“CERB was created by the Legislature 40 years ago and has earned a solid reputation for making sound investments in economic development-driven public infrastructure supporting business development and job opportunities for the citizens of our State. With today’s investments CERB continues to build the economy of our local communities and contribute to the future workforce of our Washington.” said CERB Chair Michael Echanove.

The Board approved $3,790,600 in low interest loans and $630,200 in grants for economic development and public infrastructure improvements in five counties. Projects awarded funding are located in Douglas, Kittitas, Lewis, Skagit, and Spokane counties and will spur business growth and job creation.

Douglas County - The Chelan Douglas Regional Port Authority was awarded a $2,500,000 loan for the “Trades District Construction Project.” This project consists of engineering, design, permitting and construction of 25 small industrial buildings on existing foundations, including retrofitting existing and partially completed buildings to include enclosing the building, adding a rollup door, ADA restrooms, and meeting energy standards. 70 FTE are estimated to be created by this project. CERB funds are matched by $8,990,967 in federal and local resources.

Kittitas County - The Ellensburg Business Development Authority, dba CenterFuse, was awarded a $50,000 grant for the “Wood Products Expansion Plan.” This project consists of a study to assess the need for and impact of an expanded wood products sector and the feasibility of building a wood products business park. CERB funds are matched by $12,500 in local resources.
Awarded Projects Continued

**Kittitas County** - The Ellensburg Business Development Authority, dba CenterFuse, was awarded a $50,000 grant for the “I-90 West Interchange Development Study.” This project consists of a study to identify obstacles and opportunities to private development of undeveloped land at Ellensburg’s I-90 West Interchange. CERB funds are matched by $12,500 in local resources.

**Lewis County** - The Port of Chehalis was awarded a $50,000 grant for the “Dawson Road Development Project Study.” This project consists of a study to develop plans for a multi-use commercial structure for commercial and industrial use. CERB funds are matched by $12,500 in local resources.

**Skagit County** - The Port of Skagit County was awarded a $1,290,600 loan and a $430,200 grant for the “NW Mills Expansion Project.” This project consists of construction of Port-owned infrastructure, such as utilities, site work, excavation of unsuitable soils, and infill of soil materials to provide a build-ready site for Northwest Mills and Specialty Grains SPC. 34 FTE are estimated to be created by this project. CERB funds leveraged $21,500,000 in private investment in the private project by the Port’s Committed Private Partner, NW Mills and Specialty Grains SPC. CERB funds are matched by $430,200 in local resources.

**Spokane County** – The Spokane Conservation District was awarded a $50,000 grant for the “Phase 3 – Scale House Market Plan.” This project consists of a feasibility study for the design and renovation of an existing 2,800 square foot building to accommodate a commercial kitchen and market vendors. CERB funds are matched by $12,500 in local resources.

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

For more information about CERB projects check out our [2020 Core CERB Legislative Report](#) and the [2020 Rural Broadband Legislative Report](#).

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**Membership Updates**

**MICHAEL ECHANOVE APPOINTED AS CERB CHAIR**

Director Lisa Brown appointed Michael Echanove as Chair of the Washington State Community Economic Revitalization Board (CERB) effective September 3, 2022.

Michael currently holds Position #6, General Public. He is a former City of Palouse Mayor and Councilmember serving from 1994-2019 and is currently appointed to the Planning Commission. During his time in City Hall he has gained valuable experience in rural economic and community development including downtown revitalization and Brownfields projects. Michael is employed at Washington State University, Pullman campus, and is a staff member for central Information Technology. Michael holds a B.S. in Business from the University of Idaho and together with his wife Paula have 3 grown children and a gaggle of grandchildren. He was named Vice Chair of CERB in September 2017, and Chair in 2022.

“With 40 years of experience creating jobs, CERB is an economic development leader in our state,” said Michael Echanove, CERB Chair. “I am honored to be appointed Chair and pledge to work hard as CERB begins the next 40 years!”
CERB Appoints Two Vice Chairs

Mike Mason - Tribal 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 goes off roading, camping, and fishing with his two Great Danes.

Dr. Vange Ocasio Hocheimer - Public Economist
Dr. Ocasio joined the faculty at Whitworth University’s School of Business in the fall of 2011 after a previous faculty appointment at the University of Denver. She received her B.A. from Binghamton University in New York. Prior to attending graduate school, she worked at OFFITBANK, a wealth management firm in New York City. She received an M.A. and a Ph.D. in economics from Colorado State University. Dr. Ocasio’s doctoral training includes specializations in International Trade, Economic Development, Monetary Theory and Finance. Her main research focus is in the areas of economic development and rural finance. Her recent research includes the study of the role of food insecurity in economic growth. She has published peer-reviewed manuscripts in her field and continues to be active in research. Dr. Ocasio is an active community leader. She currently serves on the Spokane YWCA Board of Directors, the Catholic Charities of Eastern Washington Board of Directors, and the Mayor’s Advisory Council on Multicultural Affairs. She also served in the Executive Committee of the League of Education Voters, a Seattle-based state-wide education advocacy organization. Dr. Ocasio has won community-wide awards such as the Latina Leader of the Year from the Latino Hope Foundation in 2016 and the 2018 Outstanding Emerging Philanthropist award from the Spokane County United Way.

NEW CERB MEMBERS

Soneya Lund - City of Yakima, Yakima
City Official – Position #2
Soneya Lund is a City Council member for the City of Yakima, and serves as the Assistant Mayor. She grew up in the Yakima valley, graduating from West Valley High School. After graduating from Seattle Pacific University, Soneya chose to return to her roots and build her family in Yakima. In 2001 she launched her business career by founding “Hair by Soneya.” Today she is the owner of Saol Salon, Haven, Indigo, and Noir et Blanc salons and spas. Her community involvement includes serving on the Executive Board of the Homeless Network of Yakima County, and volunteering as an overnight monitor for the Young Adult Homeless Shelter. She is also member of the Yakima Downtown Rotary Club.

Wendy Smith - Port of Shelton, Shelton
Port Official - Position #3
Wendy Smith is the Executive Director at the Port of Shelton and she has worked for the Port since 2010. Wendy is a graduate from Washington State University with a degree in Business Administration and has enjoyed a career path that has varied between both the private and public sectors. She previously worked for a general contractor performing all manners of pre-construction contracting and awards with the federal government, private businesses and state and local governments. Wendy also has a public service background and has worked on direct legislation, for and with land owners, elected officials and corporations. Wendy has volunteered with Special Olympics assisting in coaching various
sports and has volunteered with the American Cancer Society. Wendy has twin daughters who play competitive fastpitch so her spare time is spent with her husband Jeff at the ball fields.

Roni Holder-Diefenbach - Don Kruse Electric, Inc., Omak
Small Business, East of Cascades & West of Columbia River – Position #4
Roni Holder-Diefenbach is the Executive Director of the Economic Alliance, the designated Economic Development Council (ADO) for Okanogan County since 2007. Roni grew up in Omak, left to attend college and returned after living in Spokane and deciding that Okanogan County would be a great place to work and to raise a family. Roni went to work immediately for the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Indian Reservation as the Lead Job Development Specialist when they first obtained the Workfirst contracts from the State of Washington. She then went to work as the Branch Manager of Career Path Services, a workforce development organization in Okanogan County. She served in this capacity for 7 years. Roni is a Colville Tribal Member and together with her husband, bought their first business in April of 2002 and they now own several small businesses. She currently is the chair of the North Central Washington Workforce Development Board, the Secretary for the North Central Washington Economic Development District Board, the Vice Chair of Family Health Center Board, and Chair of the Pine Meadows Senior Housing Board.

CERB Says a Warm Goodbye to Outgoing Members

CERB truly appreciates your dedication while serving on the Board. Your willingness to devote your time and energy to serve the citizens of our state is deeply appreciated.

Randy Hayden,
Port of Pasco, Pasco
Port Official 2013-2022/CERB Chair 2017-2022

George Brady,
Cascade Biological Supply, Pateros
Small Business, East of Cascades & West of Columbia River 2017-2022

Upcoming Events:

Register Today!

BUILDING BACK TOGETHER
2022 IACC Conference
October 18-20, 2022

For more information: http://www.infrafunding.wa.gov/conference.html
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.

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<td>Loans Funds Available</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grants Funds Available</td>
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| Rural County Funds             | $35,385,400 |
| Urban County Funds             | $15,150,618 |

Applications are submitted via an online portal. Please contact staff to talk about your project and to get the link to the applications. Contact Leslie Wolff, to discuss a potential project.

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

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.

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<th>Totals Funds Available**</th>
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<tr>
<td>Grants Funds Available</td>
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*Funding appropriated in the 2022 Supplemental Capital Budget, will be available in year 2 of the biennium.

**Expenditure of the amount in this subsection is contingent on the receipt of this grant funding. If the department does not receive the grant funding by June 30, 2023, the expenditure authority in this section shall lapse.

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<th>Tier 1 Application Deadline (Tier 1 Committed Private Partner, Prospective Development, &amp; Rural Broadband Programs)</th>
<th>Tier 2 Application Deadline (Tier 2 Committed Private Partner, Prospective Development, &amp; Planning Programs)</th>
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