

OREGON TELECOMMUNICATIONS COORDINATING COUNCIL
Legislative and Policy Recommendations of 2003
Highlights/Talking Points

Statewide Broadband Goal Established

- ✓ Provide all Oregonians with affordable access to broadband services in order to improve the economy in Oregon, improve the quality of life in Oregon communities and reduce the economic gap between Oregon communities that have access to broadband services and those that do not, for both present and future generations.
- ✓ OECCDD to track and report on the effectiveness of the efforts and capabilities in Oregon.

Accessibility & Affordability

- ✓ Expand affordable broadband and other telecommunications services.
- ✓ Remove barriers to public-private partnerships.
- ✓ Ensure redundancy in critical broadband infrastructure in order to provide secure emergency communications and public safety networking in both urban and rural areas.
- ✓ DAS to work with other state agencies, school districts, education service districts, community college districts and state institutions of higher education to create new opportunities with local communities and with the private sector that will contribute to greater broadband infrastructure accessibility for persons of this state.

Planning Assistance

- ✓ OECCDD to consult with, advise, coordinate activities of and give technical assistance to state and local organizations, including local development corporations, county, city and metropolitan-area committees, chambers of commerce, port districts and similar entities that are interested in obtaining, providing or utilizing improved telecommunications infrastructure, advanced telecommunications and broadband services.

Funding and Tax Credit

- ✓ Use state and federal programs for planning and financing.
- ✓ Lottery bonds for business projects that are considered private activity under the IRS regulations related to telecommunications infrastructure, broadband or advanced telecommunications projects.
- ✓ Increase amount of telecommunications facility costs certifiable for state income tax credit.

Economic Gap Reduction

- ✓ Expanded number of enterprise zones designated for electronic commerce.
- ✓ Economic development resources applied to help fund programs to train telecommunications technical support personnel.

Quality Of Life

- ✓ Provide financial assistance for library resource sharing activities at public, school and university libraries in order to develop a statewide library network.
- ✓ DAS to develop a prioritized list of applications and programs that can be used for improving access to state government by means of the Internet.
- ✓ DAS to draft and publish a unified state plan to provide equal educational opportunities through telecommunications to all students in this state and to integrate ALL school and educational districts into one unified state plan for the use and delivery of educational services via telecommunications throughout the State.

Telemedicine Reimbursement.

- ✓ Healthcare payers providing service in the state should reimburse for telemedicine.

Council

- ✓ Expand Council duties and participation with other statewide entities.
- ✓ Extension of the life of the Council through January 2, 2006.

Other recommendations

- ✓ Support the work of regional telecommunications consortia.
- ✓ Encourage state agencies to generate awareness of new telecommunications infrastructure and disseminate knowledge of how business, government and individuals can put that infrastructure to productive use.
- ✓ Support efforts to provide cost-effective, quality workforce development training using telecommunications infrastructure and facilities to access distance learning opportunities.
- ✓ Encourage schools, education service districts, and local education agencies in underserved and unserved areas to provide broadband access for the surrounding community.
- ✓ Encourage public and private entities to seek opportunities for partnership with educational institutions that will stimulate the use of broadband technologies through community projects and public education.
- ✓ Recommend ways for the State of Oregon to support innovative efforts that build effective and cost-efficient delivery of distance education supported by telecommunications.
- ✓ Encourage the Oregon Telehealth Alliance to continue the work of the council's Telehealth Committee.
- ✓ Facilitate public and private organizations working together in partnership to promote the use of telecommunications infrastructure and new technology.