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State Broadband Grant, BEAD Updates

1 message

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Thu, Jun 25, 2026 at 10:57 AM

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Volume 72 - June 2026

2026 State Broadband Expansion Grant Open

The Public Service Commission is currently accepting applications for the 2026 State Broadband Expansion Grant Program. Applications are due by July 27 at 1:30 p.m. CST. Earlier this month, the Commission hosted a webinar to provide more information for applicants. A [recording](#) and [slides](#) from the webinar are available on the [Broadband Expansion Grant Webpage](#). To assist applicants, the Commission published a [map of presumptively eligible locations](#); [a list of eligible broadband serviceable locations](#) and a [summary of locations by county and by community](#). On June 2, 2026, the Commission updated the [Grant Application Instructions](#) to include information about how applicants can request the required no-cost license from CostQuest Associates for the broadband fabric. Most recently - on June 24, 2026 - the Commission released a [frequently asked questions \(FAQ\) document](#) which clarifies that the performance period for the FY2026 state broadband expansion grant projects will extend until September 30, 2029.

Broadband Expansion Grant Webpage

State Grant FAQ

Wisconsin BEAD Updates

BEAD Scope Changes Approved by NTIA

Following NTIA's approval of Wisconsin's BEAD Final Proposal in December 2025, a number of awarded projects have been adjusted. NTIA approved these budget and scope changes to Wisconsin BEAD projects on June 15, 2026. Approved changes include removing locations from awards that are reported as served by the FCC and re-awarding locations that were to be served by an award that was cancelled. Complete details and updated data of the BEAD award adjustments are available in the [BEAD Awarded Projects Adjustments Letter](#). The [Wisconsin BEAD Awardee Map](#) has been updated to reflect these approved adjustments.

Progress Towards Executing BEAD Grant Agreements

The Commission continues to make significant progress on the execution of BEAD grant agreements. As of June 24, 2026, sixty-six (more than half) of all grant agreements have been executed and 20 of the 28 awardees have executed agreements for all of their projects. The executed agreements total \$354 million in BEAD funding or more than half of awarded funds. The remaining agreements are anticipated to be executed over the summer.

July Governor's Task Force on Broadband Access meeting

The July meeting of the [Governor's Task Force on Broadband Access](#) is scheduled for Wednesday, July 15, 2026, from 12:45 p.m. –1:45 p.m. CST. The meeting will be virtual. The meeting is open to the public and **registration is required**. The meeting agenda and a

The meeting is open to the public and registration is required. The meeting agenda and a link to register for the meeting will be posted to the [Commission Calendar](#) at least 24 hours in advance and will include information on how members of the public can watch and listen online.



Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

UW Extension Webinar – State Broadband Expansion Grant: How does it help fill your County’s Gaps in Service?

On Monday June 29, 2026 at 2:00 p.m. CST, UW Extension will host a webinar on the State Broadband Expansion Grant program. The webinar will cover eligibility of applicants, identifying eligible projects and gaps in services, keys to forming a good public-private partnership, and tools applicants and communities can use to formalize and document partnerships to increase their application score. More information about the webinar can be found [here](#).

Register

Federal Broadband Updates

Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program and Native Entities Grant Opportunities

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) released the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO documents) for the [Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program, Round Three](#), (TBCP 3) and [Native Entities Grant Program](#) (NEGP).

TBCP 3 makes \$540 million available to Tribal Governments, higher education institutions and organizations for broadband infrastructure deployment; and for broadband affordability and adoption programs.

NEGP makes \$250 million available to Tribal Nations or Consortium of Tribal Nations for developing and implementing broadband adoption and digital upskilling activities (such as those that facilitate educational and employment opportunities); subsidies for equipment and services to access broadband; and to construct, expand, or operate new or existing public access computing centers through Community Anchor Institutions (CAIs).

Applications for both programs are due to NTIA by September 17, 2026, 11:59 p.m. ET.

Office of Management and Budget Accepting Comments on Changes to Uniform Guidance

On May 29, 2026, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) [proposed sweeping changes](#) to overhaul the set of rules, known as the Uniform Guidance, governing federal

grants, cooperative agreements, and other monetary awards to nonprofits, state and local governments, and other grantees. The impact of the proposed rule on grants and other forms of federal financial assistance could be significant. The proposed rule spans more than 400 pages and can be [reviewed here](#). A summary of the proposed changes and their impact on broadband funding from the Benton institute can be [found here](#).

Public comment period ends July 13, 2026 11:59 p.m. EDT. Find more information and [file a comment here](#). OMB seeks a final rule effective date of October 1, 2026, to be implemented in all new awards and amendments in 2027.

USDA Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grants Accepting Applications

The U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development invites eligible applicants to apply for grant funding from the Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grants Program. This competitive program helps rural communities use advanced telecommunications technology to connect to each other - and the world. USDA Rural Development is making approximately \$27 million available. Applications are due June 30, 2026. [More information here](#).

The Blueprint for Equitable Digital Participation

This paper by Public Knowledge Broadband Policy Director Alisa Valentin, Ph.D., and UnidosUS Senior Civil Rights Policy Advisor Claudia Ruiz, reveals that affordable, reliable high-speed internet is a foundational prerequisite for participation in modern-day life.

Blueprint for Equitable Digital Participation

How States Can Address Broadband Worker Shortages

This analysis by Lexi West, from Pew Charitable Trusts, provides a review of workforce programs and opportunities that may be used to address the worker available, wages and competition barriers that will impact labor for BEAD and other broadband deployment.

Broadband Worker Shortages

Grant Recipient Corner

BEAD Semi Annual Report (SAR): For subrecipients who have an executed grant agreement, their first Semi Annual Report will be due July 10. Reporting materials will be posted on the [BEAD webpage](#) soon and reports should be filed to the project dockets in the [PSC Grants Management System](#). Questions should be directed to the PSC BEAD team at PSCBeadGrants@wisconsin.gov.

Capital Projects Fund Broadband Infrastructure (5-CPF-2023) and Capital Projects Fund Digital Connectivity and Navigators (5-CPF-2024) Quarterly Reports are due July 10, 2026 and should be filed in the [PSC Grants Management System](#). Questions should be directed to the CPF team at PSCCapitalProjectsFund@wisconsin.gov.

Wisconsin Broadband Office Newsletter



The Wisconsin Broadband Office will send out regular communication to internet service providers, grant applicants and broadband stakeholders. We aim to be relevant and share timely information from our office.

Please reach out if anyone from the Wisconsin Broadband Office can be of assistance or if you would like to request a staff member attend a meeting or make a presentation to your group. [Email Us](#)

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