



# Public Service Commission of Wisconsin

Rebecca Cameron Valcq, Chairperson  
Ellen Nowak, Commissioner  
Tyler Huebner, Commissioner

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

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February 7, 2023

Dear County Executives, Administrators, and Administrative Coordinators:

The Public Service Commission of Wisconsin is committed to making high-speed internet accessible and affordable for all Wisconsinites. Throughout 2023, the Commission's Broadband Office will be engaging with a wide range of stakeholders to develop a Five-Year Action Plan for broadband and State Digital Equity Plan under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act's Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) and Digital Equity programs. These statewide plans will serve as Wisconsin's roadmap to the implementation of high-speed internet for all.

It is a federal requirement that 5-year action plans must be informed by collaboration with local and regional entities. Local governments will be key partners in the planning process. Successful broadband deployment requires inclusive and comprehensive engagement, and local leaders have knowledge, passion, and vision that are essential to Wisconsin's planning. The Commission is committed to supporting local planning and [recently approved](#) \$1.5 million in formula funding to Wisconsin counties and federally recognized Tribes under the BEAD Local Planning Grant Program in docket [5-BP-2023](#). These resources are being made available to support efforts to define the need, vision, and strategy for deployment of broadband in your communities. In addition to formula grants, the Commission is working collaboratively with the University of Wisconsin-Extension and the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation to provide technical assistance and coordination which could support your planning efforts.

**To be eligible for this funding, Counties have the opportunity to opt into the BEAD Local Planning Grant Program by submitting the attached letter of intent by March 7, 2023 at 1:30 p.m.** Counties may elect to participate individually, or work collaboratively through a [Regional Economic Development Organization \(REDO\)](#) and receive a 10 percent increase to the county allocation. A county planning to partner with a REDO may choose to engage with the local organization early to ensure coordination throughout the application process.

Following March 7<sup>th</sup>, the Commission will contact counties and relevant REDO partners that opt into the program with further guidance on receipt of funding. In the coming weeks, the Commission's Broadband office plans to make available additional information regarding BEAD Local Planning Grants, including details on program requirements, planning activities, project timelines, and eligible expenditures. Further information is also available as part of [UW-Extension's webinar series](#) on BEAD Planning for Wisconsin Counties and Tribes. For

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continued updates on the BEAD Local Planning Grant Program process, please subscribe to this [email list](#).

Thank you for your continued partnership and support of the Commission's Broadband Office. Please contact us at [PSCStateBroadbandOffice@wisconsin.gov](mailto:PSCStateBroadbandOffice@wisconsin.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe Fontaine". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Joe Fontaine

Administrator

Division of Digital Access, Consumer and Environmental Affairs

JF:AK:RT:MM:kle DL: 01926914

cc: County Board Chairs; County Board Supervisors; County Clerks; Regional Economic Development Organization Directors; County Economic Development Directors; County Land Information Officers.