

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 21, 2020

Contact: Matt Sweeney, 608-266-9600 matthew.sweeney@wisconsin.gov

PSC Schedules Webinars for Broadband Expansion Grant Applicants

Applications for \$24 million in funding due December 1, 2020

MADISON - Today, the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (PSC) announced a series of webinars designed for interested persons and potential applicants to learn more about the Broadband Expansion Grant application process. Applications for \$24 million in available funding are currently being accepted until December 1, 2020. This year, the PSC is adding a new webinar session dedicated to properly mapping a broadband project.

Webinar Schedule

Broadband Grant and Instructions Overview Thursday September 24th 9:00 - 10:00 AM -Register here

How to Map Your Broadband Grant Project Thursday October 8th 2:00 - 3:00 PM - Register here

Broadband Grant and Instructions Overview (repeat of 9/24) Wednesday October 21st 2:00 - 3:00 PM - Register here

This is the second round of funding that was appropriated in the 2019-2021 state biennial budget. The available grant funding is equal to the 2020 grant round which, at the time, was more funding offered than all the seven previous rounds combined.

The 2019-2021 biennial budget, which was signed by the Governor Evers last year, provided \$48 million over the biennium for broadband expansion grants. For the 2020 round of funding, the PSC received 143 applications requesting \$50.3 million for large and small projects. In March of this year, the PSC awarded 72 grants to extend high-speed internet access to as many as 3,182 businesses and 46,537 homes, including 39,778 locations that are currently unserved.

The broadband expansion grants aim to help private companies find a path to return on investment in areas of the state that are challenging to serve. Since 2014, 210 grants have been awarded, and have connected or are in the process of connecting over 7,000 businesses and 117,000 homes to high-speed broadband internet service.

The PSC is expected to award the 2021 grants in spring of 2021.

Click <u>here</u> for application materials and more information about the Broadband Expansion Grant Program and past recipients.

###