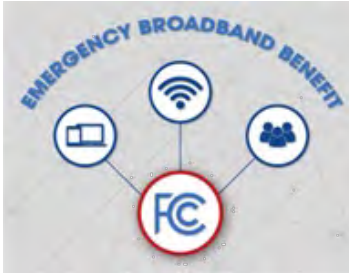




Federal Emergency Broadband Benefit



The Emergency Broadband Benefit was included by Congress in the Consolidated Appropriation Act. The \$3.2 billion broadband subsidy is to help low-income households and those financially impacted by COVID connect to the internet during the pandemic. The benefit provides eligible households with a monthly discount of up to \$50 or \$75 for tribal residents on their broadband plan. Eligible households can also receive a one-time discount of up to \$100 to purchase a laptop, desktop, or tablet from participating

providers if they contribute \$10-\$50 toward the purchase price. We anticipate the FCC will publish their rules and additional guidance for providers, customers and outreach partners on February 25th.

The Public Service Commission will be hosting an [informational webinar](#) for providers and outreach partners (social service agencies, schools and libraries, etc.) on Tuesday, March 16th at 10:30 a.m. CT. Webinar participants will learn more about eligibility requirements, communication efforts and the National Verifier. [Please join us.](#)

Additionally, the FCC has developed a [website](#) for Outreach Partners that can assist with sharing important consumer information about the EBB.

[EBB Webinar](#)

[FCC Outreach](#)

Governor Evers's Budget Address

During his State of the State address Governor Evers declared 2021 the Year of Broadband Access. In his budget address the Governor provided more details regarding his plan for investing \$200 million in the next biennium budget. Governor Evers's remarks are [here](#). The budget as it relates to broadband is [here](#).



[FCC Lifeline & the New Emergency Broadband Benefit Program Webinars for Interested Service Providers](#)

Tuesday, February 23 at noon CT [Register Here](#)

Tuesday, March 2 at 2:00 p.m. CT [Register Here](#)

The Universal Service Administration Company (USAC) administers the Lifeline program and will administer the EBB. USAC will host an introductory webinar to provide an overview of Lifeline and the EBB. The webinar will include a review of USAC Lifeline systems used to check eligibility, enroll consumers, and claim reimbursement, as USAC prepares to make those systems available for the new program. The webinar is designed for service providers, including providers that have not been designated as eligible telecommunications carriers, interested in participating in the EBB.

[NTIA Grant Programs in the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021](#)

Wednesday, March 17 at 1:00 p.m. CT [Register Here](#)

Congress passed the year-end omnibus legislation that included several broadband and connectivity expansion bills. Join National Telecommunications and Information administration staff at this webinar for an overview of the new NTIA grant programs, including the Tribal Broadband Connectivity Grants, Broadband Infrastructure Deployment Grants and the Connecting Minority Communities Pilot Program.

Request for Survey Responses

The Robert M. La Follette School of Public Affairs at the University of Wisconsin-Madison is seeking input on your experience with the [PSC's Broadband Expansion Grant program](#). If you have engaged with this program in the past, please fill the following two surveys about the [application process](#) (10 minutes) and [specifics of your project funded by the grant](#) (15 minutes). **Please submit your responses by March 7.**

[Application Process](#)

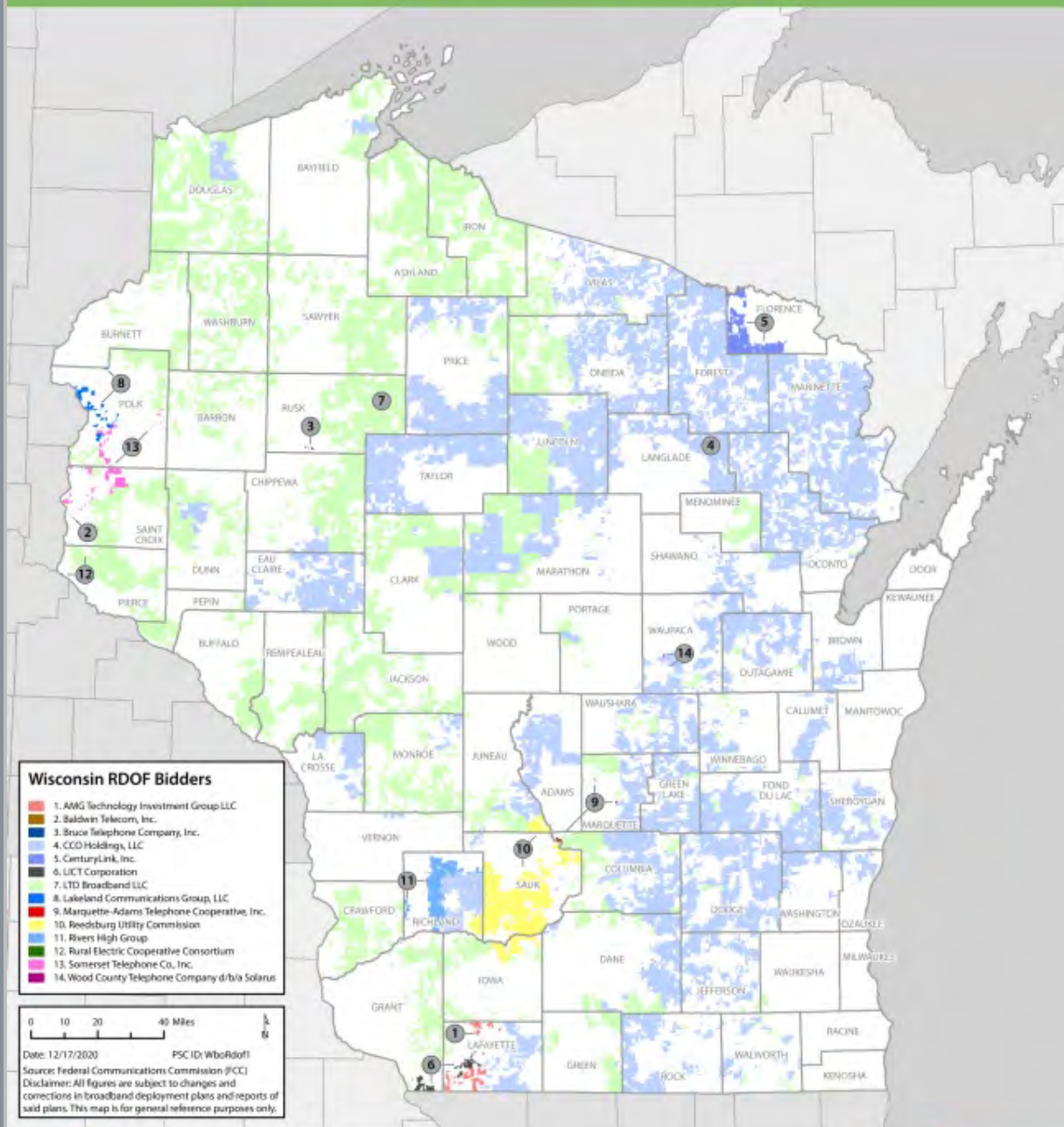
[Funded Grant Projects](#)

Rural Digital Opportunity Fund

At the end of 2020, the Federal Communication Commission announced the winning bidders in the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF). In the State of Wisconsin, 14 bidders won a total of \$373,715,051 to provide broadband service to 240,546 locations over the next seven years. The winning bidders recently submitted additional information to the FCC, the FCC will review this information and authorize funding beginning in 2021. The Wisconsin Broadband Office has created a map of the winning bidders based on the data on the [FCC's map](#) of winning bidders. A link to the Wisconsin map is [here](#).

WISCONSIN RDOF PHASE 1 RESULTS

Presented by the Wisconsin Broadband Office



Wisconsin Broadband Office, Public Service Commission of Wisconsin
psc.wi.gov PSCstateBroadbandOffice@wisconsin.gov
4822 Madison Yards Way, P.O. Box 7854, Madison, WI 53707-7854



Helpline Surpasses One Thousand calls

Internet & Phone Helpline - 608-267-3595

Launched less than a year ago, the Public Service Commission's Internet and Phone helpline recently surpassed 1,000 callers. The helpline is for people who need assistance identifying phone or internet service and discounts available to low-income households.

Callers to the helpline can get help finding internet service and discounts and determining eligibility for a discount through Lifeline. Starting in late March, the helpline will



provide information on the Emergency Broadband Benefit.

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](#)