



PUDs providing telecommunications services



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Connecting our Communities

Widely available and reliable access to broadband service is important to our state's economic health, access to education and essential services, and quality of life. Public utility districts play an important role in connecting communities by providing access to high-speed broadband service.

In 2000, PUDs were granted the authority to help bridge the digital divide by providing wholesale telecommunications services. PUDs deploy high-speed, robust broadband fiber and offer at-cost, open access to the fiber on a nondiscriminatory basis.

In 2021 PUD authority was expanded by the legislature to include retail telecommunications service.

Fast Facts (based on 2021 data)

- PUDs have invested more than \$607 million in broadband infrastructure.
- PUDs have installed nearly 9,000 miles of fiber.
- PUD fiber connects more than 64,000 end-users to broadband service.
- 160 retail internet service providers lease PUD fiber to serve their customers.