FY2023 State Broadband Expansion Grants

Grant Application Overview Webinar

January 10, 2023

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More information:
https://psc.wi.gov/Pages/ServiceType/Broadband/GrantsStateExpansion.aspx

Contact Us: PSCStateBroadbandOffice@wisconsin.gov

Wisconsin Broadband Office

Broadband Expansion Grant Program

To encourage the deployment of advanced telecommunications capability in underserved areas of the state.

Gov. Evers Announces $14.1 Million Investment in Broadband Expansion Grants

- Application materials issued on December 7, 2022
- Applications due on February 22, 2023 at 1:30 PM CT
- Funds for this grant round will come from the Universal Service Fund
- Applicants will use the new PSC Grants System

Getting Started

- Visit our website for application instructions and PSC Grants System user guide.

Application Materials

The application materials for the State Broadband Expansion Grant Program are listed below.

Application Instructions

- Letter to Persons Interested in the State Broadband Expansion Grant Program
- State Broadband Expansion Grant Instructions

Eligibility Maps

These links will be updated after the grant announcement to reflect the newest coverage data available.
Check these links for updates.

State Broadband Eligibility Grant Map - To view eligibility areas, deactivate the coverage layers and activate the Guideline layers.

State Broadband Eligibility Guide Mapping Files - Download a copy of the eligibility layer

Previous Webinars

- **State Grant Application Information & Overview**, December 12
- **Grants System Webinar**, December 15
- **How to Map Your Project**, December 19

- Webinar recordings and slides also available on our website: https://psc.wi.gov/Pages/ServiceType/Broadband/GrantsStateExpansion.aspx

Schedule of Events

Date	Milestone
December 7, 2022	Application materials posted
January 17, 2023	Last day to submit questions and requests for clarification
February 21, 2023	Last day to request Grants System assistance
February 22, 2023, 1:30 PM CT	**Applications due from applicants (deadline for submitting in the grants system)**
March 13, 2023, 1:30 PM CT	Last day for submitting an objection to a grant application
March 27, 2023, 1:30 PM CT	Last day for submitting a response to an objection

Who may apply for a Broadband Grant?

Applicants must fall within one of the following three applicant categories:

1) An organization operated for profit or not-for-profit, including a cooperative.

2) A telecommunications utility.

3) A city, village, town, or county that has entered into a partnership with an eligible organization or telecommunications utility.

- For purposes of eligibility for a Broadband Expansion Grant, an Indigenous Nation or Tribe located within the State will treated as an Organization under Item 1 above.

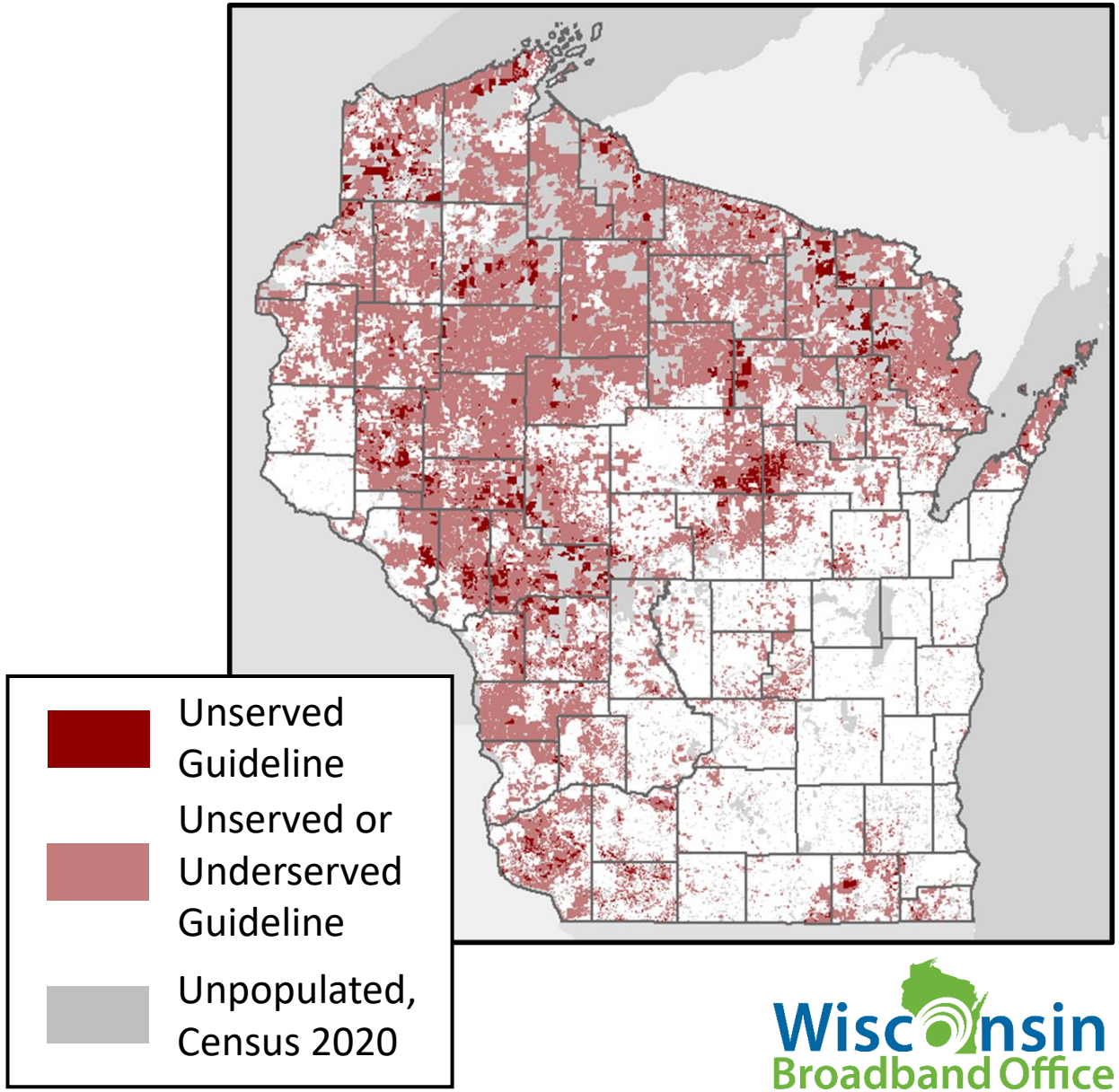
Where may Broadband Grants be awarded?

For an area to be considered eligible for a grant, it must be considered "underserved."

- "Underserved" =
  Area served by fewer than 2 providers offering "Broadband Service"

  "Broadband Service" =
  25 Mbps Download / 3 Mbps Upload

- "Unserved" area priority factor described in Application Contents section.



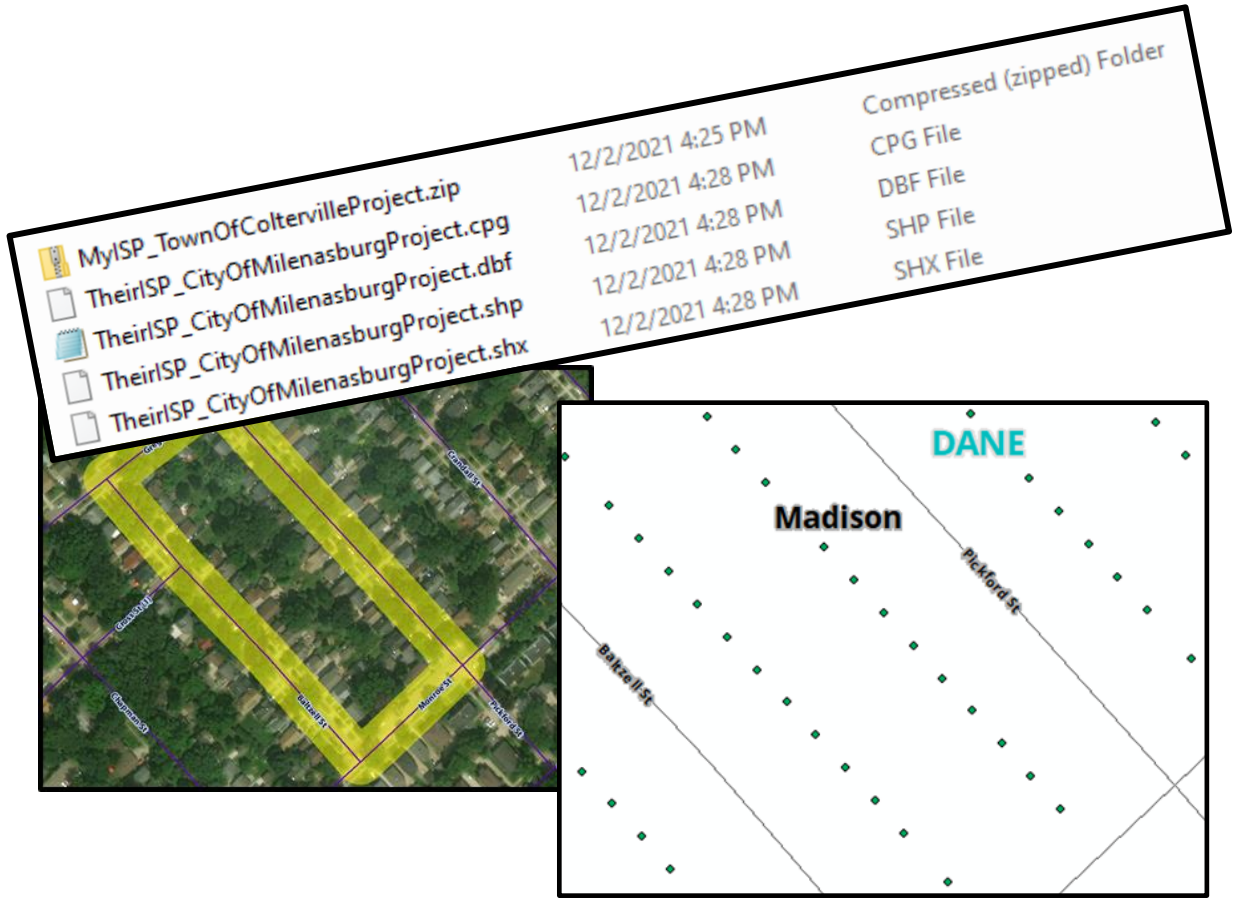
“The Wisconsin Broadband Map is not accurate with respect to my location.”

As coverage data granularity transitions between the FCC’s older census block standards and more precise coverage depictions, eligible locations are underrepresented.

The grant application instructions provide:

- If the project area lies within an area designated as served on the Wisconsin Broadband Map, provide additional documentation to demonstrate the actual broadband service that is available in the proposed project area.

We Require Mapping Data of your Proposed Projects!



A geospatial file of your proposed project must be emailed to the PSC by the application due date.

- Files must be in geodatabase or shapefile format.
- Have your GIS staff or contractors prepare this submission!

"How to Map Your Project" Webinar
Monday, December 19th, 11 a.m.

- Learn how to submit grant application mapping data.
- Understand location-based grant eligibility.
- Review grant mapping and planning resources, with Q & A.
- Webinar Recording

Mapping Resources

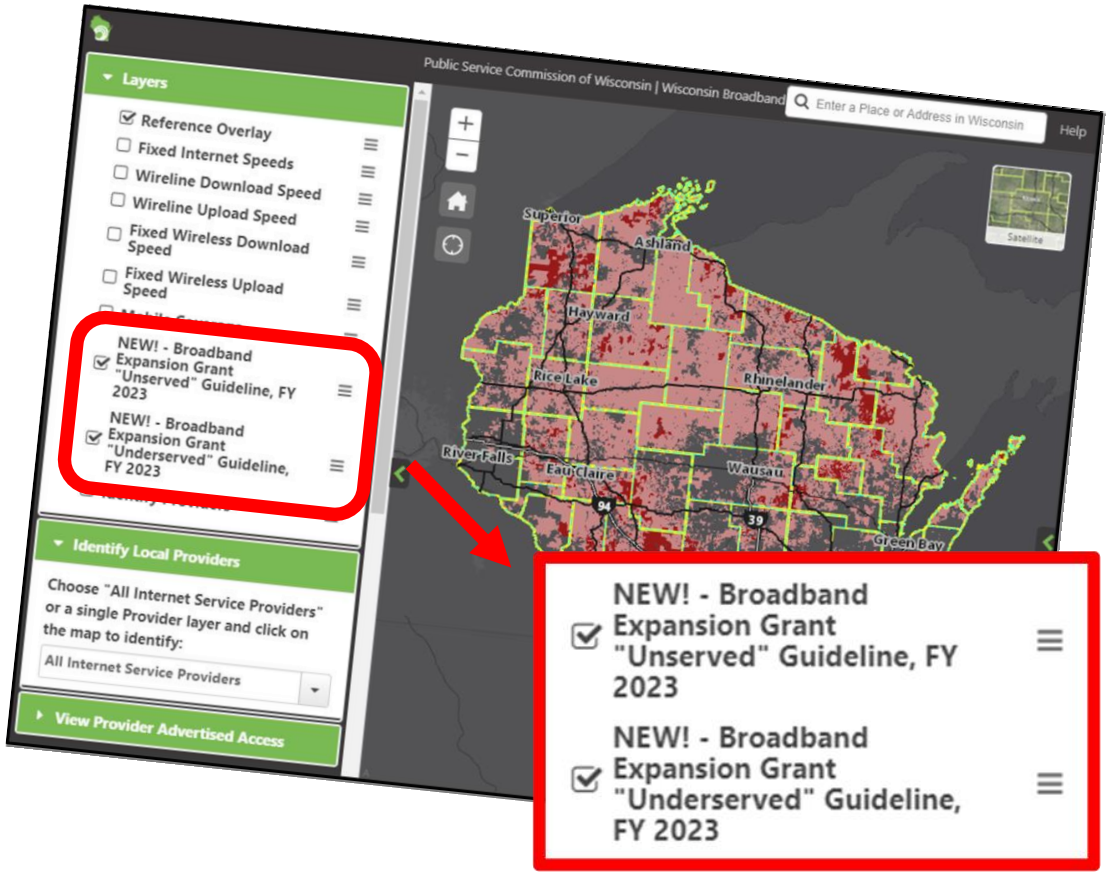
Watch for updated data and other information on the Grant webpage.

To view eligibility guideline layers and coverage:
https://maps.psc.wi.gov/apps/WisconsinBroadbandMap/

To download grant-related map layers, see:
https://psc.wi.gov/Pages/Programs/BroadbandData.aspx

To view previous broadband grants:
https://maps.psc.wi.gov/apps/BroadbandGrantFootprint

To view other grant-related maps,
https://psc.wi.gov/Pages/Programs/BroadbandMaps.aspx



What’s New?

PSC Grants System

- What to know:
  - *New system for submitting grant applications and managing projects.*
  - *Grant applications MUST be submitted via this system to be considered for funding.*
  - *DO NOT upload your application to ERF, they will be automatically uploaded to ERF once submitted.*

- Start here: https://psc.wi.gov/Pages/GrantsSystem.aspx

DON'T WAIT TO GET STARTED.

The grants system is not capable of accepting submissions after the February 22 at 1:30pm deadline.

PSC Grants System

Grant Type: Broadband | **Grant Name:** 2023 Broadband Expansion Grants | **Grant Year:** 2023 | **Project:** WBO TEST

Details | Contacts | Contributions | Budget | Communities | Narrative | Upload | Submit | Create PDF

Grant Questions

Page **1** of **12**

The narrative question box can be expanded by dragging the lower right hand corner of the box.

1 ELIGIBILITY: Is the applicant an organization, a telecommunications utility, or a political subdivision of the State (city, village, town, or county)? The applicant must meet the eligibility requirement set forth in statute. Wis. Stat. § 196.504(1)(ac)

--Select one--

2 ELIGIBILITY: An applicant that is a political subdivision of the State must have a partner organization as a co-applicant. If the applicant is a political subdivision of the state, identify the partner organization for this application. Wis. Stat. § 196.504(1)(ac)3

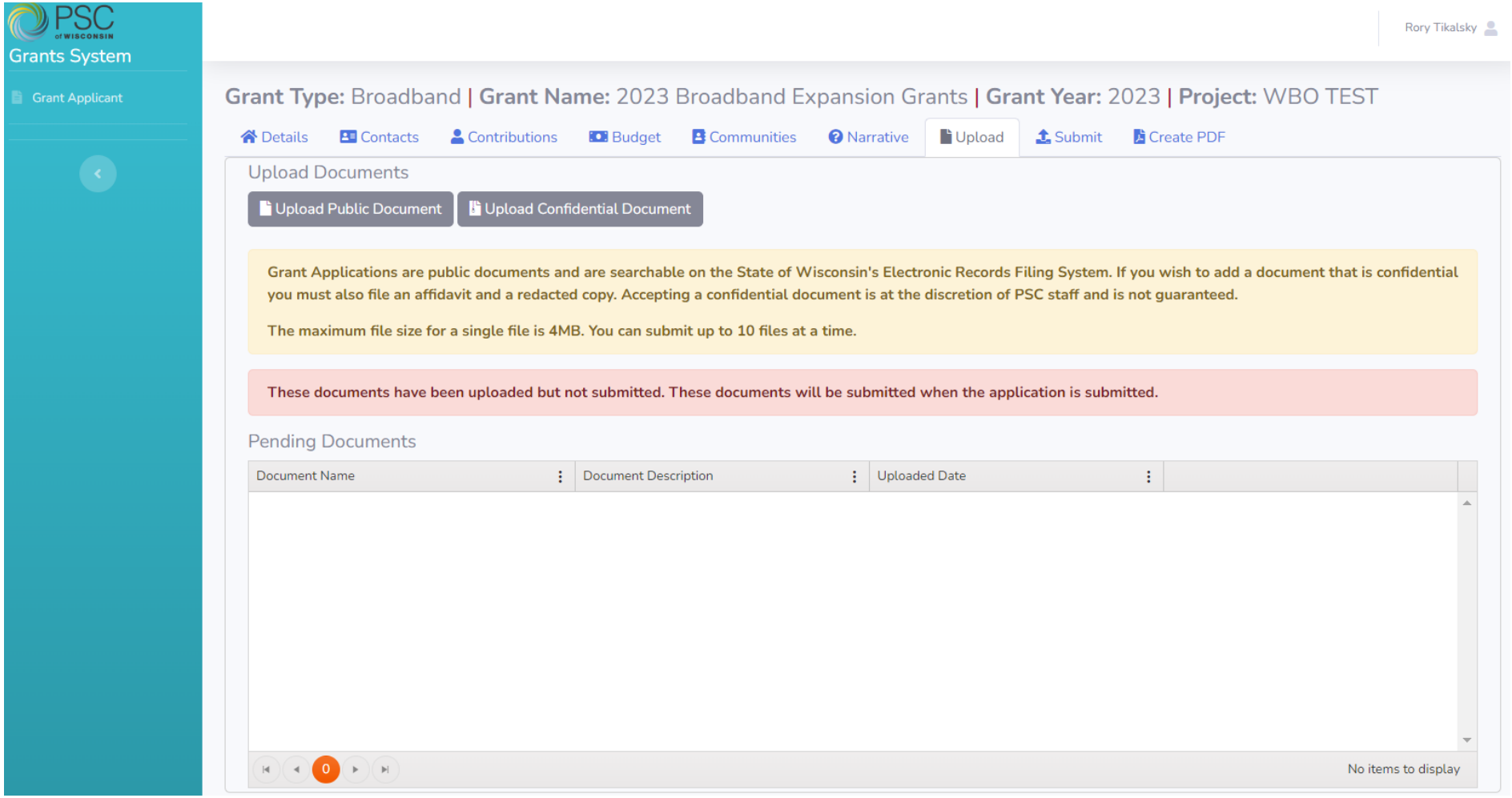
Remaining Characters: 300

3 ELIGIBILITY: Will the proposed project extend broadband service to an underserved area of the State, as defined in the Grant Application Instructions? Wis. Stat. § 196.504(2)(a)

--Select one--

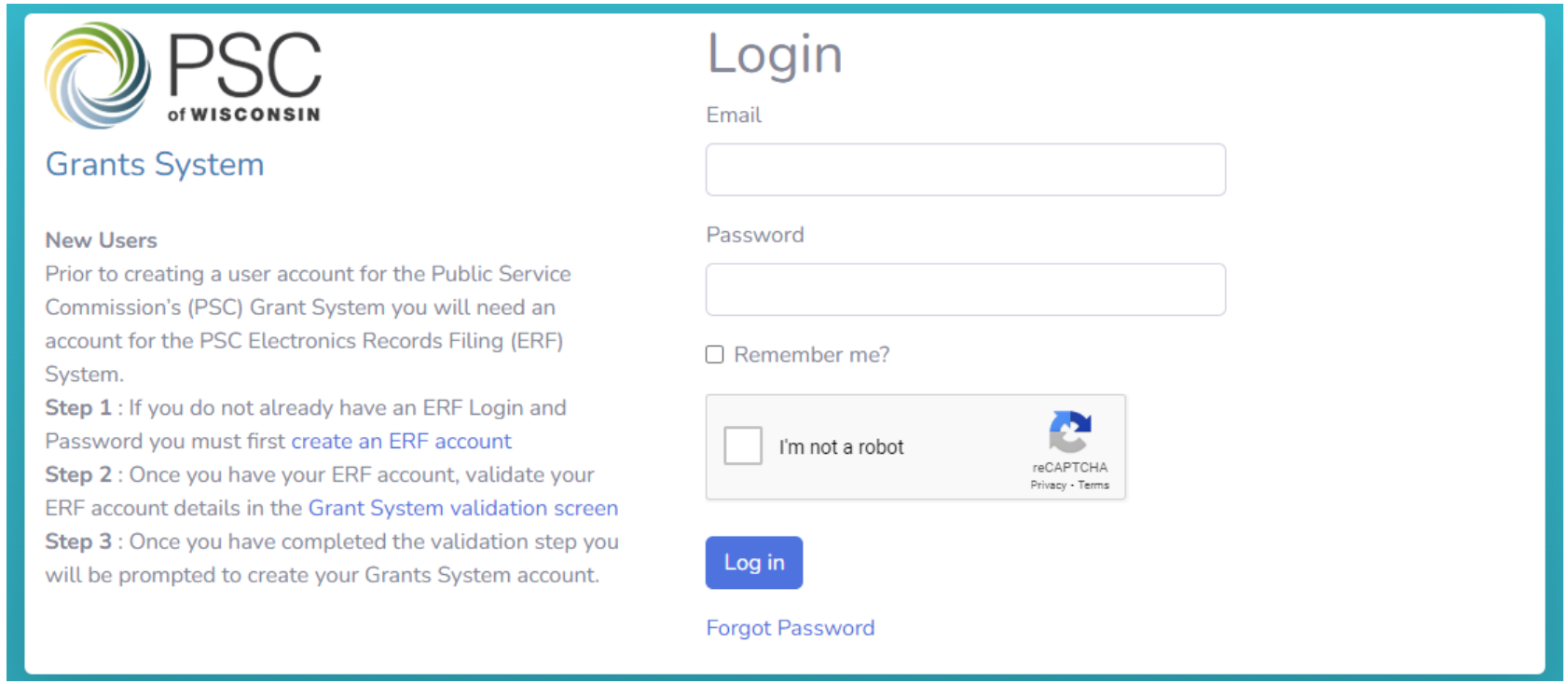
Save

PSC Grants System



Grants System Webinar

- Learn how to submit grant application using the new grants system
- [Webinar Recording]
- Also available: https://psc.wi.gov/Documents/GrantsSystemUsersGuide.pdf



Application Contents

On our State Grants Webpage:

https://psc.wi.gov/Pages/ServiceType/Broadband/GrantsStateExpansion.aspx

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PSC Grants System

To apply for a PSC administered grant, applicants must submit an application using the PSC Grants System. Use the application material below for details on grant eligibility, instructions on application responses and required documentation when submitting an application in the PSC Grants System.

PSC GRANTS SYSTEM LOGIN | GRANTS SYSTEM USER'S GUIDE

PSC of WISCONSIN

PSC of WISCONSIN
Grants System

Grant Applicant

Rory Tikalsky

Available Grants

Drag a column header and drop it here to group by that column

Grant Type	Grant Name	Year	Funds Available	Docket	Application Start ...	Application Due ...	Status
Energy Innovation Grant Program (EIGP)	2022 Energy Innovation Grant Program	2022	$10,000,000.00	9709-FG-2022	10/31/2022	01/30/2023 04:00:PM	APPLY
Broadband	2023 Broadband Expansion Grants	2023	$14,100,000.00	5-BF-2023	12/07/2022	02/22/2023 01:30:PM	APPLY

1 - 2 of 2 items

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Grants System

Grant Applicant

Rory Tikalsky

Grant Type: Broadband | **Grant Name:** 2023 Broadband Expansion Grants | **Grant Year:** 2023 | **Project:** WBO TEST

Details | Contacts | Contributions | Budget | Communities | Narrative | Upload | Submit | Create PDF

Grant Application Details

Grant Id *	18
Grant Name	2023 Broadband Expansion Grants
Docket Id	5-BF-2023
Project Name *	WBO TEST Remaining Characters: 92
Project Description *	WBO TEST Remaining Characters: 492
Technology Type *	Fiber to the Premises (FTTP)
Grant Amount Requested	
Recipient & Partner Contributions	
Total Project Cost	

Wisconsin Broadband Office

How Does the Commission Evaluate Grant Applications?

The record that the Commission considers to make its grant award decision consists of the following 5 items:

- Grant applications
- Comments of interested persons in support as part of the application
- Opposition to one or more specific applications
- Ranking of the grant applications prepared by a preliminary evaluation committee
- Discussion memo prepared by Commission staff

The Commission meets in an open session to discuss the record and to decide which applications should be awarded grants.

What Specific Items of Information Must be Discussed in the Grant Application?

The statute that authorizes the Broadband Grant Program requires that the Commission give priority to applications that include any of seven factors listed in the statute:

- Matching funds
- Unserved Area
- Scalability
- Will not delay broadband service in adjacent areas
- Public/private partnerships
- Project impact
- Economic impact

To date, the Broadband Grant program has been quite competitive. The Commission has received many more applications than it can fund. The discussion of priority factors has been the key element of the application that the Commission has used to decide which applications to fund.

Priority

Following the evaluation for eligibility for funding, applications will also be reviewed by the evaluation committee and ranked based on the priority items listed in Wis. Stat. § 196.504.

- **Match:** An application shall receive priority based on the percentage of matching funds the applicant proposes to invest in its project and the variety of sources of matching funding provided by others.
- **Public-Private Partnership:** An application proposing to build a broadband facility in partnership with a city, village, town, or county government shall receive priority.

Priority Continued

- **Unserved Areas:** An application proposing to build or extend broadband service to an area with existing service less than 5 Mbps down and 600 Kbps up shall receive priority.

- **Project Impact:** An application that proposes to serve a comparatively larger geographic area, a larger number of customers or communities in an area, or provide a higher level of performance or service quality, shall receive priority.

- **Scalability:** An application that demonstrates a commitment to increase the size or scope of its broadband network in the future shall receive priority.

Priority Continued

- **Economic Development:** An application that demonstrates the potential to promote job growth or retention, expand the property tax base or improve the overall economic vitality of the municipality or region shall receive priority.

- **Effect upon Broadband Service to Adjacent Areas:** An application that demonstrates that it will not impair the ability of a competing broadband service provider to extend broadband service to areas adjacent to the proposed project area shall receive priority.

Application Budget and Income Summary

Funding Statement - Contributors

PSC of WISCONSIN Grants System

Grant Applicant

Rory Tikalsky

Grant Type: Broadband | **Grant Name:** 2023 Broadband Expansion Grants | **Grant Year:** 2023 | **Project:** WBO TEST

Details | Contacts | Contributions | Budget | Communities | Narrative | Upload | Submit | Create PDF

Recipient & Partner Contributions

List all parties contributing time, money, resources etc. to the project, including your own contributions. The total contributions on this page must equal the amount entered under Recipient & Partner Contributions on page 1 of this application.

Grant Amount Requested

Recipient & Partner Contributions

Total Project Cost

+ Add new record

Contributor Name	Cash	Salary	In Kind	Description
Subtotals:	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	

0 No items to display

Total Recipient & Partner Contribution: $0

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Budget Window

PSC of WISCONSIN

Grants System

Grant Applicant

Rory Tikalsky

Grant Type: Broadband | **Grant Name:** 2023 Broadband Expansion Grants | **Grant Year:** 2023 | **Project:** WBO TEST

Details | Contacts | Contributions | Budget | Communities | Narrative | Upload | Submit | Create PDF

Grant Application Budget

Save changes | Cancel changes

Budget Item	Grant Funded	Contribution Funded	Notes
Contractual, Consultant fees			
Equipment			
Labor (Salary, Fringe)			
Permitting, Licensing fees			
Other			
Supplies			
Travel			
Subtotal:	$0.00	$0.00	

1 - 7 of 7 items

Total Budget: $0

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Budget Categories

- Contractual, Consultant Fees
- Equipment
- Supplies
- Labor (Salary, Fringe)
- Permitting, Licensing Fees
- Travel
- Other

Use the 5-BF-2023 State Budget Categories Reference Document – Find it on State Broadband Expansion webpage

Categories Defined

- **CONTRACTUAL, CONSULTANT FEES**

  All project expenses for work performed by a third-party contractor.

  A third-party contractor is any entity that is not a signatory to the grant agreement or is not an ISP/Telco. Examples: legal services, cement contractors, tree trimmers, electrician and engineering services, etc.

  Any materials supplied by a third-party contractor should be included here

Categories Defined

- **EQUIPMENT**
  Tangible personal property (including information technology systems) having a useful life of more than one year and a per-unit acquisition cost which equals or exceeds $5,000.

- **SUPPLIES**
  Tangible personal property other than those described by the Equipment category. All items with per-unit acquisition costs of less than $5,000, regardless of the length of useful life, are considered supplies.

Categories Defined

- **LABOR (SALARY, FRINGE)**
  Actual labor expenses, including fringe benefits, of the grant manager and any ISP/Telco, even if the ISP/Telco is not the owner of the infrastructure. This category is limited to direct personnel expenses only.

- **PERMITTING, LICENSING FEES**
  All permitting & licensing expenses.

Categories Defined

- **TRAVEL**
  Grantee's travel expenses related to the project, including travel expenses of an ISP/Telco regardless of whether the ISP/Telco is or isn't the owner of the infrastructure.

- **OTHER**
  Other expenses not associated with other categories. Please provide details in the notes.

Examples of Ineligible Expenses

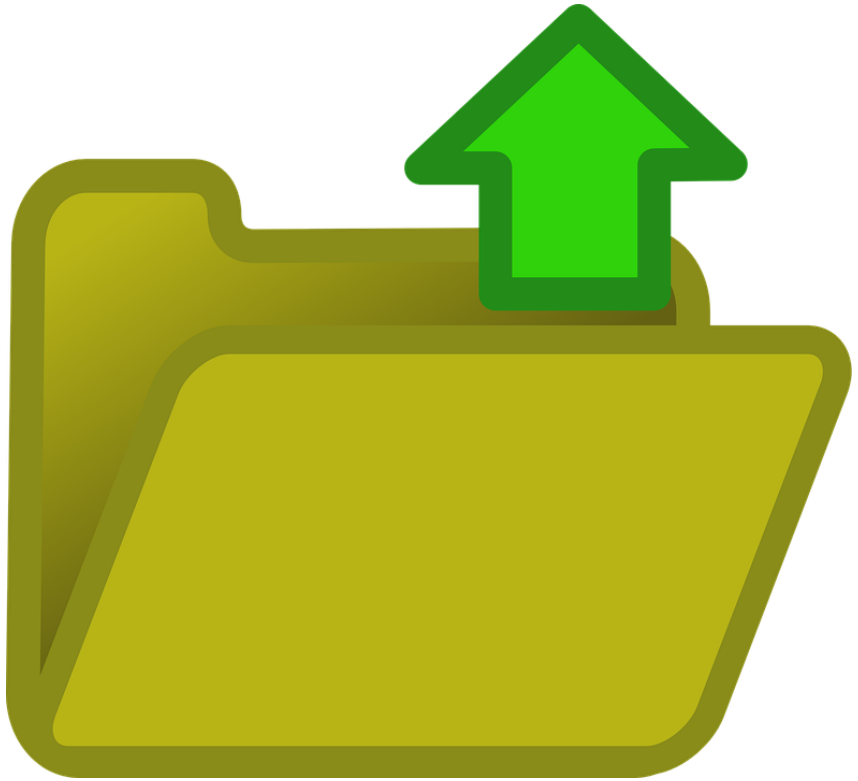
- Incurred outside the Performance Period specified in the grant agreement (i.e. before the date of written Commission Order)
  - Inventory purchased before Order qualifies as an eligible expense
- Loaded labor rates & administrative overhead expenses
- Incurred by applicant in preparing this application
- Non-prorated equipment and non-prorated capital expenditures
- Expenses that subsidize the expenses of a telecommunications provider or the monthly bills of telecommunications customers, § 196.504(2)(c)

Submitting Your Application…. And spatial data

VIA GRANTS SYSTEM

Full Application:

- **Includes narrative, budget, letters of support, static map**
- **(application is automatically uploaded to ERF)**



VIA EMAIL

Project Spatial files:

- **Zip folder**

PSCBroadbandData@wisconsin.gov

Summary

- Make sure your application is eligible
  - The project area is *not* currently served by 2 fixed wireless or wireline connections that reliably delivers at least 25 Mbps download speed and 3 Mbps of upload speed
- Address the priority factors and tell <u>your</u> story
- Follow the instructions, answer the questions completely
- Curate the comments
- Data and people matter
- Grants System
- <u>Email your geospatial file(s)</u> ideally before the due date February 22, 2023

Questions, Contacts, Docket, Maps & Other Important Dates

- In the case of ambiguity, error, conflict, discrepancy, omission, or other deficiency in the Application or Application Instructions, contact Rory.Tikalsky1@wisconsin.gov
  - Deadline is **January 17, 2023**
  - FAQs document to follow

- For all spatial file mapping questions (and submission of mapping files), contact PSCBroadbandData@Wisconsin.gov

- For general questions, contact PSCStateBroadbandOffice@wisconsin.gov

- This Broadband Expansion Grant round will use the docket 5-BF-2023
  - Use the ERF – EZ Subscription https://apps.psc.wi.gov/ERF/ERF/ERFhome.aspx