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Contact: Meghan Sovey, 608-266-9600

meghan.sovey1@wisconsin.gov

**Governor's Broadband Access Task Force Kicks Off Fourth Year**

*Task Force members connect and discuss ways to continue success of recent years*

MADISON – On Wednesday, the Governor's Task Force on Broadband Access held its first meeting to kick off the fourth year of work to improve broadband access in Wisconsin.

In its fourth year, the Governor's Task Force on Broadband Access will work alongside a network of partners to prepare to capitalize on federal funds. During the Task Force's first meeting, members continued work related to the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law's "Internet for All" initiative, including the Digital Equity Plan and the Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment (BEAD) Program. In addition, the Task Force heard from UW Extension representatives about Regional Broadband Planning Workshops.

"Access to affordable, reliable, high-speed internet is a necessity for families, businesses, and communities across our state. There is still more we can do to expand internet access—and with the Task Force's time and effort, we will be able to keep building upon our progress, getting folks connected and delivering internet for all in Wisconsin," said Governor Tony Evers.

Since 2019, Gov. Evers has allocated more than \$345 million in state and federal funds to expand high-speed internet, including the largest state investment in state history, ensuring that more than 395,000 homes and businesses will have new or improved service. Even still, more work remains as, according to the most recent estimates from the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), there are more than 251,000 unserved locations and more than 211,000 underserved locations in the state, as of August 2023.

Gov. Evers created the Task Force on Broadband Access in July 2020 to advise the governor and state legislature on broadband actions, policies, and strategies to successfully expand high-speed internet in Wisconsin. Since its inception, the Task Force has brought together a diverse group of members with relevant experience in this field. Through presentations and discussions, the Task Force has developed well-informed recommendations to expand access, adoption, and affordability of high-speed internet.

"Governor Evers' administration has done more to expand access to high-speed internet than any other, and I am proud to know the Task Force has helped contribute to this success," said PSC Chairperson Rebecca Cameron Valcq. "As the Task Force begins its fourth year, I look forward to seeing how members continue sharing their ideas and experiences to advance policy recommendations that will help our state bridge the digital divide."

The Governor's Task Force on Broadband Access will be led for the second consecutive year by its chair, Chris Meyer, Vice President of IT Innovation and Efficiency at Royal Credit Union. A full list of members and information about how to submit public comments can be found on the [Task Force webpage](#). Support for the Task Force is provided by the PSC's Wisconsin Broadband Office. Members of the public can visit the [Task Force webpage](#) to find Task Force meeting information and agendas with meeting links. All Task Force meetings are open to the public. The next report from the Task Force is due to the governor and state legislature on June 30, 2024.

The next open meeting for the Governor's Task Force on Broadband Access is scheduled for November 8, 2023 at 1:00 pm.

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