

Exploring connectivity options for government agencies



Choosing between fiber or coaxial cable connections comes down to several key considerations.

Citizens expect digital government services to be accessible 24/7/365, more now than ever before, but budget and resource constraints often confine agencies. A key component to meet the demand as it continues to mount will be high-speed internet services for government.

As agencies look to upgrade their existing internet service, knowing what options are available will help them choose the right fit. Needs can vary greatly by agency, and there is no right or wrong choice. What it comes down to are the agency's specific needs and plans for growth. Here's what to consider during the selection process for government [internet solutions](#).



Speed and reliability

The average coaxial cable connection is 200 Mbps (but can be as fast as 940 Mbps), while [fiber internet](#) can deliver speeds of up to 100 Gbps. Fiber internet connections are also more resistant to temperature fluctuations than aging copper cabling and don't rely on electricity to power them, making them more reliable. For government agencies, this means increased productivity, fewer interruptions, less downtime and low latency. Employees can get their jobs done, and services are provided without interruption to citizens. Email, web searches and connecting to cloud-based applications all happens quickly.



Value

Cost is always an important concern for government agencies. Not only are their resources often limited, but they must answer to their constituents. When selecting internet service, agencies must weigh the cost versus value of their choice. Coax can be a good, budget-friendly choice for government agencies when guaranteed throughput or network performance isn't a high requirement. However, for agencies that are expected to grow and modernize or that already process a lot of traffic, fiber internet offers them scalability and flexibility, as well as higher bandwidth and faster speeds.



Dedicated vs. shared connection

An important item to evaluate when looking at [internet solutions](#) is the type of connection. A shared connection means that government agencies may experience bandwidth slowdowns during peak times or when others using the same shared connection are processing heavy workloads. This can lead to employees being unable to complete work or provide support for citizens. A dedicated internet connection ensures that the agency always has allocated bandwidth available for use, regardless of what others are doing. Fiber networks are available as dedicated connections, as coaxial networks share the same cable and bandwidth to deliver service.



Availability and installation

Coaxial cable is widely available almost everywhere in the United States, while dedicated fiber networks are still being built out in many areas. As fiber internet becomes more available, it becomes a viable choice for areas that are currently limited to cable. Coax may already run up to government agencies' buildings, while fiber may need to be installed into the suite. Both are straightforward installations.

[Spectrum Enterprise continues to expand its fiber availability across the country and currently has 230,000+ fiber-route miles.](#)



For government agencies, there isn't a right or wrong choice for internet service. It all comes down to the agency's specific needs and growth plans.

For over 20 years, Spectrum Enterprise has been working in the government sector to assist agencies with getting the most out of their internet solutions. Contact us today to find out what your options are for internet connectivity.

Is your agency up for today's challenges? Find out how your internet stacks up with our [bandwidth calculator](#).

[Learn more](#)

About Spectrum Enterprise

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