

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Item 26: Oregon Business Development Department Digital Equity Capacity

To: Emergency Board
From: General Government Subcommittee
Carrier: Representative Smith

The General Government Subcommittee recommends that the Emergency Board approve, retroactively, the submission of a federal grant application to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration in the amount of \$9.9 million to promote digital inclusion activities and achieve digital equity in the State of Oregon.

The State's Digital Equity Plan was approved in March 2024 and this grant represents the first of three formula allocations the Department expects to receive for digital equity plan implementation. The Department intends to award grants to subrecipients who meet the plan's objectives by serving the covered populations with specified services. These include affordable high-speed home broadband internet and computing devices, digital literacy skills and technical support, and privacy tools, among other services.

The grant application was due May 28, 2024. No matching funds are required and receipt of the award is expected in the fall of 2024. The Department anticipates requesting additional Federal Funds expenditure limitation in the 2025 legislative session.

The General Government Subcommittee recommends approval.