

# MEMORANDUM

9/12/2023

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TO: Joint Legislative Committee on Information Management and Technology  
THRU: Business Oregon  
FROM: Oregon Broadband Advisory Council  
SUBJ: 2023 Oregon Broadband Advisory Council Report

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## **Executive Summary**

Per House Bill 4092, 2022, ORS 285A.160. The Oregon Broadband Advisory Council [OBAC] shall submit a report by September 15 of each year to the Joint Legislative Committee on Information Management and Technology on the following subjects:

- (1) The status of any broadband strategies developed by the Oregon Broadband Office and any updates to those strategies in the 12 months immediately preceeding the date of the report.
- (2) A list of every grant and loan provided through the office and the status of each project associated with a grant or loan provided through the office.

OBAC offers the following statements:

The following broadband strategies or updates were developed by the Oregon Broadband Office (OBO) for the subject reporting period:

1. Broadband Programs, draft administrative rules

Status: Draft rules were prepared and posted for public comment on September 30, 2022; both public and OBAC comments were received and considered. Staff filed a notice of proposed rulemaking on February 21, 2023, and then again on March 24, 2023, to provide two public hearing dates. Staff is currently working with the Oregon Department of Justice on updates to the proposed rules in response to the passage of House Bill 3201, 2023 legislative session.

2. Broadband Technical Assistance Program

Status: This proposed program was prepared and posted for public comment on September 30, 2022; both public and OBAC comments were received and considered. On May 4, 2023, the OBO issued a Request for Information (RFI) to better understand the technical assistance needs from potential applicants; both public and OBAC comments were received and considered. This program is dependent on Broadband Programs administrative rules being adopted.

3. American Rescue Plan Act: Capital Projects Fund - Broadband Deployment Program:

Status: The plan was submitted on September 22, 2022 to US Treasury and is currently under review. This proposed program was prepared and posted for public comment on September 30, 2022; both public and OBAC comments were received and considered. This program is dependent on Broadband Programs administrative rules being adopted. The program required updating in response to the passage of House Bill 3201, 2023 legislative session.

4. 5-Year Action Plan - Broadband, Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) program

Status: This plan was prepared and posted for public and OBAC comment on August 3, 2023; public comments were received and considered. The plan was submitted on August 26, 2023 to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration and is currently under review.

No grant or loans were provided through the office for the subject reporting period.

### **Supplemental Information**

House Bill 3201, 2023 was signed by the Governor on July 18, 2023. This bill substantially changed laws related to the Oregon Broadband Fund.

OBAC was completely revised per HB 4092, which was signed by the Governor on March 23, 2022. The bill eliminated existing executive appointments, revised its membership number and representation, and revised its roles. Executive appointments were not completed until 8/29/22.

This memorandum serves as the entire 2023 Oregon Broadband Advisory Council Report. Any member of the Legislative Assembly may request a copy of this report from the Oregon Business Development Department.

Copy: Legislative Assembly