

Internet for All: Connecting Wisconsin Kick-Off



The Wisconsin Broadband Office and the National Telecommunications and Information Administration invite you to **Internet for All: Connecting Wisconsin Kick-Off** on **Tuesday, October 25** in at the Jefferson Street Inn and Event Center Wausau, WI.

This day-long event will bring together critical stakeholders in Wisconsin from state and local governments, Tribal communities, federal agencies, and industry to discuss coordination on high-speed Internet infrastructure deployment and digital equity efforts as the state prepares to launch the Internet for All initiative in Wisconsin under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Connecting everyone in Wisconsin to affordable, reliable high-speed Internet service is critical to the overall success of the state, ensuring the health and well-being of residents and a strong state economy. This event will provide an opportunity for us to discuss ways we can work together to efficiently and effectively utilize these dollars to achieve the highest possible level of high-speed Internet deployment and adoption.

If you have any questions, please contact:

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Register

New Interactive Tool for Broadband Grants

The Commission recently unveiled the Broadband Grant Footprint, a new interactive mapping tool for Wisconsinites to see the locations of broadband expansion grant projects statewide. This tool shows where in

the state projects are being built that were awarded broadband grant funding by the Commission.

"The Broadband Grant Footprint offers a profound visual of the progress we have made here in Wisconsin to expand access to reliable, high-speed internet," said Chairperson Rebecca Cameron Valcq. "Since 2019, we've worked to connect 387,000 homes and businesses — this tool captures the success of the Broadband Grant Program and proves that our recent investments are making a real difference across the state."

Wisconsinites can search for broadband grant projects in their area by performing an address search and navigating the map. Grant projects can



be looked at individually and in groups based on the grant round and technology type. A swipe bar tool is available to view completed projects separately from all projects under construction. Users can move the swipe bar to the right to view all completed projects and to the left to view all awarded projects.

Footprint

U.S. Department of Treasury Announces Wisconsin to Receive Capital Project Funds to Increase Access to Affordable, High Speed Internet

The U.S. Department of the Treasury announced the approval of broadband projects in an additional group of three states under the American Rescue Plan's Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund (CPF): Massachusetts, Michigan, and Wisconsin. Together, these states will use their funding to connect homes and businesses to affordable, high-speed internet. A key priority of the CPF program is to make funding available for reliable, affordable broadband infrastructure.

The CPF provides \$10 billion to states, territories, freely associated states, and Tribal governments to fund critical capital projects that enable work, education, and health monitoring in response to the public health emergency. In addition to the \$10 billion provided by the CPF, many governments are using a portion of their State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) toward meeting the Biden-Harris Administration's goal of connecting every American household to affordable, reliable high-speed internet.

Wisconsin is approved to receive \$40 million for broadband infrastructure, which the state estimates will connect 8,000 households and businesses. The state's award will fund the Wisconsin Broadband Infrastructure Projects program, a competitive grant program that aims to invest in broadband infrastructure projects designed to provide consistent, reliable service to households that currently lack consistent speeds of 100/20 Mbps. The program is designed to provide internet service with speeds of 100/100 Mbps symmetrical to locations upon project completion. Wisconsin submitted plans for the remainder of their CPF funds and these plans are currently under review by Treasury. Wisconsin's CPF funds will complement \$100 million in American Rescue Plan funds that Governor Evers has already distributed for ARPA Broadband Access Grant Program using a portion of its State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund allocation, which will serve more than 31,000 residential and business locations. Read the full press release.

The Commission will announce the application timeline and details in the coming months. Stay tuned for the details.

Happy Digital Inclusion Week



OCTOBER 3-7, 2022

Digital Inclusion Week is an annual week of awareness, recognition, and celebration. Organizations and individuals across the country host special events and campaigns to promote digital equity in their communities. This year's theme is "Turning Our Moment into Movement," signaling a turning point and time of action for the digital inclusion movement.

A number of organizations across the state are celebrating with special events and digital inclusion activities. Check out the <u>activity page</u>.

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

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