



PARTNERS FOR RURAL WASHINGTON'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2023

Partners for Rural Washington (PRWA) was formed in 2015 as Washington's State Rural Development Council (SRDC). PRWA staff coordinate with other community and economic development organizations to maximize our effectiveness. We work to improve water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure as well as public safety and healthcare facilities and strengthen communities in preparation for economic growth. After a very successful year in 2022, PRWA was able to add to our major accomplishments in 2023 by engaging in the following work:

- PRWA partnered with Petrichor Broadband to assist Washington State University (WSU) Extension with its work on behalf of the State Broadband Office (SBO) to stand-up Broadband Action Teams (BATs) in every county and with some tribes that did not have an existing BAT; we assisted many BATs in Eastern Washington with development and writing of their broadband and digital equity plans. These plans were used by the SBO to create the State's 5-year Plan, a requirement to obtain \$1.2 billion in funding through the federal Broadband Equity Access and Deployment (BEAD) program.
- We assisted the city of Ritzville with the submission of a successful planning grant for a solar plus storage facility.
- We assisted the Tri-County Economic Development District and NoaNet with a successful application for just over \$12 million to the State Broadband Office (SBO) for broadband improvements in Stevens County.
- We secured a \$397,000 two-year grant from the Ballmer Group to create a joint effort between PRWA and Petrichor Broadband to apply for BEAD funding to expand broadband in unserved and underserved counties in rural areas of PRWA's 10-County target area in Eastern Washington.
- We participated on the planning committee for the development and presentation of the USDA Rural Investment Summit for Oregon, Washington and Alaska in Skamania, WA on November 1st, and 2nd, which was attended by more than 150 persons.

- We applied for \$267,000 to the WA State Legislature in cooperation with the Communities of Concern for the rehabilitation of public swimming pools in Rosalia, Palouse and Oakesdale, small rural communities in our target area.