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**PSC Awards \$24 Million in State Broadband Expansion  
Grants**

*Most in State History*

MADISON - On Thursday, the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (PSC) met and awarded \$24 Million in Broadband Expansion grants. The total amount awarded is greater than all previous expansion grant rounds combined and will go to communities and providers to expand high-speed internet in unserved and underserved areas of the state.

"Current events underscore the fact that access to broadband is an essential service, not an extravagance or luxury," said Rebecca Cameron Valcq, Chairperson of the PSC.

"These grants will go towards expanding high-speed internet in underserved areas so students can connect to their learning platforms; telemedicine can be utilized for people in need; and those who work from home are able to do so. Broadband offers the ability to connect when connectivity is needed the most."

The state biennial budget signed by Governor Tony Evers in July of 2019 included \$48 Million for broadband expansion grants, with authorization to award up to \$24 Million in state fiscal year 2020. In December 2019 applications for funding were due. The PSC received 143 applications requesting \$50.3 Million for large and small projects.

"Right now we're seeing the real need to connect folks with broadband in the clearest ways," said Governor Tony Evers. "We listened to the people that broadband needed to be expanded and these grants are doing exactly that."

The 72 new grants will extend high-speed internet access to as many as 3,182 business locations and 46,537 residential locations, including 39,778 locations that are currently unserved. An announcement will be made in the coming months for when the next broadband expansion grant round will open for the 2021 state fiscal year.

Click [here](#) for a list of the award recipients.

Click [here](#) for more information about the Broadband Expansion Grant Program.

This week the PSC also put a list of the telecommunications providers who are providing low or no cost broadband service during the COVID-19 public health

emergency on our website. Click [here](#) for more information about low or no cost broadband service that is currently available.

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