



CERB PROJECT AWARDS - NOVEMBER 19, 2020

Washington State Community Economic Revitalization Board invests \$725,000 in low-interest loans and grants that will support community and economic development and rural broadband infrastructure in Clark, Franklin, Skamania, and Thurston counties.

For up-to-date information, follow CERB on social media:

- [Facebook](#)
- [Linkedin](#)
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“CERB projects represent an important partnership between the state and local communities resulting in enhanced economic vitality. The projects approved for funding represent the economic, cultural, and geographic diversity of our state. As we look forward to economic recovery, CERB is dedicated to helping communities and building sustainable economies.”

— Randy Hayden, CERB Chair

The Washington State Community Economic Revitalization Board (CERB) approved \$488,750 in loans and \$236,250 in grants for economic development, public infrastructure development and economic feasibility studies targeting business growth, job creation and rural broadband development.

The **Port of Ridgefield** was awarded a \$50,000 grant for the Discovery IT3 Center project.

This project will include include a strategic development plan to create the Discovery IT3 Center, a physical hub for the region’s business innovation ecosystem. CERB funds are matched by \$36,000 in local resources.

The **Port of Pasco** was awarded a \$488,750 loan and an \$86,250 grant for the Reimann Industrial Center Rail Access Project. This project consists of construction of a rail switch in the Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) classification yard, approximately 500 feet of rail, and a rail crossing across Railroad Avenue. This project is expected to create 103 jobs and generate \$16,675,000 in private investment. CERB funds are matched by \$575,000 in local resources.

The **Public Utility District No. 1 of Skamania County** was awarded a \$50,000 grant for the Skamania Broadband Needs Assessment and

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NOVEMBER 19, 2020 PROJECTS CONTINUED

Feasibility Study. This project will include a feasibility study for constructing fiber optic broadband infrastructure in Skamania County. CERB funds are matched by \$16,667 in local resources.

The Nisqually Indian Tribe was awarded a \$50,000 grant for the Nisqually Technology Center Feasibility Project. This project will include a feasibility study to evaluate the viability of developing a technology center on the Nisqually Indian Tribe reservation. CERB funds are matched by \$16,667 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.

CERB BOARD MEMBER VACANCY

The following Board member position is open as of December 31, 2020. The term expires on September 2, 2022.

Position #8, County Official

Applicants for Position #8 are recruited by the Washington State Association of Counties. Please contact Derek Anderson at (360) 489-3020, or Danderson@wsac.org.

CERB meets six times a year, on the Third Thursday of every other month, in Lacey, WA. Meetings typically start at 9 am and run until about 3 pm. Terms are for 3 years, and members may serve up to two terms, unless filling an unexpired term.

NEW CERB BOARD MEMBER



Michael Mason Position #12, Federally Recognized Indian Tribe Representative

Michael Mason is the Economic Development/ Planning Manager for the Nisqually Indian Tribe, a position he has held

since 2009. Prior to that he served as the Tribal Sales Manager for the Squaxin Tribe's Skookum Creek Tobacco enterprise. He has also held positions with the Chehalis Tribe, Liggett Group, Inc., and Skippers, Inc. He acts as a Liaison between the Nisqually Tribe and Joint Base Lewis-McChord. He conducts outreach with other tribes and interested parties to discuss the need for high speed internet in their communities. He supports the Culture, Arts, Parks, National Parks, and Law Enforcement committees for the Tribe. In his spare time he and his wife Heather like to go off roading, camping, and fishing with their two Great Danes.

2019-21 CERB FUNDS AVAILABLE

CORE CERB

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.

Totals Funds Available	\$4,796,883
Loans Funds Available	\$3,963,125
Grants Funds Available	\$833,758
<i>Rural County Funds</i>	<i>\$4,326,976</i>
<i>Urban County Funds</i>	<i>\$470,999</i>

The construction applications are submitted via an online portal. Please contact staff to talk about your project and to get the link to the applications. Contact [Janea Delk](#), to discuss a potential project.

For program requirements, threshold checklists, and more information check out the website:

www.commerce.wa.gov/CERB

<u>Tier 1 Application Deadline</u> (Tier 1 Committed Private Partner, Prospective Development Programs)	<u>Tier 2 Application Deadline</u> (Tier 2 Committed Private Partner, Prospective Development Programs)	<u>Board Meeting</u>
November 16, 2020	November 30, 2020	January 21, 2021
January 18, 2021	February 1, 2021	March 18, 2021

RURAL BROADBAND

The Board finances public infrastructure to provide high-speed, open-access broadband service, to rural underserved communities, for the purpose of community and economic development.

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:

www.commerce.wa.gov/CERB

Totals Funds Available	\$1,656,000
Loans Funds Available	\$828,000
Grants Funds Available	\$828,000

<u>Rural Broadband Application Deadline</u>	<u>Board Meeting</u>
November 16, 2020	January 21, 2021
January 18, 2021	March 18, 2021