

# Washington State Broadband Office

Updates for the Transportation Demand  
Executive Board

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Washington State  
Department of  
**Commerce**

# Washington State Broadband Goals

RCW 43.330.536

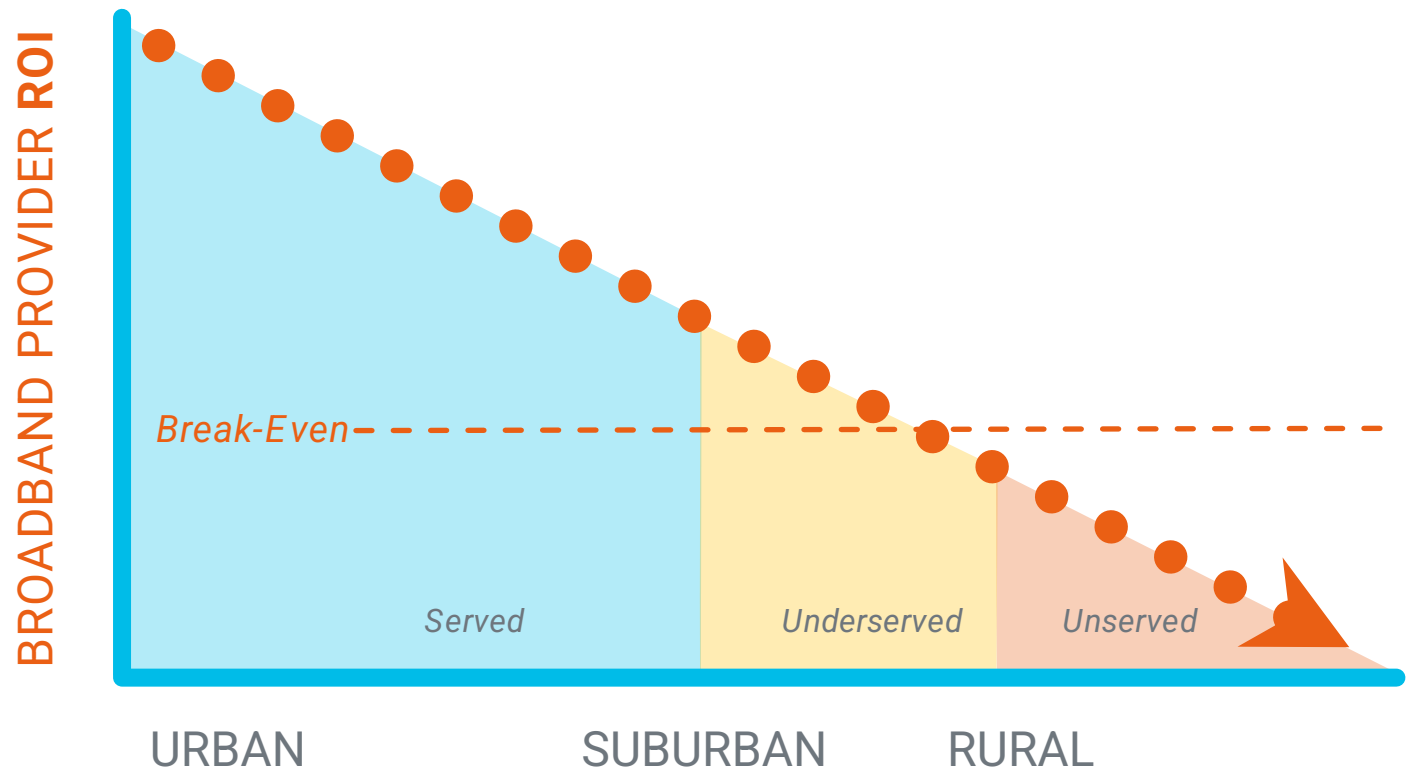
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- **By 2024**, all businesses and residences have access to 25 megabits per second (Mbps) download and 3 Mbps upload (25/3)
- **By 2026**, all communities have access to 1 gigabit per second symmetrical service at anchor institutions (1 GIG)
- **By 2028**, all businesses and residents have access to 150 Mbps symmetrical service from at least one provider (150/150)

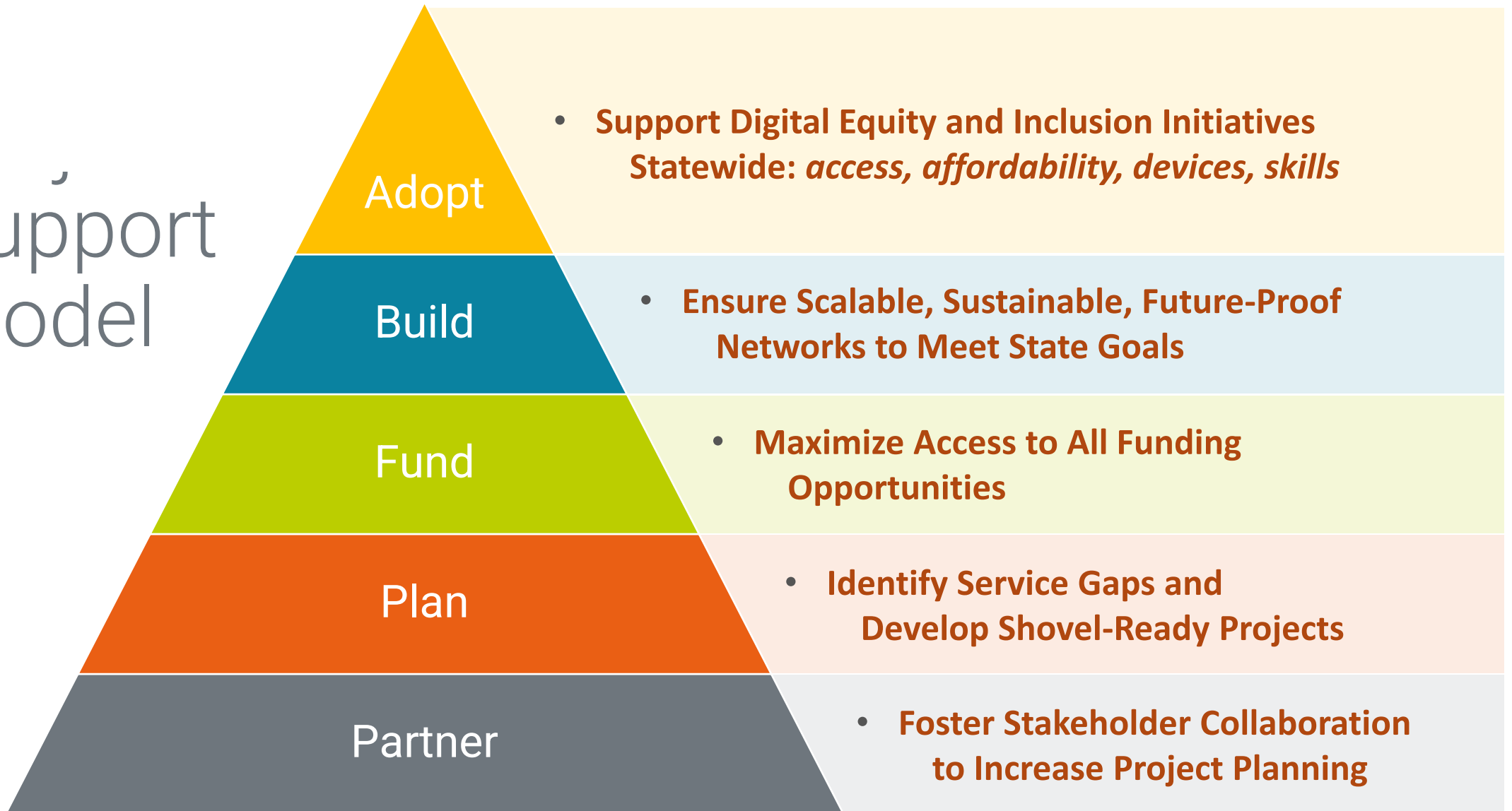
# The Broadband Delivery GAP

## Solutions

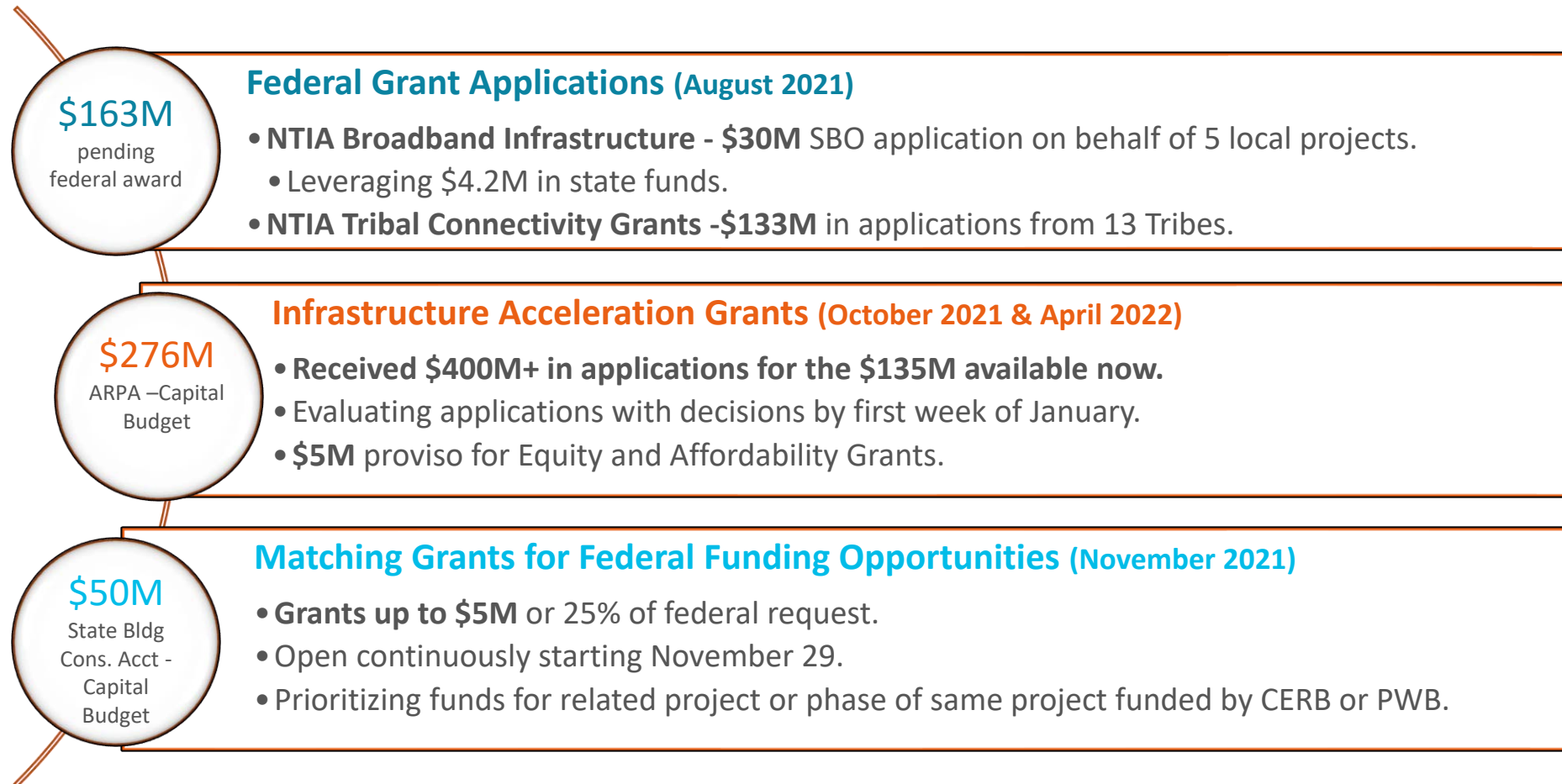
- State and federal grants to incentivize investment in difficult to serve areas
- Mapping to define unserved and underserved areas
- Rallying communities to engage in/advocate conversation
  - Speed Tests
  - Broadband Action Teams
- Digital equity work to ensure affordability, access, and skills



# Support Model

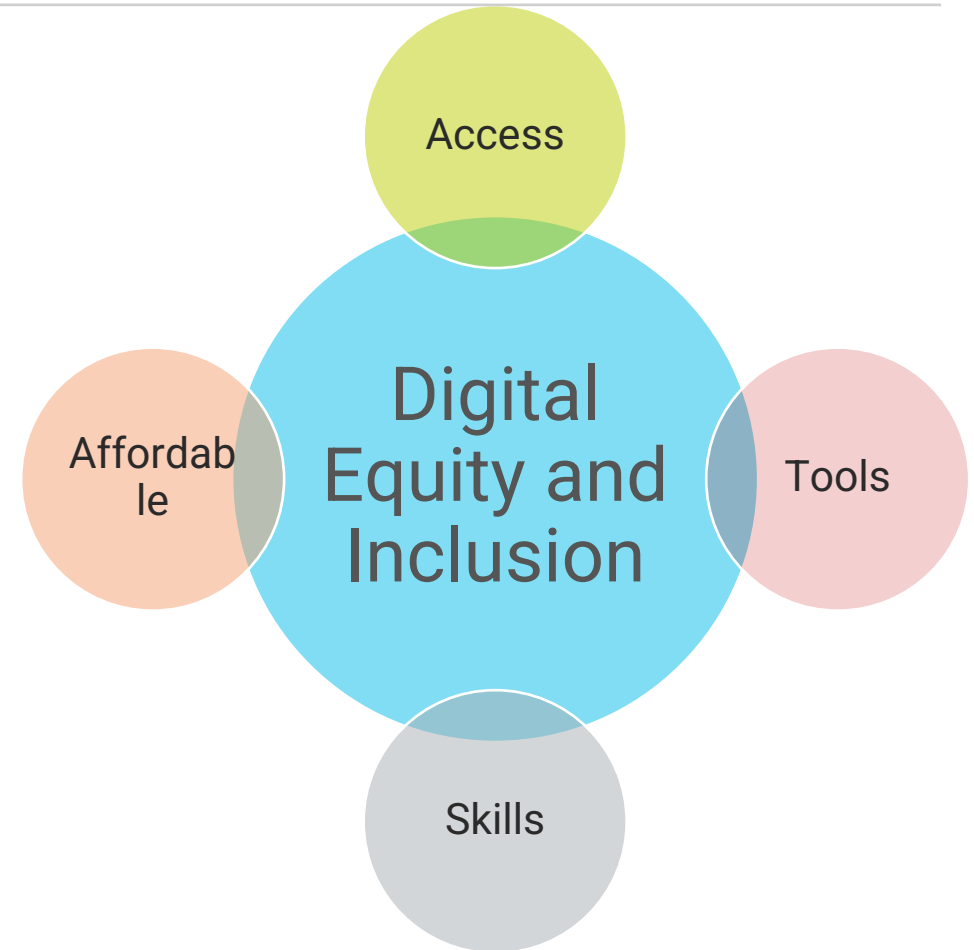


# State Broadband Office Infrastructure Connectivity Funding



# Digital Equity and Inclusion at Work

- **Policy guidance and coordination with statewide DEI initiatives and local Broadband Action Teams**
- **Broadband Access & Affordability Grants - \$5 M**
- **Digital Equity Forum – planning with Office of Equity**
- **Digital Navigator Grants - \$7.5 M**
- **Support access to federal resources for Washington State**
  - **Emergency Broadband Benefit 123,337 households enrolled**
  - **Emergency Connectivity Fund \$129M+ requested**



# Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act

## Digital Equity ~ \$2.75 Billion

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### **I. State Digital Equity Capacity Grant Program** (\$1.5 billion)

1. Grants to states develop state digital equity plans (\$60M in FY 22)
2. State Capacity Grants (\$1.44B total; \$240M in FY22, \$300M per year in FY 23-26)

Formula grants based on overall population, “covered” population, and relative lack of broadband availability and adoption.

### **II. Digital Equity Competitive Grant Program** (\$1.25B total; \$250M per year in FY22-26)

1. Competitive grants to coincide with and support the goals of state digital equity capacity grant program.
2. Non-federal match of 10% of project costs required, waived in case of financial need.
3. 5% of available funds each year reserved for Tribes.

# Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act

## Broadband Deployment ~ \$62+ Billion

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### **I. Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment State Grants** (\$42.45 billion until expended)

1. Minimum initial allocations of \$100M per state
2. \$4.245B (10%) by share of unserved locations in high-cost areas
3. Remaining \$32B by share of unserved locations.

*Formula grants. High-cost and unserved areas to be determined using broadband data maps currently under development by the Federal Communications Commission.*

### **II. Middle Mile Grants** (\$1B available through 2026)

1. Competitive five year grant program to fund expansion and extension of broadband infrastructure that does not connect directly to end user locations.
2. Eligible entities to apply include states, Tribes, companies, utilities, cooperatives, nonprofits, others.

### **III. Broadband Affordability and ReConnect**

1. Affordable Connectivity Benefit - renames, extends, modifies EBB program for \$30 mo. benefit. (\$14.2B)
2. Rural area support – support for existing programs at USDA including ReConnect. (\$2B)

### **IV. Tribal Connectivity Program** (adds \$2B)



# Thank you.



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[www.commerce.wa.gov](http://www.commerce.wa.gov)



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