



Public Service Commission of Wisconsin

Ellen Nowak, Chairperson
Phil Montgomery, Commissioner
Mike Huebsch, Commissioner

610 North Whitney Way
P.O. Box 7854
Madison, WI 53707-7854

January 11, 2016

Re: Universal Service Fund Grant Program for
Telecommunications Access Programs or Projects by Non-
Profit Groups

5-NF-2016

Prospective Grant Applicant:

The Public Service Commission of Wisconsin is pleased to announce its release of Fiscal Year 2016 Grant Application Guidelines for the Nonprofit Access Program (Wis. Admin. Code § PSC 160.125(2)). The Nonprofit Access Program is a Universal Service Fund grant program used to fund nonprofit groups that facilitate affordable access to telecommunications services in Wisconsin. Up to \$500,000 may be available to award to applicants for this fiscal year.

The grant application deadline is February 26, 2016, for projects seeking funding from Fiscal Year 2016. For more information please review the complete guidelines before proceeding. They are found at <http://psc.wi.gov/utilityInfo/tele/usf/programs/npSummary.htm>. Important items to note include:

- Applicant must be a nonprofit group (defined as an IRS § 501(c)(3) organization).
- Funding will be approved for projects for no more than one year.
- Matching funds are required for at least 25 percent of the total project cost (three dollars for one dollar match).
- The project must assist customers in areas of the state that have relatively high costs of telecommunication services, customers that are low-income, or customers with disabilities, in obtaining affordable access to essential telecommunications services.¹

In past grant cycles the types of projects funded have varied widely; from programs focused on getting basic telephone service to low-income households to programs focused on providing assistance to disabled individuals in obtaining and installing specialized telecommunication equipment. Since 2010, the potential scope of projects that fund access to basic services for low-income consumers has included service connection costs.

Should you have any questions regarding the grant application guidelines, please contact me at 608-267-9624 or jeff.richter@wisconsin.gov. We look forward to receiving your grant application and learning about your proposed project.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey J. Richter
Universal Service Fund Director
Division of Business and Program Management

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¹ Telecommunications access grants no longer fund access to the Internet or information services.