

Dane County Broadband Planning Meetings

DECEMBER 6TH AND 12TH

JARON MCCALLUM

DANE COUNTY BROADBAND COORDINATOR



Introductions

Let's go around the room and do brief introductions

- What is your name?
- What municipality do you live in and/or what community do you represent?
- What is your role?
 - Are you a locally elected official? A broadband champion? An engaged citizen?



Meeting Agenda

- Why broadband is important
- Broadband basics
- Overview of broadband in Dane County
- Past and present broadband funding
- BEAD Program
- Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP)
- Your role in broadband expansion as a municipality
- Broadband planning resources
- Demo of planning resources
- Questions/open discussion



Why should you care about broadband?

Broadband, or high-speed internet, is **vital** for a community success and prosperity

- Telework and remote working
- Remote learning and online education
- Telemedicine and virtual doctor's appointments
- Economic development (business connectivity and participation in the global economy)
- Home values and expanding tax base
- Attract new residents and retain current residents
- Tourism
- Applying for jobs, filling out online forms, vehicle registration
- Allowing elderly residents to age in place and stay connected with family/friends
- Overall quality of life (Netflix, Hulu, YouTube, smart devices, etc)
- And much, much more!



Broadband Basics

Technologies

- Fiber, Coaxial Cable, Fixed Wireless, Copper/DSL, Satellite, Cellular Mobile

Speeds

- 25/3 Mbps as a baseline speed
- 100/20 Mbps as a more functional speed
- It is really more about the experience of the user

Regulation

- Broadband industry as a whole is largely de-regulated
- Absent additional funding like broadband grants, internet service providers often look at the business case and economics to determine when and where to expand services



By the Numbers...

- 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.”
- 154,953 total broadband serviceable locations (BSLs)
- 12,877 (8.31%) are considered unserved or underserved
 - 7,407 (4.78%) underserved (lacking 100/20 Mbps)
 - 5,470 (3.53%) unserved (lacking 25/3 Mbps)
- 561,504 Dane County Population in 2020
- 248,795 Dane County Housing Units in 2020
- 24,529 Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) subscribers/households in Dane County, as of September 2023



Past and Present Broadband Funding

- Wisconsin State Funding administered by Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (PSC)
 - 2014 \$500,000
 - 2015 \$500,000
 - 2016 \$1.5 Million
 - 2017 \$1.5 Million
 - 2018 Round 1 \$1.5 Million
 - 2018 Round 2 \$7.69 Million
 - 2019 \$7.05 Million
 - 2020 \$24 Million
 - 2021 \$28.4 Million
 - 2022 \$125 Million
 - 2023 \$16.6 Million



Past and Present Broadband Funding

- Federal Funding administered by Public Service Commission of Wisconsin
 - 2023 Capital Projects Broadband Infrastructure \$42 Million (**APPLICATIONS ARE CURRENTLY UNDER REVIEW**)
 - 2022 American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) \$100 Million
 - 2020 Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) ~\$5 Million
- Federal Funding administered by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC)
 - Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF)
 - Charter Spectrum and AMG Technology Investment Group, LLC (NextLink)
 - Primarily in Eastern Dane County
 - Enhanced Alternative Connect America Cost Model (E-ACAM)
 - TDS and Mount Horeb Telephone Company (MHTC)
 - Primarily in Western Dane County



Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act

- The Infrastructure Law provides \$65 billion to connect all Americans to high-speed broadband internet that is affordable and reliable. Within the infrastructure law, there are several programs that support broadband planning, infrastructure, and adoption.
- Broadband, Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program \$42.45 Billion
- Total Wisconsin BEAD Funding Allocation: **\$1,055,823,573.71**
- BEAD Program will be administered for Wisconsin by the Wisconsin Broadband Office at the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (PSC)
- PSC will operate the allocation process: reviewing, scoring, and selecting recipients
- National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) will oversee to ensure compliance, approves proposals, and approve final allocation

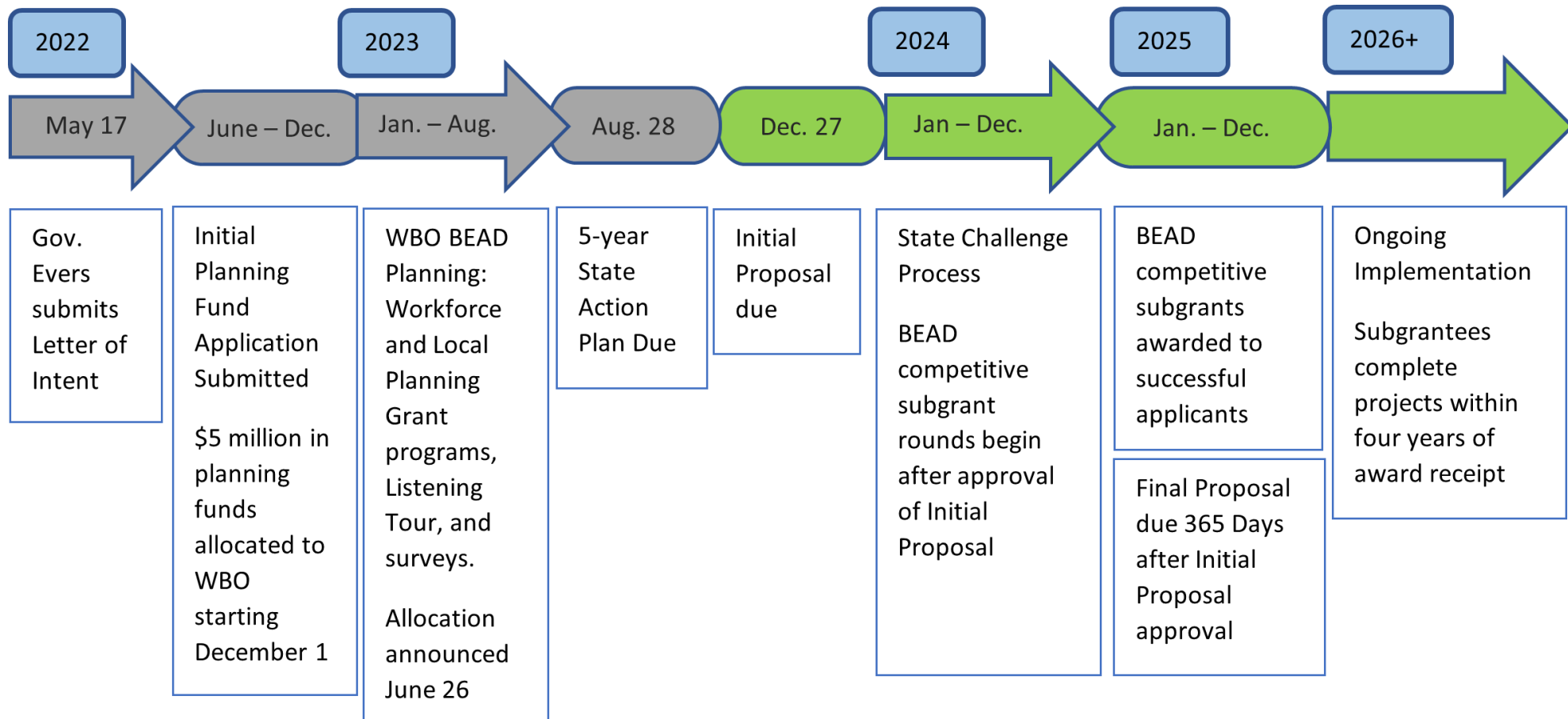


Broadband, Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program

- Total Wisconsin BEAD Funding Allocation: **\$1,055,823,573.71**
- BEAD Purpose: Every Wisconsinite has access to reliable, affordable, high speed internet.
- Where will be targeted with BEAD funding?
 - Highest priority: *unserved* households and businesses lacking 25/3 Mbps.
 - Eligible: *underserved* households and businesses lacking 100/20 Mbps.
 - Also eligible: community anchor institutions lacking 1 Gbps, and other digital equity and adoption activities.



Broadband, Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program



Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP)

- The Federal Communications Commission's Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) is a benefit program that helps ensure households can afford the internet connections they need for work, school, health care and more.
- Provides a discount of up to \$30 per month toward internet service for eligible households and up to \$75 per month for households on qualifying Tribal lands.
- Enrollment in the ACP is open for households with at least one member qualifying under any of the following criteria:
 - Has an income that is at or below 200% of the federal poverty guidelines;
 - Participates in certain assistance programs, such as SNAP, Medicaid, Federal Public Housing Assistance, SSI, WIC, or Lifeline;
 - Participates in Tribal specific programs, such as Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance, Tribal TANF, or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations;
 - Is approved to receive benefits under the free and reduced-price school lunch program or the school breakfast program, including through the USDA Community Eligibility Provision;
 - Received a Federal Pell Grant during the current award year; or
 - Meets the eligibility criteria for a participating provider's existing low-income program.



Your Role as Municipalities

- Reach out if you're a broadband champion!
- Education: check out federal, state, regional, and local resources and maps
- Think about your areas of need...where are your underserved and unserved areas? Are the maps accurate?
- Communicate and work with internet service providers
- Prepare for BEAD \$1.055 billion is coming to WI for broadband infrastructure
 - Consider a potential financial commitment to a grant application
 - Gather letters of support and local data
 - Local endorsement for BEAD
- Focus on issues like affordability and promotion of ACP
- Maybe you want to start a local broadband workgroup/task force
- Consider Broadband Forward! and/or Telecommuter Forward! certification



Resources

- [Dane County Broadband](https://broadband.countyofdane.com/) (<https://broadband.countyofdane.com/>)
- [Dane County Broadband Task Force](https://board.countyofdane.com/initiatives/Broadband-Task-Force) (<https://board.countyofdane.com/initiatives/Broadband-Task-Force>)
- [Affordable Connectivity Program](https://psc.wi.gov/Pages/ForConsumers/BroadbandDiscountProgram.aspx) (<https://psc.wi.gov/Pages/ForConsumers/BroadbandDiscountProgram.aspx>)
- [Internet Discount Finder](https://apps.psc.wi.gov/InternetDiscountFinder/) (<https://apps.psc.wi.gov/InternetDiscountFinder/>)
- [Wisconsin Broadband Office Homepage](https://psc.wi.gov/Pages/ServiceType/Broadband.aspx) (<https://psc.wi.gov/Pages/ServiceType/Broadband.aspx>)
- [Wisconsin Broadband Office Planning Map](https://maps.psc.wi.gov/apps/WisconsinBroadbandPlanningMap/) (<https://maps.psc.wi.gov/apps/WisconsinBroadbandPlanningMap/>)
- [FCC National Broadband Map](https://broadbandmap.fcc.gov/home) (<https://broadbandmap.fcc.gov/home>)
- [Internet for All Broadband Grants](https://psc.wi.gov/Pages/ServiceType/Broadband/InternetForAll.aspx) (<https://psc.wi.gov/Pages/ServiceType/Broadband/InternetForAll.aspx>)
- [WISER Speed Test and Survey](https://maps.psc.wi.gov/apps/WISER/index.html) (<https://maps.psc.wi.gov/apps/WISER/index.html>)
- [OptiMap Speed Test](https://madisonregion.org/test-your-speed/) (<https://madisonregion.org/test-your-speed/>)
- [UW-Extension Broadband Toolkit](https://economicdevelopment.extension.wisc.edu/broadband-toolkit/) (<https://economicdevelopment.extension.wisc.edu/broadband-toolkit/>)



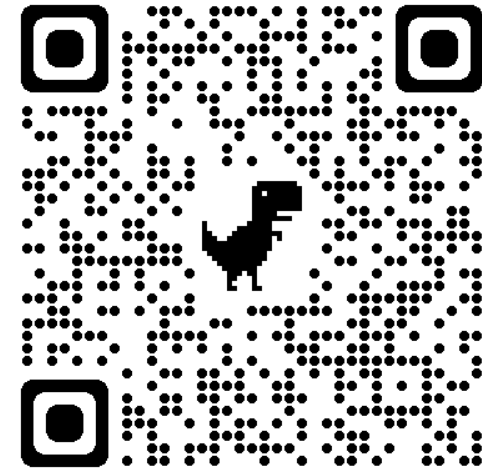
Website Demo: Dane County Broadband

- [Dane County Broadband \(https://broadband.countyofdane.com/\)](https://broadband.countyofdane.com/)



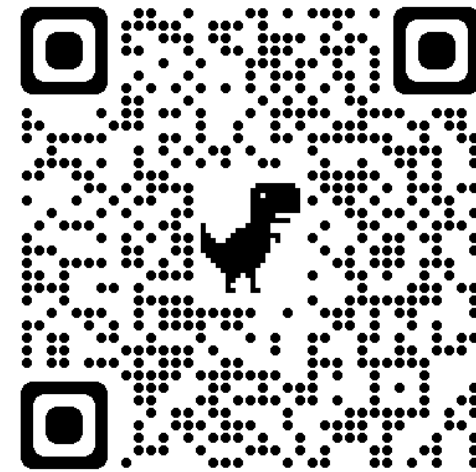
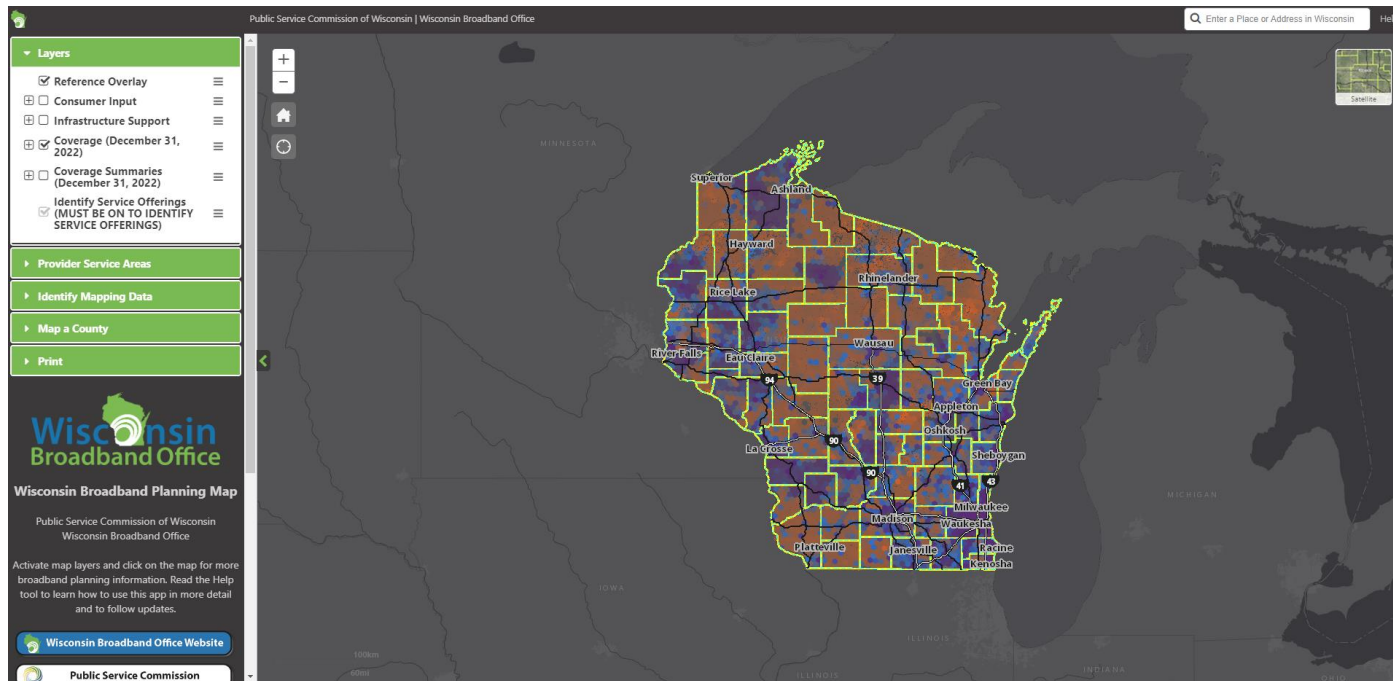
Dane County Broadband

Welcome to Dane County's broadband webpage! Thank you for stopping by. Here you will find various resources regarding broadband expansion, as well as updates on Dane County's broadband planning efforts. Broadband, also known as high-speed internet, is a top priority for Dane County as it is a key ingredient for community prosperity and success. Broadband plays a significant role in for business, education, health, and a resident's overall quality of life.



Live Demo: Broadband Planning Map

- [Wisconsin Broadband Office Planning Map](https://maps.psc.wi.gov/apps/WisconsinBroadbandPlanningMap/)
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Questions?

Jaron McCallum
Broadband Coordinator
[Dane County Planning and Development](#)
608-206-6316
McCallum.Jaron@countyofdane.com

