Application Open for ARPA Broadband Grants

The Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (PSC) released application instructions for the first round of Federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Broadband Access Grants. The Commission will be awarding up to $100 million for projects that will expand high-speed broadband internet to unserved and underserved locations in the state. Applications for the ARPA Broadband Access Grants are due on **July 27, 2021**. The PSC expects to make award decisions in early fall.

In accordance with the U.S. Treasury guidance for the ARPA funds (86 Fed. Reg. 26786), eligible broadband projects are expected to:

- Serve unserved or underserved households and businesses, as defined by the U.S. Treasury.
- Be designed to deliver upon project completion internet service that reliably meets or exceeds symmetrical (upload and download) speeds of 100 Mbps (or at least 100 Mbps download and at least 20 Mbps upload, if it is not practicable to deliver the higher upload speeds due to geography, topography, or excessive costs), and be scalable to 100 Mbps upload in the future.

Internet service providers, telecommunications utilities, co-operatives, local governments, for profit and non-profit organizations are eligible to apply for grants. Approved projects must be completed by December 31, 2024, and there is no minimum or maximum amount of funding an applicant may request. Funds will be disbursed through a reimbursement process similar to the current process for the state Broadband Expansion Grant Program. The Wisconsin Broadband Office grant webpage contains forms, instructions and additional information.

Cover Letter and Instructions
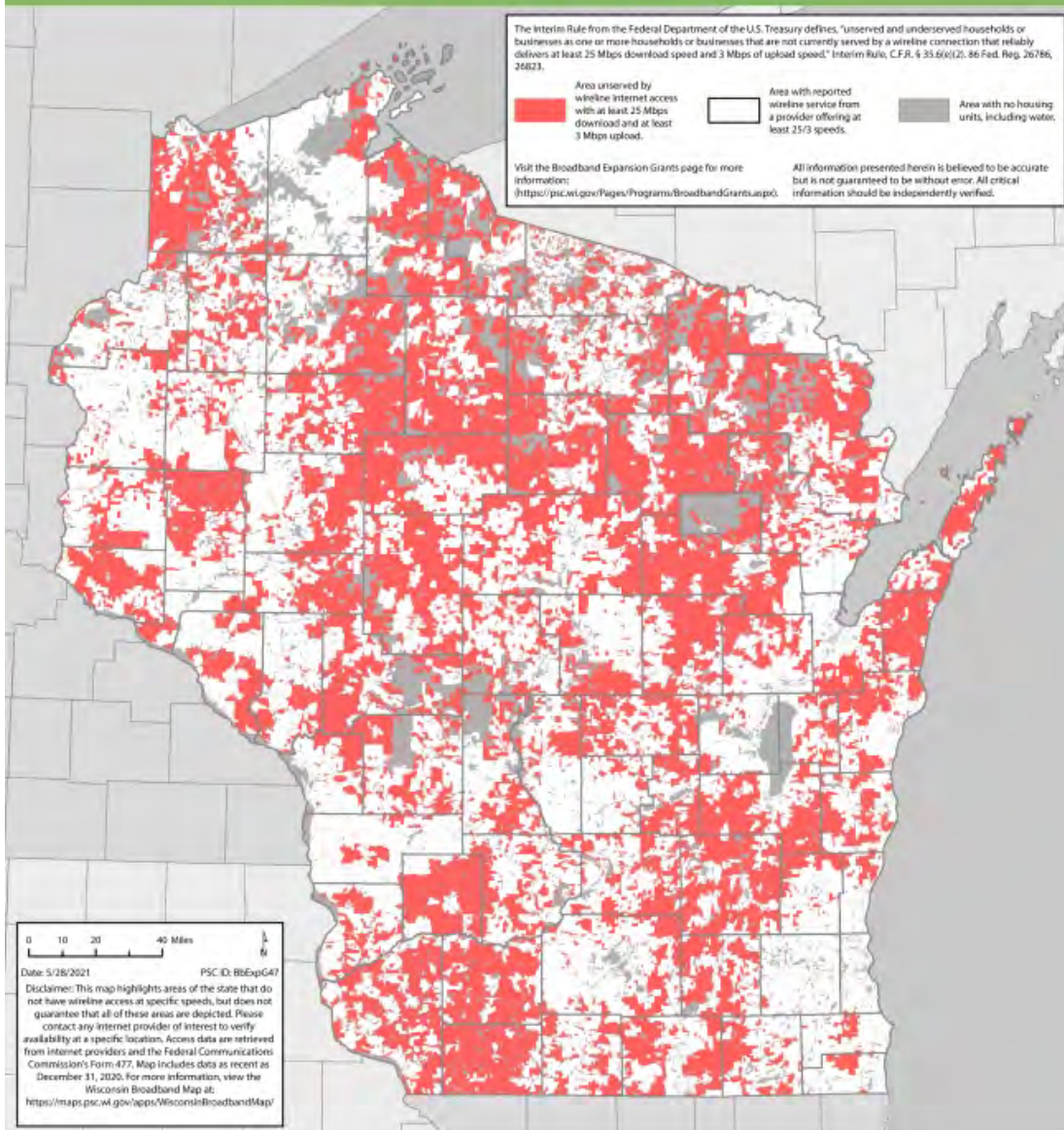
ARPA Broadband Access Grant Webinars

The Wisconsin Broadband Office will host an ARPA Broadband Access Grant program webinar on **Tuesday, June 8, 2021, at 2:30 p.m**. Registration is available below and space is limited. For those who cannot attend, a recording of the webinar will be made available on the State Broadband Office webpage. Subsequent webinars will be posted on the State Broadband Office webpage.

Register

ARPA Broadband Access Grant Map and Data

ARPA BROADBAND ACCESS GRANT ELIGIBILITY GUIDANCE, FY 2022
Presented by the Wisconsin Broadband Office

On Tuesday, June 1st the Broadband Office released a new map layer to provide guidance for the ARPA Broadband Access Grant Program. The updated map shows in red areas unserved by wireline internet access with at least 25 Mbps download and at least 3 Mbps upload. The areas in white show locations with reported wireline service from a provider offering at least 25/3 Mbps speeds.

The Wisconsin Broadband Office has made the ARPA Broadband Access Grant Eligibility Data available for download on the data page of the WBO, under the heading *ARPA Broadband Access Grant Eligibility Guide: Fiscal Year 2022.* The zip file includes the statewide census block files to identify un/underserved areas per the Interim Rule from the U.S. Treasury Department.

Data

Map

Subscriptions allow you to use the Commission's Electronic Regulatory Filing System and receive notifications by email when new documents are added to a docket. The Commission will be using the docket **5-BF-2022** for the APRA Broadband Access Grant process. Staff strongly suggest that all interested persons subscribe to the docket to ensure they receive timely information and updates.

ERF - EZ Subscriptions Page
More Detailed Instructions

WBO E-Newsletter

The Wisconsin Broadband Office will send out regular communication to internet service providers, grant applicants and broadband stakeholders. We aim to be relevant and share timely information from our office.

Please reach out if anyone from the Wisconsin Broadband Office can be of assistance. Email Us