

Rural communities stand to benefit the most from virtual services, yet rural households are more than twice as likely to lack internet at home compared to urban households due to availability, poor service, and affordability. These connectivity issues make it difficult for rural residents to take advantage of things like telehealth, virtual education, and more, and helps to explain why telehealth use in rural Colorado is almost half that of urban areas of the eHealth state.

+213,000 Colorado households lacking adequate broadband at home

Overview & Goals

The Colorado State Library (CSL) and the Office of Innovation (OeHI) partnered to fund rural libraries to increase telehealth access for their communities. Libraries chose to implement tele-hubs - a private space within the library with strong internet that patrons can reserve to connect virtually with a healthcare provider - and/or “telehealth kits” where patrons can borrow the equipment and hot spot to connect with a provider at home. Patrons can get assistance with setting up and using the technology from library staff. The spaces and kits include equipment such as:

- Computer
- Camera
- Speakers

Saguache Library

Why Libraries?

- Scale
- Blood Pressure Monitor
- Pulse Oximeter, and more!

Participating Public Libraries

Alamosa Public Library		
Buena Vista Public Library		
Burlington Public Library		
Conejos Library District		
Antonito Branch		
Capulin Branch		
Maria DeHerrera Branch (La Jara)		
Delta County Libraries		
Cedaredge Branch		
Crawford Branch		
Delta Branch		
Hotchkiss Branch		
Paonia Branch		
Dolores Public Library		
East Morgan County Library District (Brush)		
	Fort Morgan Public Library	
	Grand County Library District Hugo Public Library	
	Ignacio Community Library District	
	Julesburg Public Library	
	Kiowa County Public Library District	
	Lamar Public Library	
	Limon Memorial Public Library	
	Lincoln County Bookmobile	
	Montrose Regional Library District: Naturita Branch	
	Nederland Community Library	
	Northern Saguache County	
	Baca Grande Branch (Crestone)	
		Park County Public Library Bailey Branch
		Fairplay Branch
		Guffey Branch
		Lake George Branch
		Pine River Public Library District (Bayfield)
		Pueblo City-County Library: Greenhorn Branch (Colorado City)
		Spanish Peaks Library District (Walsenburg)
		West Custer County Library District (Westcliffe)
		Woodruff Memorial Library (La Junta)
		Wray Public Library

This project leverages existing broadband infrastructure and core services that libraries already provide to address barriers in access to web-enabled devices and lack of comfort or familiarity with technology. Libraries already bring information and information technology to their communities by providing:

- Strong internet connection
- Computers and other equipment
- Assistance with using technology

36

\$215,000 26

Invested into public libraries
Libraries, each serving

populations under 25,000
Different library branches with

telehealth kits or telehubs

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