

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

In the Matter of Approving a Title III Project)
for FY 2025 under the Secure Rural Schools)
and Community Self-Determination Act of)
2000 as Amended and Re-authorized)

ORDER NO. 23-2025

WHEREAS, Columbia County has received “safety-net” revenues under the “Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000”, P. L. 106-393, as amended and re-authorized; and

WHEREAS, the Act requires each county to expend 15 to 20 percent of its safety-net payments on various kinds of projects pursuant to Title II and III of the Act or, alternatively, to return that portion of its safety-net payment to the U.S. Treasury; and

WHEREAS, Columbia County currently has available funding for Title III projects in the amount of \$227,000.00 and

WHEREAS, eligible categories for projects that may be funded under Title III, are as follows:

- 1) **FIREWISE COMMUNITIES PROGRAM:**
“[T]o carry out activities under the Firewise Communities program to provide to homeowners in fire-sensitive ecosystems education on, and assistance with implementing, techniques in home siting, home construction, and home landscaping that can increase the protection of people and property from wildfires* * *”;
- 2) **SEARCH, RESCUE AND OTHER EMERGENCY SERVICES:**
“[T]o reimburse the participating county for search and rescue and other emergency services, including firefighting, that are - (A) performed on Federal land after the date on which the use was approved under subsection (b); (B) paid for by the participating county * * *”;
- 3) **COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLANS:**
“[T]o develop community wildfire protection plans in coordination with the appropriate Secretary concerned”; and
- 4) **BROADBAND:**
“To provide or expand access to broadband telecommunications services”; and

WHEREAS, the following proposed project for Title III funding was proposed to the Board of County Commissioners on April 30, 2025: Columbia County Broadband Project to expand access to broadband in rural Columbia County, including providing access to students;

WHEREAS, pursuant to P. L. 110-343 and P.L. 112-141, Columbia County opened a forty-five

(45) day public comment period to anyone wishing to make written comments on the proposed project by publishing a Public Notice in the local area newspaper describing the project and directing that written comments must be received on or before 5:00 pm on June 16, 2025; and

WHEREAS, no public comments were received at the end of the 45-day comment period; and

WHEREAS, a copy of the Project Submission form was forwarded to the Salem Rural Advisory Committee for comment;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED as follows:

- 1) The Columbia County Broadband Project is approved for funding under the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 as amended and re-authorized.
- 2) The Columbia County Broadband Project shall be funded in the amount of \$227,163.36, and the project shall be certified as meeting the criteria of Expanded Access to Services.

Dated this _____ day of June, 2025.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

By: _____
Kellie Jo Smith, Chair

Approved as to form

By: _____
Casey Garrett, Commissioner

By: _____
Office of County Counsel

By: _____
Margaret Magruder, Commissioner