



Interactive Map Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Q: Who is funding this broadband mapping project?

A: The project, LinkWisconsin, is funded by a grant made to the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (PSCW) from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), referred to as stimulus funding. For more details see “Program History” at: <http://www.link.wisconsin.gov/lwi/default.aspx?page=6>.

Q: Who is sponsoring this project?

A: Governor Doyle designated the Public Service Commission as the sole entity eligible to receive funding to map and plan for broadband deployment in Wisconsin. The PSC was initially awarded \$1.7 million by the National Information and Telecommunications Administration (NTIA) within the U.S. Department of Commerce. The PSC hired the LinkAMERICA Alliance after competitive bidding to map and develop regional investment plans, among other things, according to the grant terms. For more details see “The Team” at: <http://www.link.wisconsin.gov/lwi/default.aspx?page=23>. The project is currently funded for two years. NTIA has invited supplemental applications to fund the project for three additional years. The PSC has filed such a supplemental application.

Q: What data did LinkAMERICA Alliance use in preparing this beta version of the map?

A: After identifying and contacting Wisconsin broadband providers, LinkAMERICA entered into non-disclosure agreements (NDAs) with nearly 90% of these providers. Many providers would not submit what they consider to be confidential data without having an executed NDA. LinkAMERICA received data as of July 2009 to prepare this beta version of the Wisconsin broadband map. For more details and a technical description of the mapping process, see <http://www.link.wisconsin.gov/lwi/default.aspx?page=9> or read the Broadband Mapping Overview at <http://www.link.wisconsin.gov/lwi/docs/Broadband%20Mapping%20Overview.pdf>.

Q: Will this map be updated?

A: Yes. The current map shows broadband coverage as of the summer of 2009 – as required by the NTIA. The first update will be October 1, 2010, with data then being shown as of July 2010. Thereafter, the map will be updated every six months. Additional features and information will be added in subsequent updates.

Q: What efforts will be made to verify the accuracy of data obtained from Wisconsin broadband providers?

A: LinkAMERICA is using a number of techniques to verify the accuracy of provider data including customer surveys <http://www.link.wisconsin.gov/lwi/default.aspx?page=27> and comments received from those who view the online interactive maps at <http://www.link.wisconsin.gov/lwi/maps.aspx>.

Q: Where can I find this online interactive map?

A: On the LinkWisconsin website at: <http://www.link.wisconsin.gov/lwi/maps.aspx>.

Q: What will the map be used for?

A: The map will be part of a national broadband map due in February 2011. This national map is required by federal law. The map will also support efforts to develop regional investment plans to deploy broadband to unserved and underserved areas of Wisconsin, thereby helping to fulfill Wisconsin's broadband vision.

Helpful Links to the LinkWISCONSIN website:

ARRA Program History:

<http://www.link.wisconsin.gov/lwi/default.aspx?page=6>

Background on statewide coordination:

<http://www.link.wisconsin.gov/lwi/default.aspx?page=23>

Providers supporting the mapping effort:

<http://www.link.wisconsin.gov/lwi/default.aspx?page=9>

Broadband mapping overview:

<http://www.link.wisconsin.gov/lwi/docs/Broadband%20Mapping%20Overview.pdf>

Consumer survey information:

<http://www.link.wisconsin.gov/lwi/default.aspx?page=27>

Interactive Wisconsin map (beta version):

<http://www.link.wisconsin.gov/lwi/maps.aspx>