



# Wisconsin Broadband Office

# Wisconsin Broadband Office Vision and Mission

## Vision

- All Wisconsinites will have equitable access to affordable broadband service and the capacity to fully engage in a digital society. High-speed broadband will benefit all residents and communities.

## Mission

- Make high performance broadband more accessible, resilient, competitive and affordable for all Wisconsinites.

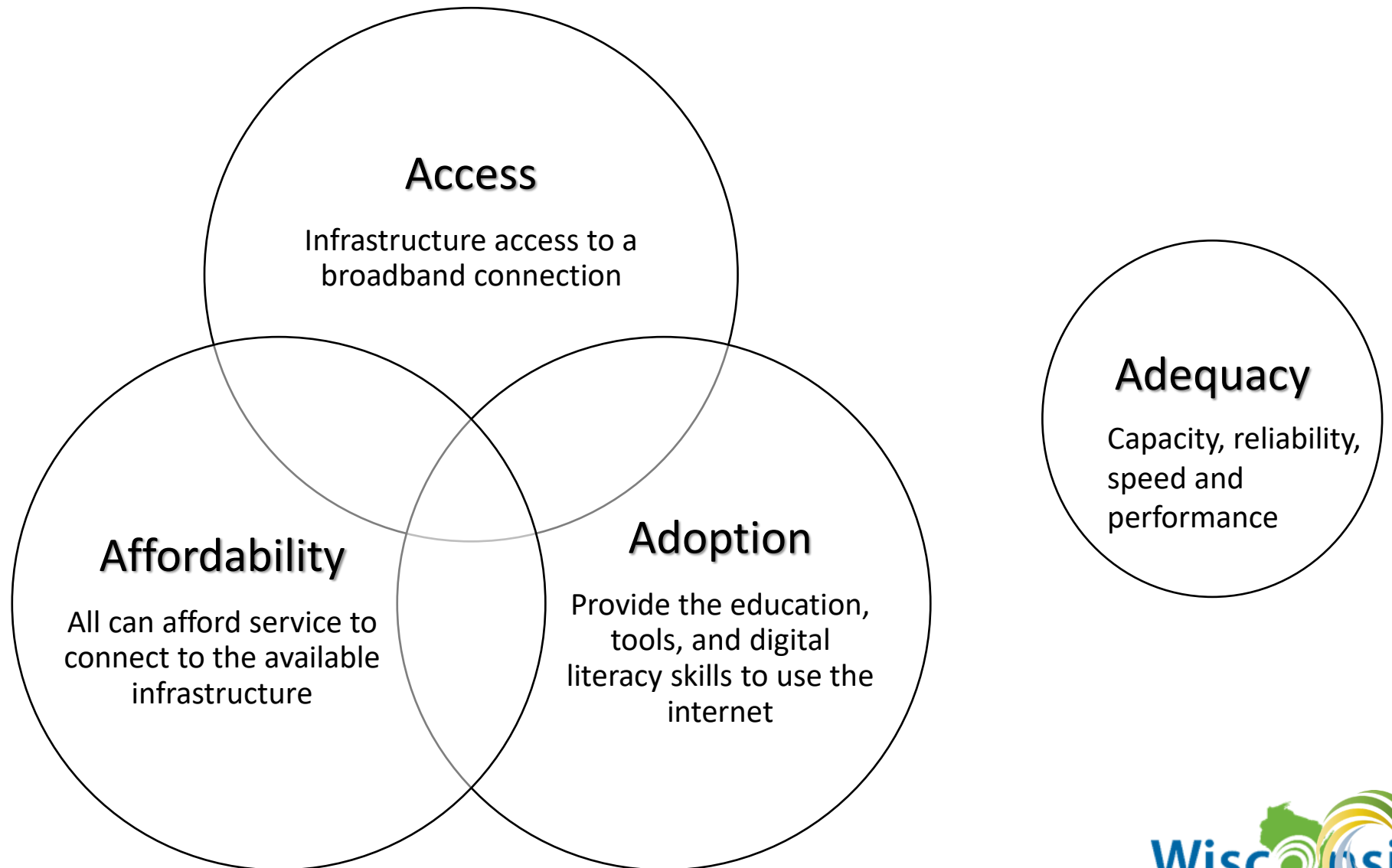
# Why is the state focused on Broadband?

Broadband is necessary for access to essential services and full participation in our democracy and economy.

## Broadband Access

- Increases access to health care
- Increases community prosperity, economic development and tourism
- Increases property value
- Supports agriculture and manufacturing
- Decreases the learning gap
- Increases participation in government and society
- Provides access to economic and educational opportunity

# Our Challenge: To Connect Everyone in Wisconsin



# How will we reach our goals?

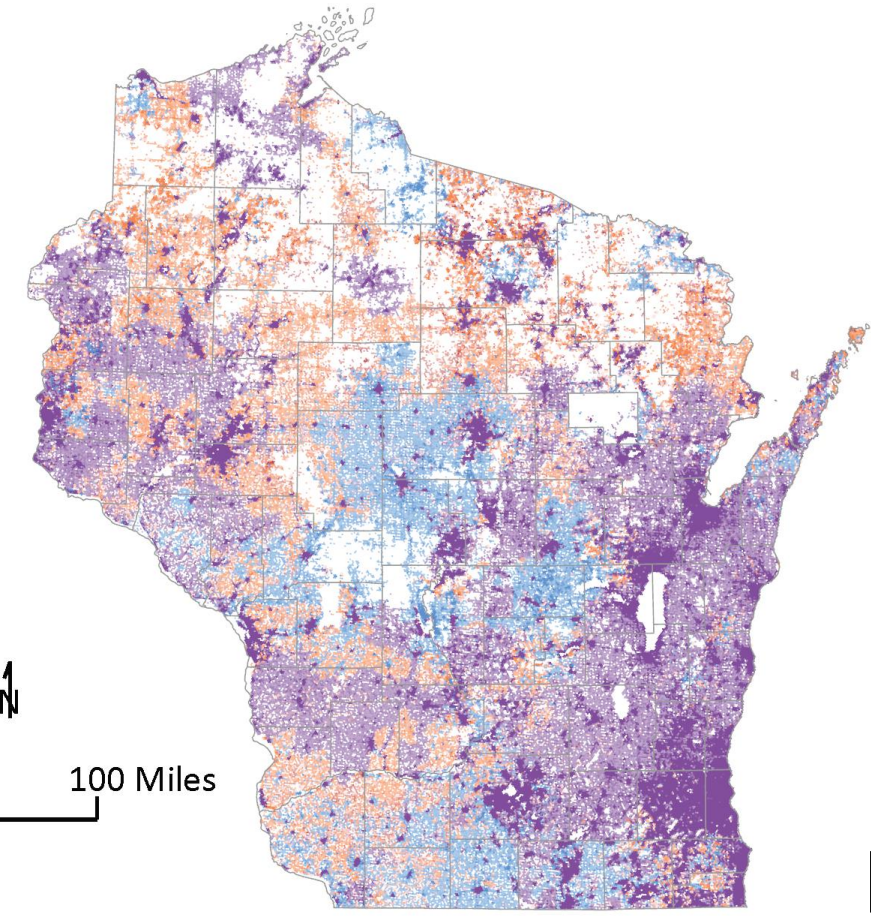
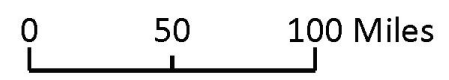
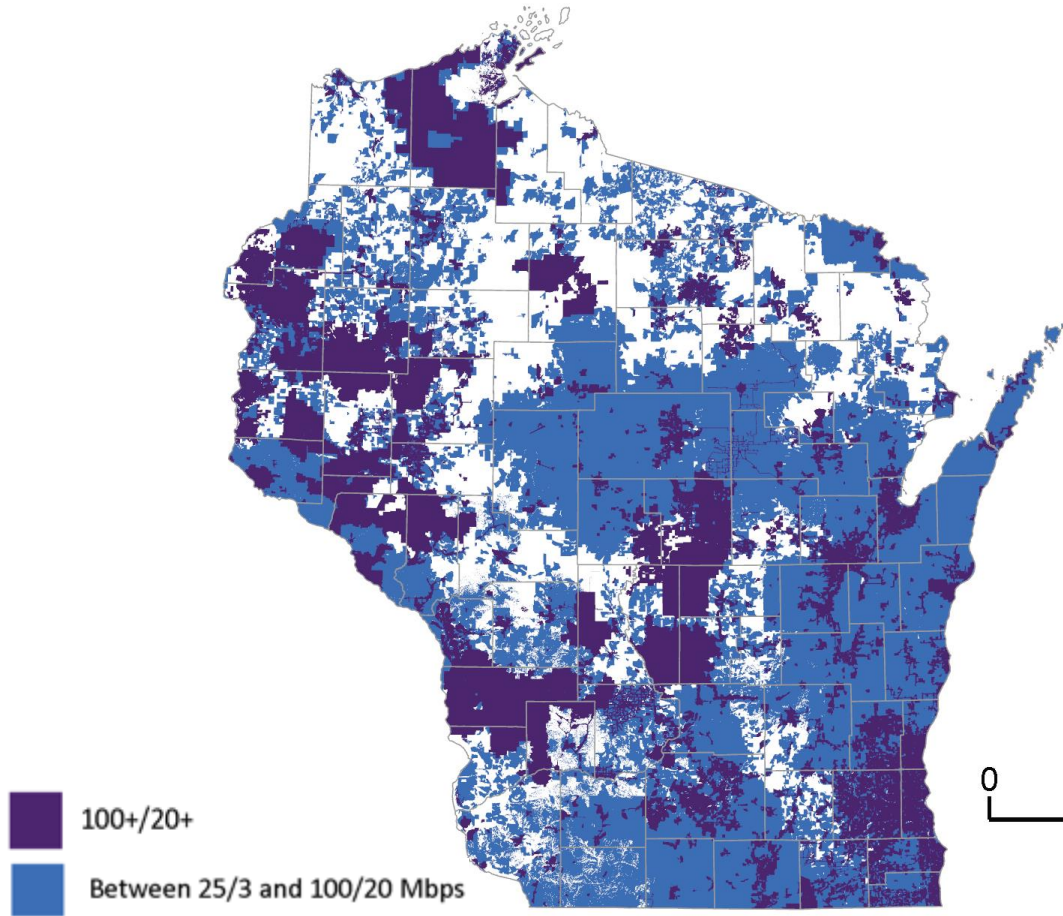
Leadership and Vision

Data and Maps

Strategic Investment in Infrastructure

Digital Equity and Inclusion Framework

Partnership and Capacity Building



## MORE PRECISE COVERAGE MAPPING

January 2022 Mapping Data:  
Census Block and Coverage Area Boundaries

December 2022 Mapping Data:  
Summary of Location-Level Mapping Data



# Strategic Investment in Infrastructure

## Awarded

- State Broadband Expansion Grant Program
- Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) Grants
- American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Broadband Access Program

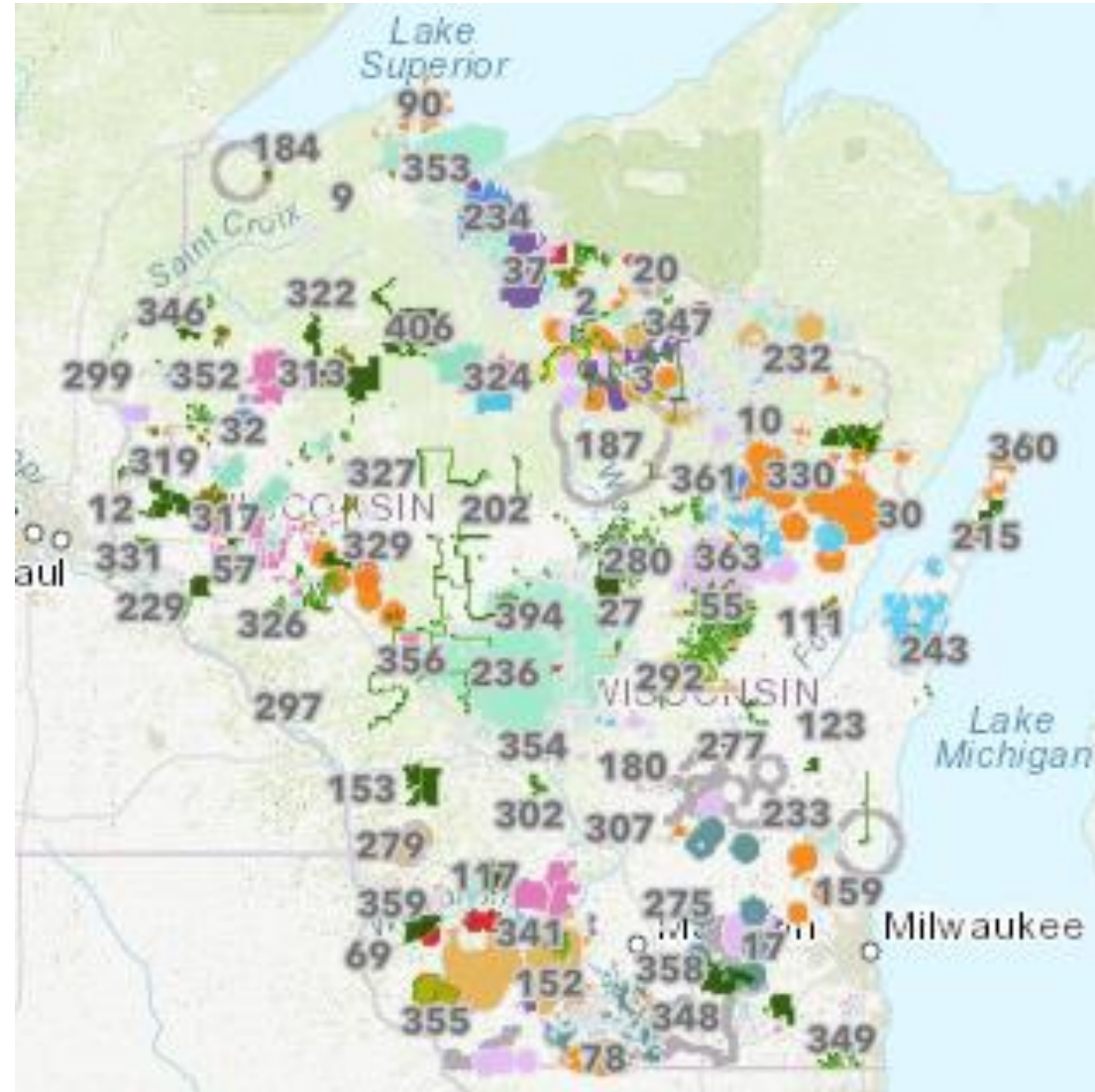
## Upcoming

- Capital Projects Fund
  - Infrastructure (spring, 2024)
  - Capital Projects Fund Digital Devices & Navigators (2024)
- Bipartisan Infrastructure Law
  - Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program BEAD (mid 2024-mid 2025)
  - Digital Equity Act Programs (2024 or 2025???)
- No additional funding from state budget (\$2 million/year in USF)
- Additional local, federal, and private investment

Title	Projects	Award	Match	Total Cost	Businesses Location Count	Residential Location Count
FY 2014 State Broadband Expansion Grant	7	\$ 500,000.00	\$ 373,057.51	\$ 873,057.51	100	3340
FY 2015 State Broadband Expansion Grant	7	\$ 452,579.31	\$ 521,459.31	\$ 974,038.62	86	3757
FY 2016 State Broadband Expansion Grant	11	\$ 1,500,000.00	\$ 2,972,231.40	\$ 4,472,231.40	129	4405
FY 2017 State Broadband Expansion Grant	17	\$ 1,500,000.00	\$ 2,273,624.73	\$ 3,773,624.73	214	15595
FY 2018 State Broadband Expansion Grant, Round 1	13	\$ 1,500,000.00	\$ 2,310,475.60	\$ 3,810,475.60	651	6155
FY 2018 State Broadband Expansion Grant, Round 2	46	\$ 7,688,982.00	\$ 11,908,165.21	\$ 19,597,147.21	2070	27859
FY 2019 State Broadband Expansion Grant	37	\$ 7,053,577.00	\$ 12,203,247.20	\$ 19,256,824.20	1145	14403
FY 2020 Federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES)	12	\$ 5,378,477.00	\$ -	\$ 5,378,477.00	743	19515
FY 2020 State Broadband Expansion Grant	72	\$ 23,995,003.00	\$ 35,805,088.00	\$ 59,800,091.00	10138	115200
FY 2021 State Broadband Expansion Grant	58	\$ 28,443,073.00	\$ 49,209,289.00	\$ 77,652,362.00	6160	106149
FY 2022 Federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)	83	\$ 99,932,502.00	\$ 101,942,388.00	\$ 201,874,890.00	1490	28986
FY 2022 State Broadband Expansion Grant	71	\$ 124,967,392.00	\$ 185,780,074.00	\$ 310,747,466.00	4566	82912
FY 2023 State Broadband Expansion Grant	24	\$ 16,601,085.00	\$ 25,360,857.75	\$ 41,961,942.75	276	6042
<b>Grand Total:</b>	<b>458</b>	<b>\$ 319,512,670.31</b>	<b>\$ 430,659,957.71</b>	<b>\$ 750,172,628.02</b>	<b>27,768</b>	<b>434,318</b>



# Broadband Grant Footprint

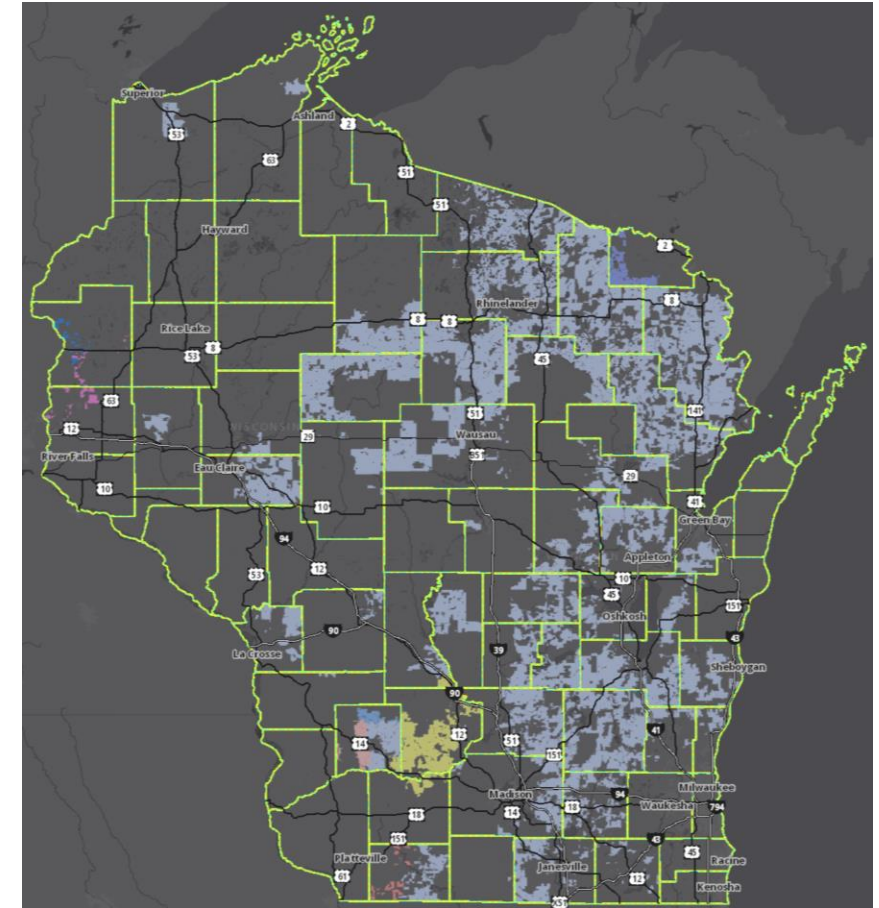


# Federal Rural Digital Opportunity Fund

**Built by:** 100% by year 6 (approx. 2028)

**Speeds:** 1000/500 Mbps fiber

Applicant Name	Total Winning Bid Amount (over 10 years)	# of Locations
Charter Fiberlink CCO, LLC	\$163,258,004	140,238
Reedsburg Utility Commission	\$6,439,594	4,488
Somerset Telephone Co., Inc.	\$669,564	1,208
Richland-Grant Telephone Cooperative, Inc.	\$2,155,211	844
CenturyTel of the Midwest - Wisconsin, LLC	\$3,135,120	832
Lakeland Communications Group, LLC	\$408,952	550
La Valle Telephone Cooperative, Inc.	\$1,385,187	471
AMG Technology Investment Group, LLC	\$1,084,045	346
MARQUETTE-ADAMS TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE, INC.	\$55,378	66
Bruce Telephone Company, Inc.	\$113,745	32
Baldwin Telecom, Inc.	\$11,370	15
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$178,716,170</b>	<b>149,090</b>



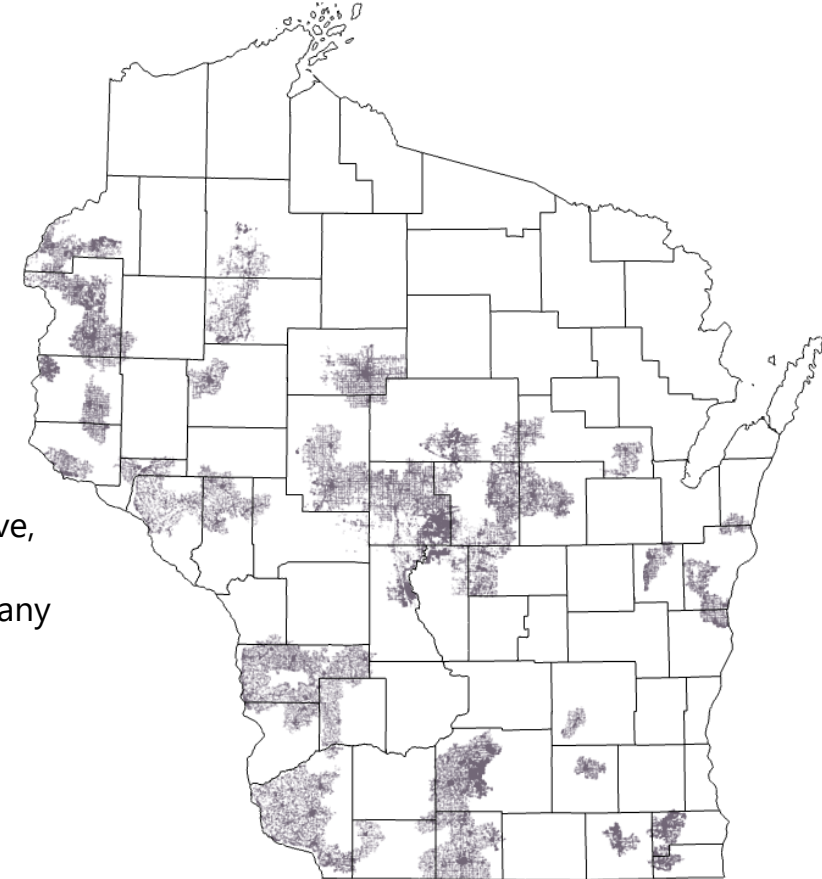
# Federal Enhanced Alternative Connect America Cost Model (E-ACAM)

**Built by:** 12/31/2026 (50%), 12/31/2027 (75%), 12/31/2028 (100%)

**Speeds:** minimum 100/20 Mbps, mostly fiber

## Participating Providers:

- Amery Telcom, Inc.
- Amherst Telephone Company
- Baldwin Telecom, Inc.
- Bloomer Telephone Company
- Bruce Telephone Company, Inc.
- Clear Lake Telephone Company, Inc.
- Coon Valley Farmers Telephone Company
- Farmers Independent Telephone Company
- Hillsboro Telephone Company, Inc.
- LIC T Corporation
- Lakeland Communications, Inc.
- Mount Horeb Telephone Company
- Nelson Telephone Cooperative
- Richland-Grant Telephone Cooperative, Inc.
- Rural Communications Holding Corporation
- Siren Telephone Company, Inc.
- Spring Valley Telephone Company, Inc.
- Telephone & Data Systems
- Tri-County Communications Cooperative, Inc.
- Vernon Telephone Cooperative, Inc.
- Wittenberg Telephone Company
- Wood County Telephone Company



Source: FCC (As of October 30, 2023)

# Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program

## What?

**Allocate:** \$1 billion for broadband infrastructure

**Goal:** 100/20 for all homes and businesses

**Priority:** Homes and businesses lacking 25/3

## Who?

**PSC** operates allocation process: reviewing, scoring, and selecting recipients

**NTIA** oversees to ensure compliance, approves proposals & final allocation

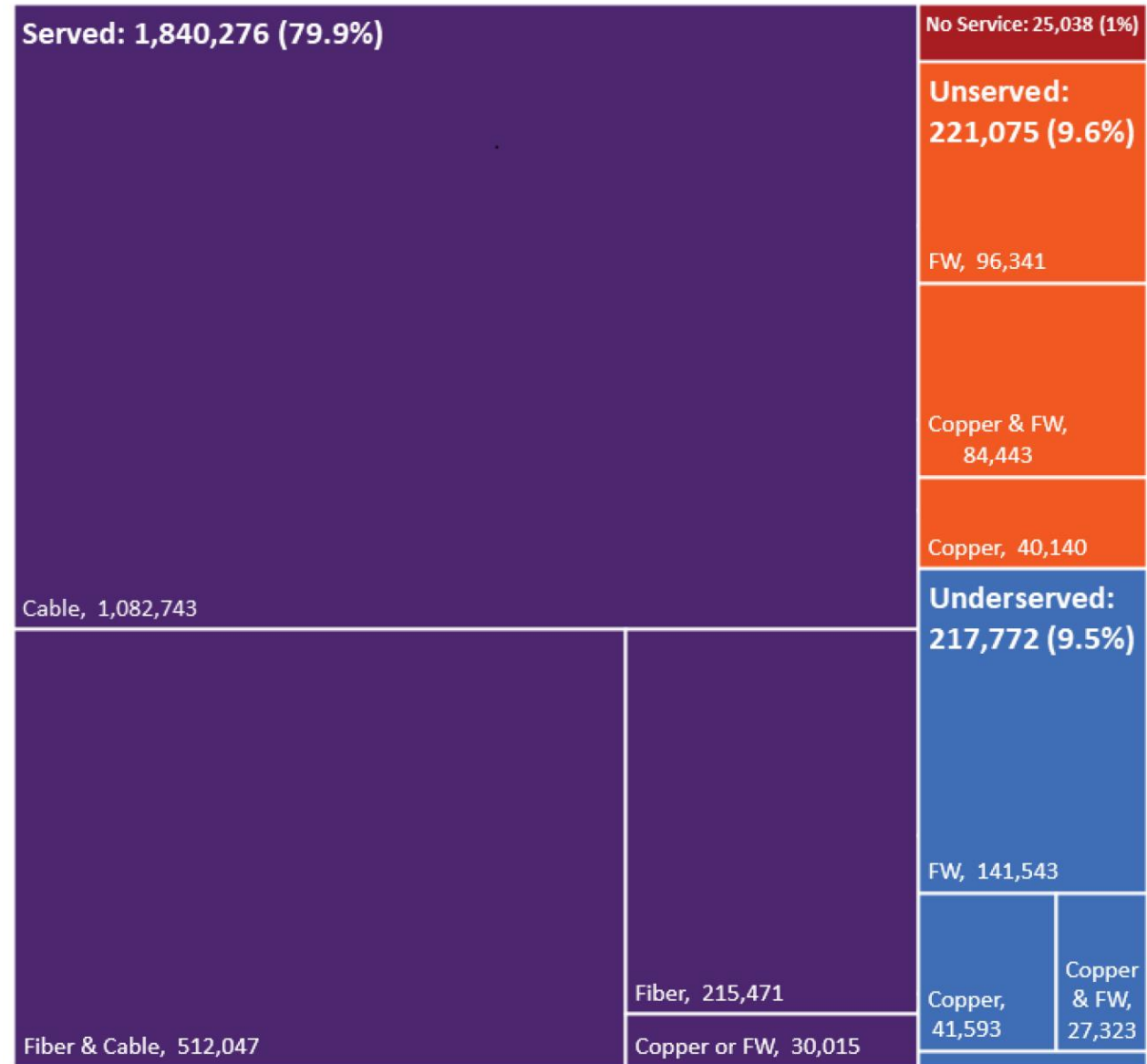
**Participants** are entities that will construct, own, and operate broadband infrastructure



# Availability Status

as of December 31, 2022

- 2,304,161 locations
  - 1,840,276 “served” (100/20+ from wire or licensed fixed wireless (LFW))
  - 217,772 “underserved” (25/3 to 100/20 from wire or LFW)
  - 246,113 “unserved” (less than 25/3 or no service)



Note: FW = Fixed Wireless

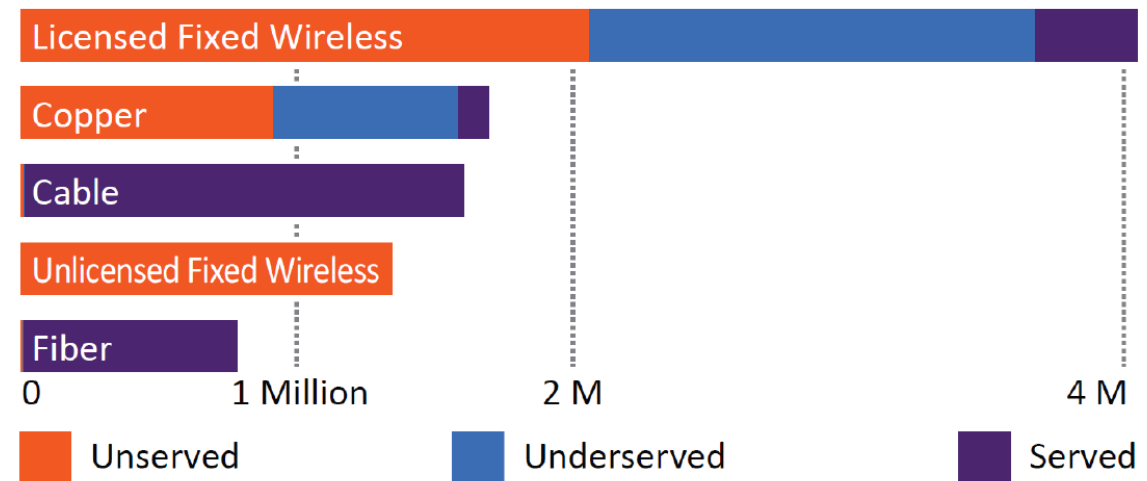
# Technology Types

## Technologies:

- 1) Fiber (highest speed, wired)
- 2) Cable, DSL, Copper (wired)
- 3) Fixed Wireless (tower to home)
- 4) Satellite (satellite to home)
- 5) Cellular (tower to phone or device)

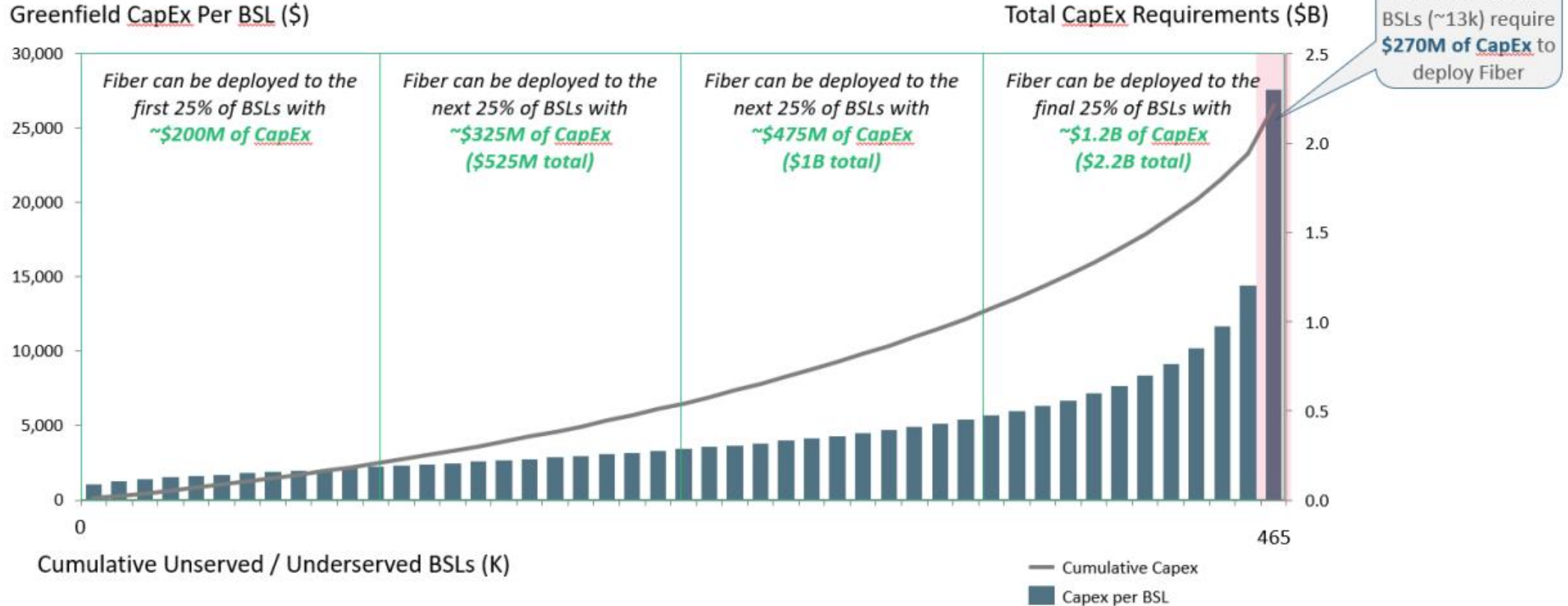
## INTERNET SERVICE OFFERINGS

Displayed by Technology Type & BEAD Status



# Cost Model For Universal Service – fiber

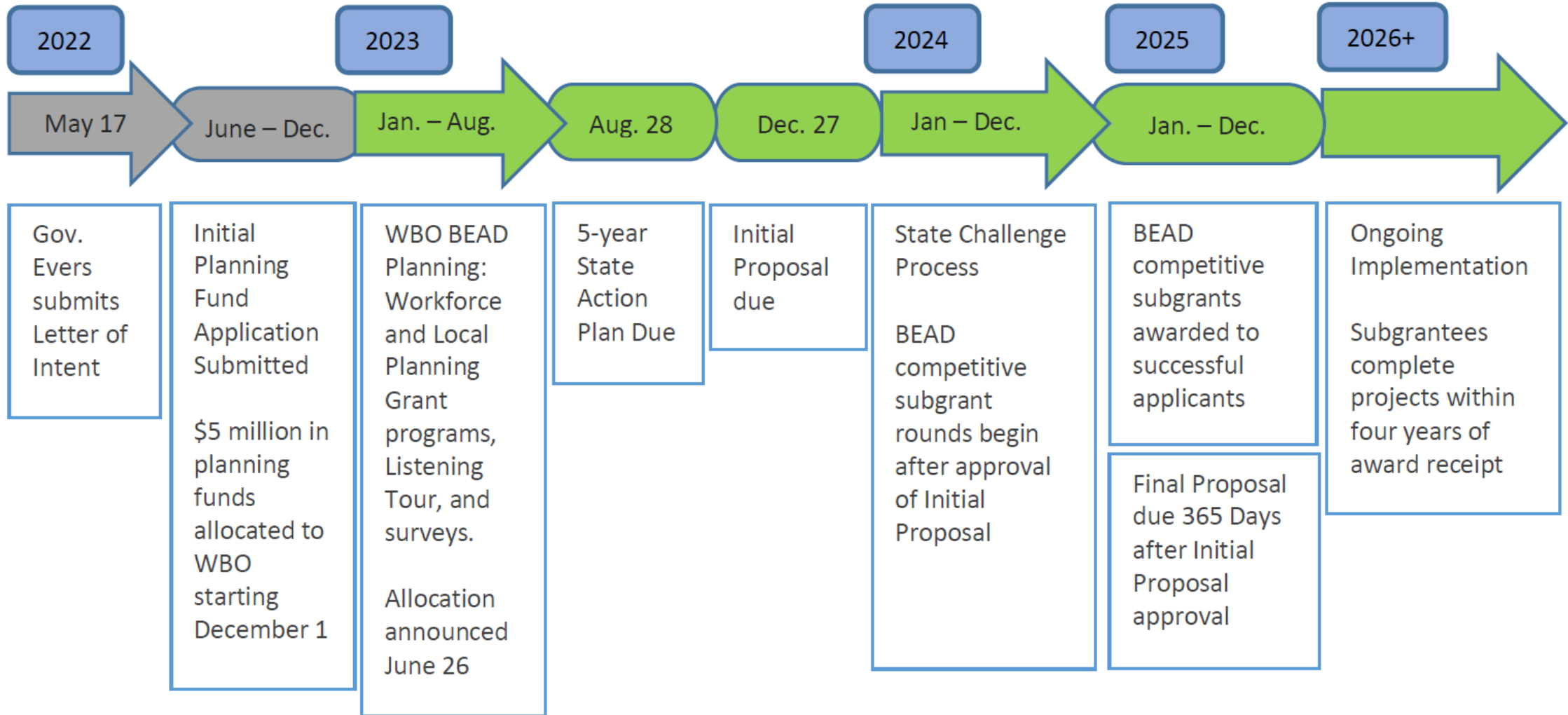
CapEx per BSL and total CapEx requirements to deploy fiber to all unserved and underserved BSLs in WI



Number of unserved and underserved BSLs in WI is based on the FCC map as of June 2023. *BSL counts and costs are not final.*



# BROADBAND EQUITY, ACCESS & DEPLOYMENT TIMELINE



## BROADBAND EQUITY, ACCESS & DEPLOYMENT TIMELINE

Initial Proposal Development (Volume 1, 2, & Budget)	6/30/23	180	12/27/23
State Challenge Process Development (Volume 1)	6/28/23	180	11/1/23
Initial Proposal Volume 2 & Budget Development	8/29/23	180	12/27/23
NTIA Review of Initial Proposal (Estimate)	12/28/23	125	5/1/24
State Challenge Process Implementation	1/1/24	120	4/30/24
Primary Subgrantee Selection Process	6/1/24	365	6/1/25
Final Proposal Review/Post-Award Verification (Estimate)	6/1/25	30	7/1/25
Administrative Reconciliation of Funded Locations	1/1/27	151	6/1/27
>National Environmental Policy Act Review (Short: 3 mo)	7/1/25	92	10/1/25
>Construction (Short: 1 Season)	10/1/25	426	12/1/26
>Closeout & Reporting (Short)	12/1/26	211	6/30/27
>>National Environmental Policy Act Review (Long: 24 mo)	7/1/25	730	7/1/27
>>Construction (Long: 3 Seasons)	7/1/27	884	12/1/29
>>Closeout & Reporting (Long)	12/1/29	211	6/30/30

# Broadband Forward! Community Certification

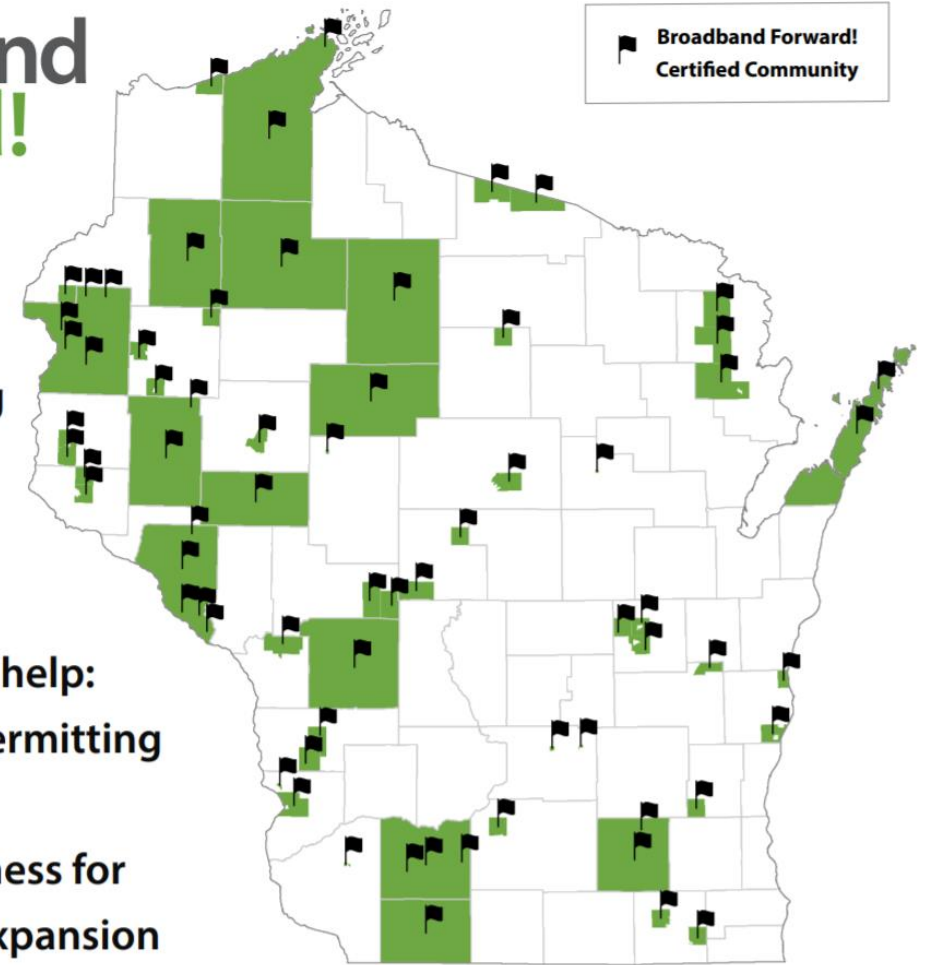
- Voluntary program for cities, villages, towns, and counties
- Rolling out the 'welcome mat'
- Model ordinance

**bro**adband  
**forward!**  
Community

Take the first steps in reducing obstacles to broadband investment

Certification can help:

- ✓ Streamline permitting process
- ✓ Signal eagerness for broadband expansion



# Wisconsin Broadband Office

**Contact Us:** [PSCStateBroadbandOffice@wisconsin.gov](mailto:PSCStateBroadbandOffice@wisconsin.gov)

**Website:** <https://psc.wi.gov/Pages/ServiceType/Broadband.aspx>

**Subscribe to our Newsletter!** <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/su/Uz6GZis>

**Alyssa Kenney** – [Alyssa.Kenney@Wisconsin.gov](mailto:Alyssa.Kenney@Wisconsin.gov), 608-267-9138

State Broadband and Digital Equity Director



# **Broadband Grants vs. Excavator Damages:**

**An in-depth look**

**Andrew Lindquist, Pipeline Safety Engineer-Adv.**

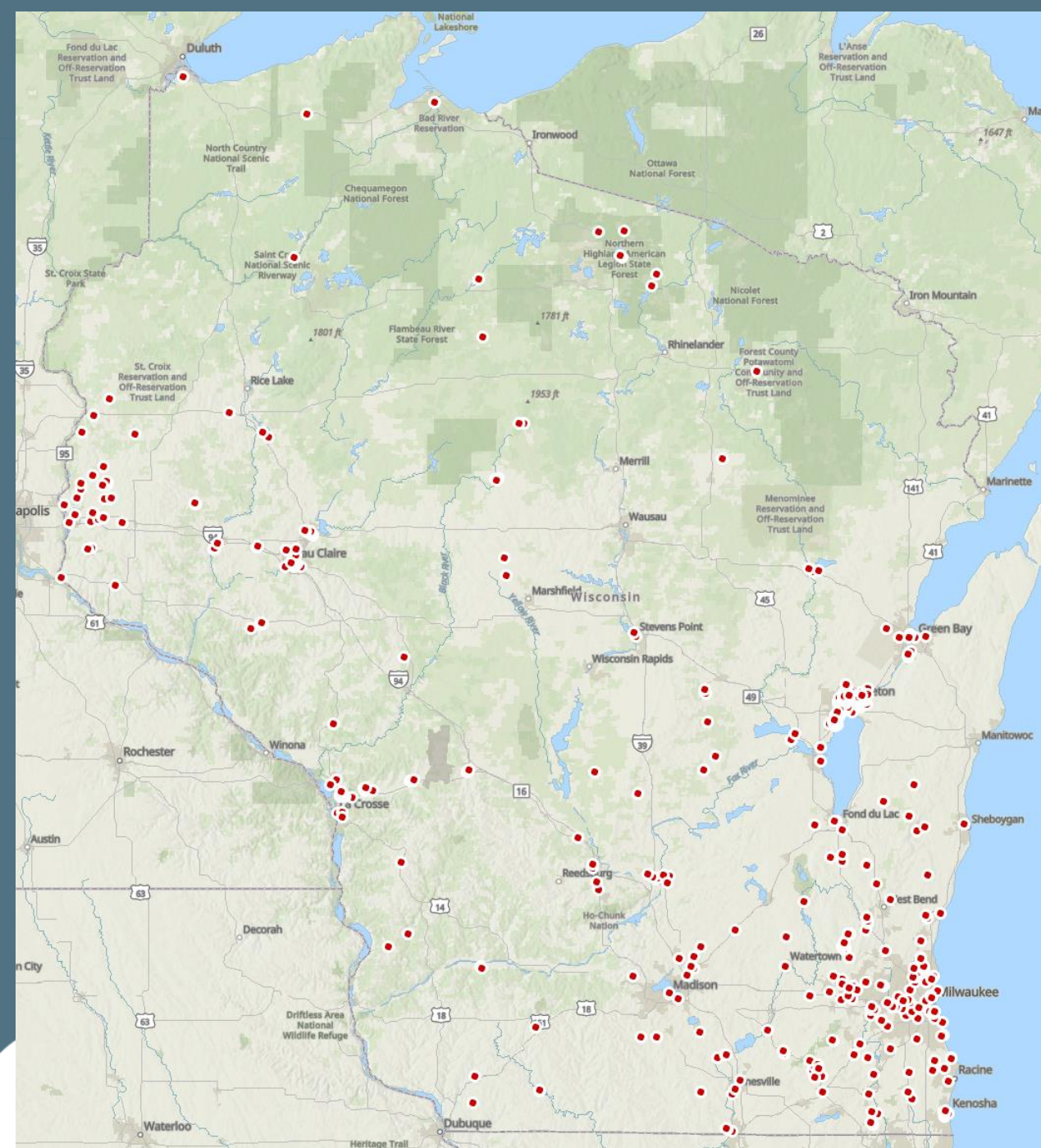
**Feb. 8, 2024**

**Chula Vista Resort**

**Public Service Commission of Wisconsin**



# Telecom Excavator Damages



❑ 436 data points

❑ 2021, 2022, and mid-2023 damage data

❑ Work Performed: **Telecom or Cable**

❑ 99% Contractors

❑ Source: Gas operators' quarterly reports



# Broadband Grants



❑ Fiber, fixed wireless, cable

❑ **2020: 72 awards**

❑ **2021: 58 awards**

❑ **2022: 71 awards**

❑ **2023: 24 awards**

❑ Source: Dockets 5-BF-(2020-2023) &

Broadband mapping data available at

[psc.wi.gov/Pages/ServiceType/Broadband/BroadbandMaps.aspx](https://psc.wi.gov/Pages/ServiceType/Broadband/BroadbandMaps.aspx)





# Goal

Determine –

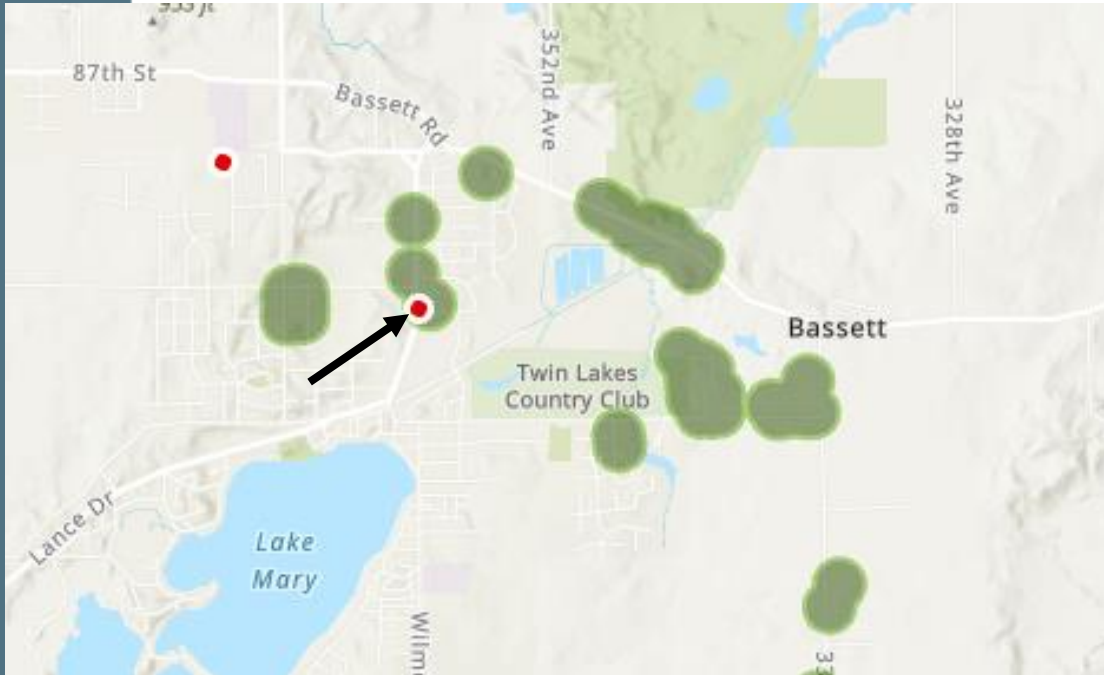
- Whether PSC-awarded broadband projects cause excavation damages
- How many
- And next steps

# Grants & Damages

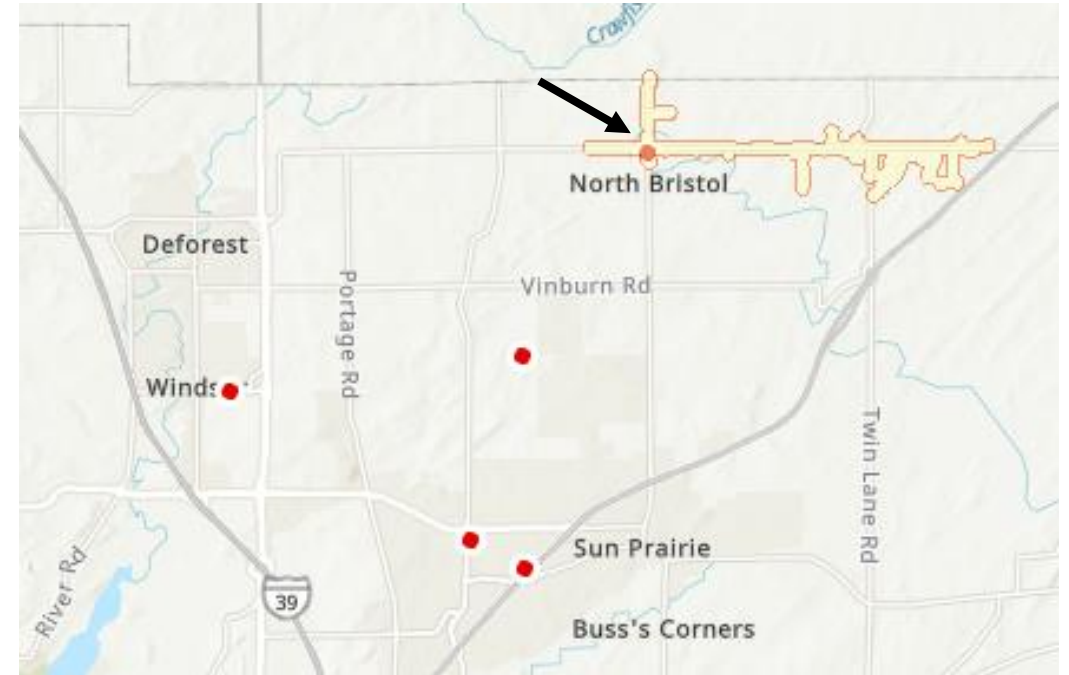
Overlay analysis

Damage proximity to fiber or cable

# Examples



Fiber project (green)  
Telecom excavator damage (red)



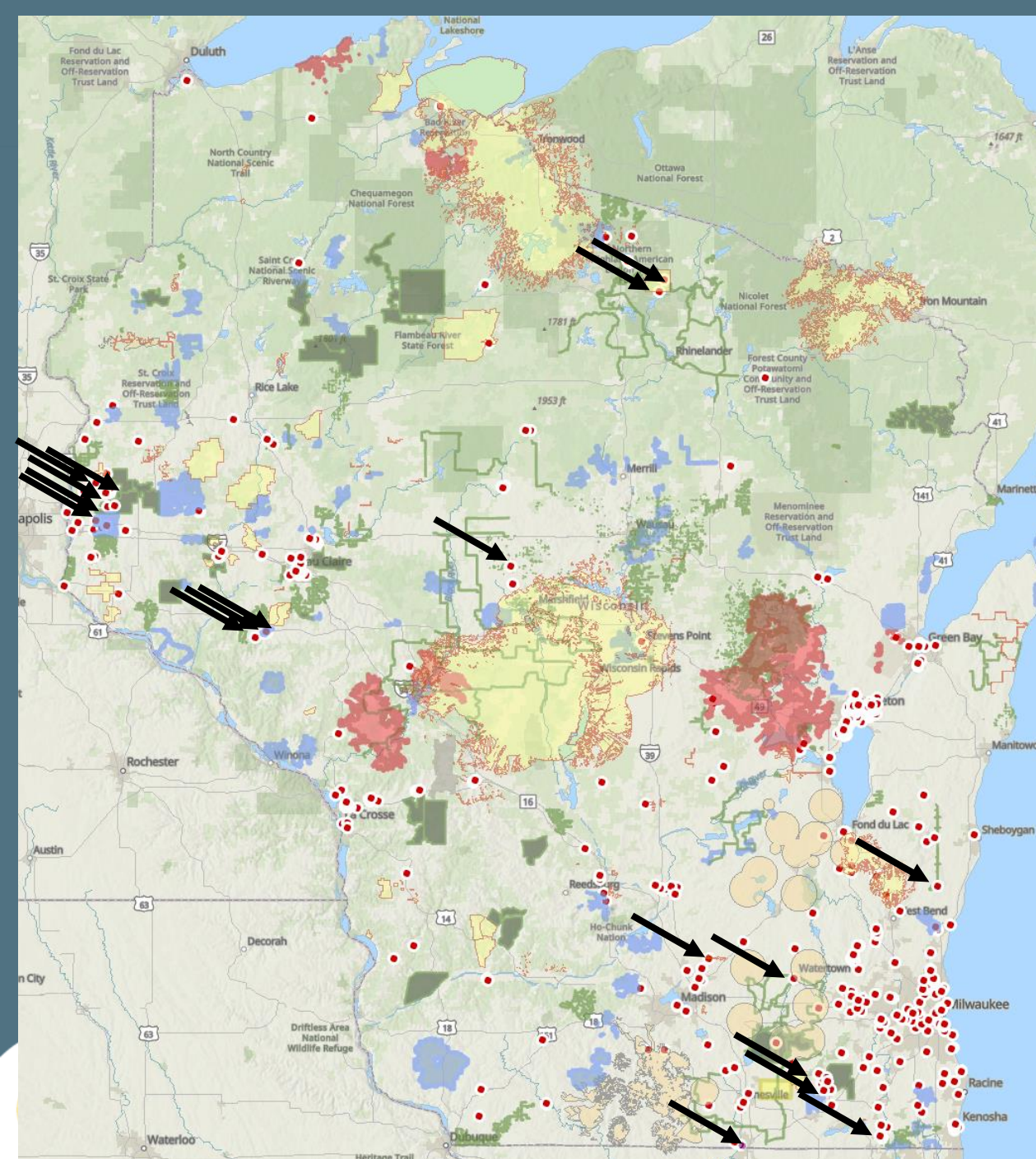
Fiber project (yellow)  
Telecom excavator damage (red)

# Assumptions

- ❑ Grant spatial data is accurate
- ❑ Damages outside grant area are outside our scope
- ❑ “Cable” & “Telecommunications” damager type might be used interchangeably
- ❑ Fiber & cable spatial data correlates to excavation, but
  - Fixed wireless does not



# Identified possible damages



Identified for further investigation

# Preliminary results: (not actual)



Award year	Applicant	Project	Damage date	Municipality	Address	Damage project	Reason
2022	Northwest Comm. #3 (T. Richmond)	Fiber to the Premises (FTTP)	9/29/2022	New Richmond	1398 126th St	Telecommunication	Excavator failed to maintain clearance after verifying marks
2021	UpNetWI, LLC #1 (T. Bristol)	Fiber	9/20/2021	Sun Prairie	7645 County Rd N	Telecommunication	Excavator dug prior to verifying marks by test-hole/pothole
2022	Bug Tussel #5 (Co. Jefferson)	Fiber to the Premises (FTTP)	8/24/2022	Watertown	613 Oakwood Ln	Telecommunications	Excavator dug prior to verifying marks by test-hole (pothole)
2022	Edge Broadband #3 (Lauderdale Lakes - NW)	Fiber to the Premises (FTTP)	8/29/2022	Elkhorn	7932 W Shore Dr	Telecommunications	Excavator dug prior to verifying marks by test-hole (pothole)
2022	Frontier Comm. #6 (Co. Kenosha)	Fiber to the Premises (FTTP)	4/11/2023	Twin Lakes	600 N Lake Ave	Telecommunications	Excavator dug outside area described on ticket
2022	Northwest Comm. #3 (T. Richmond)	Fiber to the Premises (FTTP)	5/25/2023	New Richmond	1375 140th St	Cable	Excavator dug outside area described on ticket
2022	Northwest Comm. #3 (T. Richmond)	Fiber to the Premises (FTTP)	6/8/2023	New Richmond	1443 141st Ave	Cable	Excavator dug after valid ticket expired
2021	ChoiceTel St. Germain Sheboygan County EDC (Co. Sheboygan - STH 57)	Fiber	6/11/2023	Saint Germain	7631 Wolf Run Ln	Cable	Excavator dug prior to verifying marks by test-hole (pothole)
2022	Frontier Comm. #1 (Co. Marathon (Previously Clark, Lincoln & Marathon))	Fiber to the Premises (FTTP)	12/14/2021	Random Lake Village	W4873 County Road Rr	Telecommunications	Facility not marked
2022	Baldwin Telecom (T. Warren)	Fiber to the Premises (FTTP)	11/7/2022	Brighton	100763 Kington Rd Brighton, WI	Telecommunications	Facility not marked - locator error
2023	Baldwin Telecom (T. Warren)	Fiber to the Premises (FTTP)	4/13/2022	Warren	1012 93rd St	Telecommunication	Facility marked inaccurately - tracer wire issue
2023	Baldwin Telecom (T. Warren)	Fiber to the Premises (FTTP)	5/19/2022	Warren	809 110th St	Telecommunication	Other
2022	Edge Broadband #1 (Rural East Troy & Elkhorn)	Fiber to the Premises (FTTP)	11/29/2022	Lafayette	6637 Hodges Rd	Telecommunications	Facility not marked - locator error
2023	Beloit College (Fiber)	Fiber / Co-Axial Route	5/14/2021	Beloit	1427 McKinley Ave	Telecommunication	Excavator dug prior to verifying marks by test-hole/pothole
2023	Mondovi, City of (Fiber)	Fiber to the Premises (FTTP)	10/27/2022	Mondovi	373 W Riverside Ave	Telecommunication	Excavator dug prior to valid start date/time
2023	Mondovi, City of (Fiber)	Fiber to the Premises (FTTP)	5/5/2021	Mondovi	HWY 37 & Cloverleaf Rd	Telecommunication	Facility not marked - locator error
2023	Mondovi, City of (Fiber)	Fiber to the Premises (FTTP)	10/19/2022	Mondovi	735 E Main St	Telecommunication	Did not notify one call center
2021	ChoiceTel St. Germain	Fiber	10/19/2021	Saint Germain	6221 State Highway 70	Telecommunications	Facility not marked

# Preliminary results:



Award year	Applicant	Project	Damage date	Municipality	Address	Damage project	Reason
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2021	UpNetWI, LLC #1 (T. Bristol)	Fiber	9/20/2021	Sun Prairie	7645 County Rd N	Telecommunication	Excavator dug prior to verifying marks by test-hole/pothole
2022	Bug Tussel #5 (Co. Jefferson)	Fiber to the Premises (FTTP)	8/24/2022	Watertown	613 Oakwood Ln	Telecommunications	Excavator dug prior to verifying marks by test-hole (pothole)
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2021	ChoiceTel St. Germain Sheboygan County EDC (Co. Sheboygan - STH 57)	Fiber	6/11/2023	Saint Germain	7631 Wolf Run Ln	Cable	Excavator dug prior to verifying marks by test-hole (pothole)
2022	Frontier Comm. #1 (Co. Marathon (Previously Clark, Lincoln & Marathon))	Fiber to the Premises (FTTP)	12/14/2021	Random Lake Village	W4873 County Road Rr	Telecommunications	Facility not marked
2022	Baldwin Telecom (T. Warren)	Fiber to the Premises (FTTP)	11/7/2022	Brighton	100763 Kington Rd Brighton, WI	Telecommunications	Facility not marked - locator error
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2023	Edge Broadband #1 (Rural East Troy & Elkhorn)	Fiber to the Premises (FTTP)	5/19/2022	Warren	809 110th St	Telecommunication	Other
2022	Beloit College (Fiber)	Fiber to the Premises (FTTP)	11/29/2022	Lafayette	6637 Hodges Rd	Telecommunications	Facility not marked - locator error
2023	Mondovi, City of (Fiber)	Fiber / Co-Axial Route Fiber to the Premises (FTTP)	5/14/2021	Beloit	1427 McKinley Ave	Telecommunication	Excavator dug prior to verifying marks by test-hole/pothole
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2021	ChoiceTel St. Germain	Fiber	10/19/2021	Saint Germain	6221 State Highway 70	Telecommunications	Facility not marked



# More Assumptions

- Excavation date is not before award year
- Projects reported start date is before the damage
- Excavator is at fault (exclude locating related issues)\*

# Not at-fault/not affiliated with grants: 14

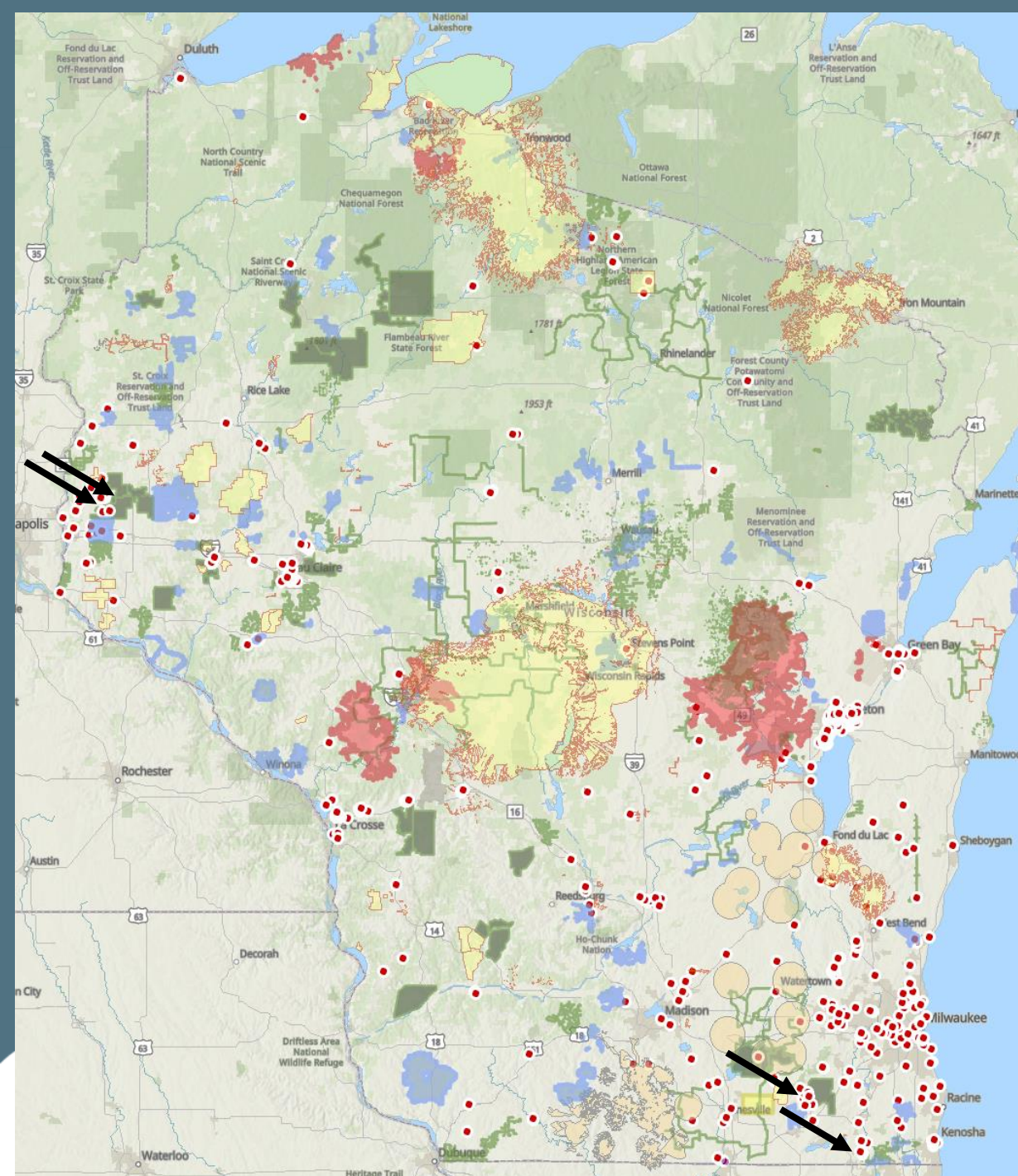


Award year	Applicant	Project	Damage date	Municipality	Address	Damage project	Reason	Conclusion:
2022	Northwest Comm. #3 (T. Richmond)	Fiber to the Premises (FTTP)	9/29/2022	New Richmond	1398 126th St	Telecommunication	Excavator failed to maintain clearance after verifying marks	Damage not affiliated with grant - Applicant states it had not started by Oct. 21 2022
2021	UpNetWI, LLC #1 (T. Bristol)	Fiber	9/20/2021	Sun Prairie	7645 County Rd N	Telecommunication	Excavator dug prior to verifying marks by test-hole/pothole	Damage not affiliated with grant - Project not started until 11/16/2021 and only 2% done by 4/25/2022
2022	Bug Tussel #5 (Co. Jefferson)	Fiber to the Premises (FTTP)	8/24/2022	Watertown	613 Oakwood Ln	Telecommunications	Excavator dug prior to verifying marks by test-hole (pothole)	Damage not affiliated with grant - Withdrawn project
2021	ChoiceTel St. Germain	Fiber	6/11/2023	Saint Germain	7631 Wolf Run Ln	Cable	Excavator dug prior to verifying marks by test-hole (pothole)	Damage not affiliated with grant - Project did not start until July 1, 2021, and only completed 1% by May 11, 2022
2022	Sheboygan County EDC (Co. Sheboygan - STH 57)	Fiber to the Premises (FTTP)	12/14/2021	Random Lake Village	W4873 County Road Rr	Telecommunications	Facility not marked	Excavator not At Fault
2022	Frontier Comm. #1 (Co. Marathon (Previously Clark, Lincoln & Marathon))	Fiber to the Premises (FTTP)	11/7/2022	Brighton	100763 Kington Rd Brighton, WI	Telecommunications	Facility not marked - locator error	Excavator not At Fault
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2023	Baldwin Telecom (T. Warren)	Fiber to the Premises (FTTP)	5/19/2022	Warren	809 110th St	Telecommunication	Other	Damage not affiliated with grant - incorrect years
2022	Edge Broadband #1 (Rural East Troy & Elkhorn)	Fiber to the Premises (FTTP)	11/29/2022	Lafayette	6637 Hodges Rd	Telecommunications	Facility not marked - locator error	Excavator not At Fault
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2021	ChoiceTel St. Germain	Fiber	10/19/2021	Saint Germain	6221 State Highway 70	Telecommunications	Facility not marked	Excavator not At Fault

# Reasons summary

- Damage not affiliated with grant
  - Damage occurred before applicant's reported start date
  - Project withdrawn
  - Damage happened before award year
  
- Excavator not at fault
  - Not Marked
  - Locator error

# Likely grant-project & at-fault damages



↙ 4 likely damages after process of elimination, based on:

- Project type
- Spatial overlap
- Timeline
- Project start date
- Root cause

# Likely grant-project & at-fault damages: 4

Award year	Applicant	Project	Damage date	Municipality	Address	Damage project	Reason	Conclusion:
2022	Edge Broadband #3 (Lauderdale Lakes - NW)	Fiber to the Premises (FTTP)	8/29/2022	Elkhorn	7932 W Shore Dr	Telecommunications	Excavator dug prior to verifying marks by test-hole (pothole)	Likely (project from 8/10/2022 to 4/10/2023)
2022	Frontier Comm. #6 (Co. Kenosha)	Fiber to the Premises (FTTP)	4/11/2023	Twin Lakes	600 N Lake Ave	Telecommunications	Excavator dug outside area described on ticket	Likely No information by 10/27/2022
2022	Northwest Comm. #3 (T. Richmond)	Fiber to the Premises (FTTP)	5/25/2023	New Richmond	1375 140th St	Cable	Excavator dug outside area described on ticket	Likely Completed 90% of the project between 04/19/23 and 10/24/23
2022	Northwest Comm. #3 (T. Richmond)	Fiber to the Premises (FTTP)	6/8/2023	New Richmond	1443 141st Ave	Cable	Excavator dug after valid ticket expired	Likely Completed 90% of the project between 04/19/23 and 10/24/24



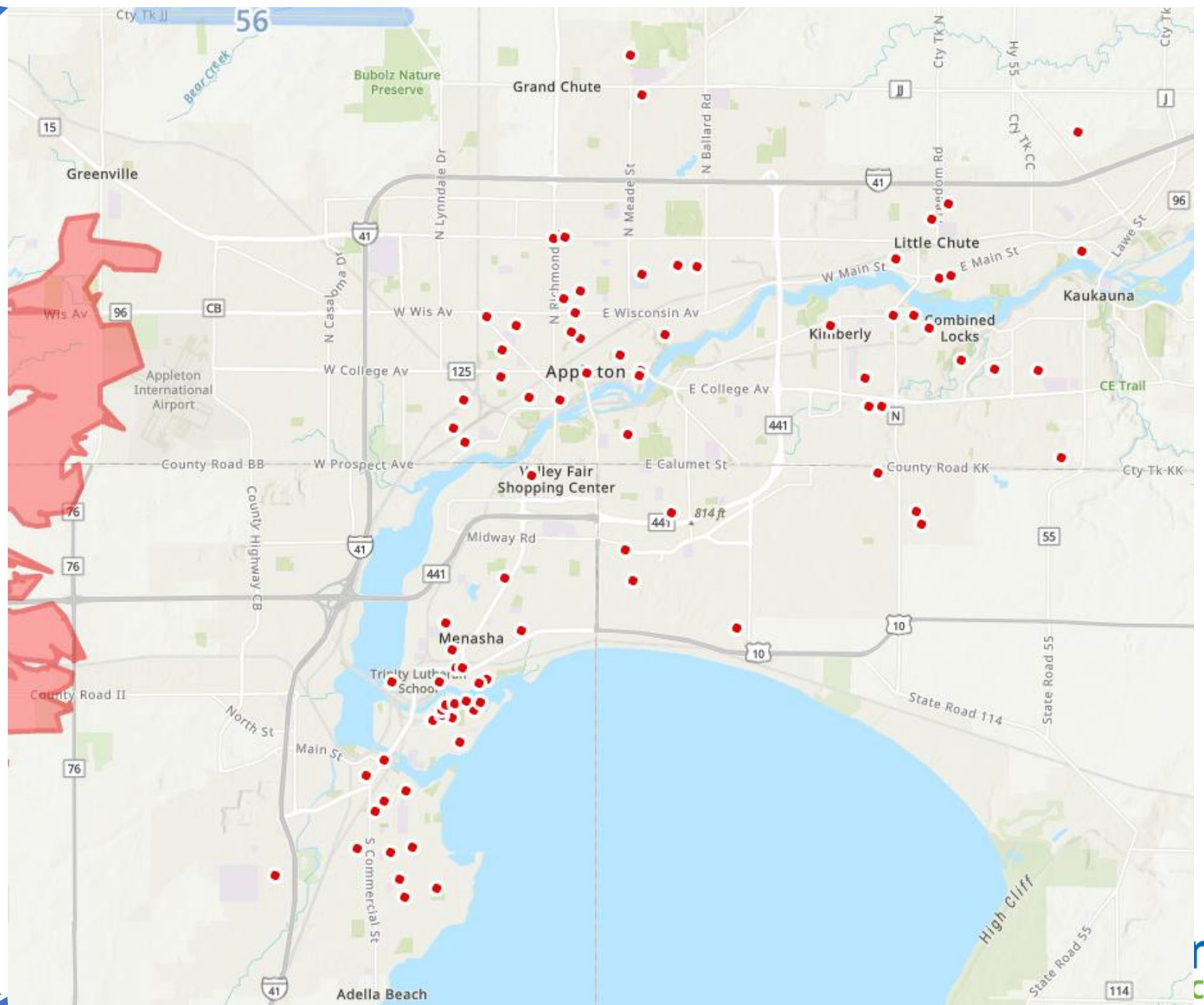
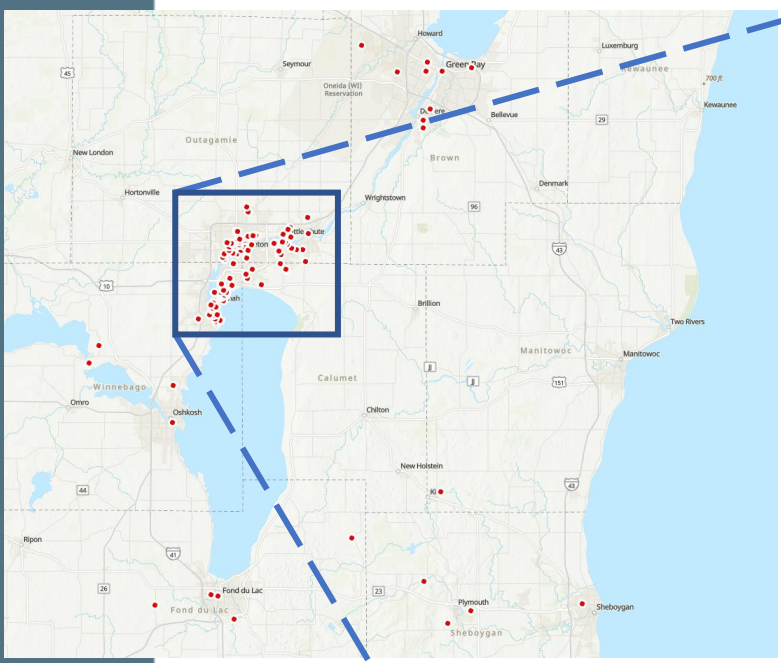
# Conclusions

- ❑ Identified 4 likely damages
- ❑ Represents <1% of telecom's 436 damages to gas
- ❑ Supports hypothesis of little overlap between grant areas and gas infrastructure

# Next Steps

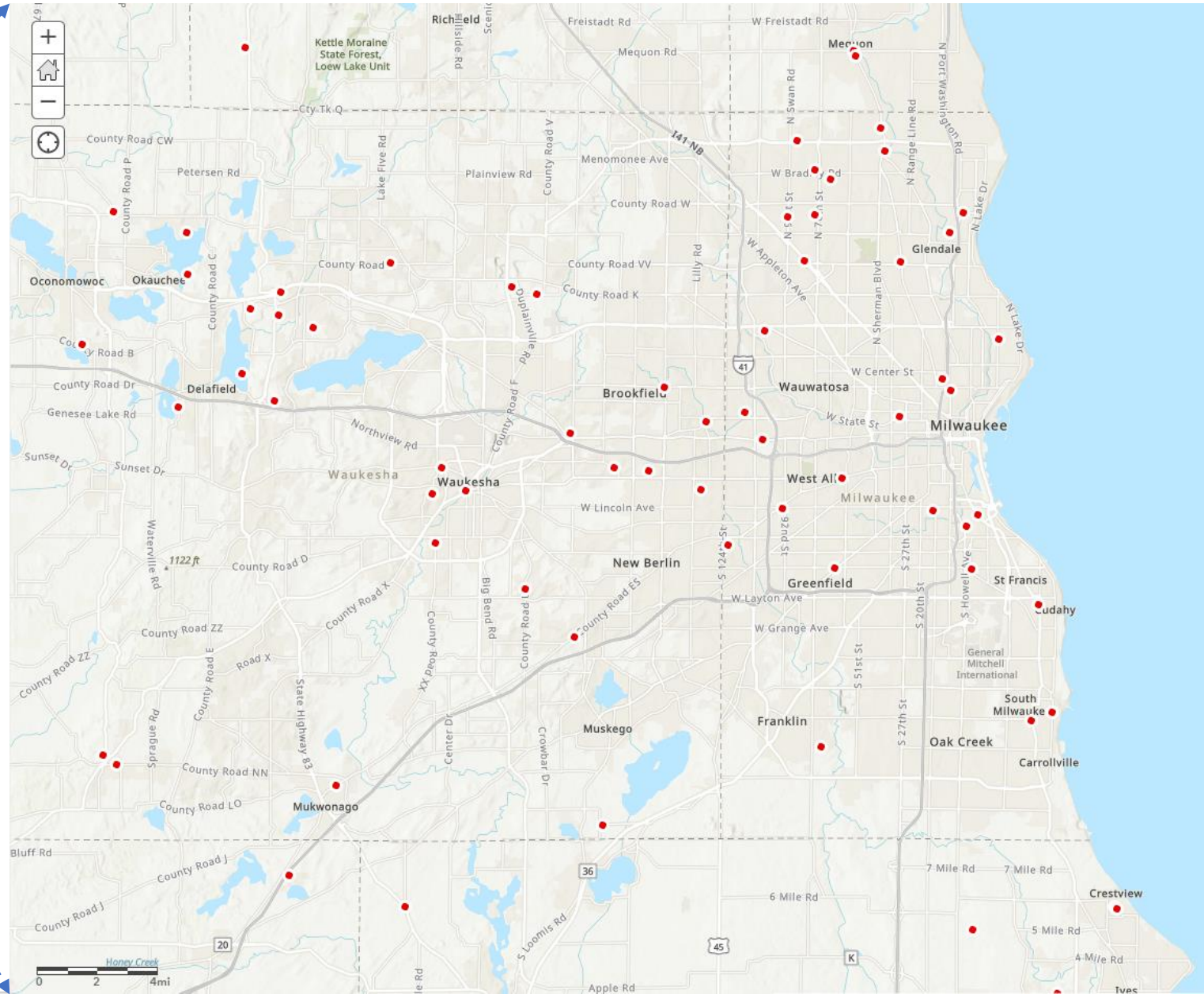
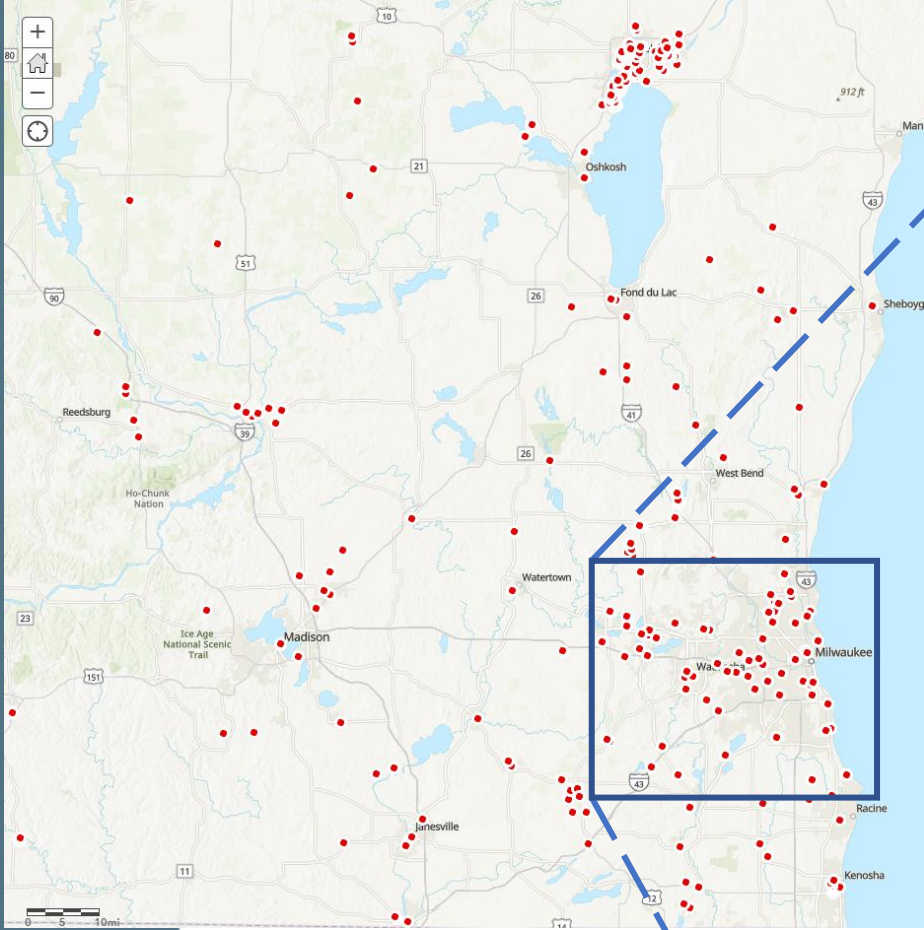
- ❑ Continued monitoring
- ❑ Continue to educate grant applicants
  - Newsletter
  - Excavator's guide
  - Links to Diggers Hotline
  - One Call Statute
  - Questionnaire





Appleton area telecom damages to gas





# Milwaukee area telecom damages to gas





**Thank you!**

**Andrew Lindquist, Pipeline Safety Engineer-Adv.**

**Feb. 8, 2024**

**Chula Vista Resort**

**Public Service Commission of Wisconsin**