



Capital Project Fund Broadband Infrastructure Grant Due Tuesday November 7th by 1:30 pm

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. **Grant applications are due November 7 by 1:30 pm.**

The [Capital Project Fund Broadband Infrastructure grant page](#) includes grant instructions, frequently asked questions, a draft grant agreement, mapping, data and recorded webinars.

A special note for applicants regarding the submission process: The CPF application requires that you upload two copies of your CPF Application Location Data Template: (1.) Public-redacted, and (2.) Confidential-unredacted. The redacted spreadsheet should exclude data from columns F, G, and H, related to BSLF ID, latitude, and longitude of each point. (see p.9 of [CPF Application Instructions](#) for more details). Section 3 of the confidential filing form requests a notary be present OR a notarized affidavit be attached to the first page of the confidential filing.

Applicants will **not** be required to embed or otherwise attach an affidavit to the confidentially-filed *CPF Application Location Data Template* when completing the upload portion of the CPF application within the Grants System. You may click the checkbox titled "Affidavit is attached to the beginning of the confidential document" without attaching an affidavit to the spreadsheet; the file will be accepted. Please contact the [Capital Projects Fund email](#) with additional questions.

Commission Approves Digital Equity Plan for Submission to NTIA

On October 24th, the Commission reviewed Wisconsin's draft [Digital Equity Plan](#) and public comments. With limited modifications, the Commission approved the plan for submission to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA). The purpose of the plan is to establish the state's vision for digital equity to ensure that all Wisconsinites have the skills, technology, and capacity needed to reap the full benefits of our digital society and economy.

The plan will be the foundation of the state's future application for Digital Equity Capacity Grant funding and is aligned with Wisconsin's Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) program [5 year plan](#). Thank you to everyone who participated in the planning process and/or commented.



Commission Approves BEAD Volume One for

Submission to NTIA



Wisconsin's [BEAD Initial Proposal Volume 1](#) was open for a 30 day public comment period during the month of October. On November 3rd the Commission reviewed the draft of Volume 1 during an open meeting and public comments. The Commission made a few specific changes and requested that staff make those modifications and then submit it to NTIA. For those wishing to watch the meeting or learn about the specific

changes the meeting is available on [YouTube](#), it is covered in the first 30 minutes. The goal of the Initial Proposal Volume 1 is for Wisconsin to submit a process that will result in the determination of the locations and community anchor institutions (CAI) that are eligible for BEAD funding in Wisconsin and conduct a challenge process to validate and finalize those results.

DRAFT Initial Proposal Volume 1

BEAD Volume 2 is Coming Soon...



BEAD Initial Proposal Volume 2, is the additional required piece of the initial proposal that Wisconsin must submit to NTIA by December 27, 2023. The Volume 2 draft will provide information about the proposed requirements to participate in BEAD and the sub-grantee selection process. Volume 2 will be released for a 30-day comment period, beginning in the month of November. The draft Volume 2 will be posted in the [docket 5-BP-2023](#) and on the Commission's [Internet for All](#) webpage.

UW-Madison Division of Extension Broadband Toolkit

UW Extension in collaboration with the Wisconsin Broadband Office and other partners has developed a broadband toolkit for Wisconsin communities. This Broadband Toolkit prepares communities to increase broadband access for all by engaging local stakeholders in the planning process and developing a comprehensive strategy. The toolkit is designed to provide maximum flexibility to users - it can be utilized either sequentially or selectively based on specific needs and interests of the community or individual. It is a great resource - please check it out.

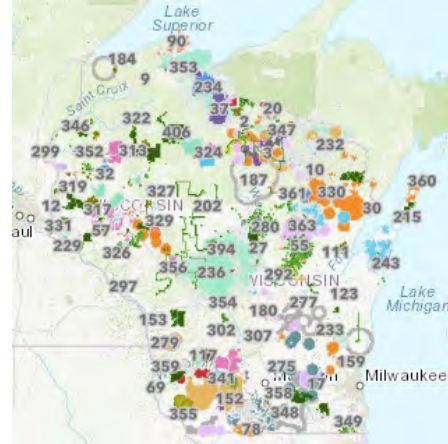
Broadband Toolkit

Updated Wisconsin Broadband Footprint Map

Grant Footprint has been Updated

The Wisconsin Broadband Office's Grant footprint was recently updated to include all broadband grants awarded by the Commission from 2014 - 2023. This mapping tool provides a look at the impact of broadband grant projects funded by the State. Users can search for grants in their area of interest by performing an address search and navigating the map. Grant projects can be looked at individually and in groups based on the grant round and technology type. A swipe bar tool is available to view completed projects separately from all projects in progress.

Check out the Footprint map at:



<https://maps.psc.wi.gov/apps/BroadbandGrantFootprint/>

Governor's Task Force on Broadband November Meeting

The November meeting of the Governor's Task Force on Broadband Access is scheduled for Wednesday, November 8, 2023 from 1:00 - 2:30 pm. The meeting will be virtual.

The meeting agenda will be posted on the [PSC Events Calendar](#) and will include information on how members of the public can watch and listen to the meeting. Public comments are invited at the beginning of the meeting.

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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