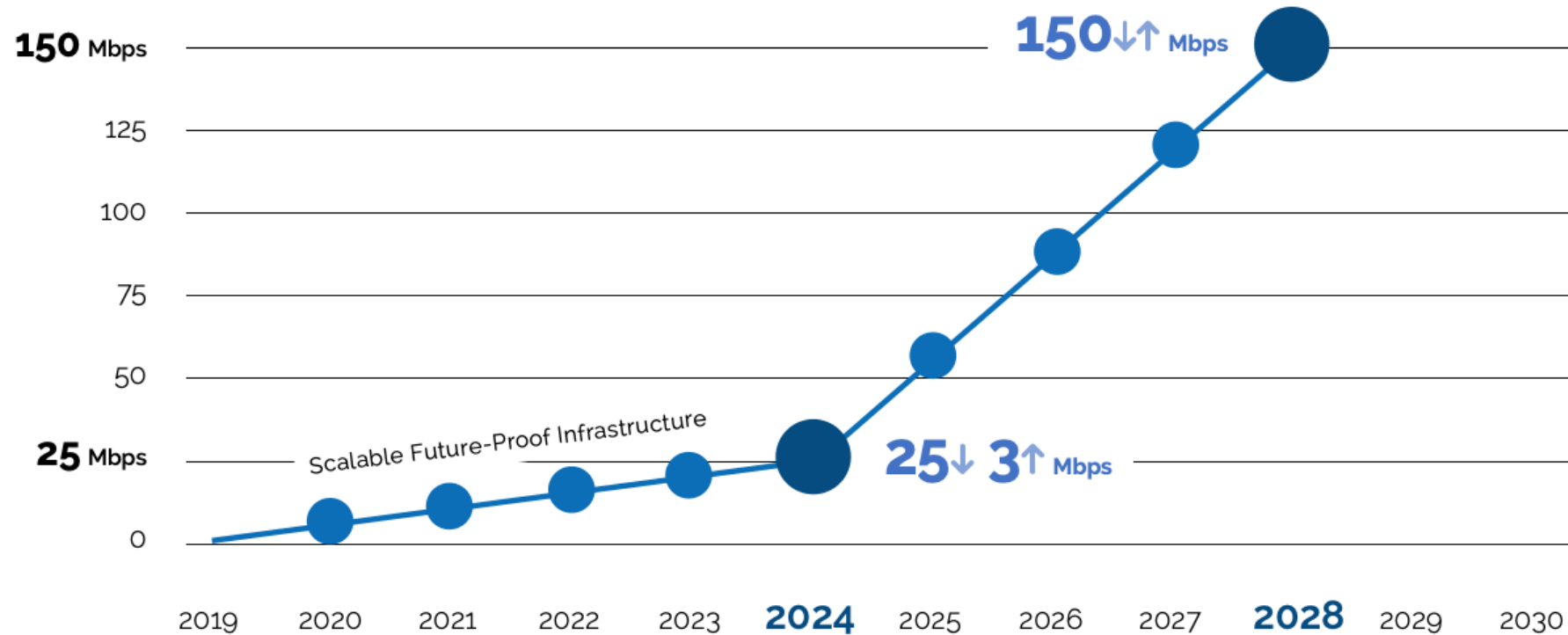
**CRIME VICTIMS &  
PUBLIC SAFETY**



**COMMUNITY  
SERVICES**

# State Speed Goals- Residential

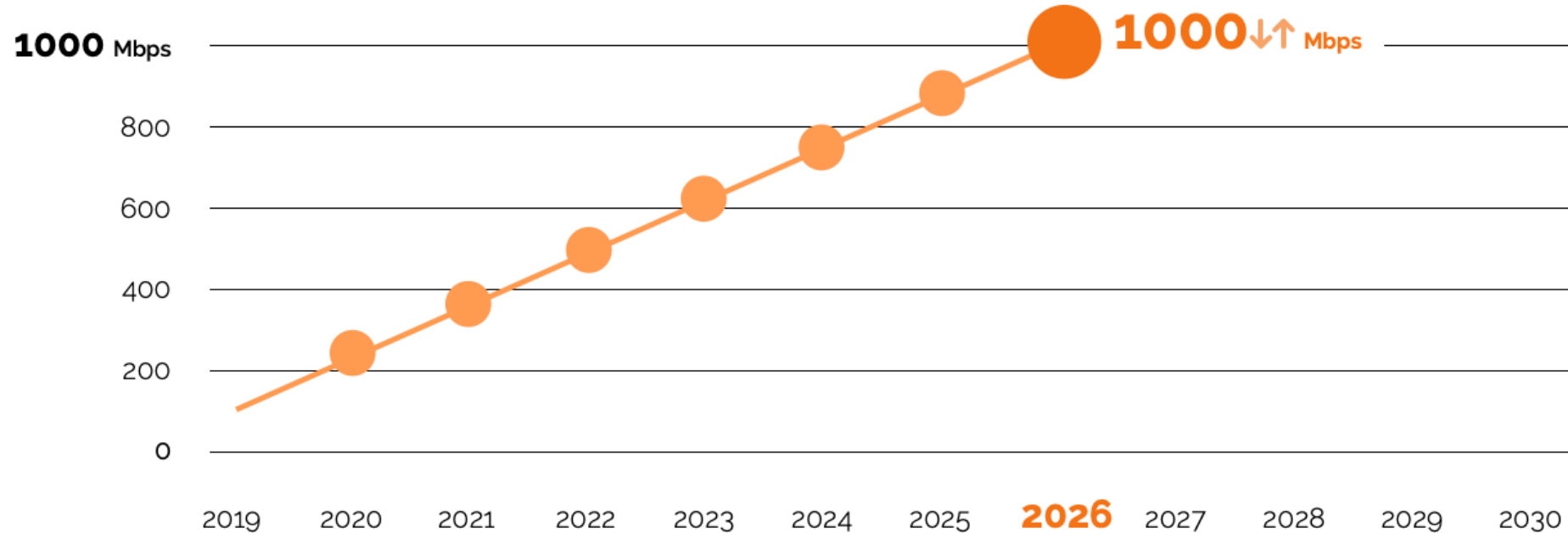
SB 5511



- 884,000 homes without fiber Est. \$2.5+B
- WSBO Plan, Policy
- PWB Programs
- UTC Evaluation

# State Speed Goals- Anchor Institutions



SB 5511

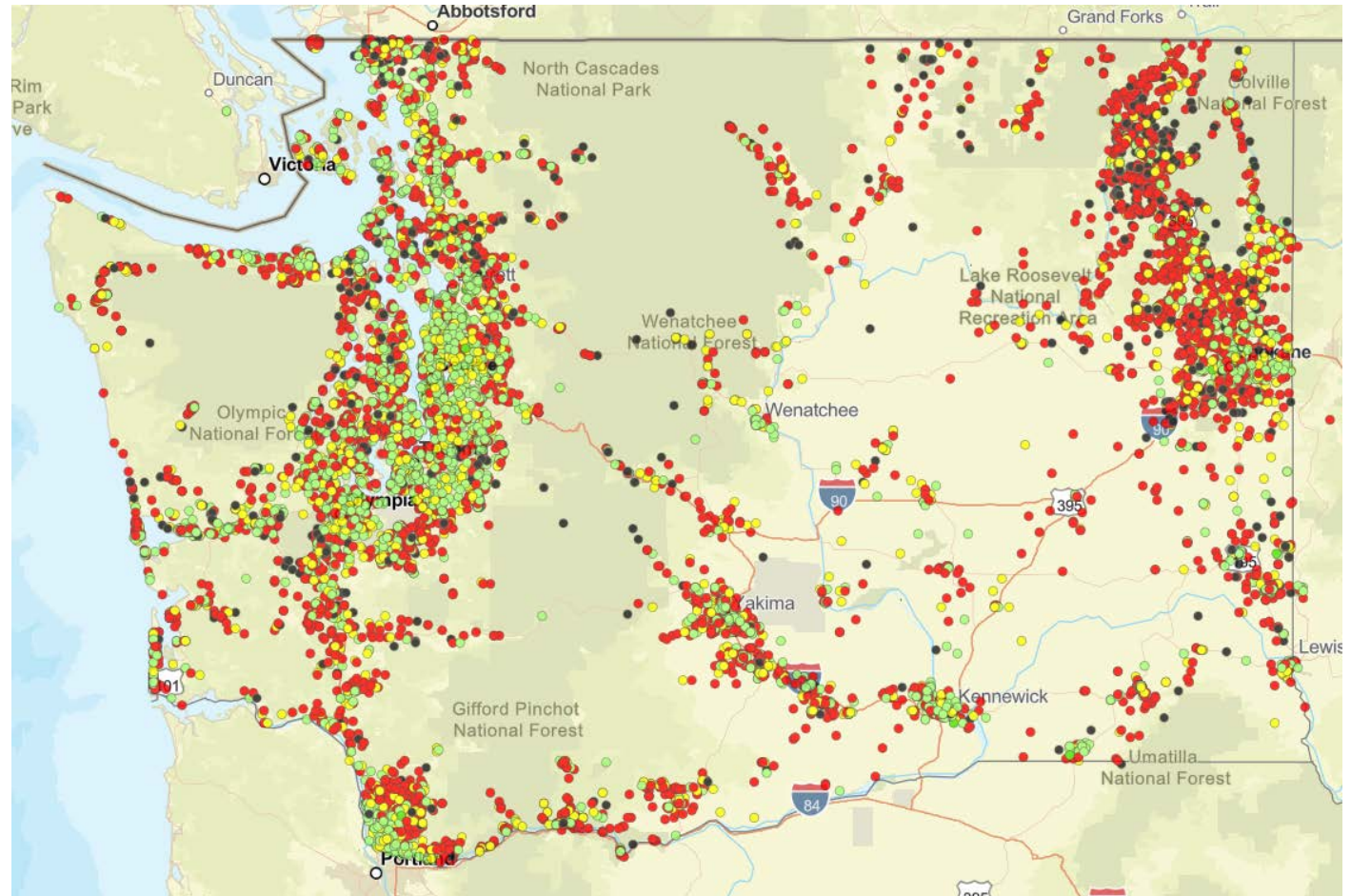


- Schools
- Libraries
- Health Care
- Public Safety
- Essential Services
- Industries
- Government

# Statewide Broadband Survey

October 25, 2020

- 29,026 Respondents
- 93% (27,125) Have broadband
-  37% (10,870) Less than 10 Mbps download
-  7% (1,901) No access
- = 44% Unserved (less than 10 Mbps download)

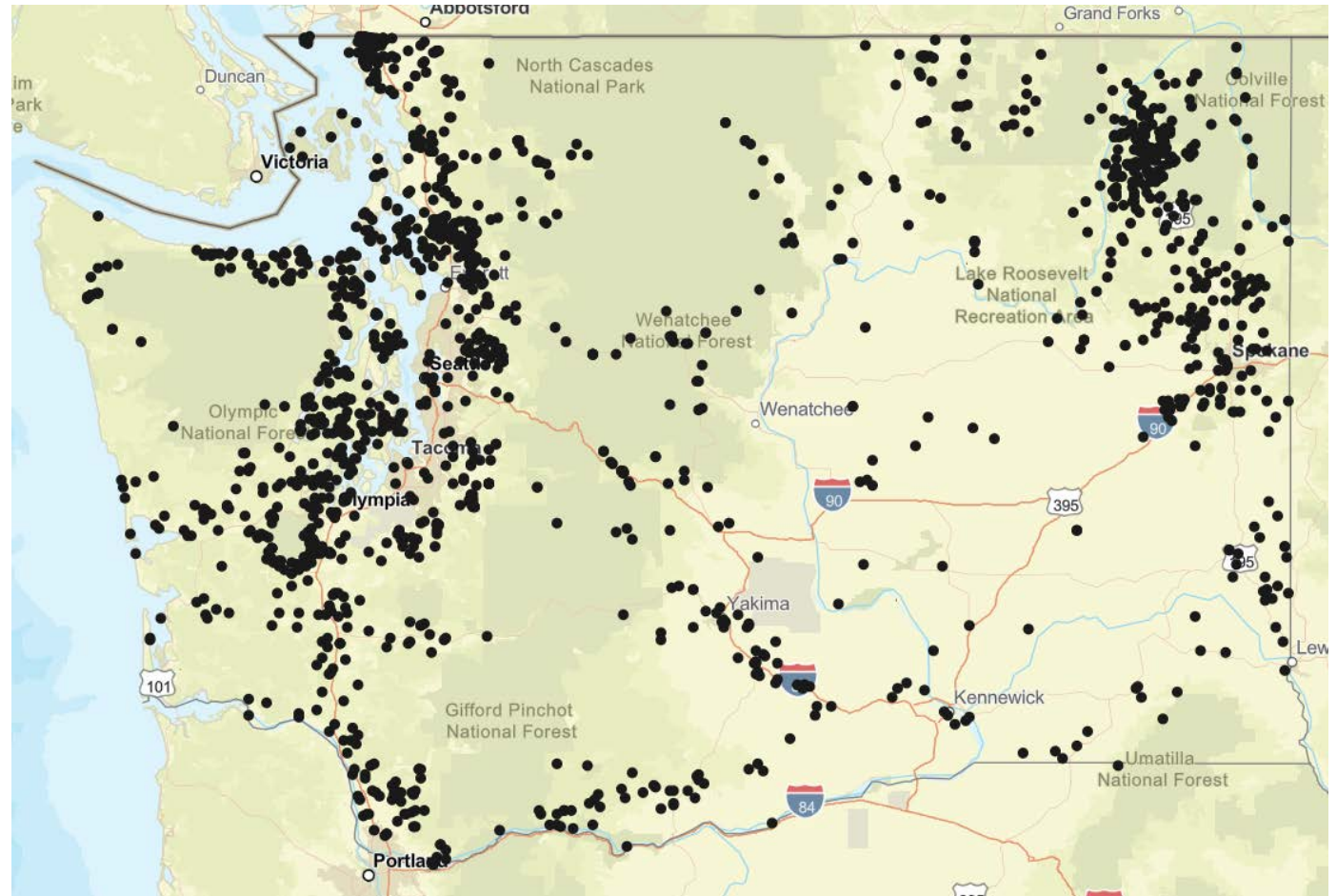


# No Broadband Access

*Respondents can select multiple answers*

**October 25, 2020 (1,901)**

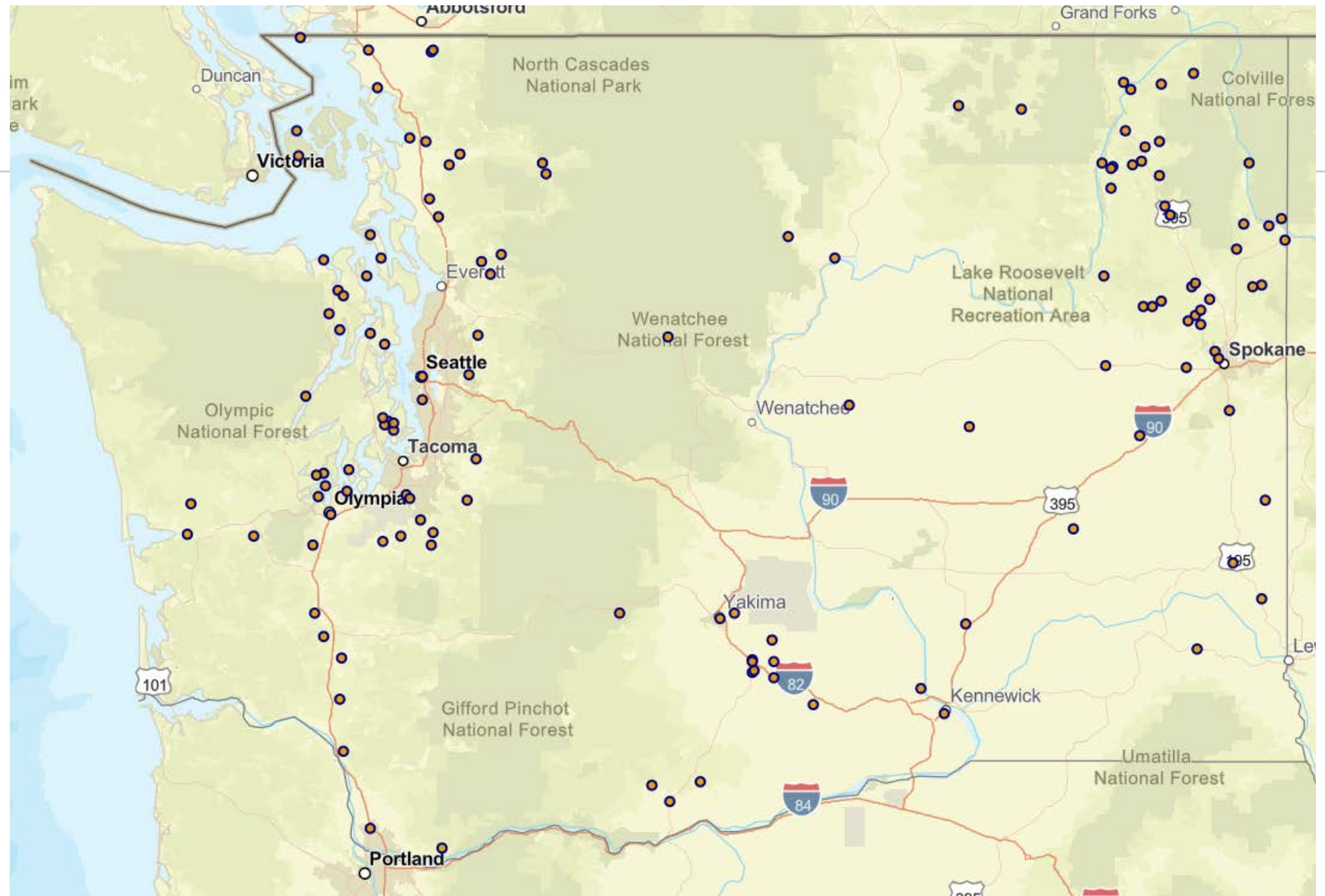
- Not available in area 49%
- No access 47%
- Too expensive 8%
- Don't know how to get 0.7%
- Don't have a computer 0.6%
- Can't use a computer 0.05%
- Worried about privacy 0.05%
- Don't need it/not interested 0%
- Physical challenges 0%
- Use public wifi instead 0%





October 25,  
2020

No access –  
too expensive  
8%



# OSPI Estimated School District Device Needs

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## Districts ' Home Digital Access Data Collection Aug. - Sept. 2020

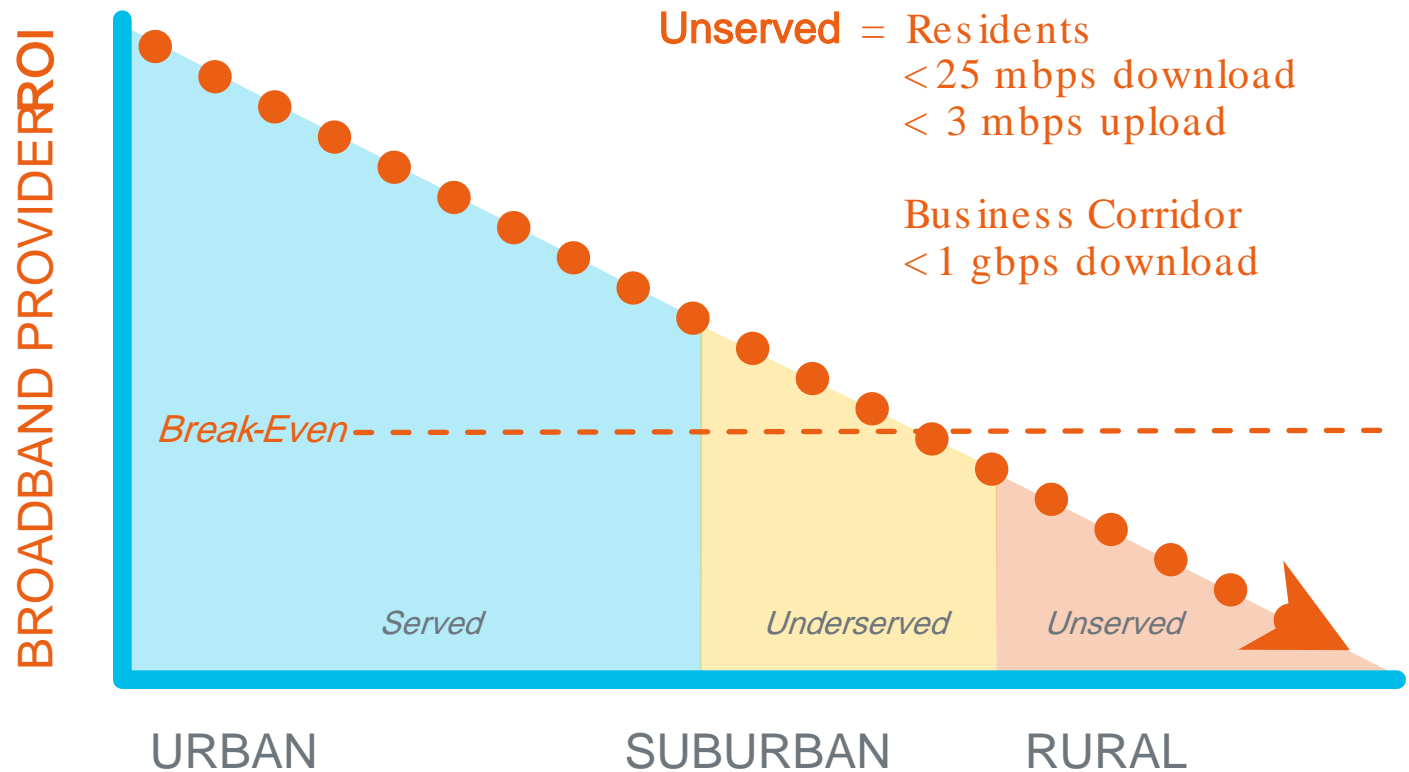
- K-12 students currently enrolled 716,250
- Devices needed to achieve 1:1 45,064 (5.8%)  
(Does not include hotspots)
- Of enrolled students, it is estimated that:
  - 10% Have a shared learning device for use at home (72,183)
  - 3% No device available (20,867)
  - 6% No internet access (42,091)



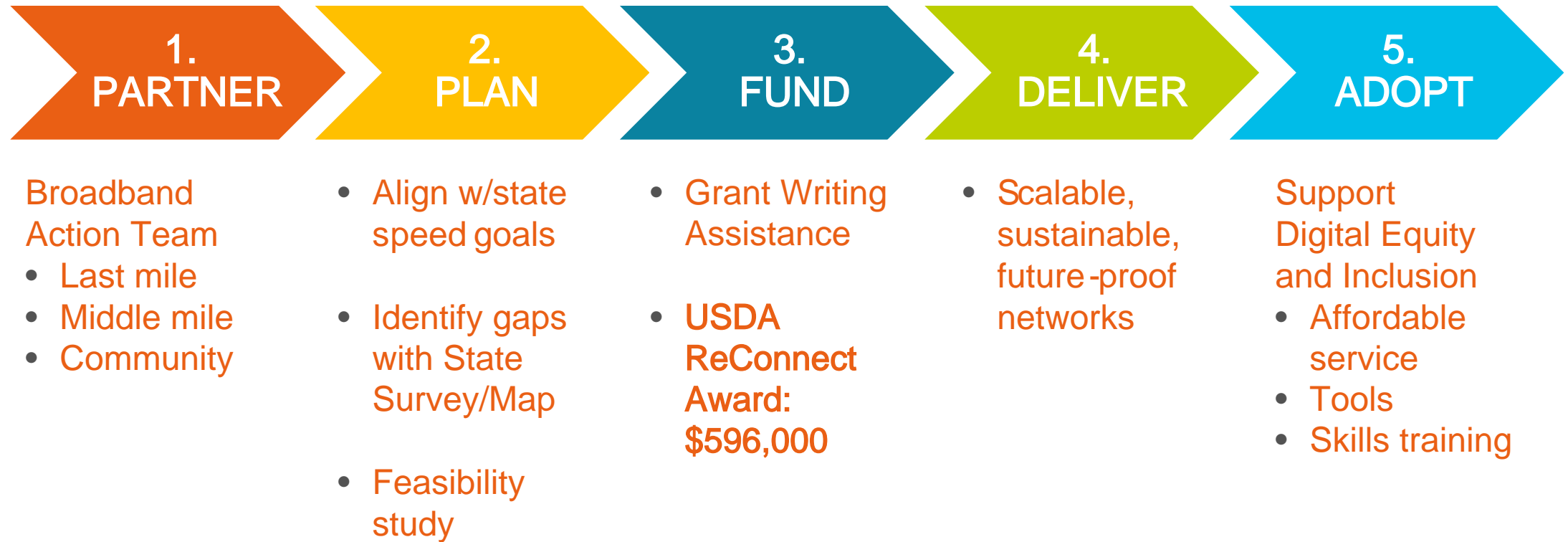
# The Broadband Delivery CHALLENGE

## Solutions

- USF
- State block grants from federal agencies
- Mapping to define areas
- Rallying communities to engage in conversation
- Policies supporting state broadband legislative directive
- Public-Private Partnership Cooperative model



# Best Practice: Whidbey Telecom/USDA



# 1. Maximize Federal & Private Sector Funding

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- Barriers to public entity participation in federal funding opportunities
- Centralize data gathering and mapping
- Local Broadband Action Teams
- Identify and develop shovel-ready projects
- Community and Tribal infrastructure funds matching program
- Considerations for Tribal Sovereignty and Private Investment
- Pilot funding model for early investment in planning stage
- Access to low income programs
- Address barriers to private sector network expansion

## 2. Scalable, FutureProof Networks

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- Change the speed discussion from asymmetrical to symmetrical to fulfil 2028 directives
- Under promise-over deliver advertised speeds
- Form official state broadband advisory committee for oversight, accountability and participation in state broadband office strategy and planning
- Structure broadband governance in state and local government to strengthen alignment between authority, accountability and resources

# 3. Address the Last Mile Issue

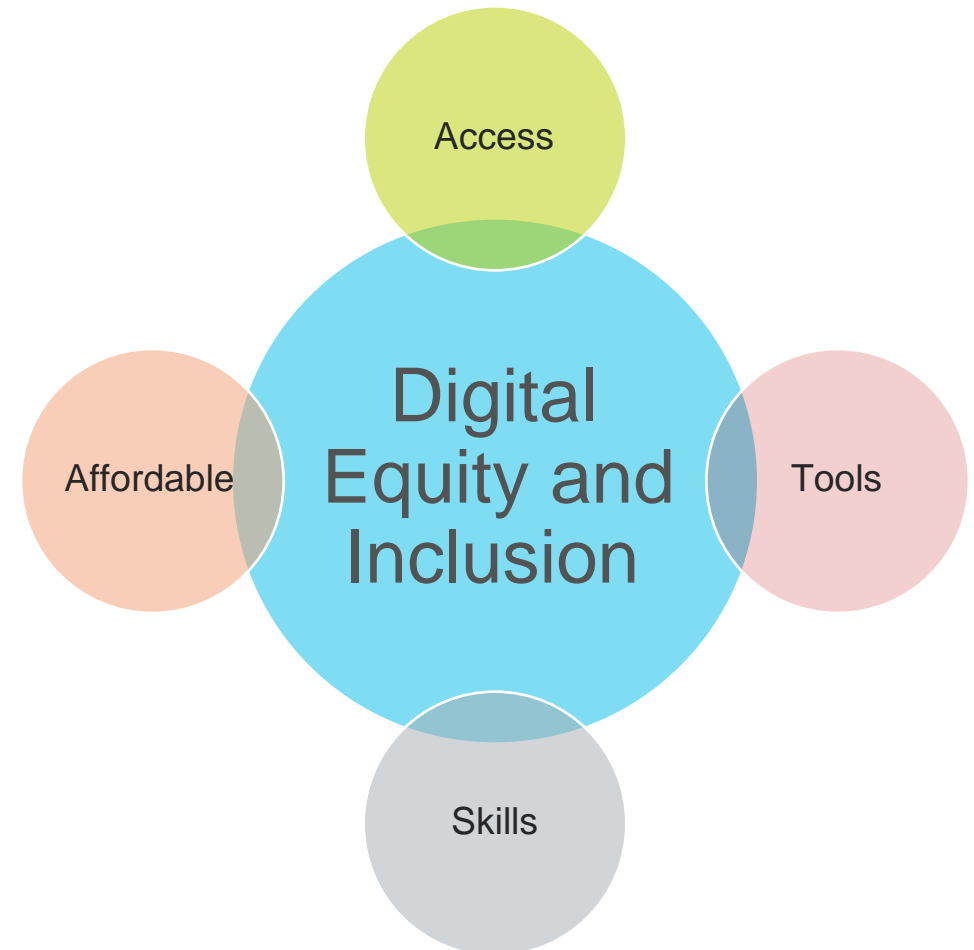
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- Anchor Plus-1 to leverage connectivity in surrounding community
- Feasibility of public use IRUs through Public-Private Partnerships
- Dig-smart climb-smart policy at the community level
- .09 local broadband discretionary fund enhancement
- Support a technology agnostic approach for last mile infrastructure deployment
- Subsidy program to ensure sustainability of last mile delivery services
- Maximize utilization of existing assets including dark fiber, backhaul, mobile, etc.
- Data privacy law for providers



# 4. Support Digital Equity and Inclusion

- **Policy guidance and centralized coordination with statewide DEI initiatives:** *Poverty Reduction Work Group, Human Centered Design Committee, DSHS, DOH, ESDACT, Digital Equity Taskforce, Remote Learning Taskforce, OSPI, Seattle Digital Equity, All In Washington, Washington State University, Washington State Library | SOS, Digital Navigators*
- **Facilitate access to low income programs**
- **DEI planning via local Broadband Action Teams**
- **Universal service mechanisms to ensure affordability**
- **Digital equity implementation grants, outreach, staff**
- **State WiFi hotspots program expansion**



# Emerging Tech

Ensuring Washington State is a friendly environment for technologically agnostic, affordable last mile solutions

Currently in discussions with:

- 5G Cellular
- Microsoft TV White Space/ Airband
- SpaceX Starlink
- Amazon Kuiper
- Avista
- 2.5GHz EBS Ed. Broadband Spectrum



**Hoh Tribe** @TribeHoh · 3h

What a difference high-speed internet can make! Our children can participate in remote learning, residents can access [#healthcare](#). We felt like we'd been paddling up-river with a spoon on this. [@SpaceX](#) Starlink made it happen overnight. Thanks [@WASateCommerce](#) for introduction.

1

58

293



**Elon Musk** ✓  
@elonmusk

Replying to [@TribeHoh](#) [@SpaceX](#) and [@WASateCommerce](#)

You're most welcome!

2:08 PM · Oct 7, 2020 · Twitter for iPhone

# FUNDING Opportunities

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## Become #1 State for receipt of federal funding

- FCC Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (~~RDOF~~) \$16B, \$4.4B
- USDA Rural Development Broadband *ReConnect* Loan and Grant Program \$550, \$600M
- USDA Community Connect \$35M
- Pending Stimulus \$12+B
- FCC 2.5GHz Rural Tribal Window
- PWB Construction Cycle \$17M
- USDA Distance Learning and Telemedicine \$50K-\$1M
- State Universal Service Fund
- Private / Undiscovered
- CERB Rural Broadband Construction and Planning Program

# Rapid Feasibility and Grant Maximization

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September 9, 2020

- **Better Health Together**
- **\$207,000** to support access to federal broadband funding
- **18** broadband feasibility and grant writing applications
- **2** projects each to be awarded in: Spokane, Adams, Lincoln, Stevens, Ferry, Pend Oreille counties; Spokane Tribe of Indians Reservation, Kalispel Tribe of Indians Reservation, Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation

# Next Steps

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How you can help - action items:

- Visit [broadband.wa.gov](http://broadband.wa.gov) and take the State Broadband Access and Speed Survey
- Shovel ready projects identified and brought to the attention of WSBO
- Matching funds for federal opportunities
- Feasibility and technical assistance



“What gets  
measured gets  
done!”  
Thank you.

Russ Elliott

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Washington State  
Department of  
**Commerce**

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