



BEAD Initial Proposal Vol. 1 Approved Wisconsin Challenge Process to Begin



The Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program was created under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), in order to provide access to reliable, affordable high-speed internet.

The BEAD program allocates \$1,055,823,573.51 to Wisconsin. As part of the BEAD planning process, the Wisconsin Broadband Office drafted the BEAD Initial Proposal Volume 1. This Volume 1 outlines a challenge process to determine the locations and community anchor institutions that are eligible for BEAD funding. BEAD funding is to deploy broadband to unserved and underserved homes and businesses. The State of Wisconsin's BEAD Initial Proposal Volume 1 was approved by NTIA on April 11, 2024.

The following entities are eligible to participate in the BEAD challenge process:

- 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(6) nonprofit organizations
- Local units of government
- Tribal governments
- Broadband service providers with facilities currently in the State of Wisconsin or facilities planned to be operational by June 30, 2024.
- Community Anchor Institutions

The Wisconsin Broadband Office intends to post challenge instructions and the list of locations this week on the Challenge website and in the docket 5-BCH-2024. The challenge process will start the next week.

On Friday April 19th at 1:00 PM CT the Wisconsin Broadband Office will host an informational webinar on the challenge process. The webinar will provide an overview of

the challenge process and is intended for interested stakeholders and entities considering participating in the challenge process And on Tuesday April 23rd at 1:00 PM the WBO will host a BEAD Challenge Map webinar to review to use of the BEAD Challenge Map in the Challenge Process.

Important links and resources

[Approved BEAD Initial Proposal Volume 1](#)

[BEAD Challenge Process Website](#)

[5-BCH-2024 BEAD Challenge Docket](#)

[Subscribe to docket 5-BCH-2024 to receive ongoing communication](#)

[BEAD Challenge Process Overview Webinar Registration](#)

[BEAD Map and Mapping Overview Webinar Registration](#)

[UW – Extension BEAD Challenge Overview Document](#)

BEAD Challenge Process Webinar

BEAD Challenge Map Webinar

Wisconsin to Receive Digital Equity Capacity Funding



On March 29, 2024 the National Telecommunications Information Administration (NTIA) released the Notice of Funding Opportunity for the [Digital Equity Capacity Grant Program](#). The program will provide funds to States and U.S. Territories to implement the State Digital Equity Plans. Wisconsin is receiving \$13.2 million to begin implementing the Wisconsin Digital Equity (DE) Plan, with \$8 million in additional funding anticipated. [Wisconsin's approved plan](#) will guide the state's strategy to improve digital opportunities and support digital equity, helping ensure every Wisconsinite has the skills, resources, and broadband service necessary to fully participate in society and the economy.

Digital Connectivity and Navigator Grant Opportunity Accepting Applications

The Commission is currently accepting applications for the Capital Projects Fund Digital Connectivity and Navigators Grant Program. Under the American Rescue Plan (ARPA), the U.S. Department of the Treasury allocated Wisconsin \$33 million for the grant program. The Program is for projects that promote digital connectivity by deploying devices such as computers, laptops, and tablets for eligible households to access. The program also promotes digital connectivity through the installation of Wi-Fi equipment in eligible multi-dwelling unit buildings, which includes apartment buildings, condominiums, and mobile home parks. Both approaches will include the provision of digital navigation services to ensure Wisconsinites can make full use of the internet for work, education, health monitoring, and other essential activities.

The Commission docket for the Capital Projects Fund Digital Connectivity and Navigators Grant Program is 5-CPF-2024. To ensure you receive communication regarding the grant program, [please subscribe to the docket](#). The [application instructions](#) and additional information are available on the [Capital Projects Digital Connectivity and Navigators Program](#) webpage.

Application are due June 19, 2024 by 1:30 p.m.

Getting Ready for BEAD Regional Workshops

UW Extension hosting Getting Ready for BEAD Funding: Permitting, Engagement, and Learning from Experience Workshops



Join UW Extension, the Wisconsin Broadband Office and other stakeholders for regional workshops. These events focus on equipping attendees with the essential knowledge and tools required to successfully navigate the complexities of broadband expansion. The workshops are ideal for elected officials, community leaders, and volunteer committee members involved in broadband expansion efforts.

Upcoming regional workshops will be held:

- April 25, Portage County Annex in Stevens Point
- May 1, Flat Creek Lodge in Hayward
- May 14, CESA 10 Offices in Chippewa Falls
- May 22, Northcentral Technical College in Antigo
- May 29, Fireman's Park Pavilion in Waterloo

Registration for each session is \$25 and covers lunch, refreshments and materials.

[Learn More](#)

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 or if you would like to request a staff member attend a meeting or make a presentation to your group. [Email Us](#)

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