

Capital Projects Fund Digital Connectivity and Navigators Grant Program 5-CPF-2024

Thursday, April 11, 2024

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PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF WISCONSIN Wisconsin Broadband Office



Presentation Outline



- Section I: Grants (Overview)
 - Getting Started (where to find information, resources)
 - General Program Information
 - Schedule of Events
 - Eligibility
 - Evaluation, Merit Criteria
- Section II: Application Process
 - How to Apply?
 - Application Requirements
 - Application
 - Best Practices
- Section III
 - Resources
 - Questions

<u>ACRONYMS</u>

CPF = Capital Projects Fund

WBO = Wisconsin Broadband Office

PSC = Public Service Commission

MDU = Multi-dwelling Unit

CPF Connectivity = Digital Connectivity and Navigators





Section I:

Digital Connectivity and Navigators Grant Program Overview



Getting Started



Where to find information and resources

Visit PSC's CPF-DC&N webpage for a variety of up-to-date resources:

- Webpage: https://psc.wi.gov/Pages/ServiceType/Broadband/DigitalConnectivityNavigators.aspx
- Application Instructions: https://apps.psc.wi.gov/ERF/ERFview/viewdoc.aspx?docid=495808
- Grants System Info: https://psc.wi.gov/Pages/GrantsSystem.aspx
- Grants System User Guide: https://psc.wi.gov/Documents/GrantsSystemUsersGuide.pdf
- CPF Email: <u>PSCCapitalProjectsFund@wisconsin.gov</u>



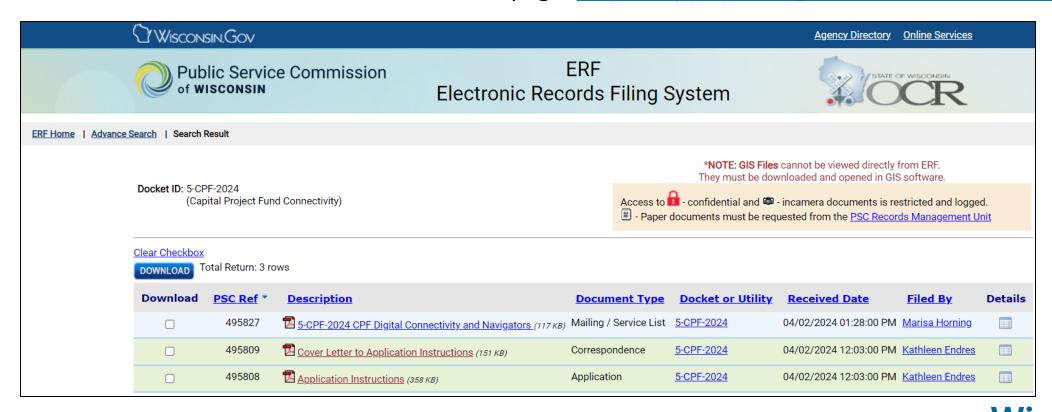
Getting Started



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Where to find information and resources

- All official documentation related to the CPF Digital Connectivity and Navigators Grant round will be published to PSC's Electronic Filing System (ERF) under Docket # 5-CPF-2024.
- Search for & subscribe to dockets on ERF Home page: https://apps.psc.wi.gov/ERF/ERF/ERFhome.aspx



General Program Information



- CPF Digital Connectivity and Navigators Program aims to address challenges laid bare by the COVID-19 pandemic by deploying computing devices, install Wi-Fi equipment in targeted apartment buildings, and provide digital navigation services to make use of the devices for work, education, and health monitoring.
- Up to \$33 Million for projects
- CPF Connectivity is a competitive sub-grant program that encourages partnerships
- Program will target underserved, underconnected, and low income communities and households in Wisconsin
- Can apply for funding to deploy devices and/or install MDU Wi-Fi projects must include digital navigation component



Schedule of Events



DATE EVENT

April 2, 2024 Date of issue of the application instructions

April 11, 2024 2:00 p.m. Application Overview Webinar

May 8, 2024 Last day for submitting questions and requests

for clarification

June 18, 2024 Last day to request Grant System assistance

June 19, 2024 1:30 p.m. Applications due from applicants (deadline for submitting in the Grant System)

The performance period begins with the Commission Order awarding grants and ends on November 1, 2026.



Eligibility



- 1. Entities eligible to apply:
 - Any nonprofit as defined as an IRS 501(c)(3) organization
 - Tribal Governments of federally recognized Tribes
 - Political subdivisions, city, village, town or county in Wisconsin
 - Institutions of Higher Education
 - Public Library Systems, Municipal, County, and Tribal Libraries
 - Internet Service Providers (ISP), including residential managed service providers
 - Public Housing authorities
 - Non-profit housing organizations including community development housing organizations



Eligibility



2. The project:

(1) invests in capital assets designed to directly enable work, education, and health monitoring

(2) is designed to address a critical need of the community that resulted from, or was made apparent or exacerbated by, the COVID-19 public health emergency

(3) is designed to address a critical need of the community to be served by it



Eligibility



3. The applicant and/or applicant's partner(s) confirm grant funding will primarily be for low-income, underserved or underconnected households for the following activities: MDU Wi-Fi and/or eligible device long term loan programs, and digital navigator services for recipients of devices deployed and/or to MDU residents for during the performance period.



Application Evaluation



How Does the Commission Evaluate Grant Applications?

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

- Grant applications
- Comments of interested persons in support as part of the application
- Ranking of the grant applications prepared by a preliminary evaluation committee
- Discussion memo prepared by Commission staff (advisory only)

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



Merit Criteria



These tables are high-level outlines of the criteria required to achieve full points. Please see the application instructions document for a more detailed outline of the Merit Criteria.

Merit Criteria	Points	
Engagement: Applicant demonstrates that the planning of their proposal includes a high-level of community engagement and support.		
Digital Navigators: Applicant's proposed project includes a clearly defined digital navigator program or service that attests to the quality of the digital navigator breadth and depth of services.		
Financial and operational capacity: The applicant demonstrates financial and operational capacity to execute the project successfully within the performance period.		
Trusted relationship with target population: The applicant has a mission, history and/or organizational goals that relate to the target population and there is evidence of a trusting relationship between the applicant and target population.		
Demonstrated Need: Applicant has conducted surveys, collected information or provided other data regarding the target population and /or locations / communities to be served.		
Highest Need: Project will primarily serve locations that are located in economically distressed communities disproportionately affected by the COVID-19 pandemic (tied to Center for Disease Control's Social Vulnerability Index (SVI).		
Project Design and Impact: The applicant's proposal and goals are clear, achievable, measurable, and able to be completed within the performance period.		
No or extremely low cost to target population: Proposed project provides devices, Wi-Fi and digital navigation service at no cost or extremely low cost to the target population.	10	



Merit Criteria



These tables are high-level outlines of the criteria required to achieve full points. Please see the application instructions document for a more detailed outline of the Merit Criteria.

MDU Wi-Fi Project Merit Criteria – 10 points

Merit Criteria	Points
Network Design: Applicant's project is reasonable, and the network is well designed, in the context of the building(s) and existing Wi-Fi deployment assets and barriers.	5
Affordable Housing: The proposed project serves an MDU that currently receives state, local, or federally-funded housing assistance.	5

Device Deployment Project Merit Criteria – 10 points

Merit Criteria	Points
Device Management: Applicant has demonstrated technical capacity for device deployment and management on a scale commensurate to the proposed project. distribution, warranty, and disposition.	5
Device Equipment: Applicant proposes to provide high quality digital devices that meet the needs of users to fully participate in work, school, and health monitoring activities.	5





Section II:

Digital Connectivity and Navigators

APPLICATION PROCESS

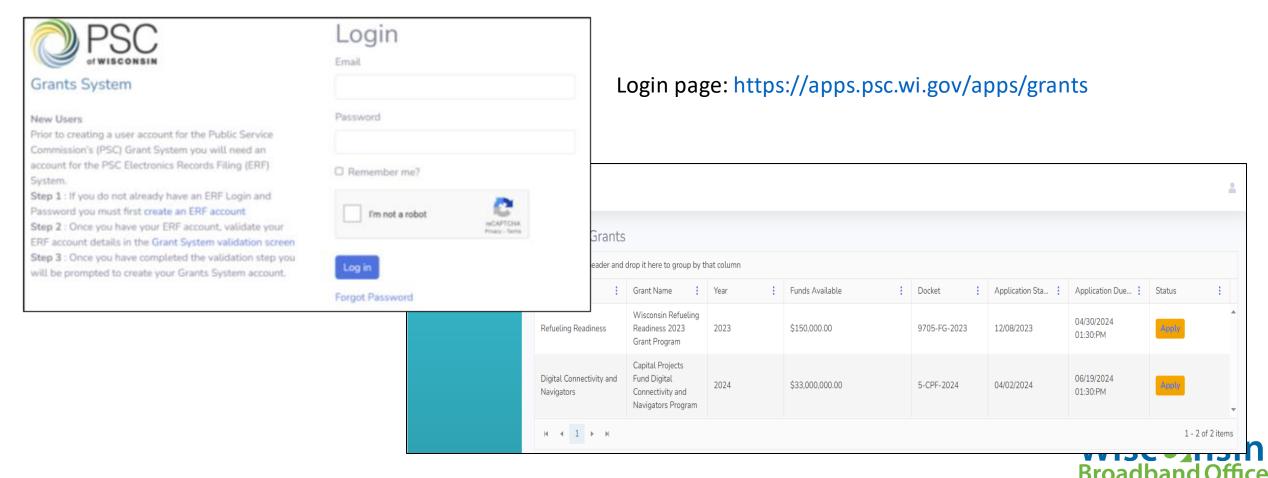


How to Apply?



Application process is completed through PSC Grant System

- 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



How to Apply?



Grants System Resources





https://psc.wi.gov/Documents/broadband/5-CPF-2023GettingStartedGrantsSystemPowerPoint.pdf

Grants System User's Guide: Grant Applicants and Recipients Grant Applicant Home Page.

https://psc.wi.gov/Documents/broadband/5-CPF-2023GettingStartedGrantsSystem.pdf



Application Requirements



 View <u>CPF Application Instructions</u> for most comprehensive information on the application requirements, merit scoring, and application process.

https://apps.psc.wi.gov/ERF/ERFview/viewdoc.aspx?docid=495808

PSC REF#:495808

Public Service Commission of Wisconsin



Capital Projects Fund Digital Connectivity and Navigators Grant Program

Application Instructions

Docket 5-CPF-2024

Application Deadline June 19, 2024 1:30 P.M. Public Service Commission of Wisconsin RECEIVED: 4/2/2024 12:03:00 PM







- Step 1- Log in or create an ERF system account
- **Step 2** Click 'Apply' on the line for FY 2024 Capital Projects Fund Digital Connectivity and Navigators Grant
- Step 3- Select the Details tab and fill in the required information
- **Step 4** Fill in one Primary Contact
- **Step 5** Enter in matching funds contributions
- **Step 6** Fill out the Budget section
- **Step 7** Enter in Communities
- **Step 8** Answer all Narrative questions
- Step 9- Upload required and optional documents
- Step 10- Review, Validate and Submit





Step 1- Login or create an ERF account

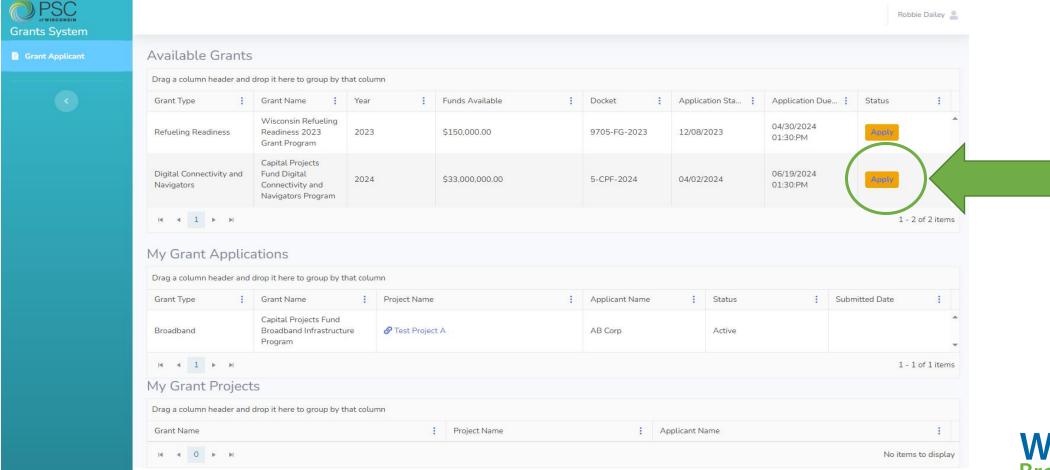
Login page: https://apps.psc.wi.gov/apps/grants

PSC of WISCONSIN	Login
Grants System	
New Users Prior to creating a user account for the Public Service Commission's (PSC) Grant System you will need an account for the PSC Electronics Records Filing (ERF) System. Step 1: If you do not already have an ERF Login and Password you must first create an ERF account Step 2: Once you have your ERF account, validate your ERF account details in the Grant System validation screen Step 3: Once you have completed the validation step you will be prompted to create your Grants System account.	Password
	☐ Remember me?
	I'm not a robot
	Log in
	Forgot Password





Step 2- Click 'Apply' on the line for FY 2024 Capital Projects Fund Digital Connectivity and Navigators Grant

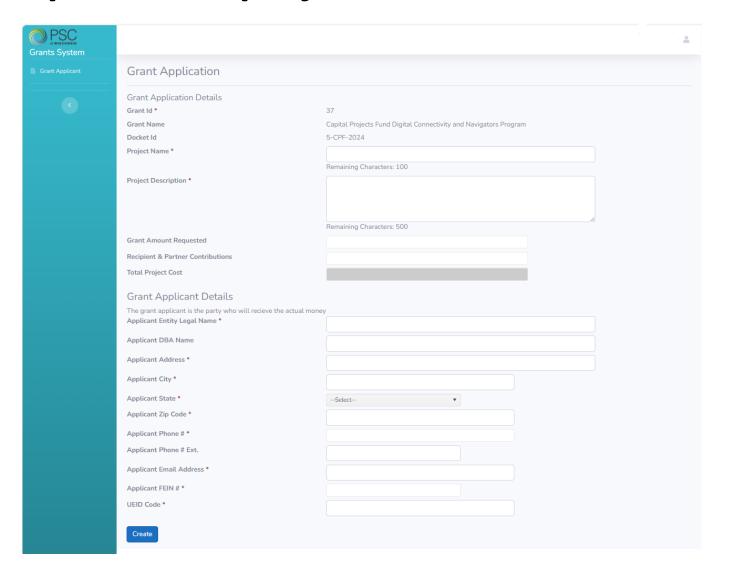






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Step 3- Enter project information and create grant application



Grant Application Details

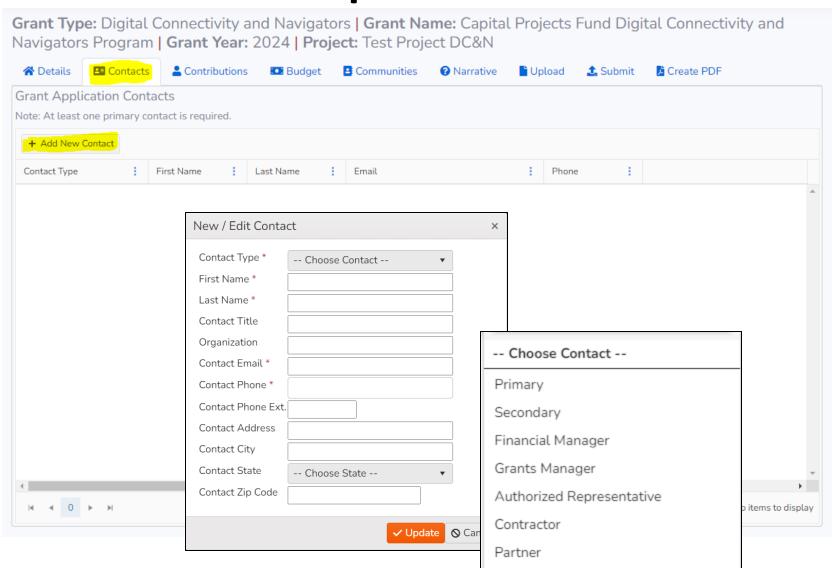
- Project name
- Project description
- Grant amount requested
- Recipient & partner contributions
- Total project cost (calculated)

Grant Applicant Details

- Applicant type
- Entity legal name, DBA
- Contact info
- Tax ID (FEIN)
- UEID (Sam.gov ID)
 Wiscon



Step 4- Fill in Contact Information



- Required: at least one Primary contact
- Add a Financial
 Manager contact if
 different than the grant applicant
- Fill in Authorized Representative
- Additional contacts





Step 5- Enter in matching funds contributions

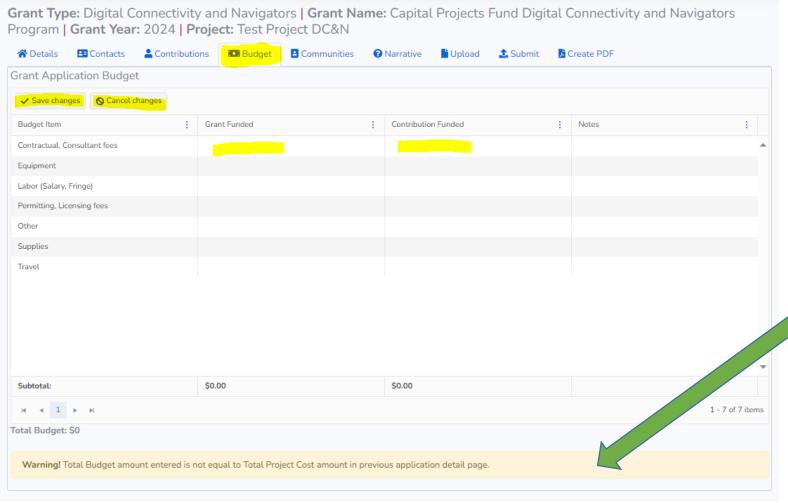


- Grant-Recipient and Partner contributions
- Description is optionalallows you to add notes regarding contribution
- Matching is OPTIONAL (not required or scored)
 - Validation step included





Step 6- Fill out the Budget section



- Enter in budget amounts for each budget category (round to whole dollars).
 - Contractual, Consulting Fees
 - Equipment
 - Labor (Salary, Fringe)
 - Permitting, Licensing Fees
 - Other
 - Supplies
 - Travel
 - Correctly distribute budget category costs between grant funds and contribution funds. Built in validation include:
 - Total Budget = Total Project Cost from Details Tab
 - Grant and Contribution subtotals must equal Details Tab
 - Enter Zero's where appropriate

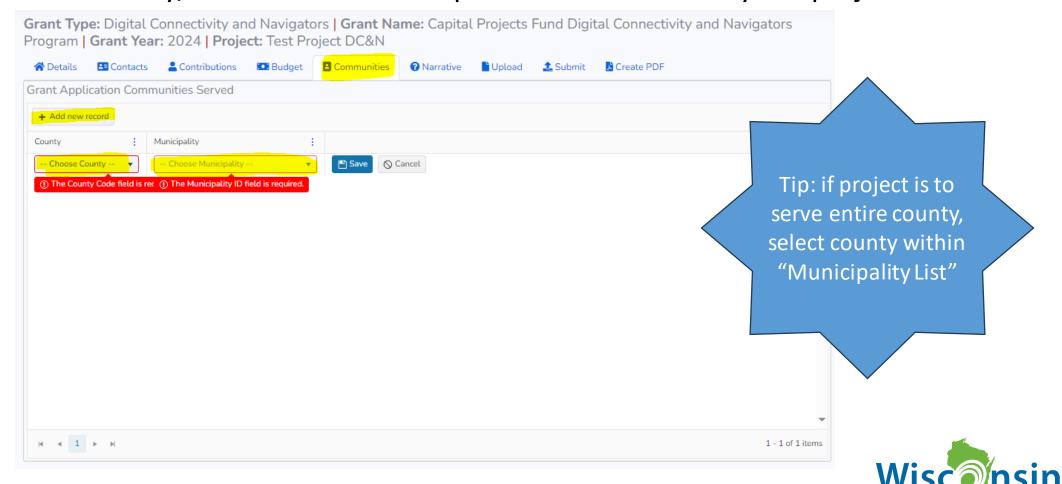




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Step 7- Enter in Communities

Enter the County/Counties and municipalities to be served by the project

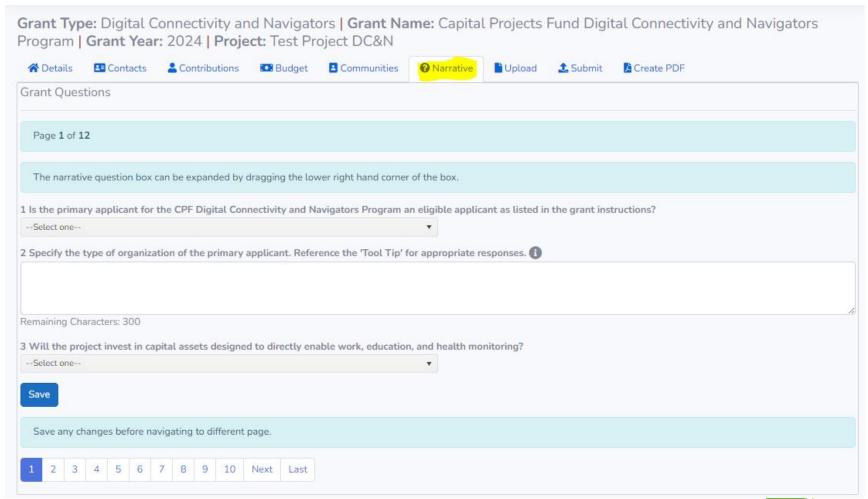




Step 8- Answer all Narrative questions

- 36 questions
- Answer every question
- Save work before advancing to the next page
- Character limits on all fields
- Not possible to copy/paste formatting or images, only text
- If questions: Tool Tip >
 App Instructions > Email
 Inquiry

PSCCapitalProjectsFund@wisconsin.gov



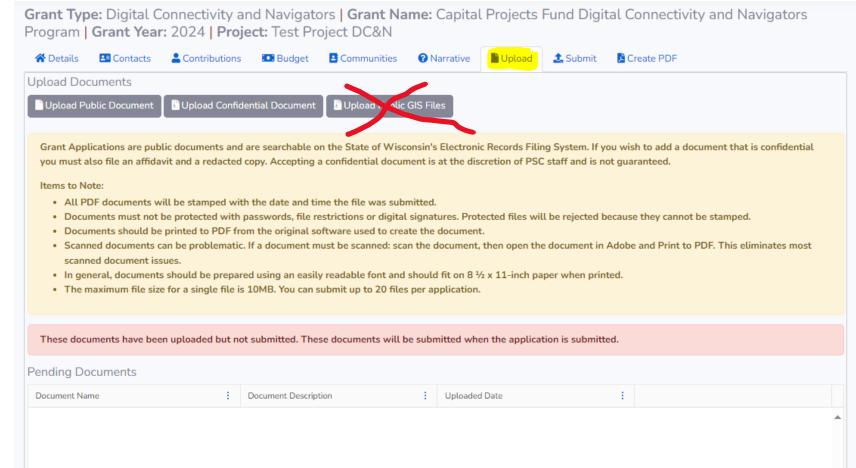




Step 9- Upload optional documents

Potential uploads:

- If applicable, documentation of any public-private partnership
- Additional letters of support, survey data, or supportive materials
- Additional supplemental materials
- GIS DATA NOT PART OF THIS APPLICATION PROCESS

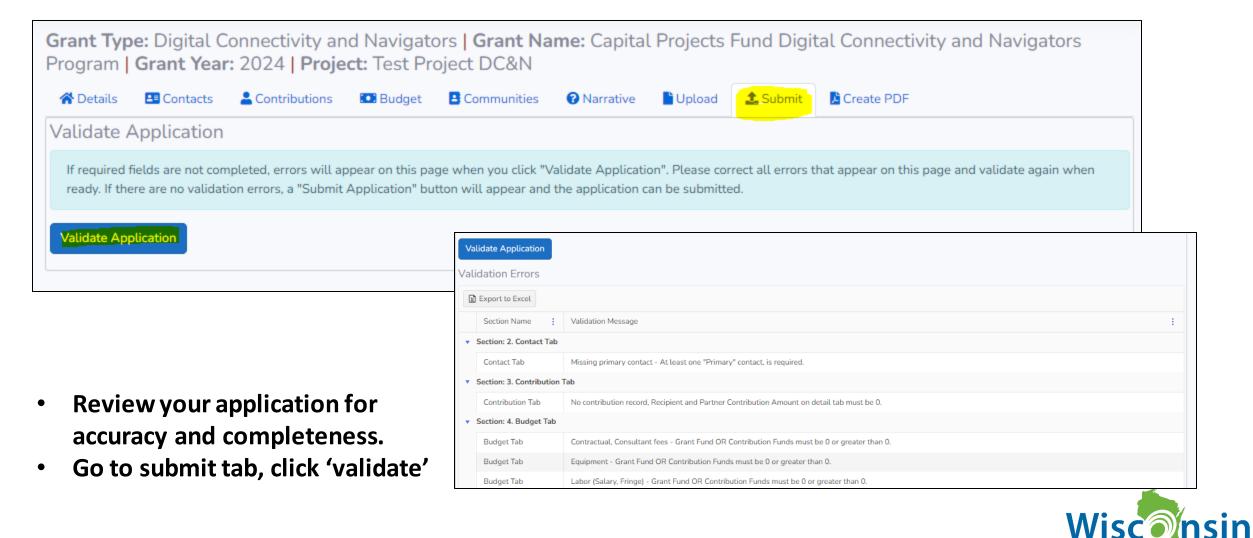






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Step 10- Review, Validate and Submit





PSC Grants System – Create PDF Page

- You can export a PDF version of the document to share with collaborators
- Available while drafting application, or after submitted
- Do not upload this PDF to ERF, your application is automatically uploaded







Common Errors

- General typos, often with dates
- Missing answers
- Not completing the form electronically through the online Grant System
- Budget: put zeros if no amount in that category

Best Practice

- Review the App Instruction + <u>PSC</u>
 <u>Grants System User's Guide</u>
 before applying
- Start filling out your application early! Deadline June 19, 1:30PM CDT
- Review your application before submitting



Resources



Where to find information and resources related to CPF Digital Connectivity and Navigators Grants

Visit PSC's <u>CPF webpage</u> for a variety of up-to-date resources:

- PSC's CPF-DCN Webpage: https://psc.wi.gov/Pages/ServiceType/Broadband/CPFInfrastructure.aspx
- Application Instructions: https://apps.psc.wi.gov/ERF/ERFview/viewdoc.aspx?docid=495808
- PSC Grants System User Guide: https://psc.wi.gov/Pages/GrantsSystem.aspx
- FAQ: [to be published in May/June] Reminder: last day for submitting questions and requests for clarification on application instructions is MAY 8, 2024!

CPF Docket on the Electronic Records Filing System (ERF)

- 5-CPF-2024:
 - https://apps.psc.wi.gov/ERF/ERFsearch/content/searchResult.aspx?UTIL=5&CASE=CPF&SEQ=2024&START=none&END=none&TYPE=none&SERVICE=none&KEY=none&NON=N
- ERF Home page: https://apps.psc.wi.gov/ERF/ERF/ERFhome.aspx

Contact: PSCCapitalProjectsFund@wisconsin.gov





Questions

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Capital Projects Fund
Digital Connectivity and Navigators Grant Program

