



You Are Invited! Internet for All: Connecting Wisconsin Kick-Off Tuesday, October 25th

Please join us for the

INTERNET FOR ALL
INTERNETFORALL.GOV

Connecting Wisconsin Kick-Off!
Jefferson Street Inn and Event Center
Wausau, Wisconsin
Tuesday, October 25, 2022 - 8:30am - 4:00pm

[REGISTER NOW](#)

The banner is a dark blue rectangle with white and red text. It features the "Internet for All" logo, which includes a red Wi-Fi symbol. Below the logo is the website "INTERNETFORALL.GOV". The event title "Connecting Wisconsin Kick-Off!" is in a large, bold font, followed by the location and date. A red button with white text and a play icon says "REGISTER NOW".

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 at the Jefferson Street Inn and Event Center in Wausau, WI starting at 8:30 a.m. A virtual option is available for this event.

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. 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.

This event is co-hosted by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration and Public Service Commission of Wisconsin. It was developed in a partnership between the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin and the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, the Office of Rural Prosperity, the University of Wisconsin-Madison Extension, and the Educational Communications Board.

Agenda:

- Wisconsin Broadband Office and NTIA Introduction and Overview
- Countdown to Connected Wisconsin
- Networking Break
- Mapping and Data
- Workforce Planning Needs and Strategies
- Working Lunch
- Digital Equity and Inclusion
- Planning Tools and Community Collaboration

- Joint Governor's Task Force on Broadband Access and Digital Equity and Inclusion Stakeholder Group Meeting (Open Meeting)

If you have any questions, please contact:

Kathy Endres, Public Service Commission of Wisconsin, Kathy.Endres@wisconsin.gov
Carah Koch, Federal Program Officer for Wisconsin, NTIA, CKoch@ntia.gov

Register

Federal Broadband Updates

USDA ReConnect Round 4 Funding Opportunity

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development is accepting applications for funding to expand access to high-speed internet for people in rural America. USDA is making the funding available under Round 4 of the [ReConnect Program](#), which received new funding from President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. The available funding includes up to \$150 million in loans, up to \$300 million in loan/grant combinations, and up to \$700 million in grants.

The application deadline is November 2.

U.S. Department of Treasury Approves Capital Projects Funds for Wisconsin

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. Information on the timeline and application will be announced in the coming months.

[Capital Projects Fund Award Fact Sheet Wisconsin](#)

Additional Tribal Broadband Connectivity Funding Awarded

In early October NTIA awarded 23 grants as part of the Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program. The Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians in Wisconsin were awarded \$25,660,167 for a broadband infrastructure deployment project. The project proposes to install fiber directly connecting 2,300 unserved Native American households, plus 25 businesses, the Tribal Government and 19 community anchor institutions.

Previously announced (TBCP) awards include:

- Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians \$442,734
- Forest County Potawatomi Community \$125,232
- Sokaogon Chippewa Community \$452,162
- St. Croix Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin \$302,032
- Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa \$8,047,002

Enabling Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure Program

The "Internet for All" [middle mile program](#) applications were due September 30, 2022. NTIA announced that over 235 applications totaling more than \$5.5 billion in funding requests for the Enabling Middle Mile Infrastructure were submitted. NTIA will evaluate the applications and make awards on a rolling basis starting in March of 2023. A number of proposals that will improve middle mile in Wisconsin were submitted.

Digital Equity and Inclusion Updates Focus on Affordability

The Affordable Connectivity Program - Back to School Push!

The White House recently kicked off a back-to-school push for increased ACP enrollment. The ACP provides an invaluable subsidy to eligible families for the purposes of subscribing to high-speed Internet. Here are two new resources released by the White House:

- [Biden-Harris "Back to School" Drive](#)

- [Letter to local leaders and School Outreach Toolkit](#)

FCC Announces Your Home, Your Internet Pilot Program

The Your Home, Your Internet Pilot Program is a one-year pilot program designed to increase awareness of the ACP, specifically among recipients of federal housing assistance. This pilot program will facilitate enrollment in the ACP by providing targeted assistance with completion of the program application. Entities eligible to apply for the Your Home, Your Internet Pilot Program include federal agencies and their partners; state, local, and Tribal housing agencies; tenant associations; and non-profit and community-based entities that provide ACP-related or other support for federal housing assistance recipients. [More Information.](#)

NTIA Data Central Blog: New Analysis on Affordability and Cost

NTIA's analysis shows affordability as a driving factor around why some households continue to remain offline, confirming that cost of service is an essential part of increasing Internet adoption. To dig into this issue more, NTIA added a new question to the 2021 NTIA Internet Use Survey. NTIA asked households not using the Internet from home: "At what monthly price, if any, would your household buy home Internet service?" This new survey question was a result of suggestions received from the public, along with the results of two rounds of testing conducted by experts at the U.S. Census Bureau.

Answers to the new question showed that the mean price offline households wanted to pay was approximately \$10 per month, though it's worth noting that three in four households gave \$0 or "none" as their answer.

[Read the full blog: New Analysis Shows Offline Households Are Willing to Pay \\$10-a-Month on Average for Home Internet Service, Though Three in Four Say Any Cost is Too Much](#)

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 works 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. The next meeting will take place on October 25th and will be a joint meeting with the Governor's Task Force on Broadband Access. If you are interested in joining the stakeholder group please [email](#).

Articles of Interest

EducationSuperHighway

[No Home Left Offline: Accelerating Affordable Connectivity Program Adoption: How local action can close the broadband affordability gap](#)

This new report and action plan from EducationSuperHighway outlines the opportunities and actions that can increase the number of households enrolled in the ACP. The report estimates that 28% of eligible Wisconsin households are enrolled in the ACP, higher than the national average and the highest enrollment rate in the Midwest. The report explores best practices and action steps States and local communities can take to further increase enrollment.

U.S. Department of Commerce

[Internet For All: Workforce Planning Guide](#)

The guidance document for BEAD Program Eligible Entities is designed to share the workforce values and components of a workforce plan. The guidance document explains both the required components of the plan and examples of strategies for meeting workforce requirements.

Governor's Task Force - October Meeting

The October meeting of the Governor's Task Force on Broadband Access is scheduled to take place as a joint meeting of the Task Force and the Digital Equity and Inclusion Stakeholder group at the end of the [Internet for All: Connecting Wisconsin Kick-Off](#) on Tuesday, **October 25, 2022 from 3:30 - 5:00 pm CT**. The joint meeting will include a presentation from NTIA on the BEAD and DEA planning and implementation.

The meeting and agenda will be posted on the [PSC calendar](#).

The November meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 16, 2022 from 1:00 - 3:00 pm CT.

State Grant Recipient Corner: Reports

State Grant Reporting Reminders:

[Interim project status reports](#) are due **October 31** unless a final reimbursement request is submitted on or before that date.

[Need an Extension?](#) If your grant agreement expires October 31 or November 30, and you know that your project will not be complete or if it's possible that you will not submit a final reimbursement request timely (within 30 days of performance period end), please request an extension to your grant agreement. Email your request to PSCBroadbandGrantReimbursement@wisconsin.gov.



Note that the performance period for [FY2020 grants](#) ends October 31.

Filing reminders: Upload all project status reports to [ERF](#), the Commission's Electronic Records Filing System that provides public access to information about awarded projects, etc. Send all state grant reimbursement requests and support documents to PSCBroadbandGrantReimbursement@Wisconsin.gov and final project spatial data to PSCBroadbandData@wisconsin.gov (using ZIP files as necessary). When uploading to ERF or emailing about a project, please include the grant fiscal year, entity name, and project name in your uploads and subject lines.

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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