

Telecommunication Accessibility & COVID-19

Internet Access

During COVID-19, several internet companies in Oregon are providing free internet access to communities, including:

- Spectrum: 60 days free: <https://corporate.charter.com/newsroom/charter-to-offer-free-access-to-spectrum-broadband-and-wifi-for-60-days-for-new-K12-and-college-student-households-and-more>
- Comcast: 60 days free (Internet Essentials, normal price \$9.95/month). Also giving free use of their hotspots (Xfinity):
<https://www.portlandoregon.gov/oct/article/709742>
- Ashland area, free for students: <http://www.ashlandfiber.net/sign-up/>
- City of Eugene free hotspots: <https://www.eugene-or.gov/1554/Wi-Fi-Hotspots>
- AT&T hotspots open to the public:
<https://www.att.com/support/article/wireless/KM1103818/>

Information on Oregon utilities, including access to the internet is available at:

<https://www.myoregon.gov/2020/03/13/oregon-utilities-companies-extend-service-during-covid-outbreak/>. Unlocked phones can also connect to the internet through Wi-Fi.

Equipment Access

1. *National Deaf-Blind Telecommunication Program (iCanConnect)*

Provides communication equipment to low-income individuals who have both significant vision loss and significant hearing loss:

<https://www.accesstechnologiesinc.org/solutions/assessments-and-trainings/deaf-blind-telecommunication-access>.

<https://www.accesstechnologiesinc.org/>

Voice/TTY: 1-800-677-7512

Voice/TTY: (503) 361-1201

Fax: (503) 370-4530

info@accesstechnologiesinc.org

2. *Access Technology Inc.*

Provides affordable solutions to gain or improve independence through assessments and trainings and access to new and used assistive technology and durable medical equipment

<https://www.accesstechnologiesinc.org/>

Voice/TTY: 1-800-677-7512

Voice/TTY: (503) 361-1201

Fax: (503) 370-4530

info@accesstechnologiesinc.org

3. Oregon Public Utility Commission: Telecommunication Devices Access Program

Loans specialized telephone equipment, including tablets, smartphones, etc. to individuals with a disability in hearing, vision, speech, mobility, or cognition: www.tdap.oregon.gov.

Phone Hours: M – F, 9am – 4pm

800-848-4442 or 503-373-7171

TTY - 800-648-3458 or 503-378-6962

Fax: 877-567-1977 or 503-378-6047

Videophone: 971-239-5845

puc.rspf@state.or.us

Due to social distancing, we realize that some may not be able to obtain certification of their disability on our application from what we refer to as a statutorily recognized certifying authority such as a physician, etc. If a person with a disability has any form of documentation in their possession that indicates their disability, we will consider that in lieu of a certification on the application. For example, we would accept an audiogram for a person who is deaf or hard of hearing.

4. *Oregon Public Utility Commission: Oregon Lifeline Program*

Reduces the monthly cost of phone or broadband service for qualifying low-income Oregon households:

<https://www.oregon.gov/puc/Pages/Oregon-Lifeline.aspx>

Contact Oregon Lifeline

Phone Hours: M – F, 9am – 4pm

800-848-4442 or 503-373-7171

TTY - 800-648-3458 or 503-378-6962

Fax: 877-567-1977 or 503-378-6047

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