



Public Service Commission of Wisconsin

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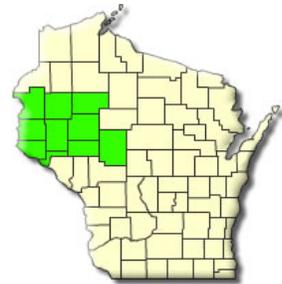
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Broadband Plan for Northwest Central Wisconsin Launching October 12 *Participation by Residents and Leaders Requested*

Madison - The Public Service Commission (PSC) announced an open house scheduled for Wednesday, October 12, from 4:30 to 7:00 pm in the Business Education Center (Room 100A) of the Clairemont Campus of Chippewa Valley Technical College. A team of Northwest Central Wisconsin community leaders are working to identify ways to fill in gaps in broadband availability and improve adoption of available broadband services. There will be displays and staff available to answer questions throughout this time with a focused discussion from 5:00 – 6:00 pm. Light refreshments will be served.

The planning team included representatives from education, health care, business, libraries, regional planning and more. The team developed feasible projects to elicit public and private investment of time and money for more broadband adoption and infrastructure to deploy broadband to more rural areas. The draft plan is designed to enhance the regional economic development and quality of life by initially focusing on ensuring adequate broadband connectivity for business and other anchor institutions throughout the ten-county area.

“Broadband is crucial to improving quality of life, delivering cost-effective services, and meeting our shared economic goals,” said Chris Straight, Senior Planner for the West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission, and a member of the team. “Many of our region’s businesses, institutions, and households lack access to reliable internet service at suitable speeds. To address such gaps, continued collaboration is needed and local communities require the tools to meet their goals.”



A regional leadership team consisting of representatives of internet providers, education, businesses, and government will be formed and meet later this Fall to act on recommendations in the plan.

Presenters from the Wisconsin Public Service Commission, LinkWISCONSIN and the Regional Planning Team will be available to talk with participants during the Oct. 12 open house. Maps of where broadband exists across the state are online at <http://wi.linkamericadata.org>. The Northwest Central Wisconsin regional plan is available online at www.link.wisconsin.gov or by contacting Chris Straight at 715-836-2918. Those without internet access can view the maps and regional plan at a local library or other facility with public computers.

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