Wisconsin Tribal Nations Broadband Workshop

WELCOME!

November 12, 2024| Crandon, WI

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Mole Lake Band

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Representative, Sokaogon Chippewa Community, Mole Lake Band of Lake Superior Chippewa

Welcome and Opening Remarks

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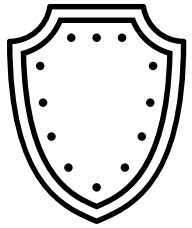
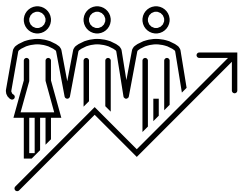
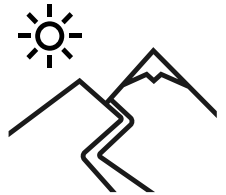
Purpose of this workshop



Understand how Tribes can prepare and capitalize on state and federal broadband funding



Understand how to align developing and ongoing efforts to ensure success



Develop a Tribal roadmap for next steps and resources needed

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Introduction of Tribal Governments

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Theron Rutyna, NTIA
Carah Koch, NTIA
Mark Leonard, PSC
Andre Boening, USDA

State and Federal broadband programs

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Tribal Governments Update on Broadband

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Tribal Updates: Instructions

Broadband network building, digital equity efforts and workforce development

- On a Post-it, write your Tribe's name and project description (One project per Post-it)
- Assess where it stands: beginning stage, launched and learning, or refining
- Place it on the wall for appropriate projects and discuss

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LUNCH BREAK & NETWORKING

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UW-Madison Extension Broadband Team
Public Service Commission of Wisconsin

Understand the Broadband Landscape: PREPARATION FOR BEAD

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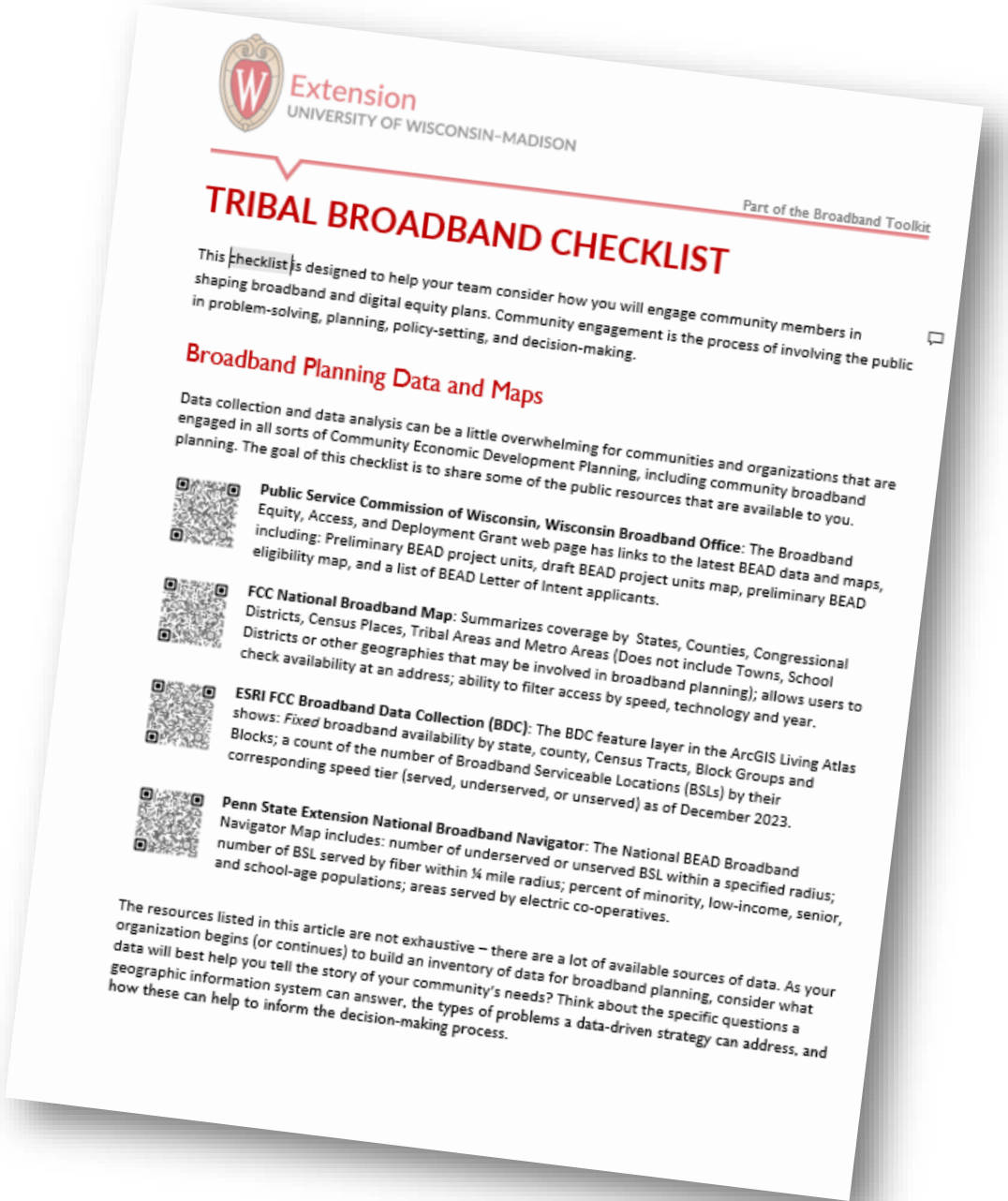
Tribal Broadband checklist



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Part of the Broadband Toolkit

TRIBAL BROADBAND CHECKLIST

This checklist is designed to help your team consider how you will engage community members in shaping broadband and digital equity plans. Community engagement is the process of involving the public in problem-solving, planning, policy-setting, and decision-making.

Broadband Planning Data and Maps

Data collection and data analysis can be a little overwhelming for communities and organizations that are engaged in all sorts of Community Economic Development Planning, including community broadband planning. The goal of this checklist is to share some of the public resources that are available to you.

Public Service Commission of Wisconsin, Wisconsin Broadband Office: The Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Grant web page has links to the latest BEAD data and maps, including: Preliminary BEAD project units, draft BEAD project units map, preliminary BEAD eligibility map, and a list of BEAD Letter of Intent applicants.

FCC National Broadband Map: Summarizes coverage by States, Counties, Congressional Districts, Census Places, Tribal Areas and Metro Areas (Does not include Towns, School Districts or other geographies that may be involved in broadband planning); allows users to check availability at an address; ability to filter access by speed, technology and year.

ESRI FCC Broadband Data Collection (BDC): The BDC feature layer in the ArcGIS Living Atlas shows: *Fixed* broadband availability by state, county, Census Tracts, Block Groups and Blocks; a count of the number of Broadband Serviceable Locations (BSLs) by their corresponding speed tier (served, underserved, or unserved) as of December 2023.

Penn State Extension National Broadband Navigator: The National BEAD Broadband Navigator Map includes: number of underserved or unserved BSL within a specified radius; number of BSL served by fiber within ¼ mile radius; percent of minority, low-income, senior, and school-age populations; areas served by electric co-operatives.

The resources listed in this article are not exhaustive – there are a lot of available sources of data. As your organization begins (or continues) to build an inventory of data for broadband planning, consider what data will best help you tell the story of your community's needs? Think about the specific questions a geographic information system can answer, the types of problems a data-driven strategy can address, and how these can help to inform the decision-making process.

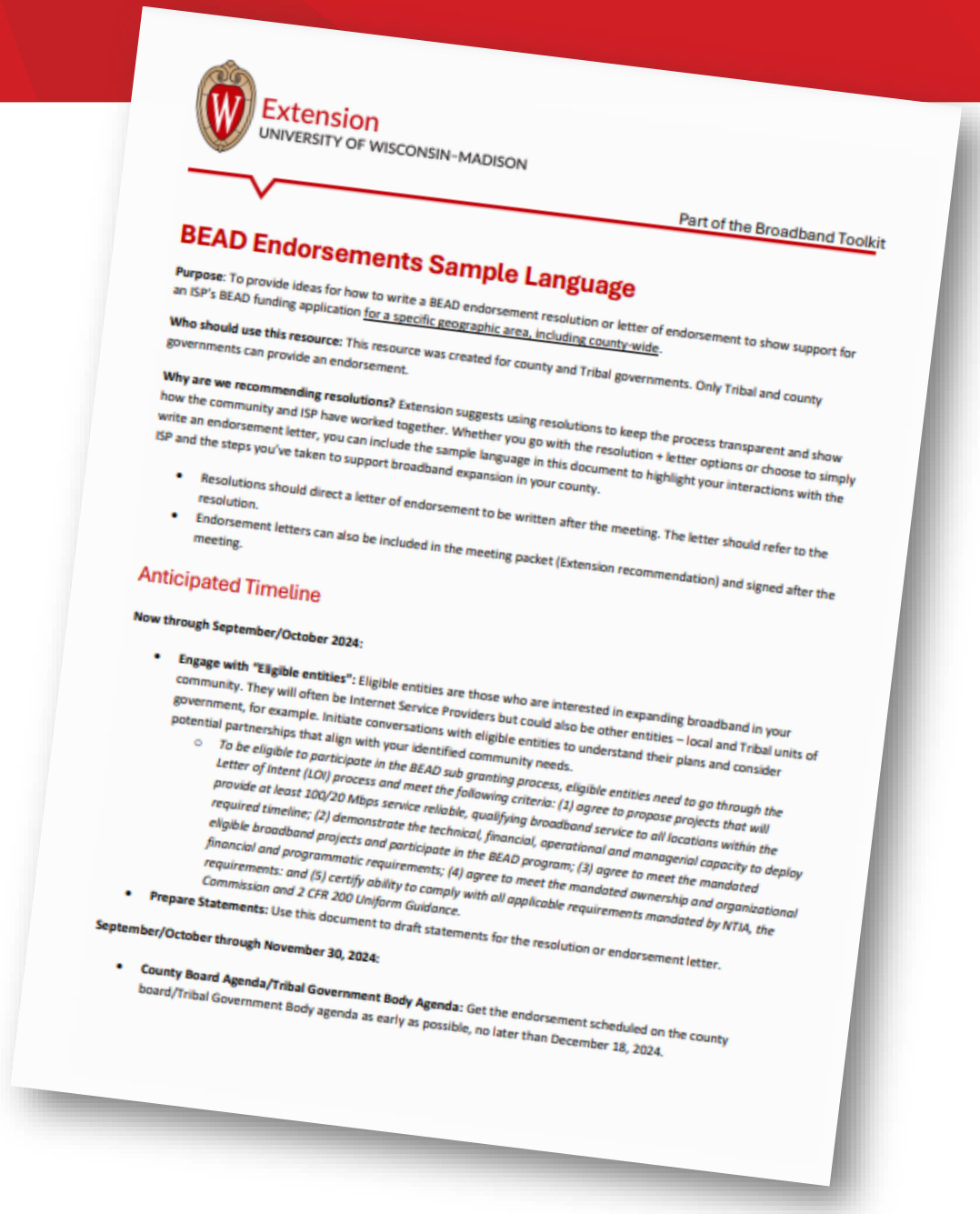
Alignment is important

Align... Inside your Tribe

- Tribal Leadership can Endorse preferred BEAD projects but can also be part of Engagement
- Look at your "consent" policy
- Align with other program areas- housing, health, community development
- Move your strategic planning to operational status

Putting it into practice

In your folder:
BEAD
Endorsement
Sample Language
For Tribes



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BEAD Endorsements Sample Language

Purpose: To provide ideas for how to write a BEAD endorsement resolution or letter of endorsement to show support for an ISP's BEAD funding application for a specific geographic area, including county-wide.

Who should use this resource: This resource was created for county and Tribal governments. Only Tribal and county governments can provide an endorsement.

Why are we recommending resolutions? Extension suggests using resolutions to keep the process transparent and show how the community and ISP have worked together. Whether you go with the resolution + letter options or choose to simply write an endorsement letter, you can include the sample language in this document to highlight your interactions with the ISP and the steps you've taken to support broadband expansion in your county.

- Resolutions should direct a letter of endorsement to be written after the meeting. The letter should refer to the resolution.
- Endorsement letters can also be included in the meeting packet (Extension recommendation) and signed after the meeting.

Anticipated Timeline

Now through September/October 2024:

- **Engage with "Eligible entities":** Eligible entities are those who are interested in expanding broadband in your community. They will often be Internet Service Providers but could also be other entities – local and Tribal units of government, for example. Initiate conversations with eligible entities to understand their plans and consider potential partnerships that align with your identified community needs.
  - *To be eligible to participate in the BEAD sub granting process, eligible entities need to go through the Letter of Intent (LOI) process and meet the following criteria: (1) agree to propose projects that will provide at least 100/20 Mbps service reliable, qualifying broadband service to all locations within the required timeline; (2) demonstrate the technical, financial, operational and managerial capacity to deploy eligible broadband projects and participate in the BEAD program; (3) agree to meet the mandated financial and programmatic requirements; (4) agree to meet the mandated ownership and organizational requirements; and (5) certify ability to comply with all applicable requirements mandated by NTIA, the Commission and 2 CFR 200 Uniform Guidance.*
- **Prepare Statements:** Use this document to draft statements for the resolution or endorsement letter.

September/October through November 30, 2024:

- **County Board Agenda/Tribal Government Body Agenda:** Get the endorsement scheduled on the county board/Tribal Government Body agenda as early as possible, no later than December 18, 2024.

...With Local Governments

- Does the surrounding county have an active Broadband Committee and point person?
- Seek out providers who are already in these areas if necessary
- If you are the BEAD applicant, engagement with Towns, Cities, Counties
- The county may be working on multiple solutions from multiple providers
- Can mapping efforts be aligned?

Understand the Process

Engagement	Endorsement	Consent
• Important if you are the BEAD applicant • Look internally at the Tribe *and* in surrounding areas • Education, health systems, economic development • Towns, cities around the Tribe	• Important to review re: BEAD application process • Tribal Leadership must write the letter *not* the broadband committee	• Work with Tribal Legal Council • Responsibility is on the ISP, but be aware of moments that need to be addressed now and in future

…With other Tribal Governments

- Some Federal programs are highlighting collaboration
- Collaboration creates fiscal and staffing efficiencies
- Consider broadly how you will work together
- Trust-based relationship building- make it an inter-tribal priority on broadband

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Q&A with Federal and State Representatives

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

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BREAK

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GROUP DISCUSSION OF NEXT STEPS

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Next Steps

- What are the themes we are seeing?
- What's the best way to address these themes?
- What resources are needed?

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Thank you!

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