



# FUNDING UPDATE!

Professional Assistance for Today's Unprecedented Funding Opportunities



## Program Name

Wisconsin Broadband Expansion Grant Program - January 2022 Update

## Key Dates

**Last Day for Questions & Clarifications:** February 15, 2022

**Last Day To Request Upload Assistance:** March 16, 2022

**Applications Due:** March 17, 2022

**Last Day To Submit Objection:** April 14, 2022

**Last Day To Respond To Objection:** April 21, 2022

## Wisconsin

**\$125 million**

## Eligible Applicants

- Eligible applicants include an organization, a telecommunications utility, or a city, village, town, or county that has established a legal partnership or joint venture arrangement with an otherwise qualified organization or telecommunications utility, and as such meets the eligibility requirements set forth in [Wis. Stat. § 196.504\(1\)](#).

## Eligible Areas

- **"Underserved"** - an area that is served by fewer than 2 providers offering "Broadband Service"
- **"Broadband Service"** - defined as 25 Mbps/3 Mbps
- **"Unserved Area"** - extra points for areas with less than 5 Mbps/500 Kbps

## Mapping Issues

- [WI State Broadband Map](#)
- [Mapping webinar, Friday Feb. 11th](#)
- If the PSC Map shows an area within a census block designated as "served," applicant must demonstrate the actual broadband service that is available in the area
- Geospatial data is required as part of the application
- Geospatial maps of proposed projects will be publicly available prior to the end of the opposition period
- [Additional maps](#)
- [Grant map layers](#)

# nrtc **FUNDING UPDATE!**

Professional Assistance for Today's Unprecedented Funding Opportunities

## Application Contents

- Page 1: Signed Cover Sheet
- Page 2-3: Summary of Grant Application
- Page 4: Budget & Income Summary
- Page 5 plus: Project Map or Maps
- Remaining pages up to 30: Narrative
- Page 31-40: Attachments and supplemental materials that will be reviewed
- Page 40 - end: Additional supporting materials may not be reviewed

## Commission Evaluation

- Grant applications
- Comments of interested persons submitted in support as part of the application
- Opposition to one or more specific applications
- Ranking of the grant applications prepared by a preliminary evaluation committee
- Discussion memo prepared by Commission staff

## Priority Factors

- **Match (10 points)** - An application will receive credit based on the percentage of matching funds the applicant proposes to invest in its project and the variety of sources of matching funding provided by others
- **Public-Private Partnership (10 points)** - An application proposing to build a broadband facility in partnership with a city, village, town, or county government
- **Unserved Areas (15 points)** - An application proposing to build or extend broadband service to an area with existing service less than 5 Mbps/ 500 Kbps
- **Project Impact (15 points)** - An application that proposes to serve a comparatively larger geographic area, a larger number of customers or communities in an area, or provide a higher level of performance or service quality
- **Scalability (5 points)** - An application that demonstrates a commitment to increase the size or scope of its broadband network in the future
- **Economic Development (10 points)** - An application that demonstrates the potential to promote job growth or retention, expand the property tax base or improve the overall economic vitality of the municipality or region
- **Effect upon Broadband Service to Adjacent Areas (5 points)** - An application that demonstrates that it will not impair the ability of a competing broadband service provider to extend broadband service to areas adjacent to the proposed project area

## Liens & Bonding

- Funding is through Wisc. Statute 13.48 (30)
- Additional information related to liens and bond requirements [have now been released](#)

# nrtc **FUNDING UPDATE!**

Professional Assistance for Today's Unprecedented Funding Opportunities

## Middle Mile

Middle mile projects related to future last mile connections are of interest to the Commission

## Budget Categories

- Contractual, Consultant Fees
- Equipment
- Supplies
- Labor (Salary, Fringe)
- Permitting, Licensing Fees
- Travel
- Other
- [Budget Income & Summary Form](#)
- [Budget Categories Reference Document](#)
- [Grant Reimbursement Slides](#)

## Links & Emails

- [WI PSC Broadband Grants](#)
- [Docket Number: 5-BF-2022](#)
- [WI Electronic Records Filing System \(EFF\)](#)
- General questions: [PSCStatebroadbandoffice@wisconsin.gov](mailto:PSCStatebroadbandoffice@wisconsin.gov)
- Mapping questions: [PSCBroadbandData@wisconsin.gov](mailto:PSCBroadbandData@wisconsin.gov)
- Application questions: [alyssa.kenney@wisconsin.gov](mailto:alyssa.kenney@wisconsin.gov)

- Opportunity Evaluation
- Effective Grant Writing
- Track Record of Success