



Gov. Evers Announces Release of 2022 Task Force on Broadband Access Report

On July 12, 2022 Governor Tony Evers announced the [Governor's Task Force on Broadband Access](#) released its second annual report. Building on findings from the 2021 report, the 2022 report provides an update on efforts under Gov. Evers and the Evers Administration to expand access, adoption, and affordability of high-speed internet across the state and makes recommendations for the state to continue building on this progress.

"High-speed internet is absolutely critical to helping folks learn, work, and stay connected to important services, and since 2019, we've made tremendous progress in getting Wisconsinites connected by funding projects that will provide new or improved broadband to over 387,000 homes and businesses all across our state," said Gov. Evers. "I want to thank the many experts, stakeholders, public officials, and industry leaders who have been working on this task force for the past two years for providing smart, strategic recommendations of steps our state can take to get communities connected by expanding the access, adoption, and affordability of internet for families, businesses, and folks across our state."

Among others, the 2022 report includes recommendations to:

- Sustain the State Broadband Expansion Grant Program funding in order to leverage federal funds projects and support local projects not eligible for federal funding;
- Create a guide to assist communities and local leaders in broadband and digital equity planning efforts;
- Create technical assistance programs to guide communities in developing broadband plans and navigating funding opportunities;
- Encourage and support coordination with Tribal governments in broadband planning, resources deployment, and funding;
- Develop a statewide Digital Navigator Program to assist under-connected people and solve a wide range of adoption issues;
- Develop and improve outreach for the federal Affordable Connectivity Program; and
- Continue advancing the goals from the 2021 Task Force Report.

Read the [full press release](#).

[2022 Task Force Report](#)



2022 GOVERNOR'S TASK FORCE ON **BROADBAND ACCESS**



Wisconsin
Broadband Office

REPORT TO GOVERNOR TONY EVERS
AND WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



PSC Awards \$125 Million for Broadband Expansion Grants



On June 23, 2022, the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (Commission) awarded funding from the state's Broadband Expansion Grant Program. The Commission awarded \$124,967,392 for 71 projects that will expand broadband internet to more than 82,912 residential and 4,566 business locations currently unserved or underserved. The projects receiving awards will impact 45 counties. The grant awards will leverage \$185,780,074 of matching funds from recipients.

"We've made tremendous progress in the past three years towards getting people access to high-quality, affordable internet service," said PSC Chairperson Rebecca Cameron Valcq. "We will continue to make the investments needed to ensure all in our state have access to affordable broadband."

In November 2021, Governor Evers and PSC Chairperson Valcq announced \$100 million of broadband expansion grant funding from the 2021-23 state biennial budget would be available to be awarded by the PSC. In March of 2022, the PSC received 194 applications requesting a total of \$495 million. Due to the large demand for funding, on June 2, 2022, the Governor and the PSC announced an additional \$25 million from the state budget would be made available for the current grant round.

A summary of the 2022 grant awards is [here](#).
A map of the 2022 grant awards is [here](#).

Wisconsin Posts RFP for Broadband Intelligence

The State of Wisconsin, Department of Administration (DOA), Consolidated Agency Purchasing Services (CAPS) on behalf of the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (Commission) is seeking Proposals for Broadband Intelligence Consulting and Data Services the request for proposals has three related events that interested parties may wish to review.

- Broadband Affordability, Data Sets and Analysis [e-supplier link](#)
- Broadband Access, Geospatial Data, Infrastructure Analysis and Data Sources Analysis [e-supplier link](#)
- Consulting, Dashboard, and Broadband Strategy Development [e-supplier link](#)

The response due date is July 28, 2022 at 1:00 p.m. CT

Questions and inquiries related to the RFP should be directed to Amber Rademacher, Procurement Specialist, Amber.Rademacher@wisconsin.gov, (608) 264-9593.

Federal Broadband Update: Enabling Middle Mile

Enabling Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure Program

The new [middle mile program](#) will provide \$1 billion in funding for the construction, improvement, or acquisition of middle mile infrastructure, and to reduce the cost of connecting unserved and underserved areas of the country. Governments, industry, non-profits and partnerships are among the eligible entities to apply.

[Notice of funding opportunity released](#)

Application opened: **June 21, 2022**

Applications closes: **September 30, 2022**

NTIA's Middle Mile Grant Program Project Webinar

This webinar will provide an in-depth look at all the parameters that proposed projects must meet under the Enabling Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure Program. This webinar will provide applicants with technical assistance and prepare them to write high-quality applications. The Enabling Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure Program provides \$1 billion in funding for this vital part of our nation's high-speed network and will reduce the cost of bringing high-speed internet to unserved and underserved communities.

Date: **Wednesday, July 13, 2022**

Time: 1:30 - 3:00 p.m. CT

[Register Now](#)

Middle Mile Grant Program State Coordination on Broadband Projects

The NOFO for Middle Mile applications requires that prospective non-State and non-Tribal Government applications must, prior to submitting an application, coordinate and consult with the State Broadband Office to ensure that the proposal is consistent with the State's Broadband plan and priorities. Prospective applicants should reach out by sending [an email](#) to begin the simple process of coordinating with the Wisconsin Broadband Office.

Digital Equity and Inclusion Updates

Get Internet Website

The Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) provides eligible households \$30 per month off their internet bills. To deliver maximum cost savings to families, the Biden-Harris Administration has secured commitments from over 20 leading internet providers to offer ACP-eligible households a high-speed internet plan for no more than \$30 per month. Eligible families who pair their ACP benefit with one of these plans can now receive high-speed internet at no cost. The Administration is launching a new website getinternet.gov to assist households to find a no cost offer.

Digital Equity Act (DEA) Programs

Funded by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, DEA Programs are planning and

implementation programs that provide funding to promote digital inclusion and advance equity. The three programs include two state formula programs and one competitive program. The first state formula grant will be to develop a State Digital Equity Plan and the following grant will be to implement the plan.

[Notice of funding opportunity released](#)
[Digital Equity Act Population Viewer](#)

Digital Equity and Inclusion Stakeholder Group

The State of Wisconsin Digital Equity and Inclusion Stakeholder group meets monthly to inform the State Digital Equity and Inclusion Plan and work to strengthen the digital equity ecosystems in the State. In addition, the group has been discussing developing a digital navigator model, how to increase participation in the Affordable Connectivity Program and learning from other members. If you are interested in joining the stakeholder group please [email](#).

Webinar of Interest

Alliant Energy Virtual Speaker Series:

How state agencies are helping to bridge the digital divide

A virtual webinar discussion about the critical need to expand access to broadband and digital opportunity in some of the most digitally challenged rural communities. Access to broadband has transformed the way we connect in our personal and professional lives.

When access to high-speed internet is nonexistent or unreliable, what can residents and businesses do? What role do state agencies have in helping to bridge the digital divide? Join Alliant Energy on July 13 to hear our panelists – Alyssa Kenney, Liesl Seabert, and Matt Behrens – highlight the initiatives and actions our Mid-west state agencies are taking, their areas of focus, and the partnerships they've formed with the private sector and community organizations to deploy funding, resources, and to highlight issues around digital equity and inclusion.

When: **Wednesday, July 13, 2022, 12-1 p.m. CDT**

[Register](#)

Grant Recipient Corner: Exclusive Award Funds

All grant recipients need to understand the Exclusivity provisions in the grant Agreement(s) in the reimbursements section. Under no circumstances can recipients expense costs that are not specific to the project covered in the Agreement. Awards pertain solely to the project proposed in the application and as awarded by the Commission Order. The scope of the award cannot be changed without prior approval from the Commission.

What if you have multi-phase projects awarded in different rounds, or even the same grant round? Awarded funds are still exclusive to the phase awarded. The award cannot be expanded to include expenses associated with subsequent awards or activities outside the scope in the grant Agreement.

The grant agreement defines the approved project and scope. The Eligible Costs and Project definitions make it clear that expenses must be directly attributable to the project defined in the scope and budget attachments. This means that funds are



exclusive to the project.

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. [Email Us](#)

[Join Our Mailing List](#)

WI Public Service Commission | 4822 Madison Yards Way, PO Box 7854, Madison, WI 53707-7854

[Unsubscribe sarah.bradley@wisconsin.gov](mailto:sarah.bradley@wisconsin.gov)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by alyssa.kenney@wisconsin.gov powered by



Try email marketing for free today!