Wisconsin Broadband Summit
November 16, 2021

Community Development Institute
Division of Extension
University of Wisconsin-Madison
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Expanding Private Philanthropy Funding for K-12 Student Internet Access in Wisconsin

Steve Goldberg
Executive Director
WEA Member Benefits Foundation
Expanding Private Philanthropy Funding for K-12 Student Internet Access in Wisconsin

Steve Goldberg, Executive Director
We Are a Catalyst

- Bringing more philanthropy to the table
- Major “missing piece”
- Statewide funding model
- Pilot project
K–12 Student Internet Access

- **Partners:** Department of Public Instruction (DPI), Public Service Commission (PSC), Cooperative Educational Service Agency (CESA Purchasing)
- Affordability gap
- PSC grant
Pilot Project: Sept. 2021-Aug. 2022

- PSC grant
- WEA Member Benefits Foundation
- Alliant Energy Foundation *
- Goal: 210 student households
- Five pilot school districts
Five Pilot School Districts

- Janesville, Menasha, Shawano, Beaver Dam, Sheboygan Falls
- DPI/CESA Digital Learning Bridge
The Impact of “Bulk & Batch”

- Group purchasing power/pricing
- Upfront, lump sum payment for full 12 months of access
- ISP cooperation
The Appeal to Funders

- Uses an established funding vehicle: “plug & play”
- Opportunity to adopt specific school districts
- We are the matchmaker
Early Learnings from Pilot

- Interest from potential funders
- Wisconsin Philanthropy Network
- On the right path
- Impact on student remote learning & telehealth
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