



# Public Service Commission of Wisconsin

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Public Service Commission of Wisconsin  
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August 14, 2023

To: Persons Interested in the Broadband Grant Programs

Re: Capital Projects Fund Broadband Infrastructure  
Grant Program

5-CPF-2023

Announcement Opening the Grant Cycle

The Public Service Commission (Commission) is pleased to announce that it is now accepting applications for Capital Projects Fund (CPF) Broadband Infrastructure Program, which will make available \$42 million for deployment of broadband infrastructure in areas lacking access to wireline service of 100 Megabits per second (Mbps) download and 20 Mbps upload. Application instructions are now available on the [Capital Projects Broadband Infrastructure webpage](#).

Funding is derived from the U.S. Department of Treasury's Capital Projects Fund and is subject to different program guidance and compliance and reporting requirements than previous broadband grant rounds. The COVID-19 public health emergency highlighted shortcomings in U.S. infrastructure and revealed the importance of access to high-quality internet for work, education, and health monitoring. The Program will prioritize funding to serve communities that were disproportionately affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and continue to be at higher risk for future disaster due to lack of access to critical services such as broadband. CPF Infrastructure Grants will also prioritize affordability for customers.

CPF Infrastructure Grants will be evaluated by a screening panel and staff using a scoring rubric included in the grant instructions. Scoring is developed consistent with the priority criteria laid out in federal guidance. Commissioners are not bound by the scoring criteria or resulting merit list, which will be for advisory purposes only. The Commissioners, as the finder of fact and decision makers, are charged with evaluating all available information and applying any relevant statutory and federal criteria to reach well-reasoned decisions.

Beginning with this grant round, applicants are **required** to submit broadband serviceable location fabric (BSLF) data for each eligible location in their proposed project. BSLF data is available through licensing with CostQuest Associates. The site to request a Tier D license is: <https://apps.costquest.com/NTIArequest/>. The email address to request support is [ifasupport@costquest.com](mailto:ifasupport@costquest.com). **Prospective applicants should submit the request for a license at least 45 days (September 23) in advance of the application due date.**

Applicants are required to submit applications using the [PSC Grants System](#). Detailed instructions on submitting an application are available as part of the [Application Instructions](#).

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An [online map](#) is available to show areas eligible for funding due to the lack of access to 100/20 wireline service, and areas prioritized due to COVID impacts.

A schedule for the grant round is listed below. Applications will be accepted until 1:30 p.m. on November 7, 2023, after which the Grant System will close and be unable to accept further applications. The Commission strictly enforces the filing deadline for submitting applications and late applications will not be accepted.

### Schedule of Events

DATE	EVENT
Aug. 14, 2023	Date of issue of the application instructions
Oct. 2, 2023	Last day to submit questions and requests for clarification
Nov. 6, 2023	Last day to request Grant System assistance
<b>Nov. 7, 2023, 1:30 PM CT</b>	Applications due in Grants System
Nov. 30, 2023, 1:30 PM CT	Objections to grant application are due
Dec. 14, 2023, 1:30 PM CT	Responses to objections are due

A series of webinars are being held for interested applicants. A [Capital Projects Application Overview Webinar](#) will be held on September 8 at 11:00 a.m. and a [How to Map Your Capital Project Webinar](#) will be held on September 14 at 1:00 p.m.

Applicants are encouraged to start the application process early to identify questions or familiarize themselves with Grants System, application questions, BSLF licensing, or geospatial data requirements. If you require assistance, please contact [PSCCapitalProjectsFund@wisconsin.gov](mailto:PSCCapitalProjectsFund@wisconsin.gov) before the deadlines above. Further, it is recommended you submit your application well in advance of the deadline.

Sincerely,



Joe Fontaine  
Administrator  
Division of Digital Access, Consumer and Environmental Affairs

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