



Professional Assistance for Today's Unprecedented Funding Opportunities

Funding Amount: **\$42 Million**

Program Name

Capital Projects Fund Broadband Infrastructure Program

Funding Amount

Up to \$42 million from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund (CPF)

Key Dates

- August 14 Application Window Open
- September 8 Capital Projects Application Overview Webinar
- September 14 Mapping Your Capital Project Overview Webinar
- November 7 Application Window Closes (1:30 p.m. CST)
- November 30 Last day for submitting an objection
- December 14 Last day for submitting response to objection
- December 31, 2026 Project must be completed

Eligible Applicants

- A public or private entity that builds or operates broadband networks
- Participates in applicable federal programs that provide low-income consumers with subsidies for services (such as the Affordable Connectivity Program)

Eligible Areas

- Unserved Area not served by an ISP offering fixed wireless or wired service with speeds of at least 5 Mbps/600 Kbps
- Underserved Area served by fewer than 2 ISPs, providing speeds of 25/3 Mbps
- Eligible areas map: <u>https://maps.psc.wi.gov/apps/WisconsinBroadbandMap/</u>

Eligible Projects

- Provides a minimum of 100/100 Mbps, if not feasible (due to geography, topography, or excessive cost) the project must offer service that reliably meets or exceeds 100/20 Mbps
- Serves households and businesses lacking access to speeds of 100/20 Mbps
- Invests in capital assets designed to enable work, education, and health monitoring
- Addresses a critical need of the community resulting from COVID-19
- Addresses a critical need of the community it serves
- Located within or traverses a Tribal area and has received official Tribal consent through written documentation from Tribal Official

Eligible Costs



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- Contractual, Consultant Fees
- Equipment
- Supplies
- Labor
- Permitting, Licensing Fees
- Travel
- Other

Application Requirements

To apply, applicants must apply using the PSC Grants System:

- PSC Grant System Login
- Grant System User Guide

Applications must include:

- Broadband serviceable location fabric (BSLF) data for each eligible location available here
- Geospatial data showing proposed eligible locations
- A list of BSL identification numbers and the wireline route and/or placement of facilities

Scoring Criteria

100 Total Points Available

- Affordability of Service up to 10 points
- Last Mile up to 10 points
- Fiber up to 10 points
- Community Engagement up to 10 points
- Government, Coop or Non-profit up to 10 points
- Design and Performance up to 10 points
- Contiguous and Complete Project up to 10 points
- Cost Efficient and Match up to 10 points
- Project area not subject to an enforceable funding commitment up to 10 points
- Highest Need up to 10 points

Links & Emails

- <u>Wisconsin Office Broadband Homepage</u>
- Wisconsin NOFA
- <u>Wisconsin Grant Announcement</u>
- <u>Wisconsin Press Release</u>
- <u>Wisconsin Broadband Map</u>
- FCC Map
- Please submit questions to: PSCStateBroadbandOffice@wisconsin.gov

nrtc funding@nrtc.coop Contact us for Funding Assistance. NRTC's Funding Practice offers key benefits including:

- Opportunity Evaluation Effective Grant Writing
- Track Record of Success

Telecom Companies: Contact Byron Tuley at 319-298-4752 or <u>btuley@nrtc.coop</u>

Electric Cooperatives: Contact Mark Davis at 614-395-5856 or <u>mdavis@nrtc.coop</u>