

**Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation Telecommunications Needs
Draft Working Paper
February 2002**

Basic community needs:

- Broadband for distance education (some of this is happening now) and telemedicine (underutilized)
- Fiber for industrial recruitment on industrial land (not available from Qwest at present although they promise they can get it there as soon as we recruit someone)
- Lower rates on voice, data transmission (We understand that there can be up to a 30% discount on Qwest rates from some alternative providers that are not presently available in our area)
- Affordable broadband for residential usage (students at home, medical & job research); AND appropriate hardware and software, training and support for residents
- Affordable basic phone service through Lifeline/ Linkup

Potential solutions:

1. Technical assistance in defining possibilities for middle mile and last mile broadband deployment

Part of the problem is that we don't even know what is available. Through the support of One Economy Foundation in Portland, we are working with a consultant to outline some of the last mile options for Reservation Housing Authority residents. Without this help, we were thinking that the only affordable residential solution was DSL deployment and that we were too far away from a central office for DSL to ever be possible. Therefore, affordable broadband for residents seemed to be unattainable, and we were starting to focus on commercial and industrial broadband alternatives instead.

We recommend that technical assistance be available for Tribes to help define possibilities.

We suggest a "team" approach consisting of team members with expertise in community telecommunications organizing, broadband deployment, and innovative middle mile and last mile solutions. We propose that this "team" be available to consult with different tribes to outline a strategy and propose possible solutions.

2. Broader marketing of Lifeline/ Linkup universal phone service
3. Broad-based and continuing support for significant computer training for Tribal members of all ages
4. Aggregated solutions that use the demand of Tribal governments, industries, and commercial enterprises to reduce the cost for Tribal member residential services
5. Technical assistance in development of tribal utilities
6. Technical assistance in packaging telecommunications projects for outside funders