



Capital Project Fund Broadband Infrastructure Program Accepting Grant Applications

The Commission is currently accepting applications for the Capital Projects Fund Broadband Program. Under the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), the U.S. Department of Treasury awarded Wisconsin \$42 million through the Capital Projects Fund (CPF) to administer the Broadband Infrastructure Program and invest in projects that will provide high-quality internet to locations that lack access to adequate, affordable service.

The funding is available to construct broadband infrastructure projects to deploy reliable internet service that will meet or exceed 100/100 megabits per second (Mbps) symmetrical speed internet service and include at least one low-cost option for work, education, and health monitoring.

The Commission docket for the Capital Project Fund Broadband Infrastructure Grant Program is 5-CPF-2023. To ensure you receive communication regarding the grant program, [please subscribe to the docket](#). The application instructions, mapping resources and additional information are available on the [Capital Project Broadband Infrastructure webpage](#).

The WBO will host a "Capital Projects Application Overview" [Webinar](#) Friday, September 8, 2023 at 11:00 AM CDT and a "Mapping Your Capital Project Overview" [Webinar](#) Thursday, September 14, 2023 1:00 PM CDT. The application deadline is Tuesday November 7, 2023 at 1:30 PM CST.

Overview Webinar

Mapping Webinar

Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment 5 - Year Plan Submitted to NTIA



Wisconsin has submitted the Five - Year Action Plan that establishes the State's broadband goals and priorities to NTIA for the purposes of implementing Internet for All. The plan serves as a foundational guide for the deployment of the BEAD funding to ensure Internet for All Wisconsin.

The required Five-Year Plan is the result of comprehensive and robust outreach, local coordination, Tribal consultation and survey responses along with data on broadband access, affordability and adoption. The plan has been submitted and will be finalized upon review and approval by NTIA. Following the Action plan the Commission will be working on volume one and volume two of the BEAD initial proposal. The Initial Proposal will provide additional detail on the implementation details of the BEAD program and will go out for public comment. The Initial proposal is due by December 27, 2023. The docket for the BEAD and Digital Equity planning processes is

5 -Year Action Plan

Maximize the Impact of BEAD Funding: Planning and Partnering Towards Internet for All Workshops



UW Extension has announced that registration for four regional broadband workshops is now open. **Maximize the Impact of BEAD Funding: Planning and Partnering Toward Internet for All** workshops are being organized by UW- Madison, Division of Extension's Community Development Institute in partnership with Wisconsin Counties Association, Wisconsin Broadband Office, Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation, Wisconsin State Telecommunication Association and Northwood Technical College.

The goal of the 2-day workshops is to help counties best prepare to access BEAD funding through planning and partnering. Wisconsin Counties Association President and CEO Mark O'Connell will address the role of County Government in Broadband. Staff from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration and the Wisconsin Broadband Office will explain timelines and next steps for BEAD and DE (Digital Equity) funding. Extension staff will provide resources on broadband economics, developing public private partnerships, planning tools and financing options for communities. Legal staff from WCA will discuss considerations counties should make when entering broadband partnerships and resources available through the association. UW Extension is working to secure Internet Service Providers for the second day of the workshops for county consultations.

Attending regional workshops is an allowable expense through your BEAD planning grant. The four 2-day regional workshops will be held:

- September 6-7, Northwood Technical College in Rice Lake
- September 28-29, Cranberry Country Lodge in Tomah
- October 9-10, Radisson Hotel in Fond du Lac
- October 25-26, Nicolet College in Rhinelander

As part of the registration process teams will be asked which internet service providers you would be interested in having a conversation with.

Information and Registration

Federal Program Updates

NTIA Request for Comment BEAD Build America, Buy America Guidance

The Department of Commerce is accepting public comments on a proposal to issue a limited, general applicability, nonavailability waiver of the Buy America Domestic Content Procurement Preference (Buy America Preference) to recipients of Federal financial assistance under NTIA's BEAD Program, which will flow down to subrecipients. Comments on the proposed waiver are due September 21, 2023. [More information.](#)

USDA Awards ReConnect Loan in Wisconsin

On August 21, 2023, the USDA announced a \$28 million ReConnect Loan to Reedsburg Utility Commission to provide reliable, affordable high-speed internet to nearly 10,000 people in Southwest Wisconsin. Here is the [press release from USDA.](#)

Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program Accepting Applications

NTIA announced the availability of nearly \$1 billion in funding to expand Internet access and adoption on Tribal Lands. This second round of funding from the Internet for All initiative's Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program (TBCP) will make up to approximately \$980 million available for Native American, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian communities for the deployment of Internet infrastructure on Tribal Lands, affordability programs, telehealth and distance learning initiatives. [More information.](#)

RDOF Withdraw in Wisconsin

The FCC announced that Cuba City Telephone Exchange Co. has notified the Commission of their decisions to withdraw from the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF) support program. Cuba City was awarded over \$500,000 in support to serve 302 locations. The FCC considers these locations to be defaulted. [See the FCC announcement.](#)

Grant Recipient Corner

Different Grants, Different E-mail Boxes

Do you know the Commission has awarded 458 broadband grant projects? The WBO has established different email boxes to manage awards from different funding sources. See the table below. When emailing about your grant please put the following information in the subject ,

Grant	Email address
State funds Broadband Expansion 5-BF-2020,2021, 2022, 2023	PSCBroadbandGrantReimbursement@wisconsin.gov
Federal funds ARPA SLFRF 5-BF-2022	PSCFederalBroadbandGrantReimbursements@Wisconsin.gov
Federal funds Capital Projects Fund, 5-CPF-2023	PSCCapitalProjectsFund@wisconsin.gov

State Funded FY2023 Broadband Expansion Grant Award Recipients

Recipients will be using the PSC grants system to manage their FY2023 grants that were awarded in June. The WBO is working on a grant system webinar to help awardees learn the system and navigate managing your project and reimbursements in the system. Stay tuned.

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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