



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**PSC Announces next round of Broadband Expansion Grants**

(Madison) –The Public Service Commission (PSC) of Wisconsin is now accepting applications for Fiscal Year 2017 Broadband Expansion Grants. Governor Walker's 2015-17 state budget tripled the funding for grants meant to extend broadband to underserved areas, from \$500,000 to \$1,500,000 annually.

"We've witnessed great success since Governor Walker created the grant program in 2011," said PSC Chair Ellen Nowak. "It's been rewarding to see Wisconsin's investments towards broadband access come to fruition and provide communities with such critical infrastructure."

Since its inception, the grants have rewarded \$2,420,941 yielding a total of \$6,318,655 in investment via grants and private matches to 25 applicants, state-wide.

"Going forward, the State Broadband Office at the PSC will work even closer with communities, local officials and providers who are interested in learning about applying for the grants by hosting a series of Broadband Expansion Grant Writing Workshops," Nowak explained. "We hope to not only encourage communities to apply but strengthen the crop of submissions."

Workshops will help guide community participants toward a stronger understanding of grant guidelines, grant-eligible areas, possible public-private partnership models, previous grant awardee examples, and timelines for grant applications. They will take place at the following locations:

Monday, March 21, 2016

3—4:30 p.m.

UW Extension-UW Richland Center

Pippin Conference Center (Melville Hall)

1200 U.S. Hwy 14

Richland Center, WI 53581

Tuesday, April 12, 2016

9—11: 30 a.m.

Eagle River Northwoods Center

115 S 3rd St

Eagle River, Wisconsin 54521

Wednesday, April 13, 2016  
9—11:30 a.m.  
Comfort Suites  
15586 W County Rd B  
Hayward, WI 54521

Thursday, April 14, 2016  
9—11:30 a.m.  
Eau Claire Charter Bank  
1010 W. Clairemont Ave.  
Eau Claire, WI 54701

Monday, April 18, 2016  
9—11:30 a.m.  
Suring Red Maple Golf Course  
501 Golf Course Rd  
Suring, WI 54174

Wednesday, April 20, 2016  
8:30 – 11 a.m.  
Community Room Iowa County Health and Human Services  
303 W Chapel St  
Dodgeville, WI 53533

Tuesday, April 26, 2016  
9 – 11:30 a.m.  
Community Conference Center  
211 S Hickory St.  
Mauston, WI 53948

Wednesday, May 4, 2016  
10 –11:30 a.m.  
Online/call-in webinar  
<http://ics.webcast.uwex.edu/Mediasite7/Play/c9576ed4f017452f892b1d6b79baef4f1d>

Applications for the Broadband Expansion Grants for Fiscal Year 2017 are due Thursday, June 16, 2016.

Instructions and additional information may be found at: <http://psc.wi.gov>

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