

Summary of FY 2014 Broadband grants

Applicant(s)	Grant amount awarded	Matching funds	Total project cost	Status	Description
CCI Systems, Eau Claire County, CESA 10, Chippewa Valley InterNetworking Consortium, Sacred Heart and St Joseph's Hospitals	\$139,467.00	\$118,533.00	\$258,000.00		This is a fixed wireless project in east central Eau Claire County, adjacent to Lake Eau Claire. The grant awarded funds to build one communications tower with a large transmission footprint at a location within a county park. The overall goal of the project is to provide broadband service to an unserved area in eastern Eau Claire County. CESA 10 and the Augusta, Fall Creek and Osseo-Fairchild School Districts participated in the project to provide broadband service to students living in rural areas of those districts. Sacred Heart Hospital, St. Joseph's Hospital and Hospital Sisters Health System joined the application as well to provide patients with broadband service to support home health monitoring units and teleconferencing services provided by the hospitals.
Central State Telephone Co. (TDS) Cranmoor Project	\$85,663.21	\$85,663.20	\$171,326.41	complete	This project extended TDS/Central State Telephone DSL broadband service in the Cranmoor telephone exchange, just west of the Wisconsin River opposite Wisconsin Rapids in Wood County. The project replaces a lower quality "switcher line" in that exchange. TDS completed construction of a 3.65 mile fiber route and service installation to 90 households in May 2015. The project changed the serving telephone switch for Cranmoor from Solaris/Wisconsin Rapids to Central State Telephone Co.
CenturyLink Trout Lake Project	\$80,989.00	\$19,245.00	\$100,234.00	complete	This project will extended DSL service to about 95 households in the Trout Lake area in southwest Vilas County. Project is complete. 66 households subscribed to the broadband service in the initial sales effort.
ChoiceTel and City of Eagle River Highway 17 project	\$47,177.00	\$43,200.00	\$90,377.00	complete	This project built a 27 mile fiber route along Highway 17 between Rhinelander and Eagle River (\$3,350 per route mile). It is a middle mile project, providing a second broadband route to Eagle River and permitting upgraded service for over 300 users. The project also provided upgraded internet service to Eagle River municipal offices. Project is complete. In 2016, ChoiceTel will use spare capacity in the fiber route to connect to three Cellcom towers along Hwy 17.

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ChoiceTel and City of Eagle River Highway G project	\$68,313.00	\$69,693.46	\$138,006.46		This project will construct a 9 mile fiber route along Cty Hwy G northwest of Eagle River in Vilas County. There are over 300 residences and businesses along the fiber route. Project funding includes a 50% match. Completion in 2016.
SonicNet, Vilas County Economic Development Corp., and the Towns of Cloverland, Phelps and Winchester	\$11,283.10	\$11,283.11	\$22,566.21	complete	This is a fixed wireless project in Vilas County, Wisconsin. SonicNet built three new communications towers. The towers are located in areas where the existing Internet service was provided by 3G mobile service and satellite technologies. Project is complete. SonicNet has added 65 customers in 2015. Expects to add 320 customers in 3-5 years.
WIconnect Wireless and Prosperity Southwest Wisconsin Regional Economic Development Corporation	\$35,469.00	\$1,000.00	\$36,469.00	complete	This is a fixed wireless project. WIconnect upgraded service to 550 existing customers and expanded its network to an additional 450 customers, located south of the Wisconsin River in northern Grant and Iowa Counties and in Highland in Richland County. Project is complete.
TOTAL	\$468,361.31	\$348,617.77	\$816,979.08		

Note: The Commission initially awarded the seven applicants a total of \$500,000 in grants. The CenturyLink, TDS and SonicNet projects were completed under budget.