



Public Service Commission of Wisconsin Wisconsin Broadband Office

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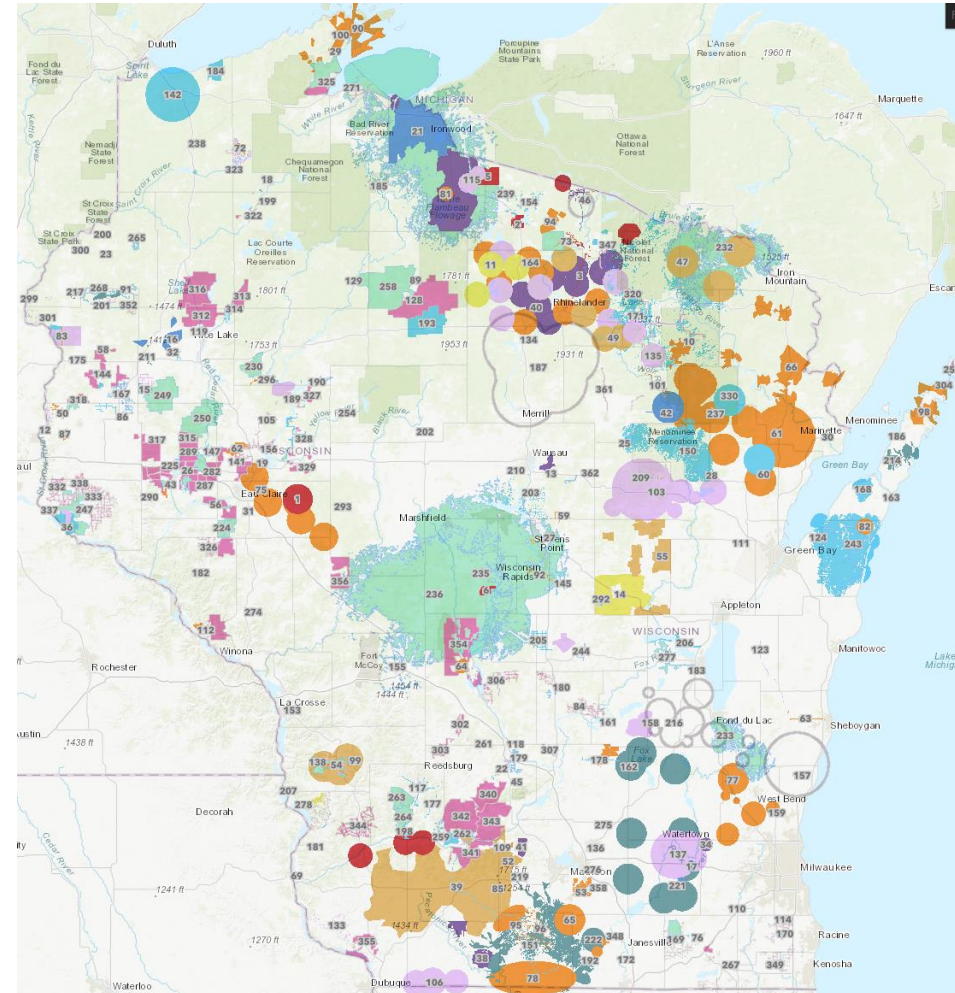
Wisconsin Broadband Office

Vision

- All Wisconsinites have access to affordable broadband service and equitably share in the benefits of broadband technology.

Mission

- Make high speed internet service accessible and affordable for all Wisconsinites.



Today's Topic: Local Broadband Planning

- By the end of this webinar you will know:
 - 1) What is the **Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program**?
 - 2) What is the **role of local governments and Tribes** in broadband planning and deployment?
 - 3) How do counties and Tribes **access planning funds and technical assistance**?
 - 4) What is included in a local or Tribal **broadband plan**?
 - 5) What is the **timeline** and what should you **do next**?
- Separate but coordinated effort: Digital Equity Outreach Grants
 - [Sign up](#) for our February 9, 1:00 p.m. webinar.
- Tribal leaders: additional, focused guidance is coming.
 - Attend the February 13 DOA meeting.

Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program Overview

Funding pool
\$42.45B

A program to get all Americans online by funding partnerships between states or territories, communities, and stakeholders to build infrastructure where we need it and increase adoption of high-speed internet.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Entities eligible to apply for this program include:

- All 50 States
- The District of Columbia and Puerto Rico
- Other Territories: U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

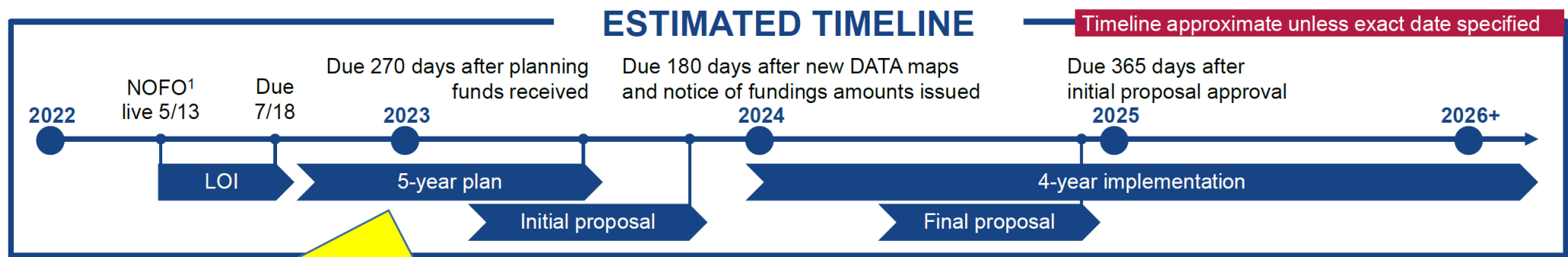
Example eligible uses of funds include:

- | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|---|------------------------------|
| ☆ Planning for deployment of Internet | ☆ Deploying or upgrading Internet | ☆ Installing Internet in multi-tenant buildings | ☆ Implementing adoption and digital equity programs | ☆ Workforce and job training |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|---|------------------------------|

2023: The Year of Planning

Technical assistance and planning is an ongoing effort and does not end August 28.

- Five-Year Action Plan due: August 28, 2023
- Draft Plan out for comment: mid-Summer 2023
- February through June: Local Planning, Technical Assistance, Outreach Events



What goes into the Five-Year Action Plan?

- 1 Details of the **existing broadband program**, including its activities, any previous entity-wide plans or goals for availability of broadband, and any prior experience awarding broadband deployment grants
- 2 **Current funding available for broadband deployment** or other related activities and the sources of that funding, including additional funds that may be pursued but are not yet in hand
- 3 **Existing efforts funded by the federal government** or an Eligible Entity within the jurisdiction of the Eligible Entity to deploy broadband and close the digital divide.
- 4 **Current employees** who will assist in implementing and administering the BEAD Program and their duties, as well as any existing contracted support, and any planned expansion
- 5 **Known or potential obstacles or barriers** to implementation and corresponding plans to address them.
- 6 **An asset inventory** that catalogues broadband adoption, affordability, equity, access, and deployment activities and provides details regarding any relevant partners
- 7 Details of its **external engagement process**, demonstrating collaboration with local, regional, and Tribal / Native entities
- 8 Available federal, Eligible Entity, or local **broadband availability and adoption data**
- 9 **Local broadband service needs and gaps**, including un- or underserved locations and CAIs without gigabit service, and/or any plans to make determinations where availability is unclear
- 10 **A comprehensive, high-level plan** for providing universal, reliable, affordable, high-speed broadband service throughout the jurisdiction
- 11 **Digital equity and inclusion needs, goals, and strategies**, including ways it plans to utilize BEAD funding, Digital Equity Act funding and/or other funding in concert
- 12 Alignment of the Five-Year Action Plan with **other existing and planned priorities**, incl. economic development, telehealth, workforce development, related connectivity priorities
- 13 **Technical assistance and additional capacity needed** for successful implementation of the BEAD Program

How are we spending our time planning?

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Five-Year Action Plan | Eligible Entities that receive Initial Planning Funds must submit their Five-Year Action Plans



An Eligible Entity may choose to request ≤\$5M Initial Planning Funds

An Eligible Entity that receives Initial Planning Funds must submit a Five-Year Action

Example uses for Initial Planning Funds for planning and pre-deployment activities

- Establishing capacity in office of Eligible Entity running program
- Research and data collection
- Development of a preliminary budget for pre-planning activities
- Publications, outreach & communication support
- Providing technical assistance to potential subgrantees
- Training for employees (e.g., Eligible Entity, stakeholders, etc.)
- Conducting surveys of unserved, underserved, and underrepresented communities
- Local coordination, including capacity building

BEAD Local Planning Grant Program

- What?
 - \$1,500,000 distributed equally among counties and Tribes.
 - 10% bonus for regional collaboration
 - Regional Economic Development Organization (REDO)
 - Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council
- How?
 - **Decision made by County/Tribe**
 - Forthcoming “letter of intent”
 - Opt in by March 7, 2023 at 1:30p.m.

Below is an example allocation, assuming 62 entities opt into regional groups.

Award for solo participants:	\$16,816	
Award for regional participants:	\$18,498	
Regional Group	Participating Entities	Award
Visions Northwest	6	\$110,987
Momentum West	4	\$73,991
7 Rivers Alliance	5	\$92,489
Prosperity Southwest	4	\$73,991
Grow North	4	\$73,991
Centergy	3	\$55,493
Madison Region Economic Partner	4	\$73,991
The New North	17	\$314,462
Milwaukee 7	4	\$73,991
Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council	11	\$203,475
Independent	21	\$353,139
Total	83	\$1,500,000

What goes into a local broadband plan?

- Vision for the future
- Needs assessment
- Establish a planning committee and conduct community conversations
- Partnership
- Coordination and logistics
- Check out our Community Planning Resources [webpage](#) for learning and toolkits

Technical Assistance

- We are here to help
- Counties and local governments: University of Wisconsin Extension
- REDOs: Office of Rural Prosperity (WEDC)
- Tribes: Wisconsin Broadband Office



Extension

University of Wisconsin-Madison

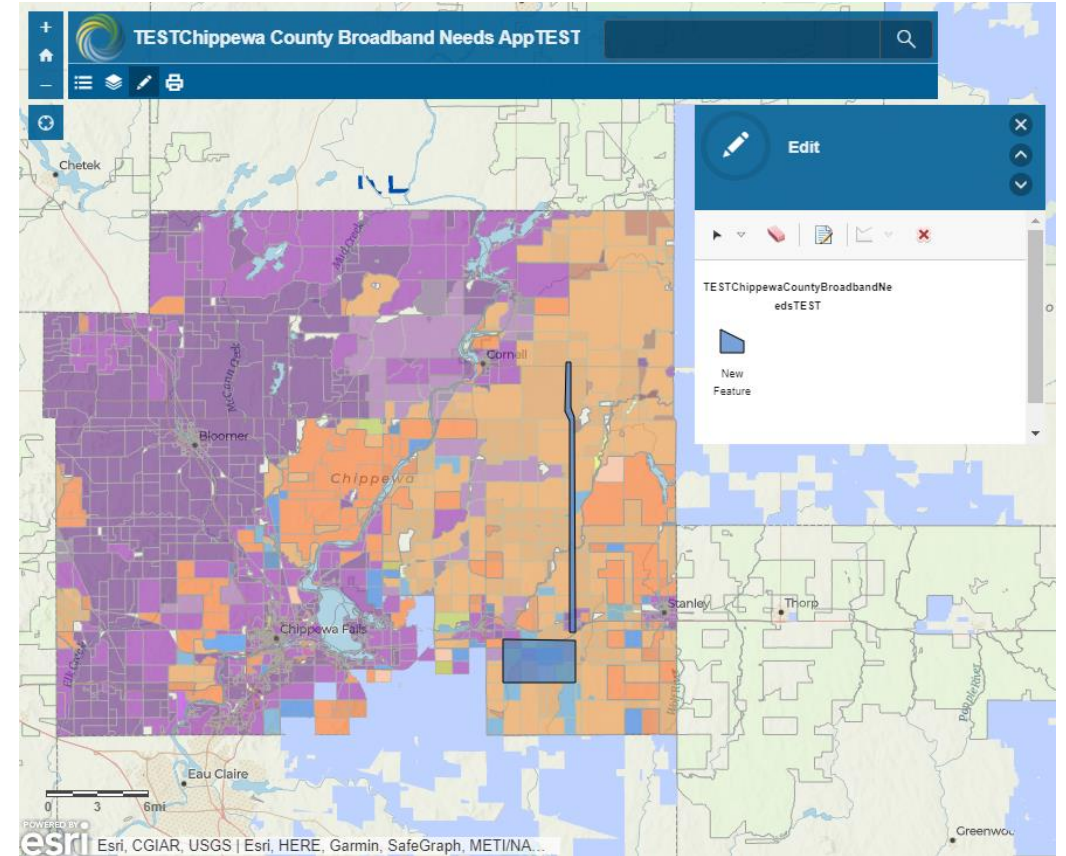


Survey and mapping tool

- Comprehensive survey of broadband deployment and digital equity at the county or Tribal community level
- \$1,000/response
- Includes interactive mapping tool



Extension
University of Wisconsin-Madison



What should local and Tribal governments do now?

- 1) **Start the conversation:** Who within your county or Tribe will lead this planning effort? Will you collaborate with a REDO/GLITC?
- 2) **Opt in:** Sign the letter of intent by **March 7.**
- 3) **Plan to plan:** How will your planning team convene and coordinate? How will you spend funding?
- 4) **Leverage technical assistance:** Request resources & establish regular engagement with Extension and the Office of Rural Prosperity
- 5) **Towns, cities, villages, other partners:** Connect to your planning entity

Stay connected

- Sign up for our [Local Planning mailing list](#) for regular updates.
- We are hosting “office hours” February 21 and 22.
- Next Local Planning webinar: March 6 at 12:00 p.m.
- Interested in Digital Equity Outreach Grants?
 - [Sign up](#) for our February 9 1:00 p.m. webinar.



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General questions?

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