

# The State of Broadband Service in Wyoming

Wyoming Institute for Disabilities  
Wyoming Telehealth Network

WyTN is a collaboration between the Wyoming Department of Health divisions of Medicaid and Rural Health and the University of Wyoming through the Wyoming Institute for Disabilities.



College of Health Sciences  
Wyoming Institute  
for Disabilities



# Wyoming Telehealth Network (WyTN)

The Wyoming Telehealth Network (WyTN) supports healthcare entities, providers, and specialists increase access to care and improve health outcomes for Wyoming residents, through professional development, collaboration, and leveraging of telecommunications technology.

# Introductions

---

- **Richard Wardell**, Chief Operating Officer, Tri County Telephone Association Inc. (TCT)
- **Michelle Motzkus**, Legal and Regulatory Administrator, Silver Star Communications
- **Jack Walkenhorst**, Director of Strategic Partnerships, All West Communications

# Current Momentum In Wyoming to Increase Broadband Access

---

- Access to high-quality business and residential broadband is essential for access to healthcare in Wyoming, especially as telehealth services expand.
- The Federal Communications Commission has established that “advanced telecommunications capability” requires access to download speeds of at least 25 Mbps and upload speeds of at least 3 Mbps.
- In 2018, a new law signed by Gov. Matt Mead provided \$10 million to establish a broadband infrastructure grant fund and \$350,000 to establish a broadband coordinator position at the Business Council and a Broadband Advisory Council.

# Wyoming Broadband Mapping Initiative

---

Wyoming Governor Mark Gordon has authorized federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARP) dollars to initialize the first phase of Drive #4 focused on Broadband infrastructure initiative across Wyoming. The goal of the Connect Wyoming program is to bring faster, more reliable internet to "unserved and underserved" areas.

Mapping guidelines and more information are detailed here:  
<https://www.wyobbmap.org/pages/bb-provider-data>

What areas are being targeted first for expansion and how are you involved?

Are we working with WyDOT to partner when roads are being redone so we don't have to dig the street up twice?

Which Wyoming cities and towns do not currently have broadband?

Do you have a plan to address this with a timeline?

What communities do you think should be a priority and why?

Even without clinic or facility capability to deliver telehealth, are there other locations in the community that can serve as originating sites for telehealth delivery (i.e. libraries, public health nursing offices, fire house, etc?)

Is this something your company can support? If so, how?



What is are your policy plans to move ahead with broadband access during the upcoming session?

What upcoming capacity building plans do you have in the foreseeable future?

Knowing the state is prioritizing broadband access by deploying federal money in the near future, how do you plan to maximize this funding?

How will this funding help working families in the state?

How do you plan to evaluate your efforts and do you have benchmarks in place in case a change of plan is in order to reach your goals?

How do you define success in creating the maximum amount of access available in Wyoming?

# Questions?