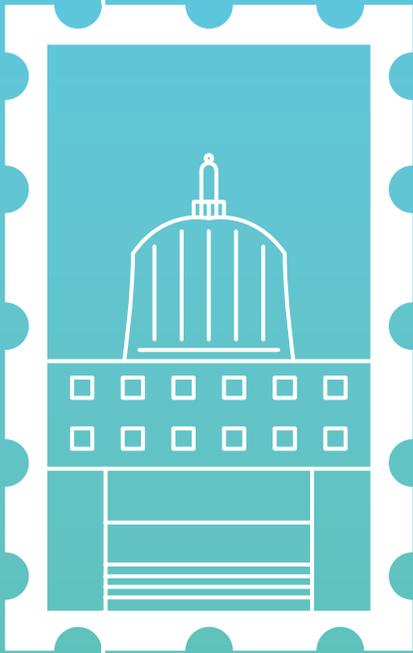# Next Century Cities

OREGON

POPULATION: 4.29 MILLION
COUNTIES: 36

Although <u>27.6% of Oregon's population</u> has access to minimum broadband connections, 28% of households report that their Internet speeds are not fast enough. 38% report occasional or frequent problems.

Oregon is one of the most aesthetically beautiful states in the country, but with that beauty comes challenges to deploying broadband infrastructure. Of its 4.2 million residents, the FCC found that 94.9% had access to a fixed broadband connection at 25/3 Mbps speeds. In rural Oregon, the FCC evaluated 872,000 residents and found that 693,000 (79.5%) have fixed broadband connections at minimum speeds. In urban areas, the FCC found that 98.9% of 3.3 million residents had fixed access to broadband.

Adequate broadband mapping is necessary for communities to receive the funding they need to provide their residents with high quality affordable broadband. Business Oregon's state broadband map relies on data reported through the Federal Communications Commission's Form 477, which overstates broadband access. To address the disparity between Form 477 reporting and the on the ground experience for people living in the state, Oregon's Broadband Office sought input from Strategic Networks Group, which began filling in some of the gaps in broadband mapping. The results of the study were documented in a report made available in January 2020. In addition to internal statewide work, Oregon is participating with the National Telecommunications and Information Administration on its National Broadband Availability Map initiative. Residents can inform the Office of discrepancies by emailing broadband.oregon@oregon.gov.

Christopher Tamarin, Broadband Outreach and Strategic Planning Project Coordinator for Broadband

Oregon shared the objective for the Oregon Broadband Map: "Our vision for the Oregon Broadband Map www.broadband.oregon.gov is to be a platform for data collected to track the availability of broadband services, measure progress, provide related information and provide public access to the data. The map is searchable by city, county, tribal lands, specific address, or point selection on the map."

Oregon is one of three states where Speedup America is currently available. Developed to build upon SpeedUp Louisville, a technology platform originally built to aid digital inclusion efforts in Louisville, Kentucky, Speedup America enables local leaders in Oregon to conduct speed tests and consolidates the results in an interactive map. This initiative is designed to start conversations between neighbors, support data based solutions, and help to identify funding and policies to expand broadband access.

According to BroadbandNow, 84.5% of Oregon residents have access to terrestrial broadband, but only 24.5% access to a plan priced at or below $60 a month. Microsoft's data show that around 1.6 million people in Oregon do not use the Internet at broadband speeds.

Additional Resources:
- Broadband Mapping Initiatives Transform Oregon's Digital Landscape to Reflect its Natural Beauty
- Wyden Statement on the Broadband Provisions in COVID Relief Package