

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Item 41: Business Development Department Broadband

To: Emergency Board Full Committee
From: Joint Emergency Board Subcommittee on Education
Carrier: Senator Findley

The Education Subcommittee recommends that the Emergency Board approve, retroactively, the submission of federal grant applications to the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Telecommunications and Information Administration, for Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment, and State Digital Equity Planning; increase the Federal Funds expenditure limitation for the Business Development Department by \$2,807,000; and authorize the establishment of eight permanent full-time positions for administration and activities associated with the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment grant, State Digital Equity Planning grant, and American Rescue Plan Act, Capital Projects Funds for broadband allocated to the Oregon Business Development Department through prior legislative action.

This three-fold request from the Business Development Department includes requested approvals for the submission of two grant applications to fund planning work for broadband deployment, expenditure limitation from the anticipated federal grant awards, and the establishment of positions to facilitate the planning work funded by the grants and prior broadband funding provided by the American Rescue Plan Act. The proposed staffing will be tasked with managing overall program activities, contract services, accounting functions, and public communications. Contracted professional services will be used extensively to support technical planning, community and stakeholder engagement, data acquisition, and application management. The planning monies for both grant programs do not require a state match, but subsequent funding for implementation is expected to require up to 25% matching funds.

This phase of the subject programs is anticipated to run through the 2023-25 biennium, with the implementation of the programs extending through the next three biennia.

The Subcommittee recommends approval.