



**Broadband Committee  
AGENDA**

**Thursday, October 17, 2024**

4:00 P.M.

Courthouse – Room 3312  
721 Oxford Ave, Eau Claire, WI

**Join by Phone:**

Dial in Number: 1-415-655-0001

Access Code: 25304412365##

**Join by Meeting Number:**

Meeting Number: 2530 441 2365

Meeting Password: ZmfpaAJn628

**Join from Meeting Link:**

<https://eauclairecounty.webex.com/eauclairecounty/j.php?MTID=me49ad24a65184b8b7c4267aa5f10a282>

*A majority of the county board may be in attendance at this meeting, however, only members of the committee may take action on an agenda item.*

**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.**

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 September 19, 2024, Committee Meeting Minutes – **Discussion - Action**
5. Bloomer Broadband request for ARPA Funds – **Discussion - Action**
6. Internet Service Provider (ISP) Updates – **Discussion**
7. BEAD Endorsement Resolution – **Discussion – Action**
8. United Way Digital Equity & Inclusion Update – Dr. Stacy Martin/Ryan Ludy – **Discussion**
9. Next Steps and future meetings – **Discussion - Action**
  - a. Future Meeting date: TBD
10. Adjourn



## MINUTES

Eau Claire County

• BROADBAND COMMITTEE •

**Date:** Thursday, September 19, 2024

**Time:** 4:00 p.m.

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

Members Present: Mark Zuber, Lynn Thompson, Collin Pomplun, Brett Geboy, Tom Lange, Don Mowry, Todd Meyer

Members Absent: Luke Hanson, Monica Obrycki, Tim Laubach

Others Present: Jeff Emery, Chris Crawford, Travis McFarlane, Buck Webb, Dave Hayden, Mark Leonard, Ryan Ludy, Stacy Martin

Staff Present: Rod Eslinger

### Call to Order and confirmation of meeting notice

Chair Geboy called the meeting to order at 4 pm and confirmed the meeting notice with Clerk Eslinger.

### Roll Call:

Clerk Eslinger called the roll. The members that were present are noted above.

### Public Comment:

Don Mowry informed the committee that he was asked to speak at the regional Farmers Union meeting on September 25<sup>th</sup> to tell Eau Claire County's broadband build out story.

### Review/Approval of July 18, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Lynn Thompson motioned to approve the July 18, 2024, subject to the clerk correcting the spelling of Astrea under the ISP's updates. Motion carried on a voice vote: 6-0-0.

Mark left the meeting.

### Tri-County Communication Cooperative's (TCC) request for ARPA Funds

The committee reviewed TCC's ARPA Fund request for \$55,000 for their broadband infrastructure project in the Town of Clear Creek. This project served 17 locations and was also funded by a state broadband infrastructure grant.

Tom Lange joined the meeting.

Don Mowry motioned to approve TCC's ARPA Fund request for \$55,000 of County ARPA Funds for the Town of Clear Creek broadband project. Motion carried on a roll call vote: 6-0-0.

### Town of Pleasant Valley's request for ARPA Match Funds

The committee reviewed the Town of Pleasant Valley's request for \$51,700 County ARPA Match Funds for their broadband infrastructure project with TCC. TCC installed fiber to the premises in the town mainly south of County Highway HH to properties that were either unserved or underserved.

Tom Lange joined the meeting.

Brett Geboy motioned to approve Town of Pleasant Valley's request for \$51,700 of County ARPA Match Funds for their TCC broadband project. Motion carried on a roll call vote: 6-0-0.

### Town of Union's request for ARPA Match Funds

The committee reviewed the Town of Union's second ARPA Match Funds in the amount of \$137,000 for their broadband infrastructure project with 24/7. This is the second and final installment. The total county ARPA award for the Town of Union was \$274,000.

Motion by Lynn Thompson to approve the Town of Union's request for \$137,000 of County ARPA Match Funds for their broadband project with 24/7. Motion carried on a roll call vote: 6-0-0. Don Mowry noted that the minimum service fee of \$88.90 was not considered affordable.

### **Internet Service Provider (ISP) Updates**

- Jeff Emery of 24/7 Telcom recognized Mowry affordability comment. He noted that they have seen approximately 45 customers sign up for their internet out of 124 locations they served. Jeff noted that on the NTIA maps, Eau Claire County has 309 BSL's remaining, but that number likely could be lower as the data seems to lag about 6 months.
- Travis McFarlane indicated they are 100 % done installing fiber in Ludington and already have about 10% of customers served signed up. He hopes to have the entire Lincoln/Ludington project completed by Thanksgiving.
- Chris Crawford of Charter/Spectrum indicated they are working to complete their grant area in Pleasant Valley and Washington. He also noted that most of the RDOF project is complete. He clarified for the committee that Charter/Spectrum will not be covering the HH project area due to project estimating issues.

### **BEAD Update by Mark Leonard of the PSC**

Mark Leonard of the PSC updated the committee on the NTIA Bead Challenge Map and the letter of intent process. He confirmed with the committee that there are 309 BEAD eligible locations that remain in the county. He reviewed the point systems that would be used to award projects. He suggested the committee select only one ISP to endorse to avoid diluting the potential points across ISPs. He said the project units have not been released yet and the committee should be prepared to support a resolution.

Clerk Eslinger agreed to call the ISPs serving Eau Claire County to gauge their interest in filing their Letter of Intent.

### **United Way Digital Equity & Inclusion Update – Ryan Ludy/Dr. Stacy Martin**

Ryan Ludy, United Way Executive Director introduced Dr. Stacy Martin to the committee. Dr. Martin was hired as the Community Impact Director. She'll focus on United Way's Digital Equity and Inclusion Initiatives along with supporting the Chippewa Valley Digital Inclusion Partnership (CHIP DIP). She updated the committee on device distributions, funding opportunities, the navigator efforts, and getting the CHIP DIP back together.

She noted that the United Way of Wisconsin is waiting to hear if they received a PSC Digital Connectivity & Navigator grant that would help with device distribution and provide money for digital navigators across the state. Lifeline Support offers \$9.25 monthly for eligible low-income residents for broadband internet service.

### **Next Steps and future meetings**

Tentatively October 17, 2024

### **Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned by unanimous consent at 5:35 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Rodney Eslinger  
Clerk, Committee on Planning & Development

**From:** [Travis McFarlane](#)  
**To:** [Rod Eslinger](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Lincoln Ludington Fall Creek ARPA Fund Request  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 2, 2024 8:30:47 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.jpg](#)

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

Good Morning Rod,

I would like to make a request for \$336,540.25 towards the Lincoln Ludington project. The Ludington half of the project is completed, and we will have the backlog of installs finished up next week.

Just an update, the town of Lincoln rural mainline is completed. The crews are in the Village of Fall Creek and we anticipate main line completion at the end of October. Drops, splicing and installs will follow.

Thanks,  
Travis



**Travis McFarlane**  
Senior Operations Manager, Bloomer Broadband

O: [715-568-4830](tel:715-568-4830) | C: [715-933-4460](tel:715-933-4460) | [bloomer.net](http://bloomer.net)  
[travis.mcfarlane@bloomerbroadband.com](mailto:travis.mcfarlane@bloomerbroadband.com) | [1120 15th Ave, Bloomer WI 54724](http://1120%2015th%20Ave.%20Bloomer%20WI%2054724)

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**From:** Rod Eslinger <[Rod.Eslinger@eauclairecounty.gov](mailto:Rod.Eslinger@eauclairecounty.gov)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 8, 2024 11:56 AM  
**To:** Travis McFarlane <[travis.mcfarlane@bloomerbroadband.com](mailto:travis.mcfarlane@bloomerbroadband.com)>  
**Subject:** RE: Lincoln Ludington Fall Creek ARPA Fund Request

Travis,

We're working on the PO and once we get that back we could possibly get the check mailed on the 16<sup>th</sup> or the 23<sup>rd</sup> at the latest.

**Rodney J. Eslinger**

*Planning and Development Director*

721 Oxford Ave., Suite 3344 • Eau Claire, WI 54703

**Direct:** 715-839-1657 **Cell:** 715-210-3624 **Fax:** 715-831-5802

**Email:** [rod.eslinger@eauclairecounty.gov](mailto:rod.eslinger@eauclairecounty.gov)



## Planning and Development

"Success is not the key to happiness. Happiness is the key to success. If you love what you are doing, you will be successful." -- Albert Schweitzer

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**From:** Travis McFarlane <[travis.mcfarlane@bloomerbroadband.com](mailto:travis.mcfarlane@bloomerbroadband.com)>

**Sent:** Thursday, August 8, 2024 9:24 AM

**To:** Rod Eslinger <[Rod.Eslinger@eauclairecounty.gov](mailto:Rod.Eslinger@eauclairecounty.gov)>

**Subject:** RE: Lincoln Ludington Fall Creek ARPA Fund Request

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Good Morning Rod,

Could you check status on this payment?

Thanks,

Travis



**Travis McFarlane**

Senior Operations Manager, Bloomer Broadband

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[travis.mcfarlane@bloomerbroadband.com](mailto:travis.mcfarlane@bloomerbroadband.com) | 1120 15th Ave. Bloomer WI 54724

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**From:** Travis McFarlane

**Sent:** Thursday, July 11, 2024 3:51 PM

**To:** Rod Eslinger <[Rod.Eslinger@eauclairecounty.gov](mailto:Rod.Eslinger@eauclairecounty.gov)>

**Subject:** RE: Lincoln Ludington Fall Creek ARPA Fund Request

Thanks Rod, I've added the info to the updated form.

While public facing everything is DBA – Bloomer Broadband, BTC will own / construction / provide services for this project as it is outside of Bloomer. BTC is wholly owned by Bloomer Broadband(Bloomer Telephone). So the FEIN provided is for BTC, not Bloomer Broadband. I only have a SAM for Bloomer Tel that I know of and provided that.

**Travis McFarlane**

Senior Operations Manager, Bloomer Broadband



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[travis.mcfarlane@bloomerbroadband.com](mailto:travis.mcfarlane@bloomerbroadband.com) | 1120 15th Ave, Bloomer WI 54724

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**From:** Rod Eslinger <[Rod.Eslinger@eauclairecounty.gov](mailto:Rod.Eslinger@eauclairecounty.gov)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 11, 2024 10:32 AM  
**To:** Travis McFarlane <[travis.mcfarlane@bloomerbroadband.com](mailto:travis.mcfarlane@bloomerbroadband.com)>  
**Subject:** RE: Lincoln Ludington Fall Creek ARPA Fund Request

Hi Travis,

Your information looks good overall, but can you provide your federal employee identification number. Also, if you have a System for Award Management (SAM) registration number, finance will want that as well.

Thanks,

**Rodney J. Eslinger**

*Planning and Development Director*

721 Oxford Ave., Suite 3344• Eau Claire, WI 54703

**Direct:** 715-839-1657 **Cell:** 715-210-3624 **Fax:** 715-831-5802

**Email:** [rod.eslinger@eauclairecounty.gov](mailto:rod.eslinger@eauclairecounty.gov)



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**From:** Travis McFarlane <[travis.mcfarlane@bloomerbroadband.com](mailto:travis.mcfarlane@bloomerbroadband.com)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 9, 2024 8:30 AM  
**To:** Rod Eslinger <[Rod.Eslinger@eauclairecounty.gov](mailto:Rod.Eslinger@eauclairecounty.gov)>  
**Subject:** Lincoln Ludington Fall Creek ARPA Fund Request

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Rod,

I've filled this out, making some assumptions where you want things. This is just for the first ½

of the match. Let me know if this looks good or if some adjustments need to be made.

Thanks,  
Travis



**Travis McFarlane**  
Senior Operations Manager, Bloomer Broadband

O: 715-568-4830 | C: 715-933-4460 | [bloomer.net](http://bloomer.net)  
[travis.mcfarlane@bloomerbroadband.com](mailto:travis.mcfarlane@bloomerbroadband.com) | 1120 15th Ave, Bloomer WI 54724

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---

**From:** Rod Eslinger <[Rod.Eslinger@eauclairecounty.gov](mailto:Rod.Eslinger@eauclairecounty.gov)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 27, 2024 9:13 AM  
**To:** Travis McFarlane <[travis.mcfarlane@bloomerbroadband.com](mailto:travis.mcfarlane@bloomerbroadband.com)>  
**Subject:** RE: June Broadband Committee - CANCELLED

Travis,

For the Seymour project, all I need is the information we were discussing in the attached emails as the committee already gave its approval to release the funds.

For the Ludington/Lincoln project, please complete the attached ARPA Fund Request application and turn it back into me no later than July 10<sup>th</sup>. A completed application should provide the committee with the necessary information to release the requested funds. Also, feel free to include other information or details that you feel necessary.

Reach out with your questions.

Thanks,

**Rodney J. Eslinger**

*Planning and Development Director*

721 Oxford Ave., Suite 3344 • Eau Claire, WI 54703

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**Planning and Development**

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doing, you will be successful." -- Albert Schweitzer

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**From:** Travis McFarlane <[travis.mcfarlane@bloomerbroadband.com](mailto:travis.mcfarlane@bloomerbroadband.com)>

**Sent:** Thursday, June 27, 2024 8:00 AM

**To:** Rod Eslinger <[Rod.Eslinger@eauclairecounty.gov](mailto:Rod.Eslinger@eauclairecounty.gov)>

**Subject:** RE: June Broadband Committee - CANCELLED

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Rod,

Good news, construction has started in Ludington today. I would hope we could make a funds request for the July 18<sup>th</sup> meeting for Fall Creek along with the Seymour request? With the meetings getting spaced out and the larger amount we are requesting for Fall Creek I'd like to make use of this meeting. I've got over \$250k in materials ordered so far, engineering over \$60k, monthly construction invoices typically run 400-600k. Let me know how we would want to determine the request amount.

Thanks,

Travis



**Travis McFarlane**

Senior Operations Manager, Bloomer Broadband

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[travis.mcfarlane@bloomerbroadband.com](mailto:travis.mcfarlane@bloomerbroadband.com) | 1120 15th Ave. Bloomer WI 54724

**\*\*Please note that we've changed our brand name to *Bloomer Broadband*. At your convenience, also update my email address.**

---

**From:** Rod Eslinger <[Rod.Eslinger@eauclairecounty.gov](mailto:Rod.Eslinger@eauclairecounty.gov)>

**Sent:** Monday, June 17, 2024 9:19 PM

**Cc:** Greg Dachel <[Greg.Dachel@eauclairecounty.gov](mailto:Greg.Dachel@eauclairecounty.gov)>; David Hayden

<[david.hayden@eauclairecounty.gov](mailto:david.hayden@eauclairecounty.gov)>; Samantha Kraegenbrink

<[Samantha.Kraegenbrink@eauclairecounty.gov](mailto:Samantha.Kraegenbrink@eauclairecounty.gov)>

**Subject:** June Broadband Committee - CANCELLED

Good evening, Broadband Committee members:

After consulting with Chair Geboy, we have decided to cancel the June Broadband Committee meeting. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be July 18<sup>th</sup> at 4 pm, please add this date and time to your calendars.

Have a safe and happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July!

**Rodney J. Eslinger**

*Planning and Development Director*



721 Oxford Ave., Suite 3344 • Eau Claire, WI 54703

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**Email:** [rod.eslinger@eauclairecounty.gov](mailto:rod.eslinger@eauclairecounty.gov)



## Planning and Development

“I’ve learned that something constructive comes from every defeat.” – Tom Landry

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understanding.

Resolution No. [Resolution Number]

A Resolution of the Eau Claire County Board of Supervisors Endorsing [Eligible Entity Name] Application for BEAD Funding for Broadband Expansion in Eau Claire County.

WHEREAS Broadband, Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) funding is available for unserved and underserved households and businesses within [Name of Governmental Body]; and

WHEREAS the Eau Claire County Board of Supervisors recognizes that broadband connectivity and reliability are critical infrastructure for health, safety, and quality of life for all community residents to participate in the full benefits of our society and economy, including access to telemedicine, educational, and economic opportunities; and

WHEREAS the Eau Claire County Board of Supervisors established a Broadband Committee in 2019; and

WHEREAS a [countywide/Tribal] survey of broadband needs and issues was conducted in [Year] and found [insert relevant results]; and

WHEREAS, the Eau Claire County Broadband Committee has made recommendations for broadband infrastructure, identifying [geographic area(s)] and [technology or other priorities] as priorities; and

WHEREAS [Number] providers have been interviewed for partnership opportunities to meet [county/Tribal]-identified broadband infrastructure goals; and

WHEREAS [Eligible Entity Name] is seeking BEAD funding for the [Specific Geographic Area] of [Name of county/Tribe]; and

WHEREAS [Eligible Entity] is interested in addressing [priority/priorities] identified by our committee; and

WHEREAS, [Eligible Entity] has partnered with [Name of Governmental Body] on [name or number of grants] that resulted

in [e.g., number of locations served]; and

WHEREAS, [Eligible Entity Name] has a proven record of accomplishments in [Name of county/region] for [number of

years], having made investments in our communities since [Year]; and

WHEREAS, [Name of Governmental Body] has other MOUs or agreements with [Eligible Entity]; and

WHEREAS, [Eligible Entity] has discussed their plans at [ number] of broadband committee meetings, attended public

events, and engaged with libraries, school districts, housing authorities, and nonprofits on the following dates [Insert list of

meeting dates];

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the [Name of Governmental Body] Board of Supervisors [or equivalent] endorses

[Eligible Entity]'s application for BEAD funding for [Geographic Area], using [e.g. technology].

DRAFT



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# INTERNET FOR ALL WISCONSIN

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## *Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Grant Program*

### *Frequently Asked Questions*

*Version: 1*

*Revised: 10/3/2024*



Public Service Commission  
of WISCONSIN



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Contact: [PSCBEADGrants@wisconsin.gov](mailto:PSCBEADGrants@wisconsin.gov)

Disclaimer: The guidance provided in this document is informational and cannot supersede Wisconsin or federal law, NTIA guidance, or the contents of the approved Initial Proposal. The Wisconsin Broadband Office reserves the right to modify this guidance as necessary to effectuate the goals of the BEAD program and remain compliant with NTIA requirements, including its Initial Proposal and any subsequent revisions.

## Challenge Process

### 1. What are the results of the Broadband Equity, Access, And Deployment (BEAD) Program challenge process?

The complete list of location challenges received, and their adjudication can be downloaded here: <https://apps.psc.wi.gov/pages/viewdoc.htm?docid=515715> (opens an excel file)

The complete list of community anchor institution challenges received, and their adjudication can be downloaded here: <https://apps.psc.wi.gov/pages/viewdoc.htm?docid=515716> (opens an excel file).

### 2. Will there be another opportunity for challenging locations and/or service?

Consistent with National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) requirements, the challenge process determination is complete, and the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (Commission) will not hold another challenge process. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) continues to accept location and service challenges on a rolling basis, and these are used to conduct periodic refreshes to the [National Broadband Map](#).

## Eligibility of Locations

### 3. What is a Broadband serviceable location (BSL)?

According to the FCC, a broadband serviceable location (BSL) is “a business or residential location in the United States at which mass-market fixed broadband Internet access service is, or can be, installed.”

For more information, see FCC’s help article [here](#).

### 4. What locations are eligible for BEAD funding?

BEAD eligible locations are any BSLs determined to be unserved or underserved per the approval of the BEAD Challenge process results by NTIA that are subsequently included in the final eligible list of locations.

Contact: [PSCBEADGrants@wisconsin.gov](mailto:PSCBEADGrants@wisconsin.gov)

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The Commission [has announced the preliminary determination of BEAD-eligible locations](#). The locations will be finalized following NTIA approval. Once approved by NTIA, the final eligible list of locations will be published to the docket 5-BCH-2024, accessible at the Commission’s website.

An [online map](#) is available to view these locations and the table below shows the preliminary count of BEAD eligible locations.

BEAD Eligibility Status	Count of BEAD-Eligible Locations
Unserved	98,685
Underserved	107,892
Total	206,577

[Docket 5-BCH-2024](#) also contains the preliminary determination of [BEAD-eligible CAIs](#), a [data dictionary](#), and a [summary of eligible locations by county](#).

**5. What is a community anchor institution (CAI), and are they eligible for BEAD funding?**

Informed by the definition of “community anchor institution” (CAI) in federal law, (47 USC 1702(a)(2)(e)), the Wisconsin Broadband Office (WBO) applied the definition of “community anchor institution” as: an entity such as a school, library, health clinic, health center, hospital or other medical facilities, public safety entity, institution of higher education, public housing organization (including any public housing agency or Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)-assisted housing organization), or community support organization (CSO) that facilitates greater use of broadband service by vulnerable populations, including but not limited to low-income individuals, children, unemployed individuals, aged individuals, and incarcerated and formerly incarcerated individuals. Please see the approved [Initial Proposal Volume 1](#) for details about each type of CAI.

CAIs lacking 1000/1000 Mbps symmetrical broadband service are eligible for BEAD funding, and they may be awarded funding by the Commission if funding remains after fulfilling the federal requirement to ensure all unserved and underserved BSLs in Wisconsin get service.

A list of community anchor institutions compiled as part of the BEAD Challenge Process can be found [here](#).

Contact: [PSCBEADGrants@wisconsin.gov](mailto:PSCBEADGrants@wisconsin.gov)

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## 6. What if a location is shown in the eligible locations list but is not actually a BSL?

With each iteration of data, the list of locations continues to become more accurate. However, errors remain. It is possible there are locations in the eligible locations list that are not BSLs and thus not eligible for funding, such as campsites, uninhabitable structures, haybales, or empty lots. Program participants are encouraged to identify such instances of incorrectly labeled locations and submit challenges to the FCC using the [fabric challenge process](#).

NTIA guidance is not yet available, but it is anticipated that WBO will be able to remove such “non-locations” from its grant awards and final list of funded locations.

## 7. What if a location is an entity that would not subscribe to mass market service because it would instead purchase enterprise-grade internet?

Unless an enterprise location is a Community Anchor Institution, it is not eligible for BEAD funding. Program participants are encouraged to identify instances of enterprise locations listed incorrectly as eligible and submit challenges to the FCC using the [fabric challenge process](#).

NTIA guidance is not yet available, but it is anticipated that WBO will be able to remove certain enterprise locations that are incorrectly labeled as eligible from its grant awards and final list of funded locations.

## Enforceable Funding Commitments

### 8. What is an enforceable funding commitment (EFC)?

An enforceable funding commitment (EFC) for the deployment of qualifying broadband exists when the commitment to deploy such infrastructure was made as a condition of receipt of certain federal or state funding, including but not limited to [funding administered by the Commission](#), Federal Communications Commission, National Telecommunications and Information Administration, U.S. Department of Treasury, and U.S. Department of Agriculture. For a full list of programs establishing an enforceable funding commitment, see the [BEAD NOFO at footnote 52 on page 36](#).

EFCs may also include federal funding allocated by a local unit of government that is derived from federal State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds the local government received under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA). See [here](#) for more information on local government commitments.

Contact: [PSCBEADGrants@wisconsin.gov](mailto:PSCBEADGrants@wisconsin.gov)

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**9. In the final eligible location list, my location was subject to an enforceable funding commitment (EFC) for an in-progress funding award. That award is no longer being constructed because the recipient has cancelled its project. Is this location eligible for BEAD?**

According to guidance from NTIA, locations may not be added to the list of eligible locations after NTIA's final determination of eligible locations. If a location was subject to an EFC that has now been withdrawn or defaulted after the final eligible list was published, the location is not eligible for BEAD funding.

**10. If there are new enforceable funding commitments (EFCs) for broadband projects that are established after September 1, should they still be submitted to the Wisconsin Broadband Office?**

Yes, if new enforceable funding commitments for qualifying broadband service are established after September 1, 2024. The recipient should contact the WBO at [PSCBEADGrants@wisconsin.gov](mailto:PSCBEADGrants@wisconsin.gov) for assistance on how to submit the information. EFCs submitted after September 1, 2024, will be addressed on a case-by-case basis depending on the timing of the BEAD process and the impacted locations.

## Project Units

**11. What is a project unit?**

Project units are predetermined groups of locations eligible for BEAD funding. Applicants will submit applications for funding for one or more project units per application. To learn more about project units, refer to the Initial Proposal Volume 2 on the [BEAD Grant webpage](#).

**12. When will project units become available?**

Project units will be finalized after WBO receives final approval from NTIA of its list of locations eligible for BEAD. This list will determine the locations that will be assigned to Project Units. The [preliminary list of eligible locations](#) was submitted to NTIA on August 27, 2024, and has not yet been approved. The Commission may publish preliminary project units prior to finalizing the project units.

**13. Is the Commission accepting public comments on project units?**

No, the Commission is not accepting public comment on Project Units.

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**14. What attributes are being used to create project units and will they cross county borders?**

A single project unit will always be within a single county or Tribal Nation. Project units will also generally not traverse railroad lines, except in cases where this is unavoidable due to the proximity and density of railroads.

Within these boundaries, project units will group nearby locations with a strong consideration for deployment feasibility, particularly considering the proximity by road distance of locations.

**15. What is the difference between a ‘separable’ and ‘non-separable’ project unit?**

Applicants will submit applications containing groups of project units they propose to serve. An applicant will have the option of specifying a unit as non-separable, meaning that the applicant would not accept the awarded project if that unit were not included because it cannot feasibly undertake the project without serving those locations. Separable units represent additional locations that an applicant would be willing to take or leave, depending on the results of deconfliction of other neighboring applications.

**16. How many project units can be included in an application?**

There is no hard limit on the number of project units that can be included in an application, but a single application cannot have project units that traverse more than four adjacent counties.

**17. Do project units submitted in a single application need to be adjacent to each other?**

While project units will not necessarily border each other like a jigsaw puzzle because project units will only group eligible locations, project units submitted in a single application may not be proposed for more than four counties at a time, and those counties must be contiguous (sharing a border). For example, an application proposing project units in Polk County could also include units in Barron, St. Croix or Burnett, but not Dodge.

**18. Can an application be submitted for a single project unit?**

Yes.

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**19. Is there a limit on the number of applications an eligible participant can submit?**

There is no specific limit on the number of BEAD applications that can be submitted overall, though an eligible applicant may submit a maximum of two applications that contain the same project unit. When an eligible entity is approved to apply for BEAD, per the letter of intent they will have a maximum number of locations that they may apply for, unless they request a waiver.

## Eligibility

**20. How are eligible applicants determined for the BEAD sub-granting process?**

Eligible applicants are those that meet the financial, managerial, operational, and technical requirements for participating in BEAD, as defined under the [BEAD Notice of Funding Opportunity](#) and approved Initial Proposal Volume 2. Applicants must have completed the Letter of Intent process consistent with the instructions posted [here](#) using the [PSC Grants System to be awarded](#). Further details and resources on the Letter of Intent and the Initial Proposal Volume 2 can be found on the [BEAD Grant Program webpage](#).

## Application Scoring and Minimum Criteria

**21. How is the scoring used in the BEAD Program sub granting process?**

All applications will be scored. For project units with only one project proposal, the application must reach the minimum threshold of 40 points to be awarded funding. In the event two project proposals are competing for the same locations, score will be used to compare project proposals using the same technology type. Score is primarily used when there are competing proposals using the same technology type for the same geographic area. See [Initial Proposal Volume 2](#) starting at page 29 for complete scoring details.

**22. Will all of the scoring criteria allow for partial points to be awarded based on how well the applicant's proposal meets the scoring criteria?**

Some scoring criteria utilize a formula, others allow for partial points, and some only allow for all or no points for the specific scoring criteria. See [Initial Proposal Volume 2](#) starting at page 29 for complete scoring details.

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### **23. What is the BEAD Match Threshold?**

A key requirement of the BEAD program is the threshold criteria that all applicants maximize the private share of funding allocated to a given project. Thus, the BEAD Match Threshold is the anticipated share of public BEAD grant funding that will be allocated for a given project unit, as a percentage of the total cost of that project unit.

Each project unit will be assigned a BEAD Match Threshold percentage, and applicants will need to submit applications that contain sufficient private match contributions to meet this ratio of public funding. If an application cannot meet the BEAD Match Threshold, it will be declined in the first round and forwarded to the next round.

See [Initial Proposal Volume 2](#) starting at page 28 for more detail on the BEAD Match Threshold.

## Affordability and Low-Cost Service Plan

### **24. What are the criteria for the low-cost service plan?**

In general, the low-cost service plan requires recipients of BEAD funding to offer a discounted rate of service to any ACP eligible households at a rate of no more than \$40 per month for a 100/20 Mbps plan.

The required low-cost plan applies only to locations receiving new or improved service as a result of BEAD funding i.e. locations in project units. All BEAD sub-recipients and any future owners of the facilities during the useful life of the network assets, will be contractually required to offer the low-cost service plan.

A complete description of the criteria for the low-cost service plan can be seen in [Initial Proposal Volume 2](#) starting at page 81.

### **25. What households will be eligible for the low-cost service plan?**

Unless a successor program is established, eligibility will be the same as was used for the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP), which includes households that have incomes at or below 200 percent of [federal poverty guidelines](#); participate in certain assistance programs, such as Lifeline, Medicaid, SNAP, federal public housing assistance, WIC, SSI, or Tribal specific programs; households with kids receiving free and reduced-price lunch or school breakfast; and Pell grant recipients.

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**26. How will a recipient know if a household is eligible for the low-cost service plan?**

If ACP or a successor program is not active when the BEAD networks are placed in service and thus unable to determine eligibility through the national verifier, providers will be required to participate in another forthcoming eligibility verification tool. Providers will not be required to develop their own verification methods.

## Engagement and Endorsement Scoring Criteria

Note: the following questions summarize guidance also found in the [Engagement and Endorsement FAQ](#).

**27. How many engagement points are available and what type of engagement is required?**

Up to five points (of 100 total) are available for the support and engagement scoring criteria. See the [Engagement and Endorsement FAQ](#) for types of engagement and examples of documentation for each sub-category within this scoring criteria.

**28. Will partial points be awarded for the subcategories of the engagement scoring criteria?**

Yes, applicants may receive up to the total number of points available for each sub-category listed in the support and engagement table above depending on the quality of the engagement and the extent to which it is documented.

**29. How is the scoring used in the BEAD Program sub granting process?**

All applications will be scored. For project units with only one project proposal, the application must reach the minimum threshold of 40 points to be awarded funding in Round 1 or Round 2. In the event two project proposals are competing for the same locations, score will be used to compare project proposals using the same technology type. Score is primarily used when there are competing proposals using the same technology type for the same geographic area. (See Initial Proposal Volume 2 for complete scoring details.)

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**30. Does an applicant need to provide evidence that shows engagement with all possible engagement stakeholders referenced in each sub-category? For example, if there are multiple municipal governments or school districts within an applicants proposed project area, must the applicant receive letters of support from all of them to be considered for the full point allotment for the respective sub-category?**

Applicants are encouraged but not required to seek engagement with local government and key stakeholders. Higher points will be provided for engagement that demonstrates robust and representative sampling of the most impacted local governments, school districts, libraries, etc. In general, larger projects affecting a broad geographic area should expect to document more engagements and letters of support to earn higher points.

**31. Is there a window of time in which the community engagement sessions must occur?**

Community engagement must happen before an application for funding is submitted. Applications must document this community engagement activity(ies), which may happen as early as April 29, 2024, and through the application submission.

**32. Should the letters of support be provided directly from the signatory to the Commission or included in the application?**

Letters of support must be provided within the application submission and are due at the time of the application. Any letters submitted outside of the application system will not be considered.

**33. Who should letters of support be addressed to?**

Cru Stublely  
Secretary to the Commission Public Service Commission of Wisconsin  
4822 Madison Yards Way  
Madison, Wisconsin 53705

**34. How many endorsement criteria points are available and what type of endorsement is required?**

Up to seven points (of 100 total) are available for endorsement from a County and/or Tribe. See the table above for documentation required for endorsement.

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**35. Can endorsement authority be delegated to a broadband committee or an individual official of the county governmental body?**

No. An endorsement must occur by an affirmative vote or official action of the representative body and cannot be delegated to individuals or appointed groups. For a county government, the endorsement must come from the county board.

**36. If an applicant includes project units that span more than one county and/or Tribe in their application, how will points be awarded if the applicant only receives one endorsement from a county/Tribe, for example?**

Points are assigned to each project unit individually. Thus, if a project receives endorsement from only some of the counties or Tribal lands it affects, points will be assigned solely to project units within that county's territory and/or that Tribal land. For an entire area to gain full points, an applicant would need to secure endorsement from all impacted counties and Tribal lands.

**37. Can an entity (county/Tribe) endorse for specific geographic boundaries?**

Yes. An endorsement may be provided based on the boundary of a political subdivision, such as specifying the BEAD applicant is endorsed for any BEAD broadband deployment within a specific township or municipal boundary. Alternatively, an endorsement may be provided for any application by the applicant within the entire county or Tribal Nation.

**38. Can an entity (county/Tribe) endorse different applicants for different areas?**

Yes. An endorsement may specify an applicant is endorsed for only a portion of its geographic area, as long as the boundary is clearly specified as one of the following: a group of project units, or a town, township, village, or city boundary.

**39. Does an endorsement need to be solidified specifically through a resolution?**

No, the official action does not need to be a resolution and can be a simple proposed action with a voice vote, for example. Documentation must clearly and affirmatively endorse the BEAD applicant and the documentation may specify a geographic boundary within the endorsement.

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## Application Process

### **40. Will potential eligible applicants have the ability to correct and/or improve the letter of intent submission after the October 1, 2024, submission deadline?**

An initial submission of the Letter of Intent was due October 1. Commission staff will review submissions and identify errors or omissions, which an applicant will be able to correct through a curing process that will extend for at least 30 days after the submission deadline.

### **41. Will potential applicants be notified of their letter of intent submission status on a rolling basis, or will all submitters be contacted after a specific date?**

Potential applicants will be provided ongoing status updates related to their submitted LOI at the contact email provided with their application. Please contact [PSCBEADGrants@wisconsin.gov](mailto:PSCBEADGrants@wisconsin.gov) for questions related to your Letter of Intent status. A determination of eligible participants and any conditions related to approved entities will be posted to the docket 5-BD-2025.

## Grant agreement and Eligible Costs

### **42. Will this program be reimbursement based?**

Yes. Applicants will be required to document costs incurred consistent with Commission reimbursement requirements, which specify costs must be allocable and directly attributable to the project. In addition to the actual costs along with supporting documentation, the subrecipient will be required to meet certain performance milestones to receive payment. Reimbursements will be available every six months for subrecipients with documented eligible costs who have also met their performance milestone(s).

### **43. Will the grant funds be Fixed Amount Subawards?**

Yes, Wisconsin will issue fixed amount subawards and will use the NTIA guidance from the [Tailoring the Application of Uniform Guidance to the BEAD Program](#) policy notice. Wisconsin will require documentation and certain performance milestones be met to receive reimbursement.

### **44. When will BEAD costs become eligible for reimbursement?**

The Commission is waiting for further guidance from NTIA regarding eligible costs and the performance period. Until further determination is made, it is recommended that

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prospective applicants begin documenting allocable, reasonable BEAD expenses effective August 1, 2024, the date the letter of intent process opened.

Until a grant award is approved by NTIA and a grant agreement is executed between the applicant and the Commission, all costs incurred are at the risk of the applicant. Further, there is no guarantee costs are eligible for reimbursement until they have been reviewed and approved by Commission staff based on the federal guidance.

**45. Will a draft grant agreement be made available before the sub granting process begins?**

Yes, a draft grant agreement will be made available on the BEAD grant webpage before the first application round opens.

**46. Will awardees be required to pay prevailing wages and benefits to workers, including compliance with Davis-Bacon and Service Contract Act requirements?**

No, per the approved Initial Proposal Volume 2, the WBO will not require awardees to pay federally-established prevailing wages and benefits or comply with “Davis-Bacon” requirements.

Awardees for projects over \$5,000,000 (based on expected total cost) will need to provide a certification that, for the relevant Project, all laborers and mechanics employed by contractors and subcontractors in the performance of such Project are paid wages at rates not less than those prevailing, as determined by the U.S. Secretary of Labor in accordance with subchapter IV of chapter 31 of title 40, United States Code (commonly known as the “Davis-Bacon Act”), for the corresponding classes of laborers and mechanics employed on projects of a character similar to the contract work in the civil subdivision of the State (or the District of Columbia) in which the work is to be performed, or by the appropriate State entity pursuant to a corollary State prevailing-wage-in-construction law (commonly known as “baby Davis-Bacon Acts”). If such certification is not provided, an awardee must provide a project employment and local impact report detailing:

- a. The number of contractors and subcontractors working on the Project;
- b. The number of workers on the Project hired directly and those hired through a third party;
- c. The wages and benefits of workers on the Project by classification; and
- d. Whether any of the reported wages are at rates less than those prevailing.

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**47. How will awardees need to comply with Build America, Buy America (BABA) provisions?**

A [waiver was approved](#) for recipients of BEAD funds. NTIA's BABA waiver for the BEAD Program requires certain equipment be produced in the U.S., while waiving the domestic manufacturing requirement for other equipment. These BABA requirements will affect a range of stakeholders who will be responsible for demonstrating compliance and reporting. For more details see [NTIA's Build America, Buy America](#) webpage.

The Department of Commerce (DOC) hosts a BEAD BABA 'Self-Certification' list, which manufacturers can, at the risk of penalty, certify that certain equipment they produce meets the domestic manufacturing requirements described in the BEAD BABA waiver. More information on the Self-Certification list can be found at that [Office of Acquisition Management Build America Buy America](#) page.

## Permitting and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Review

**48. Do all permitting requirements need to be completed when an application is submitted?**

No, but applicants should be evaluating potential environmental and historical impacts and permitting jurisdictions before submitting applications to ensure they adequately budget for such costs as part of their proposed project. After awards are finalized and approved by NTIA, a comprehensive analysis of environmental impacts as required by NEPA must be conducted, along with a description of how the applicant will comply with requirements and obtain all permits and approvals. The NEPA process must be completed by the Commission and NTIA before construction of the project begins.

**49. What role do state, county and local government have in helping with permitting for BEAD projects?**

For projects in your area, state agencies and county and local governments can assist applicants by providing information about what permits will be required. Government officials can provide information on sensitive resources (wetlands, streams, endangered species, etc.) to the applicant. Government officials can also share publicly available mapping information to inform applicant's decision making. While state government is responsible for much of the environmental permitting projects will require, applicants should also check with local and county governments about applicable permitting regulations.

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**50. NEPA review can be a time-consuming process. How are NTIA and the PSC working to address this known barrier?**

NTIA has provided resources for potential applicants which can you find here:

<https://broadbandusa.ntia.gov/assistance/permitting>

Particularly helpful for planning stages is [the Permitting and Environmental Mapping Tool](#), designed to help federal broadband grant recipients and subgrantees identify and understand the types of permits they will need and plan routes for their potential broadband deployments.

NTIA has also announced a set of broadband-specific categorical exclusions that may apply to certain projects, reducing the review time needed. See the [Guidance on NTIA National Environmental Policy Act Compliance document](#) for more details.

NTIA has made the Commission a joint lead agency for NEPA reviews, meaning that the Commission has hired dedicated staff to perform NEPA reviews, and prepare NEPA documents before submitting them to NTIA for review and approval.

The Commission continues to seek guidance from NTIA as it works to further develop processes for federal NEPA reviews. If you have additional questions, please email: [PSCBEADGrants@wisconsin.gov](mailto:PSCBEADGrants@wisconsin.gov).

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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.

- **Resolution/Letter Submission:** BEAD applicants will need the resolution or letter to submit their application. Ensure the BEAD applicants can state they are approved to apply for BEAD funding by the Wisconsin Broadband Office (WBO) and have identified the town, village, city, or project unit they are applying for.

## Important Notes:

- **ISP Information:** ISPs may not be ready for endorsement until they have seen the project areas they will include in their applications.
- **Multiple Endorsements:** You may endorse more than one application in various locations, or even a single area. Your endorsement is a “vote” for the projects that best meet your community’s needs. See this [frequently asked questions document](#) for more information on multiple endorsements and how they affect the application, starting on page 4.
- **Strategic Endorsements:** The points for endorsement (7 points) are potentially significant. Be strategic with your endorsements to avoid diluting your points. If all applicants are endorsed, it has the same effect as if no applicants were endorsed. Endorsement should be used to differentiate preferred applicants from the rest. This is your opportunity to express your preferences and why.

## Requirements

**Minimum requirements for scoring points** (page 33 of Wisconsin’s [Volume 2 Initial Proposal](#)):

*Local and Tribal Coordination: Endorsement by County and/or Tribe = 7 points available*

- 7 points = the County and/or Tribe where the project is located takes official action at a noticed, open meeting to affirmatively endorse the project. The action is memorialized in public minutes and an official letter of endorsement is provided.*

The Wisconsin Broadband Office has created a [guidance document](#) on engagement and endorsement points and you can find more information on the [PSC Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Grant \(wi.gov\)](#) page.

## Sample Language

Consider the following categories and sample language, and/or write your own.

At a minimum, try to include at least one statement from each of the five sections below, include more statements where you have more information. Keep your statements broad, but **make sure it’s clear why you are endorsing the project and what due diligence has been done by the county and the ISP.**

## Statement(s) that acknowledge the availability and purpose of BEAD funding:

- WHEREAS Broadband, Equity, Access, and Deployment program (BEAD) funding is available for unserved and underserved households and businesses, within [Name of Governmental Body];

- WHEREAS, the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program has been established to provide significant funding to expand high-speed internet access across the United States;
- WHEREAS the BEAD Program aims to bridge the digital divide by ensuring that all Americans, regardless of their geographic location, have access to reliable and affordable broadband services;
- WHEREAS the availability of BEAD funding is crucial for supporting infrastructure projects that will enhance connectivity for underserved and unserved households and businesses in [Name of Governmental Body];
- WHEREAS the purpose of BEAD funding includes promoting economic growth, improving educational opportunities, and enhancing healthcare services through better internet access;

### Statement(s) that acknowledge the county's support for broadband expansion and the work you have already done to understand broadband needs in your county:

- WHEREAS [Name of Governmental Body] Board of Supervisors [or equivalent] recognize that broadband connectivity and reliability is critical infrastructure for health, safety, and quality of life for all community residents to participate in the full benefits of our society and economy, including access to telemedicine, educational, and economic opportunities.
- WHEREAS, [Name of Governmental Body] Board of Supervisors [or equivalent] has established a broadband committee in [Insert Year Committee was Established]
- WHEREAS a countywide survey of broadband needs and issues was conducted in [year] and found [insert a relevant result]
- WHEREAS [Name of Governmental Body]'s Broadband Committee has made recommendations for broadband infrastructure, identifying [Insert Geographic areas you have identified as priorities], [Insert technologies you have approved], [affordability of pricing], [commitment to serve entire Tribe/county/town/community], etc as priorities... [insert other recommendations your committee has made that are relevant to this endorsement]
- WHEREAS, we have interviewed [Insert number of providers you have interviewed] of providers for partnership opportunities to meet our identified broadband infrastructure goals

### Statement(s) that acknowledge that the ISP is seeking BEAD funding:

- WHEREAS [Name of Eligible Entity] is seeking BEAD funding for the [Insert geographic area – this could be a list of towns, villages, cities, entire counties, or specific project unit in [Name of County]
- WHEREAS [Name of Governmental Body] plans to provide matching funds equivalent to X% of the estimated project costs (**NOTE: matching funds from the Governmental Body is NOT required**);

### Statement(s) that acknowledge the county's experience working with that ISP and/or the engagement efforts between the ISP and the county/communities in that county:

- WHEREAS [Name of Eligible Entity] is interested in addressing [insert a priority or priorities your Governmental Body has identified] priorities identified by our broadband committee.
- WHEREAS, [Name of Eligible Entity] has partnered with [Name of Governmental Body] on [insert names of grants or number of grants] grants that resulted in...

*(e.g., number of additional locations served.)*

- WHEREAS, [Name of Eligible Entity] has a proven record of accomplishments in [Name of county]/region] for [insert number] years, *(e.g., they have made investments in our communities since [insert year])*
- WHEREAS, [Name of Governmental Body] has other MOUs (Memoranda of Understanding) or agreements with [Name of Eligible Entity]
- WHEREAS [Name of Governmental Body] board has reviewed the plans and financial estimates of this project.
- WHEREAS, [Name of Eligible Entity] has discussed their plans at [Insert Number] of broadband committee meetings, *(attended public events, engaged with the libraries and/or school districts, housing authority, nonprofits, etc...) on the following date(s): [insert dates they attended meetings]*

### Your statement(s) of resolution/endorsement:

- Therefore, be it resolved that [Name of Governmental Body] Board of Supervisors [or equivalent] endorses [Name of Eligible Entity]'s application for BEAD funding for [Insert geographic location(s);] using [insert technology type or other priorities identified by your committee]
  - *Make sure to include a defined geographic area*
- Therefore, be it resolved, that [Governmental Body] endorses the application of [Eligible Entity's Name] for BEAD funding to support their broadband infrastructure project in [county/Tribal land];
- Be it further resolved, that [Governmental Body] directs its clerk [or equivalent] to draft and provide a letter to the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin and the applicant outlining this endorsement and verifying the applicant and geographic location affected, which shall include the minutes from this meeting.



## **SAMPLE RESOLUTION - Adjust the details to fit your specific situation.**

**Resolution No. [Resolution Number]**

**A Resolution of the [Name of Governmental Body] County Board of Supervisors [or equivalent] Endorsing [Eligible Entity]'s Application for BEAD Funding for Broadband Expansion in [Specific Geographic Area]**

**WHEREAS** Broadband, Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) funding is available for unserved and underserved households and businesses within [Name of Governmental Body]; and

**WHEREAS** the [Name of Governmental Body] Board of Supervisors [or equivalent] recognizes that broadband connectivity and reliability are critical infrastructure for health, safety, and quality of life for all community residents to participate in the full benefits of our society and economy, including access to telemedicine, educational, and economic opportunities; and

**WHEREAS** the [Name of Governmental Body] Board of Supervisors [or equivalent] established a Broadband Committee in [Year]; and

**WHEREAS** a [countywide/Tribal] survey of broadband needs and issues was conducted in [Year] and found [insert relevant results]; and

**WHEREAS**, the [Name of Governmental Body] Broadband Committee has made recommendations for broadband infrastructure, identifying [geographic area(s)] and [technology or other priorities] as priorities; and

**WHEREAS** [Number] providers have been interviewed for partnership opportunities to meet [county/Tribal]-identified broadband infrastructure goals; and

**WHEREAS** [Eligible Entity Name] is seeking BEAD funding for the [Specific Geographic Area] of [Name of county/Tribe]; and

**WHEREAS** [Eligible Entity] is interested in addressing [priority/priorities] identified by our committee; and

**WHEREAS**, [Eligible Entity] has partnered with [Name of Governmental Body] on [name or number of grants] that resulted in [e.g., number of locations served]; and

**WHEREAS**, [Eligible Entity Name] has a proven record of accomplishments in [Name of county/region] for [number of years], having made investments in our communities since [Year]; and

**WHEREAS**, [Name of Governmental Body] has other MOUs or agreements with [Eligible Entity]; and

**WHEREAS**, [Eligible Entity] has discussed their plans at [ number] of broadband committee meetings, attended public events, and engaged with libraries, school districts, housing authorities, and nonprofits on the following dates [Insert list of meeting dates];

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the [Name of Governmental Body] Board of Supervisors [or equivalent] endorses [Eligible Entity]'s application for BEAD funding for [Geographic Area], using [e.g. technology].

**Note: This sample resolution does not include all sample language mentioned in the guidance document.**

**All sample language is OPTIONAL and meant to serve as a guide rather than a template.**

## Sample Endorsement Letter – Adjust the details to fit your specific situation.

**NOTE: This sample letter of endorsement does not include all sample language included in the guidance document. Use statements that describe your specific situation.**

[Date]

Cru Stublely  
Secretary to the Commission  
Public Service Commission of Wisconsin  
4822 Madison Yards Way  
Madison, WI 53705

Dear Cru Stublely,

**Subject: Endorsement of [Eligible Entity]'s Application for BEAD Funding**

**Introduction:** Briefly introduce the purpose of the letter and state the county’s commitment to broadband expansion.

*Example: We are writing to express our endorsement of [Eligible Entity]'s application for Broadband, Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) funding to support broadband expansion in [Specific Geographic Area] of [Name of county/Tribe]. The [Name of Governmental Body] Board of Supervisors [or equivalent] recognizes the critical importance of broadband connectivity for the health, safety, and quality of life of our residents.*

**Acknowledgement of BEAD Funding:** Mention the availability and purpose of BEAD funding.

*Example: The BEAD program provides essential funding to address the needs of unserved and underserved households, businesses, and nonprofits within our county.*

**County’s Support for Broadband Expansion:** Highlight the county’s or Tribe’s efforts and commitment to broadband expansion; Mention any relevant committees, surveys, or initiatives.

*Example: The [Name of Governmental Body] Board of Supervisors [or equivalent] has established a Broadband Committee in [Year] to address the connectivity needs of our community. A [countywide/Tribal] survey conducted in [Year] identified significant gaps in broadband access, which our committee has prioritized for infrastructure development.*

**Eligible Entity’s BEAD Funding Application:** State that the Eligible Entity is seeking BEAD funding and specify the project area.

*Example: [Eligible Entity] is seeking BEAD funding to expand broadband services in [Specific Geographic Area] of [Name of county/Tribe]. This project aligns with our [county/Tribe]’s goals to enhance connectivity and provide reliable internet access to all residents.*

**County/Tribe’s Experience with Eligible Entity:** Detail the county’s experience and engagement with the Eligible Entity; Mention any past partnerships, grants, or collaborative efforts.

*Example: We have had a positive working relationship with [Eligible Entity], who has partnered with us on several grants, resulting in [number of additional locations served]. [Eligible Entity] has demonstrated a strong commitment to our community, making significant investments since [Year].*

**Resolution/Endorsement Statement:** Clearly state the county's endorsement of the Eligible Entity's application.

*Example: Therefore, the [Name of Governmental Body] Board of Supervisors [or equivalent] fully endorses [Eligible Entity]'s application for BEAD funding for the [Specific Geographic Area], utilizing [e.g., technology]. This endorsement was reviewed and approved by the [Name of Governmental Body] Board of Supervisors [or equivalent] on [date] at a [County Board/Tribal Governmental Body] meeting. Minutes of that meeting are attached/can be viewed at [insert where the minutes can be found].*

**Conclusion:** Reiterate the Governmental Body's support and commitment to the project. Offer any additional support or information if needed.

*Example: We are confident that [Eligible Entity]'s project will address the critical broadband needs of our community. Please feel free to contact us if you require any further information or support.*

Sincerely,

[Your Name, title, county/Tribe, contact information]