



Federal Internet for All Planning Grant Awards



On Monday, December 12, 2022 Gov. Tony Evers, together with the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (PSC), announced the state will receive \$5,952,197 to plan for the deployment and adoption of affordable, equitable, and reliable high-speed internet throughout the state. This investment, awarded by the

Administration (NTIA), is part of the Internet for All initiative under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

On November 21, the NTIA awarded \$5 million to the PSC's Wisconsin Broadband Office to support the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program planning process. Wisconsin will learn its total BEAD allocation in 2023 after the federal government finalizes allocations of infrastructure funding based on the formula in the law.

After the planning process, future BEAD infrastructure funding will be used to deploy and upgrade high-speed internet statewide. Unserved households and businesses lacking 25 megabits per second (Mbps) download and 3 Mbps upload will be considered the highest priority under the BEAD Program.

Alongside BEAD, in September, the NTIA awarded \$952,197 in Digital Equity (DE) funding to the PSC for the creation of a state digital equity plan. The goal of Digital Equity programs is to ensure all communities can access and use affordable, reliable high-speed internet to meet their needs and improve their lives. With the planning grant, Wisconsin will create a robust and inclusive five-year state digital equity plan that will serve as a strategic guide and implementation plan for increasing digital equity in the state and preparing for future digital equity capacity grant funding. [See the Governor's press release.](#) See the NTIA [press release](#).

BEAD and Digital Equity Planning Memo Accepting Public Comment

BEAD was created to build quality infrastructure where it is needed and increase the adoption of high-speed internet. BEAD planning funds will support capacity building with regional and local government partners, technical assistance and outreach events, broadband mapping, and workforce planning efforts. The DE planning grant will support community and stakeholder engagement and planning, data collection, and the publication of the State Digital Equity Plan.

In the docket [5-BP-2023](#) a Commission memo has been posted for public comment regarding "*Program Design for the Wisconsin Broadband Office's Administration of Planning Funds under the Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment (BEAD) program and the State Digital Equity (DE) Planning Grant Program.*"

- The memo identifies options for how the Commission could allocate \$1.5 million in funding to local governments, Tribes and Regional Economic Development Organizations through BEAD Local Planning grants.
- The memo proposes how to define eligible applicants and allocate \$100,000 in funding for BEAD Workforce Planning grants.
- The memo identifies options for how to define eligible applicants and set maximum grant award amounts for distributing \$335,000 to conduct outreach related to

internet adoption, affordability and access under the Digital Equity Outreach Planning grants.

The Commission is accepting public comment on this memo, including specific input offered to the Commission, through **Monday January 9, 2023 at 1:30 pm CT**. Members of the public, interested parties and others with comment related to the memo and BEAD or DE program planning administration are encouraged to submit comments. Comments should be filed in the Commission docket [5-BP-2023](#) using the Commission's [Electronic Records Filing \(ERF\)](#) system. The Commission's [public comment system](#) is available for members of the public that do not wish to create an ERF account.

Read the Memo

Badger the FCC and Help Connect Wisconsin



BADGER the FCC

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has 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 new map will also be used to determine Wisconsin's allocation of BEAD funding.

The Broadband Office encourages Wisconsin residents to correct the dots and **BADGER the FCC** to ensure Wisconsin gets our fair share and full federal funding. Challenges can be made to the map if the service reported is not available.

Wisconsin residents can take action:

- Go to broadbandmap.gov
- Type an address in the "Search by Address" bar
- Review the list of providers and
- If the information is not correct select "Availability Challenge"
- Select the provider you wish to challenge
- Complete the form and submit

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**. Please spread the word.

Additional resources: [How to File Video](#), [Outreach Toolkit](#), [Written Instructions](#)

Broadband Expansion Grant Open and Webinars



The State Broadband Expansion Grant Program is currently accepting applications. The application period runs from December 7, 2022 through February 22, 2023 at 1:30 pm CT.

In this grant round, \$14.1 million is available to applicants to help expand high-speed broadband Internet to unserved and underserved areas in the state. The application process for this grant round has a new look. The PSC has developed an on-line application system to submit grant applications. The Commission has adopted the grants system to streamline the application process, produce grant applications that better respond to the questions, and provide applicants with better confidence that their submission meets the filing requirements for this grant cycle. An applicant in the FY 2023 grant cycle is required to submit the application using the new online PSC Grants System.

The requirements of the new PSC Grants System and Application Instructions are on the [Commission website](#).

The Commission will offer a number of webinars for persons interested in the Broadband Expansion Grant Program FY2023 round. Recordings of the webinars will be available on the website after the webinar.

State Broadband Expansion Grant Application Information and Overview Webinar

Monday, December 12th at 11am CT
Recording [available](#), slides [available](#).

PSC Grants System Webinar

Thursday, December 15th at 9am CT
Recording [available](#), slides coming soon check the [website](#)

How to Map Your Broadband Project Webinar

Monday, December 19th at 11am CT
To register <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4934229281094795532>

State Grant Expansion Grant Application Information and Overview Webinar (repeat of Dec. 12th)

Tuesday, January 10th at 10am CT
To register <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6849276170982929935>

Digital Equity and Inclusion Update

FCC Affordable Connectivity Program Competitive Outreach Grants Due Jan. 9

The Federal Communications Commission released a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO), 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 ACP Outreach. **The grant is due January 9th, 2023. If you are considering applying for a grant and wish to notify the PSC please [email us](#).** Additional resources: [NOFO](#), [Webinar recording](#), and [Fact Sheet](#).

Items of Interest

National Telecommunications and Information Administration

What is Permitting?

An introduction to permitting as it is related to broadband projects including types of permits a deployment may require, the process for securing an easement or right of way access, and steps to obtaining permission to access federal / state / local land.

Affordable Connectivity Program Resources

A guide for State Broadband Offices and local digital equity programs, to learn about ACP, and provide better outreach.

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](#)

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