



Public Service Commission of Wisconsin

Summer Strand, Chairperson
 Kristy Nieto, Commissioner
 Marcus Hawkins, Commissioner

4822 Madison Yards Way
 P.O. Box 7854
 Madison, WI 53707-7854

Public Service Commission of Wisconsin
 RECEIVED: 11/20/2025 2:05:01 PM

November 20, 2025

Prospective Grant Applicants

Re: Application Instructions for Universal Service Fund
 Nonprofit Access Grant Program for Non-Profit Groups

5-NF-2026

Dear Prospective Grant Applicant:

The Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (Commission) is pleased to announce its release of the **2026 Nonprofit Access Grant Program Application Instructions**. As a Universal Service Fund grant program, the Nonprofit Access Grant Program award provides funds to nonprofit organizations to facilitate affordable access to telecommunications services in Wisconsin. The funds available for the 2026 grant round are up to \$500,000.00.

The grant application period opens Thursday, December 4, 2025.

The grant application period closes Monday, February 2, 2026, at 1:30.p.m C.T.

Application Instruction are attached to this letter, and also available on the [PSC webpage](#).

Applications must be submitted via the Commission's online Grants Management System.

Important information about the Nonprofit Access Grant Program:

- Applicants must be a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization as determined by the IRS.
- Matching funds are required for at least 25 percent of the total project cost, as no more than 75 percent of the project cost can be funded through this grant program.
- Proposed projects must assist Wisconsin residents in obtaining affordable access to a basic set of telecommunications services; specifically, those residents must be either: living in areas of the state that have a relatively high cost of telecommunication services; or have low-income; or have a disability.

For questions, please contact the Universal Service Fund grants team, at PSCUSFNonProfitGrants@wisconsin.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joe Fontaine', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Joe Fontaine
Administrator
Division of Digital Access, Public Service Commission of Wisconsin

JF:AK:MB:DP:bs DL:02106761

Attachments: Nonprofit Grant Application Instructions

Public Service Commission of Wisconsin



**Universal Service Fund
Nonprofit Access Grant Program**

**Fiscal Year 2026
Grant Application Instructions
Docket 5-NF-2026**

**Application Deadline
February 2, 2026
1:30 P.M.**

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Background

The Wisconsin Universal Service Fund (USF) was created to promote and assist with the availability and affordability of telecommunications services in Wisconsin. Companies providing telecommunications services in Wisconsin are required to contribute to the USF. The Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (Commission; PSC) administers several programs funded by the USF, including the Nonprofit Access Grant Program, which provides funding to nonprofit groups to facilitate affordable access to telecommunications services.

Under the requirements of the Nonprofit Access Grant Program ([PSC 160.125\(2\)](#)), any nonprofit group (defined as an IRS § 501(c)(3) organization) may apply for funding from the USF to cover up to 75 percent of total project or program costs ([PSC 160.125\(2\)\(e\)](#)) to assist in providing access to telecommunications services for low-income customers, and/or customers with a disability, and/or customers in areas of the state that have relatively high costs of services, in obtaining affordable access to a basic set of essential telecommunications services. ([PSC 160.125\(2\)\(a\)](#); [PSC 196.218\(5\)\(a\)1.](#))

Eligible Applicants

Any nonprofit organization (IRC § 501(c)(3)) may apply for funding from the Nonprofit Access Grant Program.

Grant Funds Available

In accordance with Wis. Admin. Code § PSC 160.125(2)(f), the maximum available funds of \$500,000 is anticipated to be awarded in 2026 through the Nonprofit Access Grant Program. There is no specified minimum or maximum request allowed, as long as USF requested funding does not exceed 75 percent of total project costs or exceed the total available funds.

Matching/Contribution Funds - Requirement

Applicants are required to provide at least **25 percent matching funds** toward the **total cost of the project or program**.

Always start your calculation from the total cost of the project and work backward to determine how many funds you can request and be awarded for.

Example: For a project with a total cost of \$25,000, the applicant must provide \$6,250 (25 percent) in match funds, as no more than \$18,750 (75 percent) can be funded by this grant program to support a \$25,000 project.

Total Project Cost	Match funds	% Match	Grant Request (\$ & %)	Correct Match (Y/N)
\$25,000	\$6,250	25%	\$18,750 (75%)	Y - Correct match
\$25,000	\$5,000	20%	\$20,000 (80%)	N - Incorrect match

Make sure you do not request grant funds amounting to more than 75% of the total project cost. This may jeopardize grant award eligibility.

Matching funds provided as cash or in-kind contributions are acceptable. Matching funds, both cash and in-kind contributions, must relate to the proposed project. *Cash match* may include any non-USF funding sources, including federal, state, and private foundations. *In-kind match* may be goods, services or property that are donated or discounted.

Matching funds may not include items purchased with USF grant dollars from prior years, nor may the same in-kind match items be used to meet the grant match requirement for more than one USF grant award. Matching/contribution funds listed on an application may not be used to meet the grant match requirement for other non-USF grants either.

The application must clearly identify the source and amount of matching funds.

Examples of Successful Projects/Programs

The Commission recommends that applicants review previously awarded projects on the [Nonprofit Access Grant webpage](#) of the PSC website.

Some examples of activities from previously awarded projects include:

- Providing access to telecommunications services (such as data cards or hotspots), or
- Providing access to the devices required to access telecommunications services (such as laptops, cell phones, tablets, or assistive devices), or
- Providing trainings that are required to make use of telecommunications devices and services (such as digital literacy or digital skills, workforce development, or cybersecurity skills).

In addition, successful projects are typically not contingent on the construction of a building or physical infrastructure, or those relying on proposed, but uncommitted, partner activities.

Communication Regarding the Application and These Instructions

Communications

The posting of these Application Instructions to the Commission's [Electronic Records Filing \(ERF\) System](#) in docket 5-NF-2026 will serve as 'official notice' of the opening of a new grant round. The 'official notice' is how the Commission will provide information related to the application(s) in docket 5-NF-2026. Interested parties must proactively subscribe to the docket on ERF to ensure they receive timely information related to the process. Parties may subscribe at [ERF-EZ Subscriptions](#) or go to [Subscribing Instructions](#) for more information.

Reasonable Accommodations

The PSC does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the provision of programs, services, or employment. Any person with a disability who needs accommodations to participate in this grant application, or who needs to obtain this document in a different format, should contact the PSC at the contact information listed at the end of this application.

The PSC is located in the Hill Farms State Office Building that is also physically accessible to individuals with disabilities through the entrances on the first floor of the building. Parking for people with disabilities is available on the ground floor of the parking garage. There is also limited, free handicap visitor parking at the front of the Hill Farms State Office Building.

Clarification(s) and/or revision(s) to these Application Instructions

Any question concerning these Application Instructions must be submitted before the application due date. If an applicant discovers any significant ambiguity, error, conflict, discrepancy, omission, or other deficiency, the applicant should notify the PSC immediately at the contact information listed at the end of this application.

If it becomes necessary to provide additional clarifying data or information, or to revise any part of the Application Instructions, any revisions, amendments, and/or supplements will be posted in docket 5-NF-2026. Any contact with state employees concerning this application is prohibited, except for those listed as contacts at the end of these instructions.

Application Submission and Deadline

All applicants are required to submit an application using the Commission's online grant application system. The [PSC Grants System](#) will automatically upload the application to the appropriate ERF account when the application is submitted. The PSC Grants System will not permit late applications. Applicants are encouraged to start early and leave plenty of time to work with the grant application and system.

**Applications are due and must be submitted on the PSC Grants System
no later than, Monday, Feb. 2, 2026, by 1:30 p.m. CST.**

Please note the mid-day time.

The deadline is final. The PSC Grants System does not permit late applications and cannot accept any application submissions after the deadline.

Application Instructions (10 Steps)

The instructions for completing a Nonprofit Access Grant application have two components, both available on the PSC website.

The first component of the instructions is the PSC [Grants System User's Guide](#) for Grant Applicants and Recipients. The User's Guide is the primary technical resource an applicant should consult to use the PSC Grants System. The User's Guide provides step by step instructions to create a system account, navigate the online grant application, validate their application, and submit the complete application.

If awarded a grant, the PSC Grant account will also provide grant recipients with access to the online form and filing process to request reimbursement.

The second component of the instructions is this document, the Grant Application Instructions. This document provides step-specific guidance for completing an application for the FY 2026 Nonprofit Access Grant. An applicant should use this document to understand what information is requested for each question in the grant application.

These instructions also describe in detail the questions in the Narrative section tabs of the application.

NOTE: Once an application has been created (Step 3 below), applicants can return to any section of the application to make edits, prior to submission. Applications must be submitted to be considered for funding.

Step 1: Open the [PSC Grants System](#), and navigate to the **login page**. For the first instance of logging in, an applicant will need to create a system account. (Steps are outlined in the [User's Guide section: Getting Started](#).) The applicant must remember its username and password. For all subsequent instances, the applicant will be required to use that username and password.

The applicant also needs an individual ERF account. If the person filling out the application has previously set up an individual ERF account, make sure to have at hand the ERF Login ID and password. If the person filling out the application forgot their ERF Login ID or ERF password, go [here](#) to reset. If the person filling out the application doesn't have an individual ERF account, go to the [PSC ERF System](#) and create one.

Step 2: On the **Grant System** page titled **Available Grants**, find the row for the 2026 Nonprofit Access Program, and click the '**Apply**' orange button on the right. (Information at [User's Guide section: Grant Applicant Landing Page.](#))

Step 3: The first page you will fill out is the '**Grant Application Details**' page ([Information at User's Guide Section: Grant Application Details tab](#)). Enter the information requested as follows:

- **Project Name.** [max 100 characters]. It should be brief and indicate the following information about the program or project: "[WHAT], [WHERE]."
Examples: "Cellphone Program, in City of Milwaukee" OR "Devices & Training, in Fox Valley" OR "Devices & Service Connections, in Northern WI" OR "Service Connections & Skills Training, in Iron County."
- **Project Description.** [max 500 characters]. Provide an overview of the project.
- **Grant Applicant Details.** Fill out all requested fields; note that the Grant Applicant is the party that will receive the money. The Applicant Entity Legal Name must be the entity that will sign the grant agreement, submit reimbursement requests, and receive grant disbursements.

On the bottom-left of the page, click the blue '**Create**' button to save and continue your Grant application. Once created, you will see a '**Save**' button on the same page to save any further edits before continuing.

NOTE: Prior to final submission, applicants can return to any section of the application to make edits at any time.

Step 4: The PSC Grant System will now display the full **Grant Application form**. The form heading shows the 'Grant Type' information, including the project name. The form is arranged in a series of tabs along the top of the form.

The information entered thus far will appear in the Details tab. Check the information in the Details tab for accuracy and make any needed updates.

Each tab must be completed (tab-specific instructions listed below). Before leaving any page of the form, the applicant must save their work using the 'save' button at the bottom of the page. If not saved, *any unsaved entries will be lost*.

Step 5: Next, select the '**Budget**' tab and complete the required information. (Information at [User's Guide section: Budget Tab Page](#).) **The functionality of the tab has changed from prior years. Ensure adequate time is dedicated to this tab to complete it properly.**

This page has a new validation feature built-in to help applicants verify the required match ratio.

The budget numbers must be entered rounded to the whole dollar amount. Do not enter cents.

The screenshot displays the 'Grant Application Budget' form. At the top, there is a navigation bar with tabs: Details, Contacts, Contributions, Budget (highlighted with a red box), Communities, Narrative, Upload, Submit, and Create PDF. Below the navigation bar, there are buttons for 'Save changes' and 'Cancel changes'. The main table lists budget items with columns for 'Budget Item', 'Grant Funded', 'Contribution Funded', and 'Notes'. The items include Contractual, Consultant fees; Equipment - Non-Telecommunications; Equipment - Telecommunications; Labor (Salary, Fringe); Other; Training; Supplies; Rent / Occupancy; and Telecommunications Service. A 'Subtotal' row is highlighted with a red box, showing a Grant Funded amount of \$93,750.00 and a Contribution Funded amount of \$31,250.00. Below the table, there is a 'Total Budget: \$125,000' label. At the bottom, a yellow warning banner states: 'WARNING! The Grant Funded amount requested is more than 75% of the Total Budget amount. Please Correct.' A yellow arrow points to this warning banner.

Budget Item	Grant Funded	Contribution Funded	Notes
Contractual, Consultant fees	\$20,000.00	\$10,000.00	
Equipment - Non-Telecommunications	\$20,000.00	\$10,000.00	
Equipment - Telecommunications	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	
Labor (Salary, Fringe)	\$10,000.00	\$0.00	
Other	\$5,000.00	\$0.00	
Training	\$5,000.00	\$0.00	
Supplies	\$5,000.00	\$0.00	
Rent / Occupancy	\$10,000.00	\$0.00	
Telecommunications Service	\$8,750.00	\$1,250.00	
Subtotal:	\$93,750.00	\$31,250.00	

Total Budget: \$125,000

WARNING! The Grant Funded amount requested is more than 75% of the Total Budget amount. Please Correct.

The budget page features a table with four columns (image above).

- o The first column, **Budget Items**, displays by default the budget categories to which project costs can be allocated.
- o The second column, **Grant Funded**, must be filled out with the amount of funds applicant is requesting for each budget category. If none, enter zero.
- o The third column, **Contribution Funded**, must be filled out with the amount of committed matching funds for each budget category (Contribution means Match). If none, enter zero.
- o The fourth column allows the applicant to enter notes regarding the item(s) that will be purchased within a given budget category.

Enter all budget amounts rounded to the nearest whole dollar. Do not enter cents. No empty fields are allowed. If no cost is associated with a budget field, the applicant must enter zero in that field.

Once all budget item fields are completed, press the 'SAVE CHANGE' bottom (on the top left), stay on this tab, and make sure to scroll down to view all details at the bottom of the tab. New information will display to help verify the correct match ratio and adjust as needed.

At the bottom of the budget page there are two rows (Subtotal, and Total Budget); these rows are automatically populated. PAY ATTENTION to the dollar amounts in those rows.

The screenshot shows the 'Grant Application Budget' page. At the top, there's a navigation bar with tabs: Details, Contacts, Contributions, Budget (selected), Communities, Narrative, Upload, Submit, and Create PDF. Below the navigation bar, there are buttons for 'Save changes' and 'Cancel changes'. The main table has four columns: Budget Item, Grant Funded, Contribution Funded, and Notes. The Subtotal row shows \$93,750.00 for Grant Funded and \$31,250.00 for Contribution Funded. The Total Budget row shows \$125,000. The page number '1 - 9 of 9 items' is visible in the bottom right corner.

- o **Subtotal:** there are two subtotals, one for the Grant funded and one for the Contribution Funded (orange box in the above image); those dollar amounts are the sum of all budget items entered in the related column. Those sums are automatically updated in real time.
- o **Total Budget:** (light blue box in the image above). The Total Budget amount is the sum of the Grant Funded Subtotal + Contribution (Match) Funded Subtotal and indicates the total cost of the project. This amount will not update or reflect any edits and related changes in the subtotals, until the budget page is saved. **Make sure to save any edits to assure the Total Budget amount is accurate.**

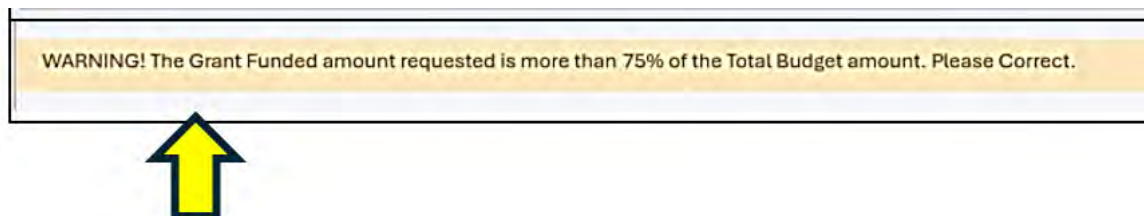
Upon saving the budget tab, the system will automatically update and display the Total Budget amount and will also **automatically validate** each Subtotal amount against the Total Budget.

Once amounts are validated two possible scenarios occur.

1. A yellow warning message appears at the bottom.

If the Contribution Funded Subtotal is less than 25 percent of the Total Budget amount, the system will display a yellow warning (image below; make sure to scroll down on the page to see if this message appears).

Receiving a yellow warning means the Grant Funded request exceeds 75 percent of the *total cost of the project*.



If a yellow warning message appears when saving the budget, the budget amounts must be adjusted, and saved, for the system to recalculate the required ratios. The warning will remain until the grant budget includes at least 25 percent of the total project cost as match.

2. No warning message appears.

If a yellow warning message does not appear upon saving the budget entries the first time, then the appropriate match ratio has been met, and the applicant can continue to the next steps in completing the application.

Once the budget tab has been validated and saved the applicant should note the Contribution Funded Subtotal.

Step 6: Select the **‘Contributions’** tab and fill in the required information. (Information at [User’s Guide section: Contributions Tab page.](#))



Contributions mean Match in the system. Indicate the name of the contributors and related dollar amount(s). The total contributions must be 25 percent or more of the total project cost. There is another automatic validation step built into this tab; for entries to be saved here, they must agree with the data entered earlier on the Budget page. Click save. If there is any discrepancy, the system will display a warning, so that the applicant can fix it.

Step 7: Next, select the '**Contacts**' tab and complete the information required. (Information at [User's Guide section: Contacts Tab page](#).)



Applicants must provide at least one Primary Contact and one Authorized Representative contact (the person legally authorized to sign the Grant Agreement); one person can fill both roles and should have separate Contact entries for each role. Additional contacts can be added by selecting Add New Contact and assigning the contact type. Click save. (If awarded, grant recipients can later use this page to update Contacts as needed.)

Step 8: Then, select the '**Communities**' tab and complete the required information. (Information at [User's Guide Section: Communities Tab page](#)) Click save.



Step 9: Then, select the '**Narrative**' tab and fill in the required information. (Information at [User's Guide section: Narrative Tab Page](#))



The Narrative consists of 11 questions. All 11 questions are important. The applicant must answer every question and save their work before advancing to the next page of the Narrative. No empty questions are allowed. The applicant is allowed to write in 'n/a' and move on to the next question, but that means the applicant is passing on a question that either determines the applicant's eligibility to apply for the grant, or contributes to increasing the overall merit of the application. (See details below for each question in this tab.)

Narrative Tab (11 Questions)

Make sure to SAVE each answer before moving to the next question.

1. **Eligibility**: Is the applicant a nonprofit organization as defined by the IRS in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code? Answer: Yes or No.

The applicant must be a nonprofit to be eligible.

If an applicant answers “no,” the application will not be eligible.

2. **Applicant Overview**: Briefly describe the applicant organization(s) including the history, mission and programs or services. Answer: Long Narrative up to 3000 characters.
Briefly describe the applicant organization(s).

3. **Project Purpose**: Describe how the project meets at least one of the purposes of the Universal Service Fund. Answer: Long Narrative up to 3000 characters

Describe how the project meets at least one of the following purposes of the Universal Service Fund:

- To assist customers located in areas of the state that have relatively high costs of telecommunication services in obtaining affordable access to a basic set of essential telecommunication services.
- To assist low-income customers to obtain affordable access to a basic set of essential telecommunication services.
- To assist customers with disabilities to obtain affordable access to a basic set of essential telecommunication services.

4. **Project Need**: Describe a public need that is not currently being met, which will be targeted by the project. Describe how this need was identified and defined. Answer: Long Narrative up to 3000 characters.

Describe the population that this project will reach, provide data or information demonstrating the identified needs.

5. **Project Impact**: Identify up to three realistic, measurable goals and outcomes expected to result from the implementation of the proposed project (please number them).
Answer: Long Narrative up to 3000 characters.

Identify realistic, measurable goals and outcomes expected to result from the implementation of the project. Anticipated outcomes should relate to the Project Need and Purpose described in the application. These goals and outcomes will be used to evaluate the success of the project.

6. **Unduplicated People**: Provide the number of different individuals projected to be served by the proposed project during the two-year performance period (July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2028). Count each person only once. Answer: Numeric.

Only a whole numeric value will be accepted.

7. **Project Implementation -A**: For each goal identified in Question 5, describe the activities, providers, equipment, and project/programs approach, to be implemented throughout the performance period to address the needs and achieve the goals.

Answer: Long Narrative up to 3000 characters

- Describe the activities to be performed throughout the timeframe of the project, including priorities, sequence and necessary materials, equipment, or contracts.
- Identify providers for each portion of the services or equipment needed for the project.
- Explain the approach to the problem, plan of work, and why this approach was selected.

8. **Project Implementation -B**: Describe any partnerships, community support or other collaborations with individuals or organizations that will be involved in the proposed project. Answer: Short Narrative up to 300 characters.

The applicant can indicate N/A if this does not apply.

9. **Project Evaluation**: Explain how the identified project goals and outcomes will be evaluated. Describe the performance measurement tools, such as pre- and post-testing, surveys, reports, and qualitative interviews that will be used to determine the extent to which the project meets each of its goals.

Answer: Long Narrative up to 3000 characters.

10. **Budget Detail**: Provide justification for the budget, in narrative form. For each category listed in the budget tab, describe the item(s) to be purchased, and provide additional detail. Explain how the proposed project meets the desired public need in a least-cost manner. Answer: Long Narrative up to 3000 characters.

Rent for general administrative purposes may not be included as a grant-funded expense; however, it can be included for matching purposes as a contribution-funded in-kind cost.

For each budgeted expense please provide a short narrative of cost details.

- If the budget contains labor costs of \$10,000 or more, the applicant must provide position details including the position title(s), the amount of time anticipated on the project, and the rate of pay. For example, Digital Navigator, 0.25 FTE, \$22/hr.
- If the project will be done by existing staff, explain why that approach was chosen.
- Identify the provider(s) of the telecommunications services or equipment and provide a specific description of the components of the project.
- Administrative costs should only include costs directly attributable to the project. If a percentage of the organization's overhead is used to determine administrative costs, the amount and what is included in that percentage must be described.

11. Additional Information: For applicants that have received previous awards, discuss past performance and how this application relates to previous awards. For new applicants, provide any additional information on the organization or the proposed project.

Answer: Open-ended.

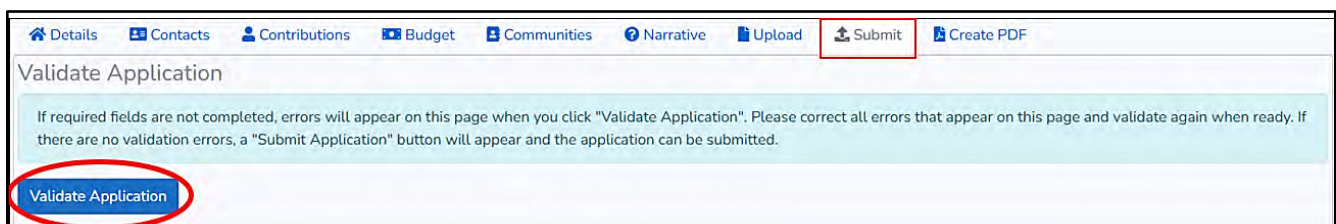
For applicants that received funding in previous cycles of the Nonprofit Access Grant Program, reference previous successes and provide statistics describing the previous award and how this application builds on that success. **SAVE.**

Optional: the **Create PDF** tab can be used at any time, before or after submission, by the applicant to download a pdf version of their entire application.



The pdf document is in the same format as the application submission.

Step 10: Finally, select the '**Submit**' tab and follow the instructions. (Information at [User's Guide section: Submit Tab page.](#))



A validation functionality is built into this page for applicant to check that all information and questions on each tab have been completed. Click the 'Validate Application' button.

If any error is detected once validation is completed the applicant will see a list of issues and suggested actions. Once the applicant has fixed all errors, a 'Submit Application' button will appear. Click the 'Submit Application' button.

Once your application is submitted in the PSC Grants System, no change can be made by the applicant.

All applications become the property of the Commission upon submission and are subject to Wisconsin's open records laws. Applications will be available for the public to review on the Commission's website by searching under docket 5-NF-2026 in ERF. Applications that are saved but not submitted are not visible to the public. Applications that are saved but not submitted by the deadline will not be considered.

Review and Selection Process

1. Initial Screening

Commission staff will conduct an initial screening of all applications. The applications will be screened for: a) eligibility of applicant as a nonprofit organization, b) addressing the Universal Service Fund Purpose, c) the commitment of at least 25 percent matching funds, and d) application completeness.

Applications not meeting the initial screening requirements may not be considered for funding and may be excluded from the review process.

2. Application Review and Merit Categories

Applications passing the initial screening will be reviewed by a panel of technical or program professionals. The review panel provides review and expertise. Reviewers will also use a rating checklist that determines the relative merit of each application based on the ***grant application criteria*** described above and in the below table. Results of this analysis and review will be reported in a memorandum to the Commissioners and posted on ERF.

Reviewers Evaluation Summary	
Merit criteria and Rating	
Merit Category and Value assessed	Scoring range
1. Project Purpose and Need: Applicant's proposal meets at least one of the purposes of the Universal Service Fund. The proposed project describes how it will address a public need that is not currently being met.	1 - 10
2. Project Impact: Applicant has identified up to three realistic, measurable goals or outcomes expected to result from the implementation of the proposed project	1 - 10
3. Project Implementation: Applicant's proposal describes project activities and services that fit with the purpose of the Universal Service fund and are likely to result in the intended program impacts. The project activities are planned to meet the specific needs of the target population. Any partnerships or other collaborations with individuals or organizations are clear and described.	1 - 10
4. Evaluation: Applicant's proposal explains how the project goals or outcomes identified will be evaluated.	1 - 10
5. Budget: Applicant's proposed budget is feasible given the scope, details, and timeline of the proposed activities. The budget meets the desired public need in a least-cost manner.	1 - 10
Final Assessment: Overall project merit score across all five categories.	5 - 50

Commissioners are not bound by the above merit criteria or resulting recommendations from the panel, which are intended for advisory purposes only. The Commissioners utilize their experience, technical competence, and specialized knowledge. The Commissioners, as the finder of fact and decision makers, are charged with evaluating all available information and applying any relevant statutory criteria, as well as the below criteria and any pertinent others, to reach well-reasoned decisions.

3. Final Decision on Grant Awards

After the screening and review process is complete, the Commission will decide which projects to award grants to. The Commission will make its decisions at an Open Meeting. Interested parties can watch the Open Meeting on the Commission's YouTube page, or in-person at the Hill Farms State Office Building. The Commission will notify all grant applicants of its decision by adopting an Order awarding grants that will be posted to the docket 5-NF-2026.

In addition to the merit categories above, the Commission may consider other factors in its decision-making such as, but not limited to: analysis provided by staff, analysis of the review panel, geographic distribution of the proposed grants, diversity of needs addressed by the proposed grants, the number of previous USF grants awarded to the applicant, cost of the

project relative to the number of individuals receiving benefits, past performance on previous grants and availability of funds.

Grant Agreement, Reporting and Payment Process

There is a two-year performance period for these grants from July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2028. An executed Grant Agreement will be required of all Grant Recipients. Grantees will submit reimbursement requests via the online PSC Grants System. Interim and Final Reports will be submitted using the PSC Grant System.

Each approved grant applicant will be required to enter into a Grant Agreement with the Commission. The Commission Order awarding grants, and the Grant Agreement, including any amendments, will together constitute the entire agreement of the state and the applicant, and will supersede any representations, commitments, conditions, or agreements made orally or in writing prior to the issuance of the order.

False, Misleading, or Omitted Statements

False or misleading statements, or omissions that render the information provided on an application to be false or misleading, are grounds for rejection of an application, for denial, or for termination of funding. In addition, the Commission reserves the right to take any other action allowed by law.

Contacts

For further information or to request reasonable accommodations contact:

Milena Bernardinello, Universal Service Fund and Digital Opportunity Director

Phone: (608) 267-6919

Email: Milena.Bernardinello@wisconsin.gov

Website: [PSC Nonprofit Access Grant \(wi.gov\)](https://www.wisconsin.gov/psc-nonprofit-access-grant)

For questions concerning the Commission's PSC Grants System, contact:

PSC Universal Service Fund Grants Team by email at [PSC USF NonProfit Grants@wisconsin.gov](mailto:PSC_USF_NonProfit_Grants@wisconsin.gov).

For questions concerning the PSC Electronic Records Filing System (ERF), contact:

Records Management Team at (608) 261-8524 or at pscrecordsmail@wisconsin.gov.

Public Service Commission of Wisconsin

North Tower, 6th Floor

Hill Farms State Office Building

4822 Madison Yards Way

Madison, WI 53705