

State Broadband Grant Due March 17, 4:00 p.m. CT

Important Updates and Reminders for Interested Parties

The State Broadband Expansion Grant Program aims to deploy high performance broadband in underserved areas of the State. The Commission is accepting applications for FY2022 Broadband Expansion Grants. This round will make available up to \$100 million for grants. Eligible applicants should demonstrate a clear and achievable plan to improve broadband in underserved areas of the State.

Different from previous grant rounds, **this round will be funded with bond proceeds authorized by the Wisconsin Building Commission**. The Commission has added additional information and a draft grant agreement to the Broadband Grants website for applicants to understand this change.

Information about FY2022 Grant Agreements DRAFT Grant Agreement FY2022 - Bonding

On March 7, 2022 **Governor Evers and the PSC announced the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) is accepting lien subordination applications** from broadband providers with existing federal USDA or Rural Utilities Services (RUS) loans containing a lien who wish to apply for grant in this round. <u>The announcement and instructions to request the lien subordination</u>

On March 7, 2022 the Commission **updated the frequently asked questions** document on the grant webpage, adding questions and answers related to the new grant agreement. The questions added and answered begin on page 13 of the document. <u>State Broadband Expansion Grant Frequently Asked Questions - Updated March 7, 2022</u>

Since the opening of the grant round, the Wisconsin Broadband Office has hosted a number of webinars and added updated resources, documents, maps and files to the grant webpage. Please be sure to continue to check <u>Broadband grant website</u> for updates and as an excellent resource for applicants.

A final reminder, in addition to submitting your application and budget, **a spatial file** (Geodatabase / Feature Class, or Shapefile or KMZ) of the proposed project **is required** be emailed to <u>pscbroadbanddata@wisconsin.gov</u> by the application due date and time.

Application Deadline: Thursday, March 17, 2022, 4 p.m. CT How to apply and more information

Worth Checking Out: Broadband Infrastructure Playbook

The Fiber Broadband Association and NTCA –The Rural Broadband Association, released the Playbook to serve as a comprehensive guide for states. The playbook features many of the best practices from the state of Wisconsin. Developed in cooperation with global telecom consulting research firm Cartesian, the Broadband Infrastructure Playbook delivers relevant information and recommendations as states prepare for the Infrastructure funding. Many successful Wisconsin examples are included.

Download the Playbook

WBO 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. <u>Email Us</u>

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