

**AGENDA**  
Eau Claire County  
Broadband Committee  
Thursday, April 20, 2023  
4:00 P.M.

**Location:** Eau Claire County Courthouse 721 Oxford Ave., Room #3312, Eau Claire, Wisconsin 54703

\*Event link below can be used to connect to meeting and interact (by the chair) from computer or through the WebEx Meeting smartphone app.

**Join WebEx Meeting:** <https://eauclairecounty.webex.com> Meeting ID: 2595 636 4555  
Password: xnT5eYnPF63

\*Meeting audio can be listened to using this Audio conference dial in information.

**Audio conference:** 1-415-655-0001 Access Code: 25956364555##

**For those wishing to make public comments, you must email Rod Eslinger at [rod.eslinger@eauclairecounty.gov](mailto:rod.eslinger@eauclairecounty.gov) at least 60 minutes prior to the meeting to the start of the meeting.**

\*Please mute personal devices upon entry.

1. Call to order and confirmation of meeting notice.
2. Roll Call
3. Public Comment (limit to 3 minutes per person)
4. Review/Approval of February 16, 2023, Committee Meeting Minutes – **Discussion - Action**
5. Internet Service Provider (ISP) Updates – **Discussion - Action**
6. Committee Membership Update – Erica Poole Recognition of Service - **Discussion**
7. Town of Brunswick Release of ARPA Match Funds – **Discussion - Funds**
8. Broadband, Equity, Access and Deployment (BEAD) Local Planning Grant Program Grant Application - **Discussion – Action**
9. BEAD – County Broadband Survey, Wisconsin Public Service Commission and UW – Extension – **Discussion - Action**
10. United Way Digital Equity & Inclusion Update – Amber Scharenbroch – **Discussion**
11. Next Steps and future meetings – **Discussion/Action**
  - a. Future Meeting date: May 18, 2023.
12. Adjourn

PLEASE NOTE: Upon reasonable notice, efforts will be made to accommodate the needs of individuals with disabilities through sign language, interpreters or other auxiliary aids. For additional information or to request the service, contact the County ADA Coordinator at 839-4710, (FAX) 839-1669 or 839-4735, TTY: use Relay (711) or by writing to the ADA Coordinator, Human Resources, Eau Claire County Courthouse, 721 Oxford Avenue, Eau Claire, WI 54703.

**MEETING MINUTES**  
Eau Claire County  
Broadband Committee  
Thursday, February 16, 2023  
4:00 P.M.

Courthouse – Room #3312  
721 Oxford Avenue – Eau Claire, WI

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\*Please mute personal devices upon entry.

Members Present: Todd Meyer, Don Mowry, Tim Laubach, Collin Pomplun, Erica Poole, Tom Lange, Mark Zuber.

Staff Present: Rodney J. Eslinger, Director of Planning and Development, Greg Dachel, Director of Information Systems, Dave Hayden, Broadband Consultant.

Others Present: Amber Scharenbroch, Mike Hill, Pat Anderson, Buck Webb, Travis McFarland, Hunter Bratz, Garrett Lewis, Carah Koch

1. Call to order and confirmation of meeting notice.

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. and the meeting notice was confirmed.

2. Roll Call – Members present are noted above. A quorum was present.

3. Public Comment (limit to 3 minutes per person) – None

4. Review/Approval of January 19, 2023, Committee Meeting Minutes – **Discussion/Action**

The committee reviewed the meeting minutes of January 19, 2023. Mark Zuber motioned to approve the minutes with Don Mowry seconding the motion; motion carried on a voice vote with all in favor of approving the January 19, 2023 committee minutes as presented.

5. Internet Service Provider (ISP) Updates – **Discussion**

Mike Hill and Pat Anderson from Charter/Spectrum provided an update on their Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF) project in Eau Claire County.

Buck Webb of Tri County Communication (TCC) had no updates.

Travis McFarland, Bloomer Telephone Company, reported his company is getting ready for spring construction.

Hunter Bratz and Garrett Lewis of Homtech/Mosaic Technologies indicated they are looking to expand their fiber footprint in the no service areas.

No other internet service providers (ISPs) were present.

6. Carah Koch, Federal Program Officer (WI), Overview of National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) programs - **Discussion**

Carah Koch provided an overview of the NTIA to the committee. She discussed how local coordination worked and covered topics such as; middle mile coverage, Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP), capacity grants, Digital Equity, BEAD programming, participation and public engagement, and eligibility criteria.

7. Broadband, Equity, Access and Deployment (BEAD) Local Planning Grant Program – Letter of Intent - **Discussion – Action**

Clerk Eslinger, Dave Hayden, Don Mowry, and Chair Meyer, collectively updated the committee on the BEAD local planning grant program. The group reviewed the different election options to participate in the planning process. Eslinger asked the committee to support signing the letter of intent.

Motion by Mark Zuber to participate in the BEAD Planning Grant Program under the Regional Economic Development Organization (REDO) option, if the REDO is not available for Eau Claire County, then the county should participate under the independent option, motion was seconded by Tom Lange; motion passed on a voice vote with all members voting in favor of the motion to sign the BEAD letter of intent.

8. Eau Claire County- Fairchild – Tri County Communication Cooperative (TCC) PSC Project – Letter of Support - **Discussion – Action**

Dave Hayden gave an overview of the Fairchild Fiber Connect Project that included three anchor tenants along with partnering with TCC to serve residential locations in the Town of Fairchild. He indicated that he filed a PSC Broadband Expansion grant application for the project. Buck Webb also spoke in favor of the project. Tom Lange supported this project and stated there would be a savings of about \$250 per month for WisNet line. He also noted there would be an increased bandwidth at the library too.

Motion was made by Mark Zuber to support the Fairchild Fiber Connect Project application to commit \$30,000 of County ARPA money to the project, along with committing up to \$12,000 of County ARPA money as a match to the Town of Fairchild should the town board commit up to \$12,000 of its ARPA money for the project. This also includes forwarding a letter of support from the Broadband Committee for the project. Motion was seconded by Don Mowry; motion carried on a voice vote with all members in favor of the motion.

9. UPDATE - Tri County Communication Cooperative (TCC) PSC grant application from the Town of Clear Creek. Buck Webb/Todd Meyer. – **Discussion – Action**

Chair Meyer updated the committee on the Town of Clear Creek commitment toward the TCC project in Clear Creek. He noted that the town reallocated \$5,000 dollars of its ARPA funds towards the project, which means the county matched those funds. The total County ARPA fund commitment for the project is \$55,000.

10. United Way Update – Amber Scharenbroch – **Discussion**

Amber Scharenbroch shared information about the United Way Digital Equity Resource Fair that is planned for March 4<sup>th</sup> at the Main Street Gym in Augusta from 8:30 to 11:30 am. She also informed the Broadband Committee that they were recipients of this year’s Chippewa Valley Spirit Awards: Community Impact Digital Equity Award. She encouraged the committee members to attend.

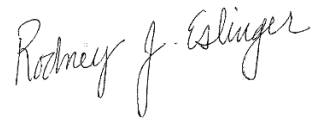
11. Next Steps and future meetings

a. April 20, 2023

12. Adjourn

Adjourn Action: Meeting adjourned by unanimous consent at 5:25 p.m.

Respectively submitted by,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rodney J. Eslinger".

Rodney J. Eslinger  
Broadband Committee Clerk  
Director of Planning and Development

**From:** [Poole, Erica D](#)  
**To:** [Rod Eslinger](#)  
**Cc:** [Miriam Gehler](#)  
**Subject:** Broadband Committee  
**Date:** Friday, April 7, 2023 10:32:44 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)

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**WARNING!! This email originated outside Eau Claire County. Do not click any links or attachments unless you know the sender.**

Hi Rod,

I wanted to shoot you a quick email to connect you with Miriam Gehler as I will be leaving Marshfield Clinic Health System and would love to connect the two of you so Marshfield Clinic still has an opportunity to have a seat at the table in my place. I know this is of great value to MCHS and would love to see that be able to continue.

Thank you for the opportunity to be a part of such an important committee doing tremendous work in Eau Claire County.

Best,

**Erica Poole**

Operations Manager

Marshfield Medical Center – Eau Claire

**Direct:** 715-858-4566 | **Ext:** 74566 | **Cell:** 715-456-7049

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# **Application to request County American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds to match local governmental units (town) for Broadband Infrastructure.**

## ***Description***

By resolution file no. 21-22/034, the Eau Claire County Board of Supervisors designated 2.8 million dollars of its funding received through the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 to be used as matching funds in combination with ARPA funds from local units of governments (towns) for the expansion of broadband infrastructure/services within Eau Claire County.

Applications from the towns requesting matching funds shall be for broadband infrastructure/services within townships in Eau Claire County.

## ***Application and materials***

To qualify for broadband infrastructure or services matching funds:

- Application must be filed by a town municipal government from Eau Claire County.
- The town must provide a scope of work plan (provided by the internet service provider) for the project.
- Detail drawings must be attached to the application that identifies the areas in the town to be covered by the project. The drawings shall be on media no larger than 11" by 17".
- Application shall indicate the amount of the town's ARPA funds are allocated to the broadband infrastructure project (proof from town board meeting).
- Town Chair or its designee must sign the application.
- Broadband expansion projects that cross over municipal boundaries, require separate applications from each town to be considered for County ARPA fund match.

## ***Eligible Use of Funds***

The Eau Claire County Broadband Committee shall review and approve the application requests for broadband funds. Funds can only be used for broadband expansion/infrastructure projects within the town. Any requests for funds **other** than for expenses directly related to broadband expansion will not be approved by the committee. The broadband project must support a 100 Mbps download and 100 Mbps upload speeds. Project area is underserved or unserved with highspeed internet according to the Public Service Commission (PSC) definition.

## ***Application Timeline & Procedures***

Completed application shall be submitted to Rodney Eslinger, Clerk for the Broadband Committee at [rod.eslinger@co.eau-claire.wi.us](mailto:rod.eslinger@co.eau-claire.wi.us). Please note the maximum attachment size is 10MB. If an email and attachments exceed the allowable size, please send multiple emails.

Application shall be reviewed by the Broadband Committee at their next regularly scheduled meeting (the Broadband Committee currently meets the third Thursday of the month at 4 pm). The Broadband shall act on the request to allocate the funds requested.

Successful applicants will also be required to sign an intergovernmental agreement that further defines the expectations for the ARPA fund match.

**DEADLINE:** January 1, 2023

**EAU CLAIRE COUNTY  
 AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT FUNDS TO MATCH LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL UNITS  
 FOR BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE**

SECTION I-TOWN ARPA FUND MATCH REQUEST	
<b>Please indicated the requested amount of County ARPA Fund Match for the broadband infrastructure project in your township.</b>	
Project Name	Amount
1. Town of Brunswick FTTH Project – Phase 2	\$176,349.00
2.	\$
3.	\$

SECTION II-TOWN CONTACT INFORMATION			
<b>Town of: Brunswick</b>			
<b>Mailing Address: W6335 Spehle Rd.</b>			
<b>City, State, Zip: Eau Claire, WI. 54701</b>	<b>Website URL: TOWNOFBRUNSWICKWI.GOV</b>		
<b>Town Chair: Wes Vlcek</b>	<b>Town Clerk: Debra Grinde</b>		
<b>Office Phone: 715-852-7600</b>	<b>Email: brclerk@gmail.com</b>		
<b>UEI (unique Entity ID) #VW55BLMJQ9A9</b>	<b>SAM Registration:</b>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>FEIN ((Federal Employee Identification Number –Tax ID): 39-1717363</b>			

**EAU CLAIRE COUNTY**  
**AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT FUNDS TO MATCH LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL UNITS**  
**FOR BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE**

Provide a description of the scope of work for the broadband project, and attached a detailed drawing of the area to be served by the project (attach supporting documentation): The phase 2 project will provide minimum speeds of 100 Meg/100Meg with options of speeds up to 1 Gig/1Gig service to all locations in the unserved/underserved and prohibitively expensive areas of our Town. Map forthcoming.

Please submit the following project-level information for the broadband project:

Technology to be deployed (highspeed internet)	Fiber to the Home Broadband access using GPON technology
Pricing tiers to be offered (affordability)	\$88.90/mo. - \$108.90/mo.-\$158.90/mo.
Miles of fiber	21 square miles
Cost per mile	\$8,397.57
Speeds to be offered	300/300 Mbps; 600/600 Mbps; 1GB/1GB
System download speed	Same as above
System upload speed	Same as above
Number of households to be served	254
Number of institutions and businesses to be served	13
Anticipated start date	June 1, 2022
Anticipated completion date	March 9, 2023

**SECTION III- INTERNET SERVICE PROVIDER CONTACT INFORMATION**

Name	Address	Phone	Email
Jim Kusilek – CEO/General Manager	E4528 Cty Rd C	715-231-2000	247 fiber@wwt.coop
24-7 Telcom	P.O. Box 247, Downsville, WI. 54735		

**SECTION IV- PROJECT FINANCE DETAIL**

Please detail how you intend to use the MATCH dollars. Attach documentation.


Internet Service Provider (ISP) Match:	\$516,847.00
Town ARPA Fund Match:	\$176,349.00
County ARPA Fund Match:	\$176,349.00
PSC Grant Application:	\$869,545.00
Other Loans:	\$0



**EAU CLAIRE COUNTY  
AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT FUNDS TO MATCH LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL UNITS  
FOR BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE**

Other financing (businesses or property owners):	\$0
<b>OVERALL PROJECT TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$1,739,090.00</b>

<b>SECTION V - ATTACHMENTS</b>		
<b>The following required attachments are provided (check box that applies):</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
Scope of work description (if not indicated in section II)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Project map of area to be serviced	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Town Board Approval (meeting minutes, town letter)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other documents/information:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

<b>SECTION VI – CERTIFICATION/SIGNATURE</b>	
<b>By signing below, the applicant(s):</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Certifies that to the best of its knowledge and belief, the information being submitted in this application, and accompanying attachments, is true and correct.</li> <li>• Understands that unless it qualifies as a trade secret, all information submitted to the Eau Claire County Broadband Committee is subject to Wisconsin’s Open Records Law.</li> <li>• Understand that additional information may be required and may be requested.</li> </ul>	
<b>Signature:</b>	<b>Signature:</b> 
<b>Name: Wes Vlcek</b>	<b>Name: Debra Grinde</b>
<b>Title: Town Chair</b>	<b>Title: Town Clerk</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>Date: March 29, 2023</b>



# Town of Brunswick

## Eau Claire County, Wisconsin

### *Town Board Meeting Minutes*

March 14, 2023

Brunswick Town Hall

**Present:** Chairman Wes Vlcek, Supervisors John Helwig and Don Jaquish, Clerk Debby Grinde, and Treasurer Deb Heath

- **Call to order** at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Vlcek. He led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.
- Motion made by Jaquish/Helwig to approve the February 14, 2023 meeting minutes. Motion carried.
- **Informal Public Comment Time:** A repair to a driveway culvert was discussed and the Board will look at it.
- Motion made by Helwig/Jaquish to approve a picnic license for Pioneer Days to be held August 11,12&13, 2023 at Pioneer Park along with a temporary bartender license for Lois Dohms. Motion carried.
- Motion made by Jaquish/Helwig to approve an Operator's (bartender) license for Erin Roach (Welcome Matt). Motion carried.
- Motion made by Vlcek/Helwig to sign a service contract with Affordable Roadside Cutting (Lonny Roth) to be done the 3<sup>rd</sup> week in June and after the 1<sup>st</sup> of October for a cost of \$70 per hour for cutting grass and \$80 per hour for cutting brush. Motion carried.
- Town Roads update provided by Chairman Vlcek: Brush cutting in the right-of-way is almost completed with over half done. Crackfilling needs were discussed with the Eau Claire County Highway Dept. Summer work on roads include shouldering and maintenance. There are possible culvert replacements to be done on Silver Springs Drive and Norrish Road. The South Road repair will be delayed for at least 1 year to determine the extent of the problem. American Express Excavation will no longer be assessing a fuel surcharge to invoices.
- Discussion on forming an alliance with area towns for bringing more ideas together for ambulance service and better pricing on road projects was led by Chairman Vlcek and will be pursued resulting in better communication and education.
- Motion made by Vlcek/Jaquish to pay the bills including \$176,349.00 to 24-7 Telcom for phase 2 of FTTH project. Motion carried.
- Motion made by Helwig/Vlcek to approve the Treasurer's report. Motion carried.
- Next meeting is April 18,2023, the ANNUAL MEETING, set for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday in April (sec. 60.11(2), Wis Stats. at 7 p.m. at the Town Hall. The regular meeting will commence immediately thereafter.
- Adjournment with motion by Jaquish/Vlcek. Motion carried. Time: 7:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra Grinde

Town Clerk



**Town of Brunswick**  
**Eau Claire County, Wisconsin**



# Town of Brunswick

## Eau Claire County, Wisconsin

Wesley Vlcek  
Chairman - Town of Brunswick  
W5485 County Road Z  
Eau Claire, WI 54701

7/20/2021

Don Mowry  
Chairman - Eau Claire County Broadband Committee  
721 Oxford Avenue  
Eau Claire, WI 54703

Dear Don Mowry:

24-7 Telcom, Inc. intends to build Fiber to the Home ("FTTH") to approximately 297 locations in the Town of Brunswick at a cost of approximately \$1,739,090.00 ("Project"). The Town of Brunswick has entered into a partnership agreement with 24-7 Telcom, and has committed to contribute \$176,349.00.

The 24-7 Telcom, Inc. Town of Brunswick FTTH Project - Phase 2 ("Project") will provide minimum speeds of 100Meg/100Meg with options of speeds up to 1Gig/1Gig service to all locations in the unserved/underserved and prohibitively expensive areas of our Town.

24-7 Telcom will submit a State of Wisconsin ARPA Broadband Access Grant requesting \$869,545.00 or 50% of the total project. The remaining balance will be paid by 24-7 Telcom, the Town of Brunswick and Eau Claire County. A breakdown of the project totals is attached along with a map of the project.

We are asking Eau Claire County to use a portion of its ARPA funds to match the Town of Brunswick's contribution of \$176,349.00 for this project.

Sincerely, 

Wesley Vlcek  
Chairman - Town of Brunswick

Town of Brunswick

Chairman - Wes Vlcek (715) 271-3347

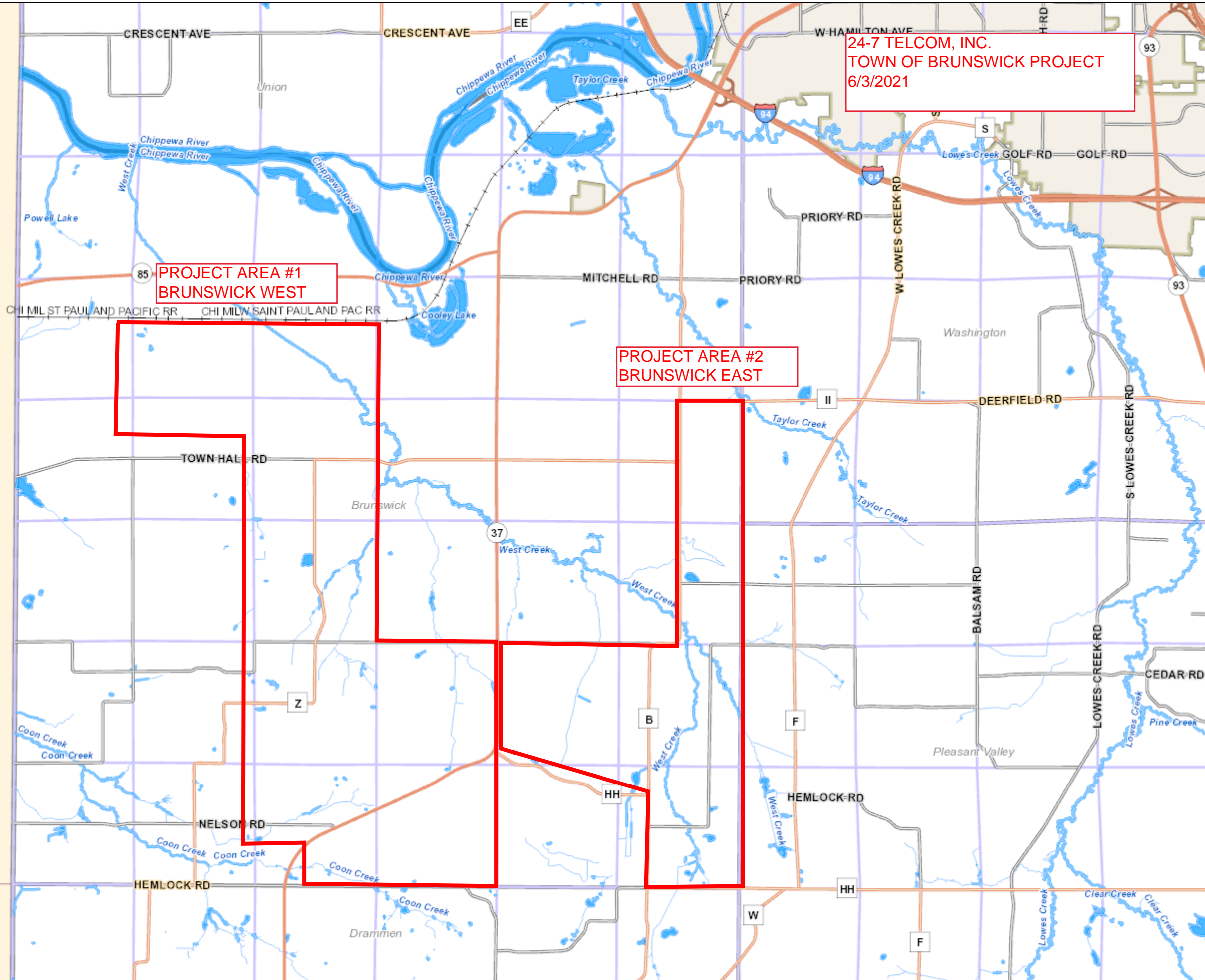
Supervisor - Don Jaquish (715) 559-6370 Supervisor John Helwig (715) 225-1389

Treasurer - Deb Heath (715) 225-1161 Clerk - Deb Grinde (715) 834-7307

24-7 TELCOM, INC.  
TOWN OF BRUNSWICK PROJECT  
6/3/2021

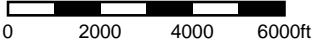
Legend

- Sections
- Villages (Scale above 35K)
- Cities (Scale above 35K)
- Towns
- Eau Claire County
- Surrounding Counties
  - MN
  - WI
- Rivers and Streams
- Lakes and Rivers
- Interstate
- US Highway
- State Highway
- Ramp
- Major Arterial
- Minor Arterial
- Collector
- Local
- Recreation
- Railroads



PROJECT AREA #1  
BRUNSWICK WEST

PROJECT AREA #2  
BRUNSWICK EAST



DISCLAIMER: This map is not guaranteed to be accurate, correct, current, or complete and conclusions drawn are the responsibility of the user.

Author:	
Date Printed: 06/3/21 2:45 PM	
Sources:	

Dunn

Pepin

# Public Service Commission of Wisconsin

Public Service Commission of Wisconsin  
RECEIVED : 3/31/2023 4:09:30 PM



## BEAD Local Planning Grant Program Grant Application Instructions Docket 5-BP-2023

Application Deadline

May 1, 2023

1:30 P.M.



## Overview

The Broadband, Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Local Planning Grants utilize Wisconsin's BEAD planning funds to prepare for the larger forthcoming BEAD implementation allocation that will deploy broadband infrastructure through a competitive grant program. BEAD Local Planning Grants are not competitive grants but rather formula funding that will be allocated to every applicant. Applicants (counties, Regional Economic Development Groups (REDOs) and federally recognized Tribes) that complete this application and the forthcoming grant agreement have opted-in to receive the grant formula funding and agree to the applicable reporting requirements and federal regulations explained in these grant instructions and the forthcoming final grant agreement.

The Commission has developed an online application system to submit grant applications, the PSC Grants System. The PSC Grants System will automatically upload the application to the Electronic Regulatory Filing (ERF) System. The PSC Grant System will close the window for submitting applications on the due date – May 1, 2023, at 1:30 P.M.

The PSC Grants System User's Guide (<https://psc.wi.gov/Documents/GrantsSystemUsersGuide.pdf>) provides instructions to create a system account, navigate the online grant application, validate the application, and submit the complete application. The PSC Grants System account will also provide the online form and filing process that grant recipients will use to request reimbursement. The User's Guide is the primary resource an applicant should consult to enter and use the online grant system.

### 1. General Information

#### 1.1. Reasonable Accommodations

The Commission will provide reasonable accommodations, including the provision of informational material in an alternate format, for qualified individuals with disabilities upon request.

#### 1.2. Applicants

Applicants are those listed in the March 22, 2023 formula allocation letter [PSC REF#: 462300](#), which consist of the following entities:

- Counties opting to participate independently
- REDOs that have opted to facilitate collaborative participation among one or more of their represented counties and/or Tribes
- Federally recognized Tribes opting to participate independently

Note: Counties and Federally recognized Tribes that have opted to participate collaboratively through a REDO, do NOT need to fill out an application through the PSC Grants System.

REDOs will apply and receive funding on behalf of all counties and Tribes that have opted to collaborate through these regional groups.

**1.3. Clarification and/or revisions to the specifications and requirements for grant application**

Any questions concerning this application must be submitted in writing via email on or before April 28, 2023, to:

Email address: [PSCStatebroadbandoffice@wisconsin.gov](mailto:PSCStatebroadbandoffice@wisconsin.gov)

Subject line: BEAD Local Planning Grant Application Question

If it becomes necessary to provide additional clarifying data or information, or to revise any part of this application, revisions, amendments, and/or supplements will be uploaded the ERF system in docket 5-BP-2023 and on the Wisconsin Broadband Office website.

Any contact with state employees concerning this application is prohibited, except as authorized by the grant manager (Alyssa Kenney) or authorized by the grant administrator (Joe Fontaine).

**1.4. Procuring and Contracting**

This request for applications is issued by the Commission, which is the sole point of contact for the State of Wisconsin during the selection process. The person responsible for managing the grant application process is Alyssa Kenney, State Broadband and Digital Equity Director.

The grant award(s) resulting from this application process will be administered by the Commission. The grant administrator will be Joe Fontaine, Division Administrator, Division of Digital Access, Consumer and Environmental Affairs.

**1.5. Schedule of Events**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>EVENT</b>
April 3, 2023	Date application instructions issued
April 28, 2023	Deadline for submitting questions and requests for clarification
April 28, 2023	Deadline for requesting Grant System assistance



**May 1, 2023, 1:30 P.M.**

**Applications due from applicants (deadline for submitting on PSC Grants System). Applications are public.**

### **1.6. Program Overview and Budget Reference Document**

The BEAD Local Planning Grant Program is intended to provide resources to counties, REDOs, and Tribes to conduct broadband planning and coordination efforts in development of Wisconsin's Five-Year Action Plan and support implementation of BEAD. A [BEAD Local Planning Grant Program Overview and Budget Reference document](#) is available on the Commission's website. This document provides information on the budget categories that entities should utilize when drafting their grant plan and budget. Additionally, this document provides allowable categories of activities that funding may be used on, as well as specific allowable activities that may be proposed in a budget and grant plan.

As planning for project activities is in early stages, applicants will submit a placeholder budget in their initial submission in the grant system. The placeholder budget will include the entity's full allocation amount in the 'Other' cost category. An updated budget using the cost categories will be submitted as part of interim deliverables on June 19, 2023. The updated budget will be incorporated into the executed grant agreement.

### **1.7. Draft Grant Agreement**

A [Draft BEAD Local Planning Grant Agreement](#) is available on the Commission's website. This draft grant agreement outlines applicable reporting and compliance requirements found in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021, the BEAD Notice of Funding Opportunity, and other applicable federal and state requirements.

## **2. Application and Procedures**

### **2.1. Confidential and Proprietary Information**

All application information filed with the Commission is considered public. Do not include confidential or proprietary information in your application.

### **2.2. Withdrawal of Application**

Applicants may withdraw an application at any time by submitting a signed letter from an authorized representative of the applicant organization in the docket 5-BP-2023.

## **2.3. Application Form Content**

Each sub-section below corresponds to the tabs displayed along the top of the application form in the online PSC Grants System. Remember to save your work (using the save icon at the bottom of the page) before you leave a tab.

Do not use hyperlinks in your answers or attachments in the grant system. Hyperlinks to additional information are not evaluated, nor are they considered to be part of the applications. Refer to the PSC Grants System User Guide for more details and assistance: <https://psc.wi.gov/Documents/GrantsSystemUsersGuide.pdf>

### **2.3.1. Details**

Select the ‘Details’ tab and fill in the required information:

- Project Name: Use the following project naming convention ‘Eligible Entity Name’ BEAD Local Planning Grant  
For example, Centergy BEAD Local Planning Grant or Barron County BEAD Local Planning Grant
- Project Description (500 Character limit)
- Grant Amount Requested, enter the correct amount from Attachment A: BEAD Local Planning Grant
- Recipient & Partner Contributions: enter 0
- Grant Applicant Details (the legal party that will be receiving the funding, including their FEIN and UEID numbers)

### **2.3.2. Contacts**

You are required to include at minimum one primary contact. Use the ‘Add New Contact’ button to add a contact. You have the option to add a secondary contact, financial manager, grants manager, authorized representative, contractor, and/or partners.

### **2.3.3. Budget**

Applicants should enter their allocation amount in the grant funded column under the Budget Item ‘Other’ row. All other budget fields should be zero. It is expected that grantees will develop a more detailed plan and associated budget as part of the June 19 deliverables, which will then be incorporated to replace the previous placeholder budget.

Upon submission of the interim project status report on June 19, 2023, grantees will be required to submit a detailed budget using the following categories:

- Contractual, consultant fees
- Labor (salary, fringe)
- Training
- Travel

- Supplies
- Other (If applicable, provide details in the ‘Notes’ column)

The budget must connect to the activities in the scope of work as proposed by the applicant and approved by the Commission.

Note: Applicants SHOULD NOT provide matching funds under the ‘Contribution Funded’ column of the budget table.

#### **2.3.4. Narrative**

Select the Narrative tab and answer the following five questions:

1. Is the applicant a Wisconsin county, Regional Economic Development Organization (REDO), or federally recognized Tribe listed on the allocation letter? (yes/no)

Applicants must answer yes to be eligible for funding.

2. Will the applicant use the grant funds for BEAD local planning eligible activities and costs that are allowable under these federal funds? (See the [Commission’s Overview and Budget Reference document](#) for details on allowable activities.) (yes/no)

3. List up to three eligible planning activities that the applicant will complete during the performance period (February 1, 2023 – May 1, 2025) and provide a short description of the intended outcomes or deliverables for each of these activities.

4. By June 19, 2023, does the applicant agree to submit the required interim project status report with the five required deliverables? (yes/no)

*Required deliverables: (1) convene an initial broadband planning group (2) begin outreach to stakeholders (3) create a preliminary broadband vision and goals (4) identify barriers and opportunities related to broadband (5) submit a detailed budget by cost category.*

### **3. Award Process**

#### **3.1. Application Review**

Commission staff will review each application for completion. There is no merit evaluation of applications as the BEAD Local Planning Grants were determined by the Commission approved formula.

#### **3.2. Grant Award Allocations**

Final award allocations have been calculated for the 77 entities that have opted into the BEAD Local Planning Grant Program. This includes all 72 Wisconsin counties and

five neighboring Tribes, with 48 of these entities collaborating through one of six participating REDOs.

The allocation formulas are as follows:

$$\text{Independent Award} = \frac{1,500,000}{(0.1 * (\text{Regional Collaborator Count})) + (\text{Total Participants})}$$

$$\text{Collaborator Award} = 1.1 * \text{Independent Award}$$

The final allocation for each participant in the program and designated point of contact for each recipient can be found as part of the official allocation letter ([PSC REF#: 462300](#)) dated March 22, 2023, and attached to this grant instructions.

### **3.3. Request for Additional Information**

The Commission may request additional information from a grant recipient before awarding a grant.

### **3.4. Incurring Costs**

Neither the PSC nor the state of Wisconsin are liable for any cost incurred by the applicant in preparing this application.

The performance period of the grant begins on the date of the Commission Order ([PSC REF#: 458495](#)). Any eligible costs incurred after February 1, 2023 are eligible for reimbursement for any entity that has executed a grant agreement with the Commission and the costs are in the budget.

### **3.5. No Appeal Process**

The Applicant may have general remedies under other provisions of Wis. Stat. chs. 196 and 227 if the Applicant believes it is aggrieved by any final award determination. This provision is for information purposes only and is not a determination by the PSC that the Applicant has any protest or appeal rights with respect to the PSC's decision in this grant cycle.

### **3.6. Grant Agreement**

#### **3.6.1. Requirement to enter into a grant agreement**

The order requires that each approved grant applicant enter into a grant agreement with the Commission. The grant award is not final until the applicant signs and returns the grant agreement and the Commission executes the document. Failure to complete and return the grant agreement may result in cancellation of the award.

### **3.6.2. System for Award Management (SAM.gov) Registration**

Applicants must register with SAM.gov and obtain a Universal Entity Identifier (UEI) prior to receiving a grant award and are encouraged to do so as soon as possible.

Instructions for registering with SAM and obtaining a UEI are available here:

<https://sam.gov/content/home>.

### **3.6.3. Terms and Conditions**

The Commission Order will also specify certain terms and conditions that the Commission finds appropriate and necessary for the administration of the approved grant projects.

## Attachment A: BEAD Local Planning Grant Recipients

Formula:									
Independent Award = 1,500,000/((0.1*(Regional Collaborator Count))+(Total Participants))									
Collaborator Award=1.1*Independent Award									
Funding Available: \$1,500,000		Participating Entities: 77							
Independent Award = \$18,337.40		Independent Participants: 29							
Collaborator Award = \$20,171.15		Regional Collaborators: 48							
<b>Participating Regions</b>	<b>Award</b>	<b>Contact Name</b>	<b>Contact Title/Position</b>	<b>Contact Email</b>	<b>Contact Phone</b>				
<b>Centergy</b>	<b>\$100,855.75</b>	<b>Angel Whitehead</b>	<b>Executive Director</b>	<b>president@centergy.net</b>	<b>715-849-5510 ext 307</b>				
Adams County		Kyle Patterson	Finance Director	kyle.patterson@co.adams.wi.us	608-339-4201				
Lincoln County		Ken Wickham	Lincoln County Broadband Committee Chair	ken.wickham@co.lincoln.wi.us	715-360-0912				
Marathon County		Gerard Klein	Director, CCITC	Gerard.Klein@co.marathon.wi.us	715-261-6707				
Portage County		Jeff Hartman; Jeremy Solin	GIS/LIS Coordinator; Area 7 Extension Director	HartmanJ@co.portage.wi.gov; Jeremy.Solin@wisc.edu	715-346-1221; 715-498-7051				
Wood County		Jason R. Grueneberg	Planning + Zoning Director	jason.grueneberg@woodcountywi.gov	715-421-8478				

<u>Madison Region Economic Partnership</u>	<u>\$100,855.75</u>	<u>Gene Dahlhoff</u>	<u>Vice President - Talent and Education</u>	<u>gdalhoff@madisonregion.org</u>	<u>608-571-0403</u>
Columbia County		Chris Polzer	Columbia County Board Chair	christopher.polzer@columbiacountywi.gov	608-697-1085
Dane County		Alexandra Andros	Senior Planner	andros@countyofdane.com	608-261-9780 (o), or 608-720-0168 (c)
Dodge County		Cameron Clapper	County Administrator	ccclapper@co.dodge.wi.us	920-386-4251
Jefferson County		Ben Wehmeier	County Administrator	benjaminw@jeffersoncountywi.gov	920-674-7101
Sauk County		Melanie Platt-Gibson	Sauk County Development Director	melanie.plattgibson@saukcountywi.gov	608-355-4840
<u>Milwaukee 7</u>	<u>\$141,198.05</u>	<u>Jim Zehner</u>	<u>Director, Economic Development Programs</u>	<u>izehner@mke7.com</u>	<u>414-287-4134</u>
Kenosha County		Shawn Smith	County Executive	samantha.kerkman@kenoshacounty.org	262-653-2600
Milwaukee County		Lynn Fyhrlund	Chief Information Officer	lynn.fyhrlund@milwaukeecountywi.gov	414-278-3941
Ozaukee County		Jason Dzwiniel	County Administrator	jdzwiniel@ozaukeecounty.gov	262-238-8202
Racine County		Travis Richardson	Director of Data & Performance Analytics	Travis.Richardson@racinecounty.com	262-636-3721
Walworth County		Mark W. Luberda	County Administrator	mluberda@co.walworth.wi.us	262-741-4357 262-215-8586(cell)
Washington County		Scott M. Schmidt	Chief Public Work Officer	scott.schmidt@washcowisco.gov	262-355-6881
Waukesha County		Dale R. Shaver	Parks and Land Use Director	dshaver@waukeshacounty.gov	262-896-8310
<u>The New North</u>	<u>\$302,567.25</u>	<u>Barbara Koldos</u>	<u>Vice President, Business Development</u>	<u>barbara.koldos@thenewnorth.com</u>	<u>920-336-3860</u>

Brown County	August Neverman	Broadband & BCCAN Director	august.neverman@browncountywi.gov	920-448-7860
Calumet County	Jason Pausma	Economic Development Director	jason.pausma@calumetcounty.org	920-849-1680
Door County	Jessica Hatch	Broadband Coordinator	jhatch@co.door.wi.us	920-746-2289
Florence County	Eric Printz	Director of Economic Development	eprintz@florencecountywi.gov	715-528-3294
Fond du Lac County	Erin Gerred	Director of Administration	ERIN.GERRED@FDLCO.WI.GOV	920-929-3156
Kewaunee County	Scott Feldt	County Administrator	feldt.scott@kewauneeeco.org	920-388-7111
Manitowoc County	Barbara Koldos	Vice President, Business Development	barbara.koldos@thenewnorth.com	920-544-7626
Marinette County	John Lefebvre	County Administrator	John.Lefebvre@marinettecountywi.gov	715-732-7416
Marquette County	Keri Solis	Economic Development Coordinator	KSOLIS@co.marquette.wi.us	608-297-1000
Menominee County	Jeremy C. Weso	Administrative Coordinator	jweso@co.menominee.wi.us	715-853-1366
Oconto County	Melissa Schwaller	Technology Service Director	melissa.schwaller@co.oconto.wi.us	920-834-6870
Outagamie County	Sadie DiNatale Burda	Interim Director/Principal Planner	sadie.dinataleburda@outagamie.org	920-832-7821
Shawano County	Matt Hietpas	Technology Service Director	matt.hietpas@shawanocountywi.gov	715-526-4645
Sheboygan County	Christopher S. Lewinski	Director of Information Technology	chris.lewinski@sheboygancounty.com	920-459-0335
Waushara County	Barry West	IT Director	barry.west@co.waushara.wi.us	920-787-6586
<b>Prosperity Southwest</b>	<b>Troy Maggied</b>	<b>Executive Director</b>	<b>t.maggied@swwrpc.org</b>	<b>608-342-1636</b>
Crawford County	Dale Klemme	Crawford County Broadband Committee Coordinator	dklemme@developmentplanning.net	608-326-7333



Grant County	Shane Drinkwater	Information Technology Director	sdrinkwater@co.grant.wi.gov	608-723-1668
Green County	Ryan Camron	Director, Information Technology	rcamron@greencountywi.org	608-328-9348
Iowa County	Troy Maggied	Executive Director	t.maggied@swwrpc.org	608-342-1636
Lafayette County	Abby Haas	Economic Development Director	abby.haas@lafayettecountywi.org	608-776-4860
Richland County	Clinton Langreck	County Administrator-Richland County	clinton.langreck@co.richland.wi.us	608-475-0009
<b><u>Visions Northwest</u></b>	<b><u>Sheldon Johnson</u></b>	<b><u>Executive Director</u></b>	<b><u>sjohnson@nwrpc.com</u></b>	<b><u>715-635-2197</u></b>
Ashland County	Dan Grady	County Administrator	dan.grady@co.ashland.wi.us	715-682-7015
Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa	Brian Mayotte	Superior Connections Manager	b.mayotte@badriver-nsn.gov	715-685-7858
Bayfield County	Mark Abeles-Allison	County Administrator	mark.abeles-allison@bayfieldcounty.wi.gov	715-373-6181
Burnett County	Richard F. Hartmann	Burnett County Economic Development Director	dhartmann@burnettcounty.org	715-349-2979(O) 715-566-0021(M)
Douglas County	Ann Doucette	Administrator	ann.doucette@douglascountywi.org	715-395-1335
Iron County	Kelly Klein	Iron Co Development	Kelly@Ironcountywi.com	715-561-2922
Price County	Nicholas Trimner	County Administrator	nick.trimner@co.price.wi.us	715-339-5138
Rusk County	Ashley Heath	Administrative Coordinator	aheath@ruskcountywi.us	715-532-2257
Sawyer County	Andy Albarado	Sawyer County Administrator	andy.albarado@sawyercountygov.org	715-638-3245
Washburn County	Tom Boron	IT Director-Washburn County	tboron@co.washburn.wi.us	715-468-4665

Independent Participants	Award	Contact Name	Contact Title/Position	Contact Email	Contact Phone
Barron County	\$18,337.40	David Armstrong	Director, Economic Development	bcedc@co.barron.wi.us	715-637-6871
Buffalo County	\$18,337.40	Lee Engfer	Administrative Coordinator	Lee.engfer@buffalocountywi.gov	608-685-6235
Chippewa County	\$18,337.40	Randy Scholz	County Administrator	rscholz@co.chippewa.wi.us	715-726-7981
Clark County	\$18,337.40	Mitchell Weber	Director of IT Services	mitchell.weber@co.clark.wi.us	715-743-8677
Dunn County	\$18,337.40	Dan Dunbar	CIO	ddunbar@co.dunn.wi.us	715-231-6501
Eau Claire County	\$18,337.40	Rodney J. Eslinger	Planning and Development Director	rod.eslinger@eauclairecounty.gov	715-839-1657
Forest County	\$18,337.40	Chris Shafer	Executive Director Chamber/Tourism/FCEDP	chris.visitforestcounty@gmail.com	920-517-4534
Green Lake County	\$18,337.40	Cate Wylie	County Administrator	cwylie@greenlakecountywi.gov	920-294-4147
Ho-Chunk Nation	\$18,337.40	Loa Porter	HCN Division of Planning & Development - Management Analyst	Loa.Porter@ho-chunk.com	715-284-9343 ext. 11280
Jackson County	\$18,337.40	Cindy Altman	County Clerk/Administrative Coordinator	cindy.altman@jacksoncountywi.gov	715-284-0268
Juneau County	\$18,337.40	Lori Chipman	Finance Director	lchipman@co.juneau.wi.us	608-847-9309
La Crosse County	\$18,337.40	Sam Bachmeier	Community Development Specialist	sbachmeier@lacrossecounty.org	608-785-5792
Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa	\$18,337.40	Christina Rencontre	Tribal Resource Development Specialist	crencontre@ldftribe.com	715-588-4414

Langlade County	\$18,337.40	Angela Close	Chair Broadband Commission Executive Director, Langlade County Economic DC	aclose@co.langlade.wi.us	715-623-5123
Monroe County	\$18,337.40	Tina Osterberg	County Administrator	Tina.Osterberg@co.monroe.wi.us	608-269-8944
Oneida County	\$18,337.40	Jeff Verdoorn	Executive Director OCEDC	jeff.verdoorn@OCEDC.org	715-369-9110
Oneida Nation	\$18,337.40	Jason Doxtator	Network Services Manager	jdoxtat1@oneidanation.org	920-496-7379
Pepin County	\$18,337.40	Pamela Hansen	Administrative Coordinator	phansen@co.pepin.wi.us	715-672-8704
Pierce County	\$18,337.40	Jason Matthys	Administrative Coordinator	jmatthys@co.pierce.wi.us	715-273-6851
Polk County	\$18,337.40	Donald W. Wortham	General Government Director	don.wortham@polkcountywi.gov	715-485-8606
Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa	\$18,337.40	Evan Cutler	Information Technology Director	evan.cutler@redcliff-nsn.gov	715-779-3700
Rock County	\$18,337.40	Randy Terronez	Assistant to the Administrator	randolph.terronez@co.rock.wi.us	608-757-5543
St. Croix County	\$18,337.40	Ken Witt	County Administrator	ken.witt@sccwi.gov	715-381-4302
Taylor County	\$18,337.40	Michael Bub	Taylor County Broadband Chairperson	Michael.Bub@co.taylor.wi.us	715-765-7748
Trempealeau County	\$18,337.40	Dave Carlson	Economic Development Manager	dave.carlson@co.trempealeau.wi.us	715-538-1923
Vernon County	\$18,337.40	Amy Oliver	Grants Officer	amy.oliver@vernoncounty.org	608-637-5379
Vilas County	\$18,337.40	Darcy Smith	Finance Director	dasmitt@vilascountrywi.gov	715-479-3674
Waupaca County	\$18,337.40	Ryan Brown	Planning and Zoning Director	ryan.brown@co.waupaca.wi.us	715-258-6258
Winnebago County	\$18,337.40	Michael Collard	Director of Administration	mcollard@winnebagoountywi.gov	920-232-3443



## Section I: Overview

Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Local Planning Grants are available in the form of formula funding of \$1.5 million under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act to Wisconsin counties and federally recognized Tribes to generate locally informed analysis of broadband needs and develop each community's vision for broadband development. The Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (Commission) approved the allocation of this formula funding in docket 5-BP-2023 on February 1, 2023. Local planning activities may include a needs assessment, outreach and stakeholder engagement, and a strategy for broadband deployment. County and Tribal planning activities will inform Wisconsin's Five-Year Broadband Action Plan and future grant funding for broadband infrastructure projects across the state.

BEAD Local Planning Grants are not competitive grants but rather formula funding that will be allocated to each applicant that elects to participate in the program. Counties that elect to participate in the program may opt to (1) collaborate regionally through their respective [Regional Development organization \(REDO\)](#) or (2) participate independently. Tribes that elect to participate may opt to (1) collaborate regionally with a REDO, (2) collaborate with the Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council, or (3) participate independently.

Funding will be distributed equally to all participating counties and Tribes, with those collaborating in groups receiving an additional 10 percent of the base allocation. Participation is not required, and the total grant allocation amount for each participating entity will be formulated following the submission deadline of this participation form. If a REDO or the Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council coordinates on behalf of multiple counties or Tribes, it will receive and administer funding directly.

By completing this form, counties and Tribes are certifying their intent to participate in the program, including complying with related grant requirements. A subsequent grant agreement will delineate eligible costs for use of funding, applicable federal grant compliance requirements, and project deliverables. Each entity that opts in will be responsible to ensure compliance with applicable federal and state requirements related to this funding.

Following the Commission's Wisconsin Broadband Office's announcement of formula grant awards, those counties and Tribes that elected to participate individually and participating collaboratives will complete a brief application in the Commission's Online Grants System that describes planned activities and the intended use of funding among cost categories. Further details on completing the online application will be made available in forthcoming grant instructions available on the Commission website. The Wisconsin Broadband Office will inform participating REDOs, Tribes, and individual counties when the formula allocation has been processed and that the application is open in the online grants system, likely by March 13, 2023.

**This BEAD Local Planning Grant Program Participation Form must be uploaded to the Commission's [Electronic Records Filing System \(ERF\)](#) by March 7, 2023, 1:30 P.M. For help uploading documents to ERF, see the [ERF user manual](#) or contact [PSCStateBroadbandOffice@wisconsin.gov](mailto:PSCStateBroadbandOffice@wisconsin.gov) for assistance.**

# BEAD Local Planning Grant Program – Letter of Intent

## Election to participate and receive formula funds



### Section II: Election to Participate

Please select whether your county or Tribe elects to:

Participate in the BEAD Local Planning Grant Program <b>collaboratively with a Regional Economic Development Organization (REDO)</b>	
<b>Specify REDO:</b> _____	
Participate in the BEAD Local Planning Grant Program <b>collaboratively with the Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council</b>	
Participate in the BEAD Local Planning Grant Program <b>independently</b>	
<b>Not participate</b> in the BEAD Local Planning Grant Program	

### Section III: Primary Point of Contact

The primary point of contact will be the recipient of further communication from the Wisconsin Broadband Office regarding the BEAD Local Planning Program and need not be the authorized representative signing below.

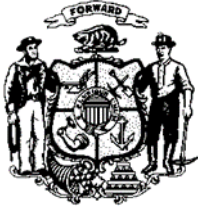
1. Name		2. Position	Planning and Development Director
3. Email	rod.eslinger@eauclairecounty.gov	4. Phone	715-839-1657

### Section IV: Certification from Authorized Representative

Please sign below to declare your county or Tribe’s intent to participate in the BEAD Local Planning Program. The authorized representative could be a local elected official or executive of Tribal or county government and must be authorized under applicable laws to act on behalf of the entity related to receipt and administration of federal funding. By signing below, you are affirming and certifying that you are an authorized representative of your county or Tribe and are authorized to act on behalf of the county or Tribe related to this funding. If you have questions regarding whether as an authorized representative, you are authorized to act on behalf of the county or Tribe, please consult your legal counsel.

Signature below does not constitute an obligation of a county, Tribe, or its collaborating partners to comply with any terms or conditions of the grant program. For entities submitting this letter of intent, a grant agreement will be provided for review and signature.

1. Name		2. Position	County Administrator
3. Email	Kathryn.schauf@eauclairecounty.gov	4. Phone	715-839-5106
5. Signature		6. Date	



# Public Service Commission of Wisconsin

Rebecca Cameron Valcq, Chairperson  
Ellen Nowak, Commissioner  
Tyler Huebner, Commissioner

4822 Madison Yards Way  
P.O. Box 7854  
Madison, WI 53707-7854

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February 7, 2023

Dear County Executives, Administrators, and Administrative Coordinators:

The Public Service Commission of Wisconsin is committed to making high-speed internet accessible and affordable for all Wisconsinites. Throughout 2023, the Commission's Broadband Office will be engaging with a wide range of stakeholders to develop a Five-Year Action Plan for broadband and State Digital Equity Plan under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act's Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) and Digital Equity programs. These statewide plans will serve as Wisconsin's roadmap to the implementation of high-speed internet for all.

It is a federal requirement that 5-year action plans must be informed by collaboration with local and regional entities. Local governments will be key partners in the planning process. Successful broadband deployment requires inclusive and comprehensive engagement, and local leaders have knowledge, passion, and vision that are essential to Wisconsin's planning. The Commission is committed to supporting local planning and [recently approved](#) \$1.5 million in formula funding to Wisconsin counties and federally recognized Tribes under the BEAD Local Planning Grant Program in docket [5-BP-2023](#). These resources are being made available to support efforts to define the need, vision, and strategy for deployment of broadband in your communities. In addition to formula grants, the Commission is working collaboratively with the University of Wisconsin-Extension and the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation to provide technical assistance and coordination which could support your planning efforts.

**To be eligible for this funding, Counties have the opportunity to opt into the BEAD Local Planning Grant Program by submitting the attached letter of intent by March 7, 2023 at 1:30 p.m.** Counties may elect to participate individually, or work collaboratively through a [Regional Economic Development Organization \(REDO\)](#) and receive a 10 percent increase to the county allocation. A county planning to partner with a REDO may choose to engage with the local organization early to ensure coordination throughout the application process.

Following March 7<sup>th</sup>, the Commission will contact counties and relevant REDO partners that opt into the program with further guidance on receipt of funding. In the coming weeks, the Commission's Broadband office plans to make available additional information regarding BEAD Local Planning Grants, including details on program requirements, planning activities, project timelines, and eligible expenditures. Further information is also available as part of [UW-Extension's webinar series](#) on BEAD Planning for Wisconsin Counties and Tribes. For

Wisconsin Broadband Office

Page 2

continued updates on the BEAD Local Planning Grant Program process, please subscribe to this [email list](#).

Thank you for your continued partnership and support of the Commission's Broadband Office. Please contact us at [PSCStateBroadbandOffice@wisconsin.gov](mailto:PSCStateBroadbandOffice@wisconsin.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe Fontaine", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Joe Fontaine

Administrator

Division of Digital Access, Consumer and Environmental Affairs

JF:AK:RT:MM:kle DL: 01926914

cc: County Board Chairs; County Board Supervisors; County Clerks; Regional Economic Development Organization Directors; County Economic Development Directors; County Land Information Officers.





## **Greetings,**

We are contacting you to better understand broadband availability, access, and adoption in your county. We are collecting this critical information to help inform the State's 5-Year Action Plan for Broadband as part of the Internet for All Programs (Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment [BEAD]) and Digital Equity (DE) authorized and funded through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL). Your county's participation will help us ensure that statewide plans address the needs of all Wisconsinites. This effort is a comprehensive survey of county broadband activities within the state.

### **Who is sponsoring the County Broadband Survey?**

The Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (PSC) – is working with the University of Wisconsin Madison – Division of Extension and the University of Wisconsin – River Falls to collect information that will be used to develop Wisconsin's 5-Year Action Plan for Broadband.

### **When is the deadline for completion?**

All surveys need to be submitted by May 15. Although you will be submitting your data as part of the statewide effort, we encourage you to utilize the data you collect locally to guide your local planning process.

### **How much time will the County Broadband Survey take?**

It will take less than an hour for counties without any broadband activity, and up to several hours for those with more broadband activities. You can view a [PDF version](#) of the survey to gather the necessary information and plan accordingly.

### **Will the county be compensated for our time?**

Yes, the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin has authorized reimbursement to be made available to counties up to \$1,000 to cover time and expenses incurred. Once your completed survey is received you will be notified of the process for submitting a template provided by the PSC to document costs for reimbursement.

### **What will the County Broadband Survey ask about?**

The County Broadband Survey will serve to comprehensively document current county activities related to broadband planning access and deployment, as well as digital equity activities. The survey will also ask about barriers you are experiencing when trying to bring "Internet to All" within your county. You will be provided an opportunity to inform the Wisconsin Broadband Office of your county's priorities for broadband and resource needs.



**Extension**  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON  
COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



**PSC**  
of WISCONSIN

### **How will the information be used?**

The information collected will be used to create an action plan for how Wisconsin will achieve Internet for All and deploy federal dollars designated through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law for broadband expansion over the next 5 years.

### **Who should complete the County Broadband Survey?**

The survey is being sent to you as the administrative contact for the county, but it is anticipated that you will need to request the assistance of others within the county to complete all sections. This may mean reaching out to other departments such as zoning and planning, current broadband committees established by the county and other municipalities or organizations within the county.

Although the county may not be directly involved in digital equity and inclusion activities, we are requesting you include those activities in your responses. This may mean contacting schools, libraries, employment agencies, businesses, community organizations and nonprofits to find out the services currently offered.

### **After beginning, can I pause the survey while gathering information, or do I need to complete it all at once?**

You will be able to return to the survey multiple times. There is a PDF version of the survey that you may use to help prepare needed information – access the [PDF here](#). Once you have finished, click "submit."

### **What if I have questions or need help?**

If you have any questions, you can contact Gail Huycke ([gail.huycke@wisc.edu](mailto:gail.huycke@wisc.edu); 608-957-5539).

Thank you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire for your county. Your participation in this survey will have a lasting impact, and your contributions are greatly appreciated. For more information, visit the [County Broadband Survey homepage](#).

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Benoy Jacob | Institute Director  
Community Development Institute  
Division of Extension  
University of Wisconsin-Madison

Joe Fontaine | Administrative  
Division of Digital Access, Consumer, and Environmental  
Affairs  
Public Service Commission of Wisconsin

