



Colorado Broadband Initiative

A Vision of Universal Broadband Access

Colorado State Broadband Office (SBO)



COLORADO

Governor's Office of
Information Technology

Background

Broadband in Colorado

- 2009: Governor's Office of Information Technology received State Broadband Initiative grant from the NTIA for broadband mapping and community engagement.
- In 2012, Governor Hickenlooper signed executive order D2012-037 'Establishing Broadband Responsibilities in the Governor's Office of Information Technology' (OIT). This order formally designated OIT as the lead for broadband activities in the state.
- In 2017, Governor Hickenlooper create the State Broadband Office (SBO) and appointed an Executive Director to be the primary liaison between state agencies, the Governor's office, state legislature and private industry.



Broadband Mapping

Colorado continues to fund state mapping efforts

- Developing mechanisms to track broadband availability below the census block level.
- Working with providers to map actual service vs. ‘advertised speeds’
- Integrating ‘Speed Test’ results into the map to verify data
- Developing products to help other state agencies and efforts identify specific target areas.
- <http://maps.co.gov/coloradobroadband/>



Broadband Planning

Local and Regional Broadband Planning

- The OIT broadband planning initiative began as a grassroots effort with the formation of Local Technology Planning Teams (LTPTs) made up of local stakeholders who worked to identify the challenges of their community and to develop potential solutions.
- In 2013, OIT teamed up with the Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) and the Office of Economic Development and International Trade (OEDIT) to support regional planning efforts using grant funding from DOLA.



Broadband Planning

Local and Regional Broadband Planning, cont.

- The planning process is often led by regional councils of governments and incorporate the various interests including government, education, healthcare, and public access. SW CO is the exception!
- As of the summer of 2017 all 12 rural regions have completed broadband plans.
- Individual municipalities and counties have begun creating their own plans within the regional effort.



Broadband Funding

DOLA Grants

- In 2015, DOLA earmarked \$20 million from the existing Energy Impact Assistance (EIA) grant funds for broadband projects
- The grant funds can be utilized for middle mile infrastructure projects or broadband planning projects
- Once the earmarked funds run out, broadband projects are still eligible to compete in the general EIA Fund
- Visit www.colorado.gov/pacific/dola/broadband-program for more information about the DOLA Broadband Program



Broadband Funding

Broadband Board and Fund

- The Broadband Deployment Board was established in 2014 through House Bill 14-1328 to provide grants for last mile broadband access to unserved communities through the Broadband Fund.
 - Funding is allocated from the existing High Cost Support Mechanism (HCSM) that has historically focused on ensuring traditional telephony service in rural areas.
 - The state's Public Utilities Commission (PUC) identifies areas where competition exists for basic voice service and removes subsidies in those areas, free up funds to move to the broadband fund.
- In the first grant cycle, 8 grants were awarded for a total of \$2.1 million



Broadband Board and Fund - Cont'd

- The second grant cycle has \$9.4 million available and 14 applications were received, which are currently being reviewed
- Visit <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/dora-broadband-fund> for more information about the Broadband Board and Fund



Example Project

Rio Blanco County

- Extremely Rural County
 - Over 3,330 square miles with population of under 7,000
 - Very limited infrastructure
 - ‘Waiting lines’ for traditional incumbent service (usually around 1.5 Mbps)
- Invested in middle mile infrastructure to connect population centers and community anchor institutions (CAI)
 - Fiber, Towers, Microwave (‘Fiber to the neighborhood’)
- Partnered with private sector for investment in last mile infrastructure
- Multiple ISP’s now selling service to customers throughout the county with speeds up to 1 Gbps
- For additional information: <http://www.rbc.us/395/Broadband>



Other Broadband Projects

- City of Longmont: Municipal build with city as primary service provider
- Rural Electrical Cooperatives offering fiber to the home service
 - Delta-Montrose Electric Association (DMEA)
 - San Luis Valley Rural Electrical Cooperative (SLVREC)
- Region 10 middle mile project: 6 county combined effort to establish middle mile connectivity to all CAI's and establish open access
- Park County: Both middle-mile CAI connectivity and last mile infrastructure via fixed wireless infrastructure.
- Colorado Broadband Fund: 8 projects connecting approximately 4,500 homes via a variety of technologies (fixed wireless, DSL, Fiber, DOCSIS)



More Information and Contacts

State Broadband Portal

Visit the State Broadband Portal: broadband.co.gov

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