

New FCC National Broadband Map Released

On Friday, November, 18th the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) unveiled the *pre-production draft* of the new national broadband map. The new map is the most granular and up to date federal map of where broadband is and is not available across the country.

The map displays address-level availability and provider reported data for fixed and mobile broadband as well as data aggregated to larger areas – e.g., state, county, census place, and congressional district. Data can be examined by navigating the map's digital interface or by searching by state or address. The map also displays coverage data by provider.

The FCC is seeking help to improve the data on the map by asking communities and individuals to submit a challenge or request a correction. These are 3 types of challenges: availability challenges, mobile availability challenges, and location challenges. More information on the challenge process can be found on the, <u>How to Use the FCC's</u> <u>National Broadband Map help page.</u>

To ensure valid challenges are incorporated into the map before federal funding allocations are made, the public are encouraged to submit challenges by January 13, 2023.

National Broadband Map

Internet for All: Connecting Wisconsin Kickoff Event Recording Available

On October 25th, 2022, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) and Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (PSC) hosted an Internet For All: Connecting Wisconsin Kickoff event in Wausau, WI. The event was developed in a partnership between the PSC and the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, the Office of Rural Prosperity, the University of Wisconsin-Madison Extension, and the Educational Communications Board.

This day-long event brought 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 implement programs from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and launch Wisconsin's Internet for All initiative. 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 provided 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. The <u>event agenda</u> is here.

Recording

Digital Equity and Inclusion Updates

FCC Announces Affordable Connectivity Program Competitive Outreach Grants

On November 10th, the Federal Communications Commission released a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO), a formal announcement of the availability of grant funds to develop innovative outreach strategies to reach historically underserved and unserved communities, raise awareness of the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP), and help eligible individuals enroll in the program. The FCC has set aside up to \$70 million in the NOFO for these two programs—\$60 million for the National Competitive Outreach Program and \$10 million for the Tribal Community Outreach Program. The grant program could support in-person enrollment assistance, digital campaigns, outreach materials, direct mail, and other outreach activities. The grant is due January 9th, 2023. If you are considering applying for a grant and wish to notify the PSC please <u>email</u> us to share your information. Additional resources: NOFO, Webinar recording, and Fact Sheet.

Broadband Label Information and Accessibility

On November 17th, 2022 the FCC unveiled new rules that will require broadband providers to display easy-to-understand labels to allow consumers to shop for broadband services.

The new rules, often referred to as broadband nutrition labels, will require providers to display at the point of sale, key information for consumers including prices, speeds, fees, data allowances and other critical information. The FCC has not yet announced the effective date for the labels. Read the FCC press release and see a sample label <u>here</u>.

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 December 13th. If you are interested in joining the stakeholder group please <u>email</u>.

Articles of Interest

By: Rebecca Cameron Valcq, Chairperson of the Public Service Commission Connecting Our State: An Update for Wisconsin on Four Years of Broadband Progress

This update from Chairperson Valcq, highlights the progress the state has made over the past 4 years on broadband expansion and provides information for consumers seeking additional information or wondering "When will broadband make it to my home and community?"

Consumer Reports

Broadband Pricing: What Consumer Reports Learned From 22,000 Internet Bills

This white paper from Consumer Reports collected and analyzed more than 22,000 consumer broadband bills. Many of the consumers who shared their bills also took internet speed tests and completed a survey on their satisfaction with and the reliability of their internet service. While this is not a nationally representative study and is not predictive of the broadband market, it is one of the most ambitious efforts of its kind to understand how much consumers are paying at a moment in time. Executive summary of the report is <u>here.</u>

Governor's Task Force - December Meeting

The December meeting of the Governor's Task Force on Broadband Access is tentatively scheduled to take place on December 14th from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. Please check the PSC calendar to confirm the meeting date and time.

The meeting and agenda will be posted on the <u>PSC calendar</u>.



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

Unsubscribe sarah.bradley@wisconsin.gov

Update Profile |Constant Contact Data Notice

Sent byalyssa.kenney@wisconsin.govpowered by



Try email marketing for free today!