

# NEWS LETTER

September 2018

## CERB PROJECT AWARDS - SEPTEMBER 20, 2018

**CERB invests \$2,966,649 in low-interest loans and grants that will support community and economic development in Jefferson, Klickitat, Mason, Skagit, Snohomish, and Whitman counties.**

The Washington State Community Economic Revitalization Board (CERB) approved \$2,816,649 in loans and grants for public infrastructure to provide high-speed, open-access broadband service; and \$150,000 in grants for economic feasibility studies targeting business growth and job creation in Jefferson County PUD #1, the City of Goldendale, Mason County PUD #3, the Port of Skagit County, the Town of Darrington, and the Port of Whitman County.

The **Jefferson County PUD #1** was awarded a \$50,000 grant for the Jefferson County Broadband Infrastructure Expansion Plan. This planning program project consists of a feasibility study to explore the extension of middle and last mile connections to residents and businesses across the county. CERB funds were matched by \$17,000 in local resources.

The **City of Goldendale** was awarded a \$50,000 grant for the Goldendale Broadband Plan. This planning program project consists

of a feasibility study to create an accelerated broadband deployment plan that includes gap analysis, comprehensive plan revisions and related zoning updates, and GIS tools. CERB funds were matched by \$17,000 in local resources.

The **Mason County PUD #3** was awarded a \$408,325 loan and \$408,324 grant for the Mason County Rural Broadband Fiber Expansion. This rural broadband program project consists of construction and extension of open-access ready-to-connect fiber networks to six unserved rural communities in Mason County. CERB funds were matched by \$150,000 in local resources.

The **Port of Skagit County** was awarded a \$500,000 loan and \$500,000 grant for the Skagit Community Fiber Optic Backbone. This rural broadband program project consists of construction of segment 6 of the county-wide fiber optic backbone, connecting the Town of Concrete to the backbone point in the Town of Hamilton. CERB

### IN THIS ISSUE

[CERB Project Awards](#)

[Membership](#)

[CERB Available Funds](#)

[Application & Meeting Dates](#)

[NEW Rural Broadband Program](#)



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2018 LIFT Legislative Report,  
[here.](#)

## September 20 Projects cont.

funds were matched by \$2,300,000 in local resources.

The **Town of Darrington** was awarded a \$50,000 grant for the Wood Innovation Center Cultural Resources Survey. This planning program project consists of a cultural resource survey to support the Wood Innovation Center's plan, which includes preliminary design, engineering, and permitting. CERB funds were matched by \$85,000 in local resources.

The **Port of Whitman** was awarded a \$750,000 loan and \$250,000 grant for the Last Mile Fiber Construction project. This rural broadband program project consists of construction of aerial fiber on existing poles to five rural communities in Whitman County. CERB funds were matched by \$2,000,000 in local resources.

*The release of CERB funds to these projects is contingent upon each applicant completing specific pre-contract requirements, such as finalizing other funding sources and obtaining necessary permits.*

*“Rural broadband infrastructure investments are a fundamental piece of community growth. The New Rural Broadband Program funding is vital in strengthening the economy of these counties by opening up new opportunities for citizens, businesses, education, healthcare, and the local governments,”*

- Randy Hayden, CERB Chair

*“As recognized by the Rural Broadband Program, communities like Goldendale are frequently underserved, a significant factor in the challenges of rural economic development. Expanding and relocating businesses have high-speed internet access as a major criteria, and failure to be able to offer that service constrains job growth. Local realtors report similar challenges in addressing questions raised by people interested in relocating to the area.”*

- David McClure, Executive Director

Klickitat County Public Economic Development Authority

*“Installing fiber and encouraging the development of broadband infrastructure countywide, is essential for Whitman County residents and business owners, and will provide higher quality opportunities to the lives of those who have access to broadband service.”*

- Sara McKnight, Whitman County Managing Director

Southeast Washington Economic Development Association (SEWEDA)

*“A thriving Salish Seafoods is critical to the retention of jobs and expansion of employment opportunities that are core elements that support the mission of the Squaxin Island Tribe and its enterprises. However, the lack of reliable, high speed broadband service to our Harstine Island location is a limiting factor in business operations. With strong competition in domestic and international markets, Internet speeds that lag behind our peers puts us at a competitive disadvantage and limits our growth potential.*

*The Tribe and Mason PUD 3 have established a strong collaborative relationship over the years and the utility has proven itself to be a dependable and capable partner. The Tribe enthusiastically supports this project so Mason PUD 3 can continue the important work it has been doing to connect Mason County to the world.”*

- Arnold Cooper, Council Chairman

Squaxin Indian Tribe

# RURAL BROADBAND PROGRAM

## Now Accepting Applications!

The Washington State Community Economic Revitalization Board (CERB) has approved policies to implement the new Rural Broadband Program that was in [ESSB 6095 Section 1008](#).

The Rural Broadband Program offers low-interest loans to local governments and federally recognized Indian tribes, financing the cost to build infrastructure to provide high-speed, open-access broadband service, to rural underserved communities, for the purpose of community and economic development.

The purpose is to finance projects that are located in a rural community as defined by the Board, or a rural county, that encourages, fosters, develops, and improves broadband within the state in order to:

- Drive job creation, promote innovation, and expand markets for local businesses; or
- Serve the ongoing and growing needs of local education systems, health care system, public safety system, industries and businesses, governmental operations, and citizens; and
- Improve accessibility for underserved communities and populations.

<b>Totals Funds Available</b>	<b>\$7,033,351</b>	<b><u>Rural Broadband Application Deadline</u></b>	<b><u>Board Meeting</u></b>
<b>Loans Funds Available</b>	<b>\$3,766,675</b>	September 17, 2018	<b>November 15, 2018</b>
<b>Grants Funds Available</b>	<b>\$3,266,675</b>	November 12, 2018	<b>January 17, 2019</b>
		January 14, 2019	<b>March 21, 2019</b>
		March 18, 2019	<b>May 16, 2019</b>

The Rural Broadband application are submitted via an online portal. Please contact [Janea Delk](#) to talk about your project and to get the link to the applications.

For program requirements, threshold checklists, and more information check out the website: <http://bit.ly/CERBRuralBroadband>



# CERB FUNDS AVAILABLE

CERB is focused on economic development through job creation in partnership with local governments. The Board finances public infrastructure improvements that encourage new private business development and expansion.

Contact project [Janea Delk](#), to discuss a potential project.

<b>Totals Funds Available</b>	<b>\$13,587,781</b>
<b>Loans Funds Available</b>	<b>\$11,246,050</b>
<b>Grants Funds Available</b>	<b>\$2,341,731</b>
<i>Rural County Funds</i>	<i>\$9,945,272</i>
<i>Urban County Funds</i>	<i>\$3,642,129</i>

The construction and planning applications are submitted via an online portal. Please contact staff to talk about your project and to get the link to the applications.

For program requirements, threshold checklists, and more information check out the website: [www.commerce.wa.gov/CERB](http://www.commerce.wa.gov/CERB)

<b>Tier 1 Application Deadline</b> (Tier 1 Committed Private Partner, Prospective Development Programs)	<b>Planning &amp; Tier 2 Application Deadline</b> (Tier 2 Committed Private Partner, Prospective Development Programs)	<b>Board Meeting</b>
September 17, 2018	October 1, 2018	November 15, 2018
November 12, 2018	November 26, 2018	January 17, 2019
January 14, 2019	January 28, 2019	March 21, 2019
March 18, 2019	April 1, 2019	May 16, 2019

## MEMBERSHIP

Vacancy - Currently CERB is accepting applications for the following position:

- Large Business, West of the Cascades
- Small business, East of the Puget Sound, West of the Cascades

If you are interested in a vacant position, please contact Barbara Smith, [barbara.smith@commerce.wa.gov](mailto:barbara.smith@commerce.wa.gov).

**IACC Conference**  
**October 23-25, 2018**

Wenatchee Convention Center  
[www.infrafunding.wa.gov/conference](http://www.infrafunding.wa.gov/conference)

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