



# Public Service Commission of Wisconsin

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## PSC Announces Telecommunication Grants to Non-profit Organizations Across the State

MADISON –The Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (PSC) announced today that several non-profit organizations around the state will receive grants from Wisconsin’s Universal Service Fund (USF) program.

“The USF program plays a vital role in helping our state’s non-profit organizations provide essential services to their clients,” said Chairperson Dan Ebert. “I am impressed with all of the applications we received and I am pleased that today we are able to award all of the applicants with grants.”

The Universal Service Fund, created under Wisconsin law, allows the PSC to collect fees from telecommunication providers to award up to \$500,000 annually to non-profit organizations. These grants help low income and disabled customers access telecommunications services, and assists in providing access to advanced telecommunications services to the public. This year, 19 organizations requested over \$560,000 and all 19 organizations were awarded grants totaling over \$467,000.

- **ABC for Health, Inc.** is a public interest law firm that helps link citizens who have special health care needs to health care benefits and services. ABC for Health, Inc. received \$12,250 to educate and inform families of children with disabilities about the availability of Lifeline, LinkUp, and other programs for which they are eligible.
- **The Adult Learning Center** provides educational opportunities to economically and educationally disadvantaged adults. The Adult Learning Center received \$14,000 to provide internet access and training for low-income individuals.
- **The Badger Association of the Blind and Visually Impaired** promotes personal development, career growth, and community awareness through specialized services and programs for people who are visually impaired. The Badger Association of the Blind and Visually Impaired received \$24,300 to provide internet access and training for their clients.
- **The Boys and Girls Club of Greater Milwaukee** is Milwaukee’s largest neighborhood-based youth guidance organization whose primary purpose is to have a positive impact on the lives of low-income youth. The Boys and Girls Club of Greater Milwaukee received \$43,346 to expand and update their computer technology center.

- **The Center for Independent Living for Western Wisconsin** provides services to people with disabilities to assist with their individual goals to become or remain as independent as possible. The Center for Independent Living for Western Wisconsin received \$20,000 to provide outreach to individuals in Western Wisconsin who are disabled and to increase consumer knowledge about telecommunications equipment.
- **Community Action Coalition for South Central Wisconsin (CAC)** helps develop the economic and social capacities of individuals, families, and communities to reduce poverty in Dane, Jefferson, and Waukesha Counties. CAC received \$23,866 to assist low income clients in obtaining or maintaining basic telephone service and provide education about low cost internet services.
- **Community Advocates, Inc.** is the largest human needs advocacy agency in Wisconsin that works with individuals and families to gain access to programs and services to meet their basic needs. Community Advocates, Inc. received \$65,000 to assist low-income Milwaukee residents in obtaining or maintaining telecommunication services.
- **DANEnet** works with community centers to provide technical support and Internet access. DANEnet received \$55,188 to provide technical support and staff training at existing community center computer labs for low income residents in Dane County.
- **Deaf Unity and Deaf Empowerment** addresses the issues of domestic violence and sexual assault in the Wisconsin deaf community. Deaf Unity and Deaf Empowerment received \$2,400 to purchase video-based interpreting technology to be installed at domestic violence and sexual assault agencies to enable victims to communicate with staff on site.
- **Domestic Abuse Intervention Services** is an organization in Dane County committed to ending domestic abuse. Domestic Abuse Intervention Services received \$10,000 to purchase a new phone system, provide language services to assist non-English speaking victims, and supply equipment to support video relay services.
- **Hunger Task Force** is Wisconsin's leading hunger relief organization that operates a food bank that distributes food to low income residents of Milwaukee County. Hunger Task Force received \$8,740 to provide low-income and disabled residents Internet access to food stamp enrollment.
- **Independence First** provides services that promote independence and self-sufficiency for people with disabilities. Independence First received \$32,625 to provide refurbished computers, modems, Internet access, and training to low-income people with disabilities.
- **Independent Living, Inc.** is a health and human services organization that provides in-home services and affordable housing options to the elderly and disabled adults in Dane County. Independent Living, Inc. received \$11,209 to upgrade the infrastructure of its

computer lab to improve accessibility for low to moderate income seniors.

- **Independent Living Resources, Inc.** provides independent living services to people with disabilities. Independent Living Resources, Inc. received \$12,000 to provide outreach on availability, assistance, and access to specialized telecommunications equipment to individuals with disabilities, service providers, and the general public.
- **Midstate Independent Living Consultants, Inc.** provides services such as independent living skills, peer support, and general information and referral to individuals with disabilities. Midstate Independent Living Consultants, Inc. received \$22,657 to purchase telecommunications equipment for an accessible home and provide outreach and demonstrations on availability of specialized telecommunications equipment.
- **North Country Independent Living** provides benefits such as counseling, home modification, transition services, independent living skills training, and peer support to disabled people. North Country Independent Living received \$27,500 to provide outreach on availability, assistance, and access to specialized telecommunications equipment and the Internet to individuals with disabilities, service providers, and the general public.
- **Options for Independent Living** is committed to empowering people with disabilities to lead independent and productive lives. Options for Independent Living received \$12,180 to assist individuals with disabilities in increasing availability and access to telecommunications by securing a computer and internet access and specialized telecommunications equipment.
- **Society's Assets, Inc.** provides an array of services to ensure the rights of people with disabilities can live and function independently. Society's Assets, Inc. received \$37,750 to provide outreach and education to individuals with disabilities about the available specialized telecommunications equipment and to provide a co-pay for low income individuals with disabilities.
- **Urban League of Greater Madison** is an organization working to improve the social and economic conditions of African Americans, other people of color, and the economically disadvantaged in the Greater Madison community. Urban League of Greater Madison received \$32,850 to expand the job training program for unemployed and underemployed individuals by providing increased access to online career information and by providing internet and computer skills training.

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