Northwest Colorado Council of Governments

August 22, 2019

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Teresa Ferguson - Director, Federal Broadband Engagement

COLORADO
Broadband Office
Governor's Office of Information Technology

Why We Exist

Mission

We are committed to enabling the development of a statewide communications infrastructure through public-private partnerships to meet the growing demand for broadband access for

- **public safety**
- **education**
- **healthcare**
- **transportation**
- **all Coloradans**

Overview

Leadership
- Chair DORA Broadband Development Board
- Coordinate with DOLA grant programs
- Align objectives across state agencies
- Enable regional solutions and partnerships

Alternate funding
- Federal grant/ loan programs (USDA, FCC)
- Community resources (money/in-kind)
- Private investment

Information and education
- Communities and local organizations support
- Analysis and insight on investment priorities
- Technology education and outreach

Advocacy
- Policy to accelerate deployment
- Encourage private sector investment
- Coordinate with federal agencies and US congressional delegation on investment

USDA Rural Development
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Progress Since 2018

- Rural household access to broadband improved from **77 to 86%**

- **98%** of school districts meet the FCC per student bandwidth goal

- DOLA awarded **$2.4 million** in grants

- DORA awarded **$10 million** in grants

- Three USDA ReConnect Program applicants totaling **$27.3 million**

- Project THOR **launched**

- Increasing involvement by **rural electric co-ops**

- **Successful** state legislative session

Federal Programs

FCC (Administered by Universal Service Administrative Corporation (USAC))

- High Cost
- LifeLine
- E-rate - Schools and Libraries
- Rural Health Care (RHC)
  - Healthcare Connect Fund Program
  - Telecommunications (Telecom) Program
  - Connected Care Pilot NPRM

USDA Rural Telecommunications Programs

- Rural Broadband Direct Loan and Loan Guarantee Program
- Community Connect
- Distance Learning and Telemedicine Program
- ReConnect Program

Broadband Mapping Update

- **October 2019 Data Cycle**
  - Important Dates
    - **07/15/2019** - OIT begins data call
    - **08/30/2019** - Data submission deadline
    - **10/04/2019** - New data published to the Broadband Map

- **Broadband Mapping Resources**
  - Broadband Map: http://broadband.co.gov/map
  - Broadband Speed Test and Survey:
    http://maps.co.gov/surveytest/
  - OIT Broadband Survey: https://tinyurl.com/oitbroadbandsurvey

Key CBO Contacts

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http://broadband.co.gov/about/