

Two New Grant Opportunities

Nonprofit Access Grant

The Nonprofit Access Grant Program is currently accepting applications. The application period runs through March 1, 2023 at 1:30 pm CT.

The Commission may award up to \$500,000 in grants under this program for a two year performance period. The Nonprofit Access grant enables nonprofit groups to apply for partial funding of programs or projects that will facilitate affordable access to telecommunications. The project must assist low income households or people with disabilities or customers in areas of the state that have relatively high costs of services in obtaining affordable access to a basic set essential telecommunications services. An application must be submitted through the PSC Grants System.

The docket for official communications for this grant is 5-NF-2023

More information, application instructions, and Grants System information is available here.

Lifeline Outreach Grant

The Lifeline Outreach Grant Program is currently accepting applications. The application period runs through March 1, 2023 at 1:30 pm CT.

The Commission may award up to \$250,000 in grants under this program for a two year performance period. The Lifeline Outreach Grant enables eligible entities to apply for funding of programs, projects, research or resources that will assist low-income customers to obtain affordable access to essential telecommunications through the Lifeline program. An application must be submitted through the PSC Grants System.

The docket for official communications for this grant is 5-LL-2023

More information, application instructions, and Grants System information is available here.

PSC Grants System Webinar

PSC Grant System Webinar

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. A number of Commission grants require the use of the Grants System, including Broadband, Non-Profit Access and Lifeline Outreach.

The PSC will host a webinar to introduce the <u>PSC Grants System_application</u> on **January 12, 2023, from 11:00 - 11:45 am**. A recorded version will be posted to the Commission website soon thereafter. Below is a <u>link</u> to register for the webinar.

Webinar



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 <u>if the service reported is not available</u>.

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

Badger the FCC

Broadband Expansion Grant Accepting Applications



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 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, Application Instructions and webinar slides and recordings are on the <u>Commission website</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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