



## Governor's Broadband Initiatives Report Overview

At the request of the Governor's Office, the Colorado Broadband Office (CBO) convened a Broadband Working Group with key participants from the Department of Local Affairs (DOLA), Department of Regulatory Agencies (DORA), Department of Transportation (CDOT), Office of eHealth Innovation (OeHI), Office of Economic Development & International Trade (OEDIT), Governor's Office of Information Technology (OIT), and the Governor's Office to provide recommendations in the areas of broadband governance, data accuracy, sustainable funding and future technology.

### The Facts:

- Ubiquitous broadband is an essential service that is vital to our state's economic success.
- Coloradans depend on access to affordable and reliable high-speed broadband to create new jobs and attract new industries, expand markets for new and existing businesses, enable better access to educational opportunities and resources, facilitate the delivery of healthcare services, and support public safety.
- Approximately 85,000-90,000 of rural residents and 65,000 students across the state do not have access or adequate access (based on data from Colorado Department of Education).
- In the past, most Americans consumed rather than created content. In contrast, households today have multiple computers and smart devices that support two-way communication, such as video conferencing, telemedicine and remote learning. Two-way communication requires more available upload speeds in order to create more content.

In an effort to build one of the strongest economies in the nation, the State of Colorado's definition and policies on broadband must be updated to support the actual internet consumption needs of Coloradans. The CBO, in collaboration with other state agencies, has written a [broadband report](#) with a number of recommendations in four areas to update our broadband policies to support the needs of all residents.



## Broadband Governance

- Provide transparency, collaboration and accountability across state agencies with broadband initiatives by standing up a Broadband Advisory Board. The Board will be responsible for yearly updates to legislators on broadband expansion in Colorado.

## Broadband Data Accuracy

- Partner with internet service providers (ISPs) to generate more granular data and provide the Governor's Office of Information Technology (OIT) with statutory approval to capture that data. Additionally, provide funding to OIT for broadband mapping.

## Sustainable Funding for Broadband

- Provide the Colorado Public Utilities Commission (CoPUC) with statutory authority to replace the Colorado High Cost Support Mechanism (CHCSM) 2.6% fee on voice service with a flat connection fee on any connection that can originate voice calls.
- Transform the broadband fund so that it is more effective and efficient at disbursing funding to expedite the deployment of broadband across the state.

## The Future of Technology

- Focus on fiber as the most future-proof infrastructure for broadband and regulate accordingly. Promote policies that encourage open-access, affordability, and public-private partnerships.

[View the full Governor's Broadband Initiatives Report](#)