



Wisconsin Broadband Summit

November 16, 2021

Community Development Institute
Division of Extension
University of Wisconsin-Madison

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Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



Local
Government
Education



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UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
ORGANIZATIONAL AND LEADERSHIP
DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM





Today's meeting was made possible by a grant from the
United States Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration
in support of the
Economic Development Administration University Center
at the
Community Development Institute
Division of Extension
University of Wisconsin-Madison.

*Any opinions, findings, conclusions or recommendations are those of the presenters
and do not necessarily reflect the views of the
U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration*



Funding Broadband Access Panel

Christopher Stark, Associate Professor
Community Development Institute
UW-Madison Division of Extension



Funding Broadband Access

Examples of Local Efforts:

- Scott Feldt, Kewaunee County Administrator
- Michael Bub, Chairperson, Taylor County Broadband Committee

Examples of State and Federal Efforts:

- Alyssa Kenney, Director of Digital Access, Public Service Commission of Wisconsin
- Tom Barron, Economic Development Representative for the Economic Development Administration



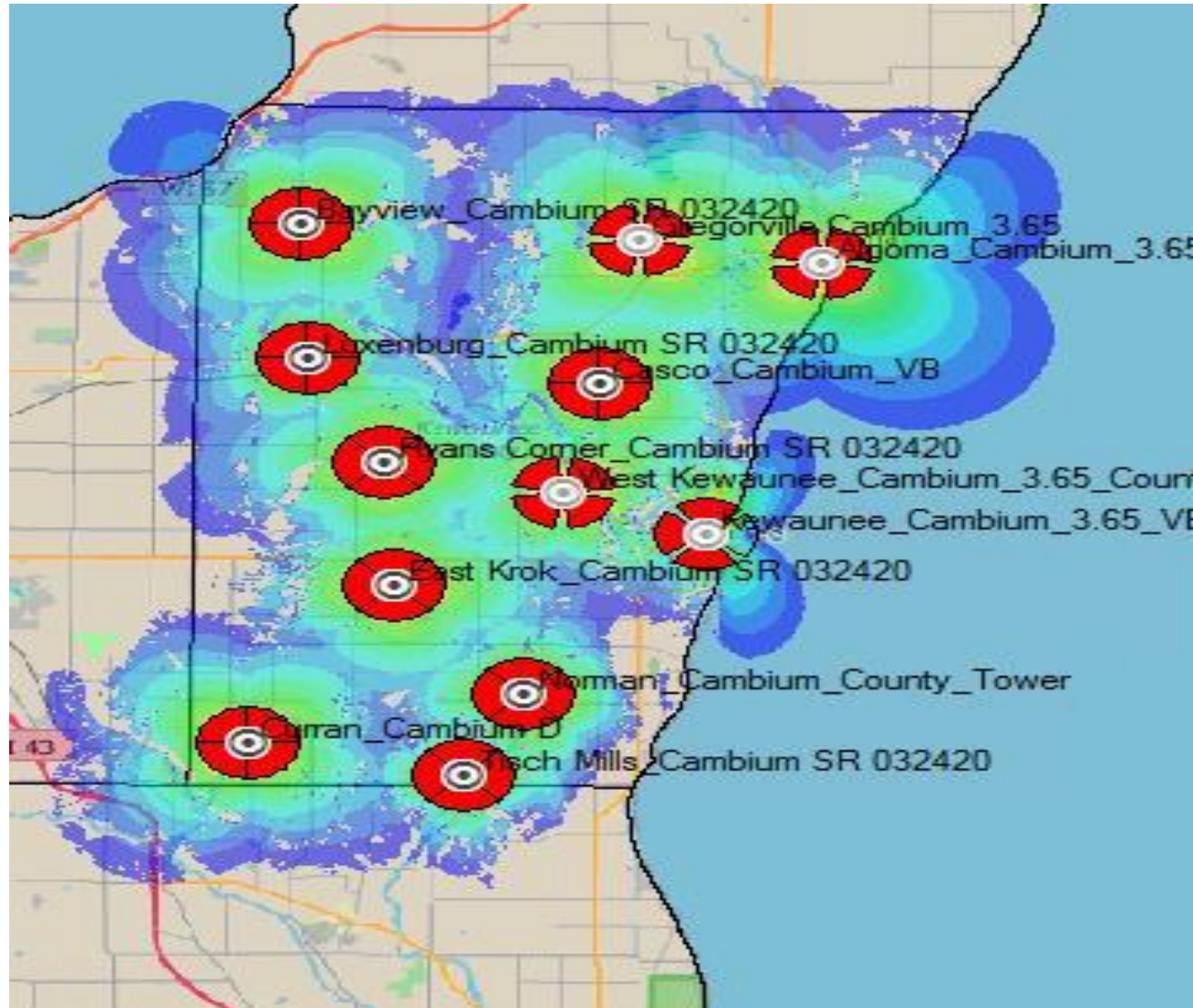
The background features abstract, overlapping green geometric shapes, primarily triangles and polygons, in various shades of green, creating a modern and dynamic visual effect.

Kewaunee County's Broadband Blueprint

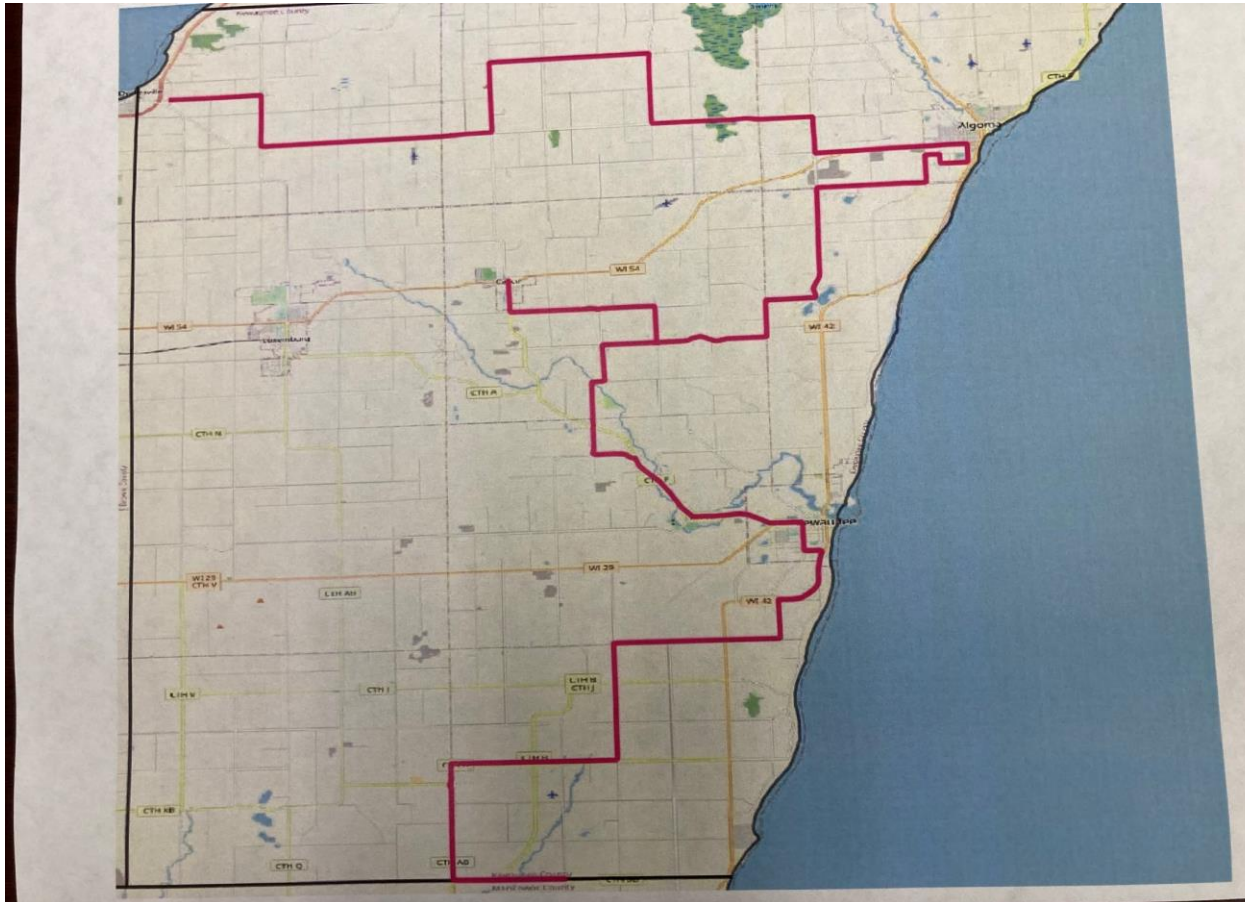
KEWAUNEE COUNTY BROADBAND TIMELINE

June 2017	Grant Application	Door Co Broadband	no award	
January 2018	Grant Application	Door Co Broadband	Awarded \$40,000	\$80K Project
June 2018	Grant Application	Door Co Broadband	no award	
September 2018	Administrator proposes \$1 million in 2019 budget			
November 2018	County Board removes request			
	n			
January 2019	Board Chair forms Broadband Study Committee			
Oct. - Nov. 2019	RFP for BB partner released, Bug Tussel selected			
December 2019	Grant Application	Bug Tussel Wireless	Awarded \$960,000	\$2.52M Project
December 2020	Grant Application	Bug Tussel Wireless	Awarded \$1.4 million	\$4.0M Project
July 2021	Grant Application	Bug Tussel Wireless	no award	
July 2021	Grant Application	Spectrum/Charter	no award	
August 2021	Grant Application	Spectrum/Charter	pending	

Kewaunee County/Bug Tussel Tower Project

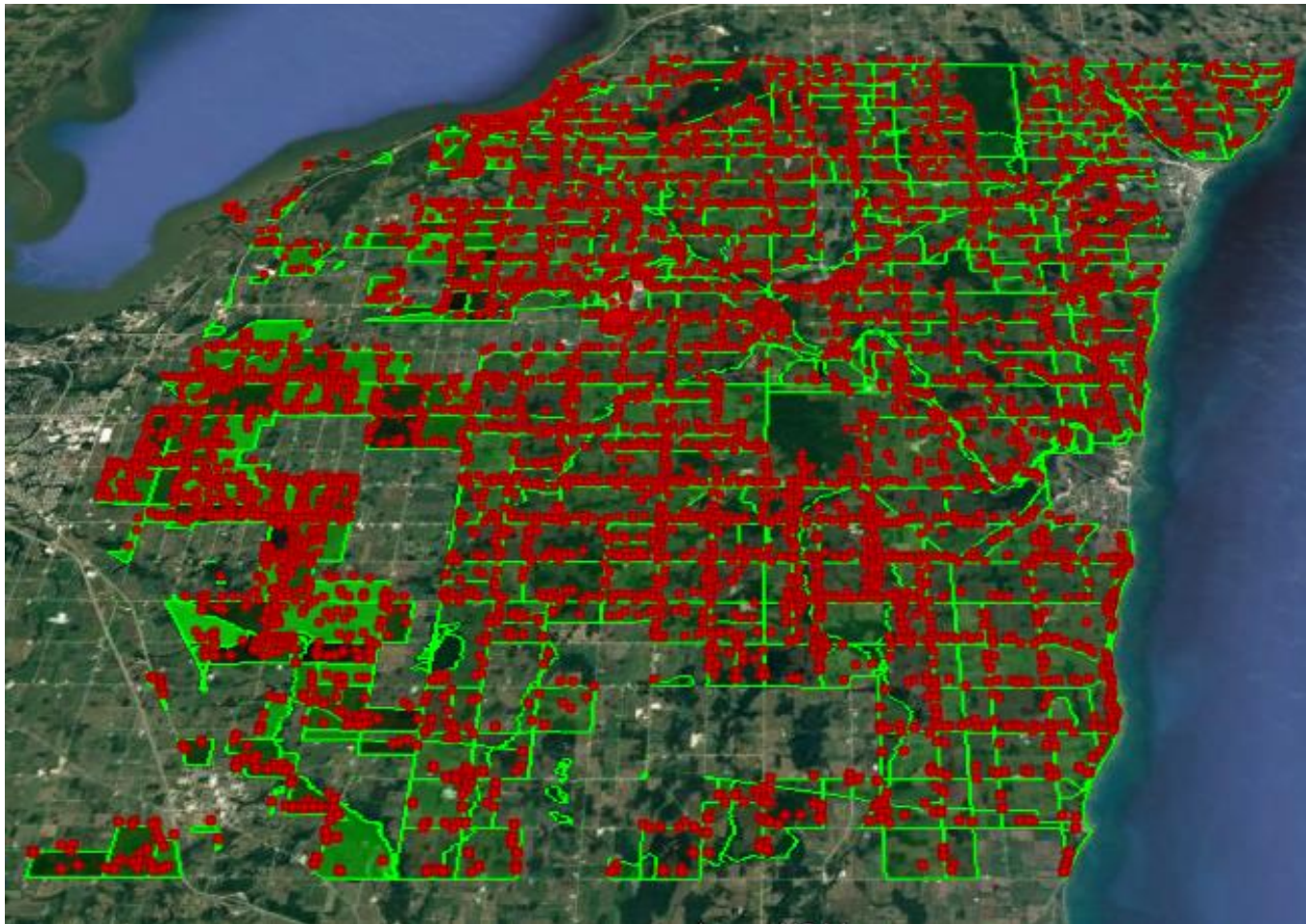


Kewaunee County/Bug Tussel Middle Mile Fiber Project



Kewaunee County/Charter Spectrum Fiber to the Home Project

Unserved Area Project Map



► To Be Continued . . .

Broadband Funding Sources

- ▶ **POTENTIAL BROADBAND GRANT REVENUE SOURCES:**

- ▶ Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds
- ▶ Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund (CCPF)*
- ▶ ReConnect Loan and Grant Program
- ▶ Emergency Broadband Benefit Program
- ▶ Distance Learning & Telemedicine Grants
- ▶ Rural Health Care Program
- ▶ NTIA Broadband Infrastructure Deployment Grants
- ▶ Institute of Museum and Library Services Pandemic Respond Funding
- ▶ The American Jobs Plan
- ▶ Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF) Phase II
- ▶ Tribal Broadband Connectivity Grants
- ▶ Emergency Connectivity Fund

- ▶
- ▶
- ▶

- ▶ **WEBSITE SOURCE**

- ▶ https://connectednation.org/current-broadband-funding?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Keeping%20Connected%20-%20May%202021&utm_content=Keeping%20Connected%20-%20May%202021+CID_f931e9a16b39b5f716b7142434ff15a0&utm_source=Email%20marketing%20software&utm_term=CLICK%20HERE%20FOR%20A%20LIST%20OF%20BROADBAND%20FUNDING%20OPPORTUNITIES

Kewaunee County/Bug Tussel Loan Agreement

- ▶ 2020 KC/BTW Tower Project
 - ▶ Loan Amount: \$960,000
 - ▶ Interest Rate: 3.0%
- ▶ 2021 KC/BTW Fiber Project
 - ▶ Loan Amount: \$2.2 Million
 - ▶ Interest Rate: 3.0%
- ▶ Through this agreement, Kewaunee County will have partnered to provide improved broadband accessibility with NO cost to the taxpayer.

Next Steps

Kewaunee County will continue to seek additional funding to achieve our ultimate goal - fiber to everyone home and business in the county.

- ▶ Kewaunee County is reviewing Bug Tussel's ROAD & BEST Programs
- ▶ ROAD utilizes county bonding authority to fund expansion while providing interest income to the county for use of the funds. County is provided a bundle of fibers for county use and tower space for county public safety use.
- ▶ BEST provides towns last mile to towns. Towns will providing ARPA funding as a match to install fiber. Towns will receive a percentage of revenues generated up to an agreed amount.
- ▶ Kewaunee County is working with other partners to expand service.

Contact Information

- ▶ Scott Feldt
- ▶ Kewaunee County Administrator
- ▶ Address: 810 Lincoln Street, Kewaunee, WI 54216
- ▶ Email: feldt.scott@kewauneeco.org
- ▶ Phone: 920-388-7164

▶ Thank You

Now Presenting



- Michael Bub, Chairperson,
Taylor County Broadband
Committee



Funding for Infrastructure Buildout





Public Service Commission of Wisconsin

Wisconsin Broadband Office

Alyssa Kenney
Broadband Summit
Nov. 16, 2021

Wisconsin Broadband Office Vision and Mission

Vision

- All Wisconsinites have the information technology capacity needed to fully participate in society

Mission

- Make high performance broadband more accessible, resilient, and affordable in Wisconsin



How will we reach our goals?

Leadership and Vision



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graph TD; A[Leadership and Vision] --> B[Data and Maps]; B --> C[Strategic Investment in Infrastructure]; C --> D[Digital Equity and Inclusion Framework]; D --> E[Partnership and Capacity Building];
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Data and Maps

Strategic Investment in Infrastructure

Digital Equity and Inclusion Framework

Partnership and Capacity Building

Broadband Office Programs and Tools

Broadband Expansion & ARPA Grants



In eight years,
**351 grants &
~\$172 million**
to spur internet
build-out.

Broadband Maps & Planning Tools

**100 + internet
providers** and
federal expansion
subsidies are on our
maps.



Broadband / Telecommuter Forward!

Get your community
recognized for being
ready to expand
broadband access and
telecommuting options.

COVID-19 Response

Provider offering listing,
Wi-Fi locations,
Phone and Internet
Helpline, CARES Act
Grants

Governor's Taskforce on Broadband Access

Develop, administer and
provide technical
assistance to the
Taskforce.

Internet Discount Finder



Search for
internet
affordability
programs.

Broadband Connectors Pilot

Partnership
program with WEDC
to provide technical
assistance to
communities.



FY 2022 Broadband Expansion Grants – State Program

Up to \$129 Million available over the biennium FY22 – FY23

Stay tuned for a grant opening announcement, timelines are still TBD

The goal of the grant program is to encourage the deployment of advanced telecommunications capability in underserved areas of the state – funds are largely for infrastructure and ancillary costs

The instructions, application material are not available yet – but you can start planning NOW.

Who may Apply for a State Broadband Grant?

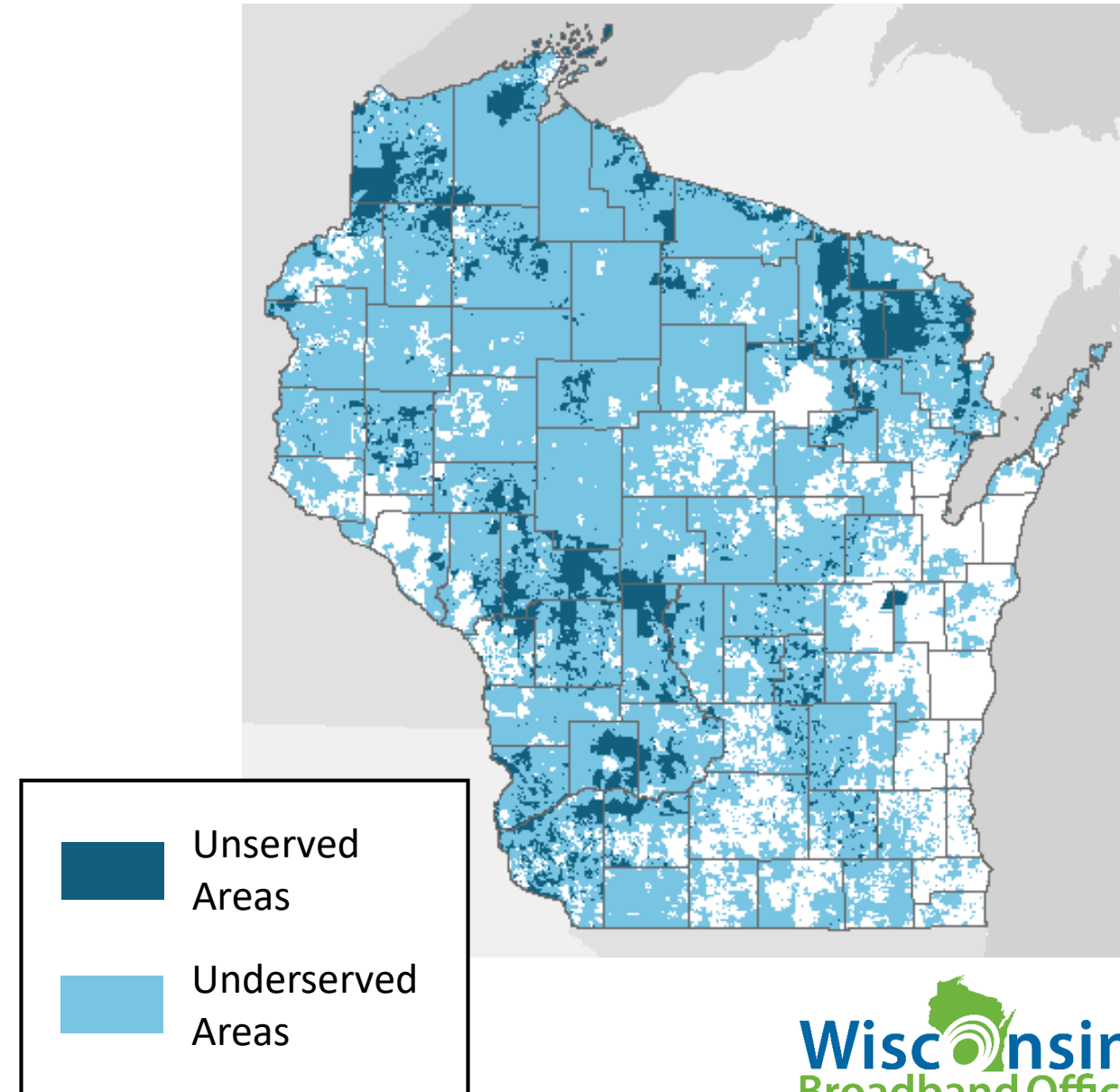
Applicants must fall within one of the following three applicant categories:

- An organization operated for profit or not-for-profit, including a cooperative.
- A telecommunications utility.
- A city, village, town, or county that has entered into a partnership with an eligible organization or telecommunications utility.
- Indigenous Nations or Tribes

Where may State Broadband Grants be awarded?

For an area to be considered eligible for a grant, it must be considered "underserved."

- "Underserved" = Area served by fewer than 2 providers offering "Broadband Service"
- "Broadband Service" = 25 Mbps Download / 3 Mbps Upload
- "Unserved" area priority factor described in Application Contents & Scoring section



What Specific Items Should be Discussed in a State Grant?

The statute that authorizes the Broadband Grant Program requires that the Commission give priority to applications that include any of seven factors listed in the statute:

- Matching funds
- Existing broadband services
- Scalability
- Will not delay broadband service in adjacent areas
- Public/private partnerships
- Project impact
- Economic impact

To date, the Broadband Grant program has been quite competitive. The Commission has received many more applications than it can fund. The discussion of priority factors has been the key element of the application that the Commission has used to decide which applications to fund.

Federal Funding

FCC Emergency Broadband Benefit: Provide a discount of up to \$50 per month towards broadband service for eligible households and up to \$75 per month for households on qualifying Tribal lands

FCC Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF): Phase 1 of the auction is complete

FCC Emergency Connectivity Fund: Funding for schools and libraries to aid in connecting students, school staff and library patrons to devices and broadband.

USDA ReConnect: **Accepting applications** Offers loans, grants, and loan-grant combinations to facilitate broadband deployment in areas of rural America that currently do not have sufficient access to broadband

NTIA Tribal Connectivity Fund (Application Closed)

NTIA Broadband Infrastructure Grant (Application Closed)

NTIA Connecting Minority Communities **Application due December 1st**



Discussion and Questions

Wisconsin Broadband Office Team Email:

PSCStateBroadbandOffice@Wisconsin.gov

Alyssa Kenney:

Alyssa.kenney@Wisconsin.gov

Wisconsin Broadband Office Webpage:

<https://psc.wi.gov/Pages/Programs/WBO.aspx>

Now Presenting

Tom Barron, Economic
Development Representative,
Economic Development
Administration





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