

# **RVBAT Meeting – September 3, 2025**

## **Meeting Purpose**

Discuss regional broadband access challenges and updates from participating organizations.

## **Key Takeaways**

- Rural broadband access remains a significant challenge, with cost and infrastructure limitations
- Libraries exploring new digital literacy partnerships and programs
- Link Oregon interested in facilitating inter-library connectivity and resource sharing
- Senior services facing potential funding impacts from federal budget decisions

## **Topics**

### **Rural Broadband Challenges**

- Coastal and rural areas still lack reliable internet/cell service
- Cost is prohibitive even where service is available (\$80-120/month for low speeds)
- Federal funding requirements (100/20 Mbps) may limit alternative solutions
- Need for more flexible, lower-cost options like microwave/fixed wireless

### **Library Digital Initiatives**

- Jackson County Library partnering with Senior Planet for Spanish computer courses
- Josephine County Library collaborating with Rogue Community College on digital skills pathway
- Libraries facing space constraints as services expand
- Interest in exploring inter-library connectivity and resource sharing

### **Link Oregon Support**

- Offering intranet-style connectivity between organizations like ESDs
- Exploring potential for similar inter-library connectivity
- Libraries interested but need to evaluate fit with strategic goals

### **Senior Services Updates**

- Upcoming senior resource fair on Sept 12 in Josephine County
- Monitoring potential impacts of federal budget/Medicaid changes
- Seeking new commercial kitchen location for meal prep program

## **Next Steps**

- Shannon to connect with Olivia from Age+ about Josephine County initiatives
- Eric to discuss potential for inter-library connectivity with Jackson County Library leadership
- Cynthia to provide more details on Link Oregon's inter-organization connectivity offerings

## **Action Items**

- **Connect Shannon Hauberg with Olivia from H+ re Josephine County Libraries**
- **Message Olivia re Age+ focus on Grants Pass**
- **Schedule offline meeting w/ Shannon re WorkSource & Goodwill digital skills contacts**
- **Inform Lauren (collection dev mgr) re Shannon's interest in hand-me-down hotspots**
- **Discuss potential inter-library connectivity via Link Oregon w/ relevant library staff**