



**MARATHON COUNTY
BROADBAND TASK FORCE MEETING
AGENDA**

Date & Time of Meeting: **Monday, March 25, 2024 at 3:00 P.M.**

Meeting Location: **Assembly Room, Marathon County Courthouse, 500 Forest St, Wausau, WI**

Task Force Members: Chair John Robinson, Jacob Langenhahn, Gary Gisselman, Mike Ritter, Jennifer Aarrestad, Tony Sherfinski, Eric Budleski, Milton Olson, Wade Carroll, Jon Euting

Task Force Purpose: *Develop recommendations identifying the potential role of Marathon County in facilitating the expansion of Broadband access in Marathon County. Review the Report: Broadband for Marathon County Broadband Assessment and Plan prepared by Design Nine and develop broad policies and partnership recommendations relating to the expansion of broadband/internet services throughout Marathon County.*

Phone #: 1-415-655-0001

Access Code: 120 112 4516

When you enter the telephone conference, **PLEASE PUT YOUR PHONE ON MUTE!**

1. **Call Meeting to Order**
2. **Public Comments (15 Minute limit)**
3. **Approval of the February 26, 2024 minutes**
4. **Educational Presentations and Committee Discussion:**
 - A. Marathon County Library Update: Alexander Johnson, Support Services Manager
 - B. Update on Grant Funded/Assisted Broadband Projects
 1. Ongoing Grants Report
 2. Frontier
 3. Bug Tussel
 4. Charter
 - C. PSC Capital Fund Projects (CPF) Grant Updates
 - D. Wisconsin Digital Equity Plan
 - E. Marathon County Website Broadband Page
5. **Policy Discussion and Possible Action:**
 - A. Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program
 1. Updated Timeline
 2. FCC and PSC Map Challenges
 - B. Process and timelines for maximizing ISP participation
6. **Next Steps and Timelines**
7. **Next Meeting Date – TBD**
8. **Adjournment**

“Any person planning to attend this meeting who needs some type of special accommodation in order to participate should call the County Clerk’s Office at 715-261-1500 or e-mail countyclerk@co.marathon.wi.us one business day before the meeting.

SIGNED /s/ John Robinson _____
Presiding Officer or Designee

EMAILED TO: Wausau Daily Herald, City Pages, and other Media Groups

EMAILED BY: Toshia Ranallo

DATE & TIME: 3/21/2024 at 10am

NOTICE POSTED AT COURTHOUSE _____

BY: Toshia Ranallo

DATE & TIME: 3/21/2024 at 10am



**MARATHON COUNTY
BROADBAND TASK FORCE MEETING
Minutes**

**Monday, February 26, 2024 at 3:00 P.M.
Assembly Room, 500 Forest St, Wausau WI**

Members	Present/Web-Phone	Absent
Chair John Robinson	x	
Jacob Langenhahn		x
Gary Gisselman	x	
Mike Ritter	x	
Jennifer Aarrestad	x	
Tony Sherfinski	x	
Eric Budleski	x	
Milton Olson	x	
Wade Carroll		x
Jon Euting	x	

Also Present: Gerry Klein, Valerie Carrillo, Preston Vande Voort, Erin Andrews

VIA Web or Phone: Todd Kruse, Kevin O’Brien, Chris Crawford, Gaylene Rhoden, Mark Leonard

1. **Call Meeting to Order:** Chair Robinson called the meeting to order at 3:01pm.
2. **Public Comments** (15 Minute limit) – none
3. **OLSON MAKE A MOTION; SECOND BY EUTING TO APPROVE THE DECEMBER 18, 2023 BROADBAND TASK FORCE MEETING MINUTES. MOTION CARRIED.**
4. **Educational Presentations and Committee Discussion:**
 - A. Update on Grant Funded/Assisted Broadband Projects
 1. Frontier – Todd Kruse submitted report information in the packet. The county is discussing initial proposals and the current state. The PSC contract is currently suspended while the discussions take place.
 2. Bug Tussel – Chairman Robinson gave a review of the information given in the packet. Discussion of the maps.
 3. Charter – Chris Crawford reviewed the map in the packet and the completion totals so far.
 4. TDS Enhanced ACAM – Erin gave a review of the Enhanced Alternative Connect America Cost Model is a home subsidy. These areas would not be eligible for BEAD.
 - B. Broadband Website page on Marathon County website – Erin has been working with Sarah Severson to create a website for broadband. She reviewed what they have completed so far. This page is not live at this time. Recommendations for potential public notices.
5. **Policy Discussion and Possible Action:**
 - A. Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program
 1. Process and timelines for determining priorities for future broadband expansion efforts – Erin stated we are currently in a holding pattern, waiting for approvals from NTIA. Once the approvals are in, then the challenge process can start. There is a process timeline in the packet.
 2. Challenge Submissions – There are currently over 600 addresses that don’t match. Erin checking each one to verify if they have internet access or not. Individuals are no longer able to challenge. Discussion with Mark Leonard from the PSC.
 - B. Process and timelines for maximizing ISP participation – Discussion of maps of serviceable locations.
6. **Next Steps and Timelines**
 - A. Website up and operational

- B. Challenges
- C. Criteria for ISP plan
- D. Working with ISP moving forward - reword

7. **Next Meeting:** March 25, 2024

8. **Adjournment**

**SHERFINSKI MOTION TO ADJOURN MEETING, EUTING SECOND. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. MEETING
ADJOURNED AT 4:01pm.**

Respectfully Submitted by,
Kathy Johnson

Outdoor Wi-Fi antennae installation at Marathon County Library branches.

- Athens: Installed
- Edgar: Installed
- Hatley: Pending install
- Marathon City:
- Mosinee: Installed
- Rothschild: Need written permission to install
- Spencer:
- Stratford: Installed

Marathon County, Wisconsin Broadband Task Force – March 25, 2024

Frontier Communications Monthly Report – submitted March 15, 2024

BROADBAND CONSTRUCTION:

1. Since our grant construction began in December 2023 Frontier has completed, tested, and offered for subscription to consumers a.) 439 Grant Eligible Customer Locations (GECL's) along with, b.) an additional 981 Customer Locations built via Frontier's planned expansion plan for the county.
2. Total = 1,420 customer locations now have access to fiber broadband services within our "Wausau Main" central office area. Price and Speed options for consumers can be reviewed at: www.frontier.com/shop

WI PSC GRANT REVIEW PROCESS:

Frontier submitted a formal response on March 1, 2024 for the PSC's questions in its review of the 2022 grant locations (database integrity) for Marathon County. On March 13, 2024 Frontier received a smaller set of clarifying questions from the PSC, so we are developing our response for filing before March 27, 2024.

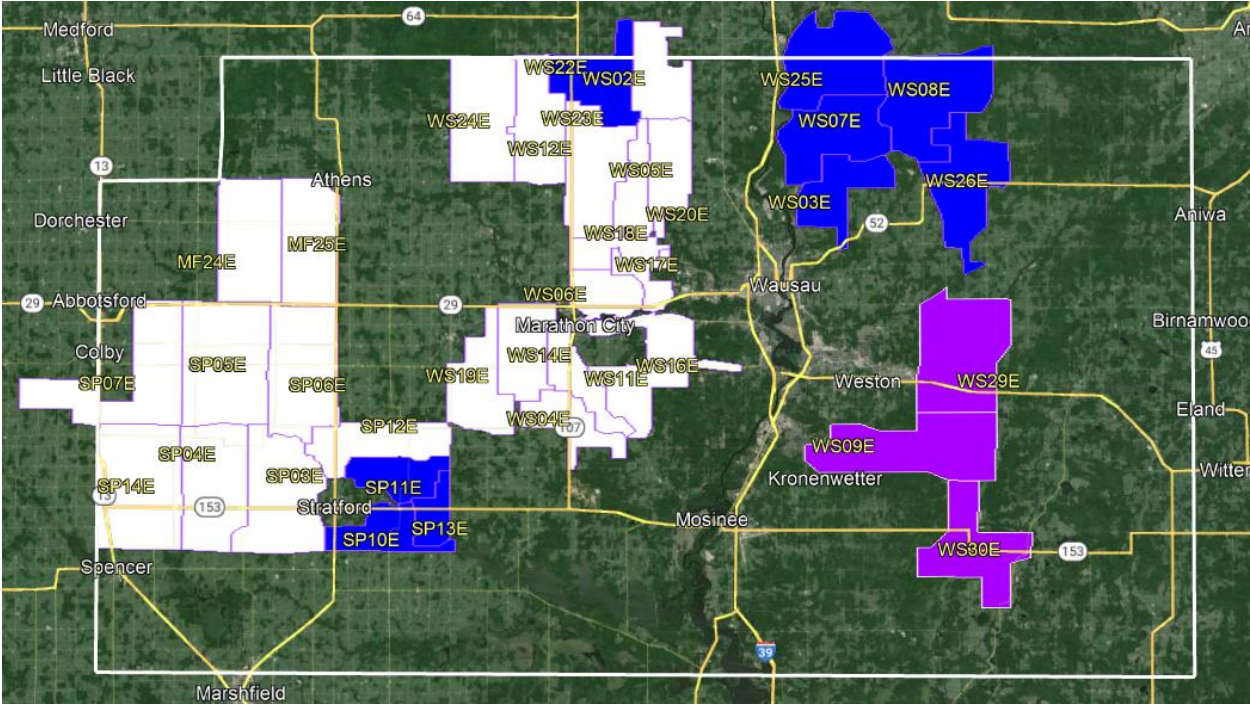
Todd Kruse

Fiber Partnerships Team , Business Development
todd.kruse@ftr.com | 6124235621 | Saint Paul, Minnesota



Here is the information for Marathon County requested. Please let me know if anything else is needed.

- Completed – White
- 2024 – Blue
- 2025 – Purple





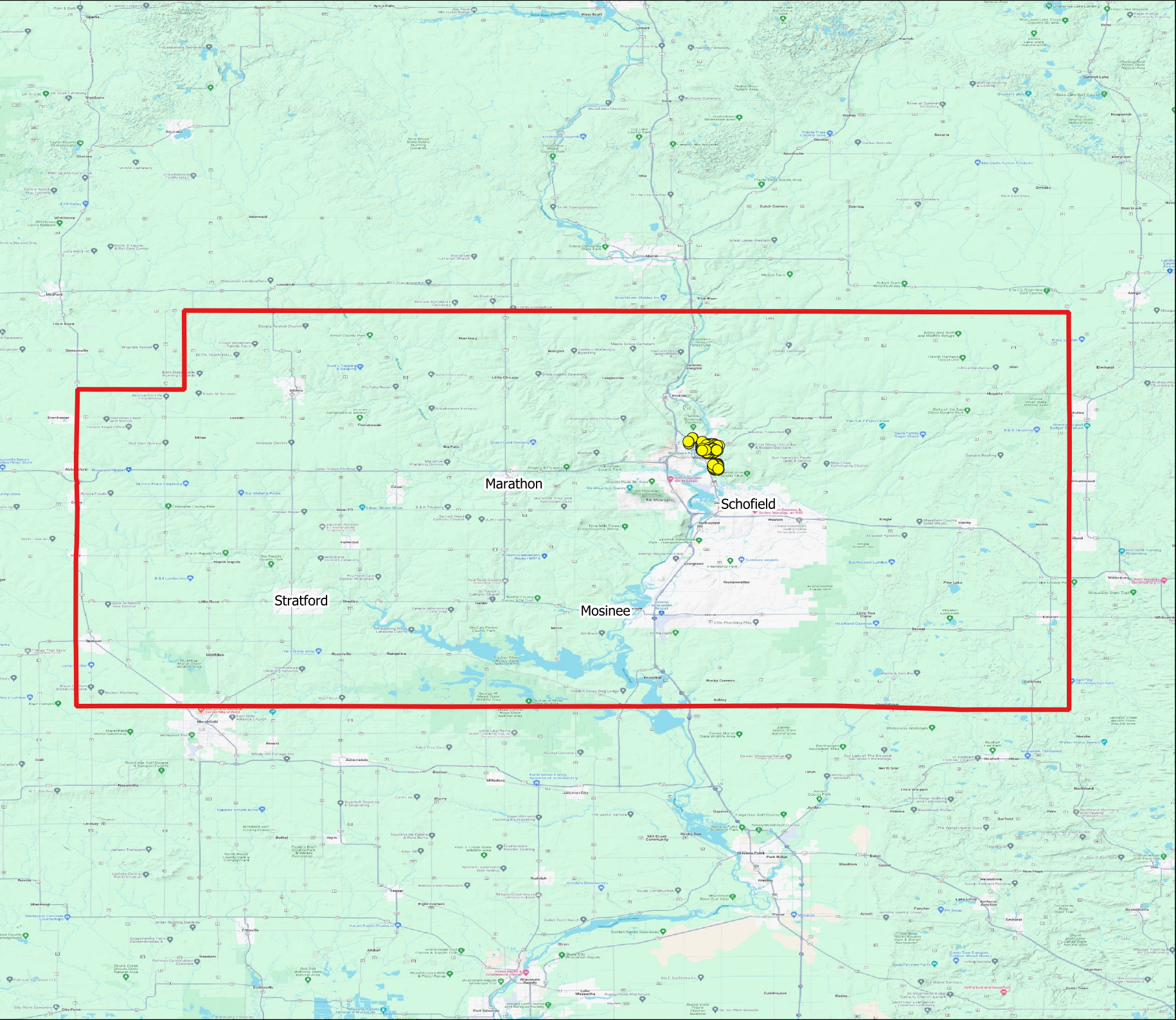
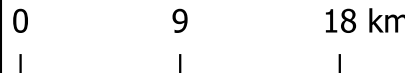
Chris Crawford | Senior Manager – Government Affairs
715.301.4074 – Direct | 715.216.4266 – Cell
chris.crawford@charter.com



Wisconsin
Marathon A County Map
Addresses OFS

Legend

-  Addresses OFS (1420)
-  Marathon County Boundary Line





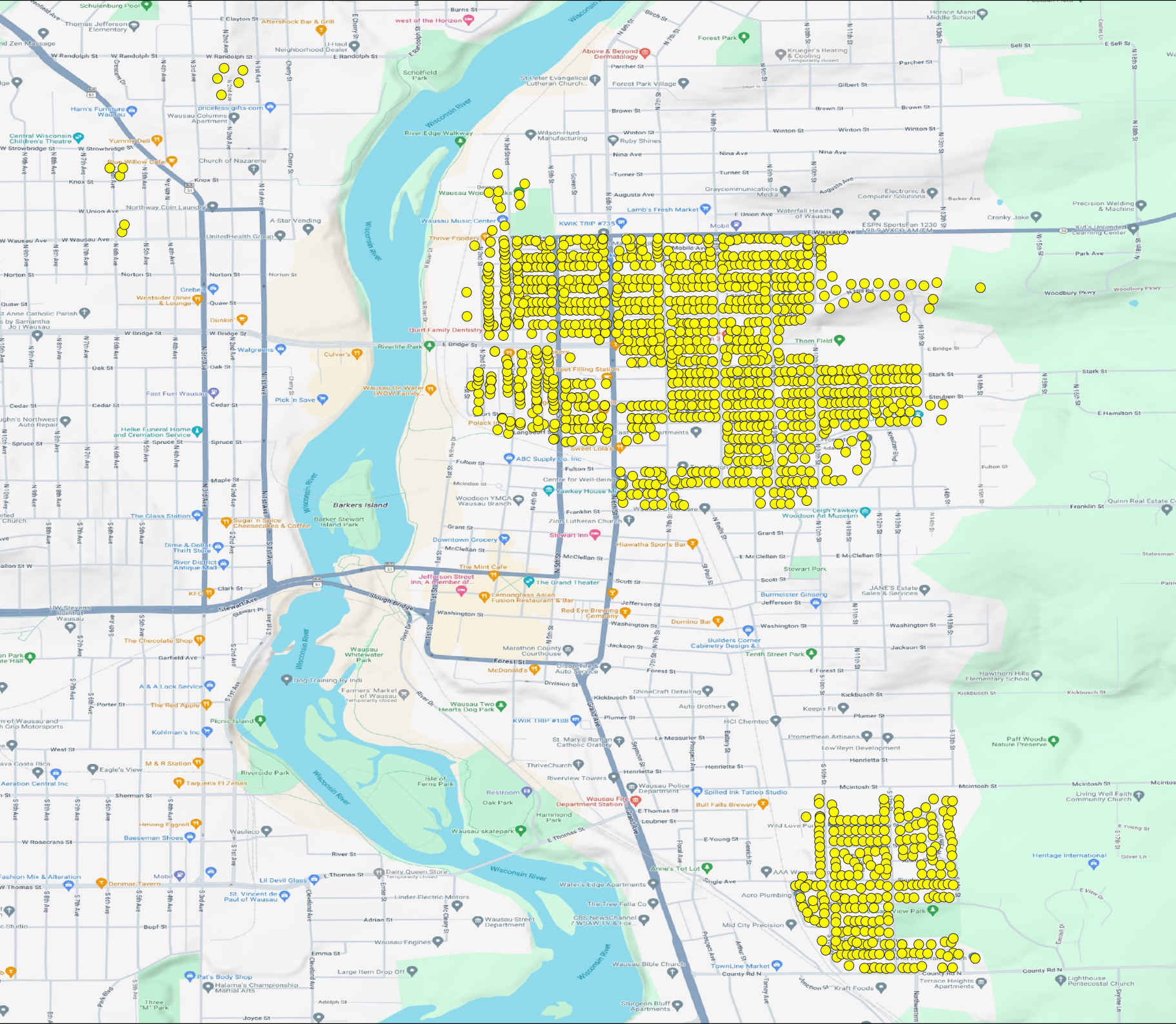
Wisconsin
Marathon A County Map
Addresses OFS

Legend

- Addresses OFS (1420)

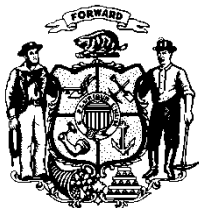


0 250 500 m



Marathon County Broadband Projects

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1	PROVIDER	Grant/Funding Program	Year Awarded	Goal of Completion	Approx # Served	Description	Status
2	Frontier	PSC Grant	2022	2024	10,000	deploy fiber to the home network to 10,626 locations in 25 towns or Villages within Marathon County	Not completed; in communication with PSC re terms of grant
3	Bug Tussel	Conduit Loan	2021	2024	1,800	Fiber run to approximately 1800 homes	Project was expanded, then revised to cover 190 miles around MC, conduit run through some of area, no fiber connected to date
4	Bug Tussel	PSC Grant	2022	2024	600+	"LeatherCamp" project to connect approx 600 premises South of Kronenwetter/East of I39	Not completed - goal to complete by end of 2024
5	Charter/Spectrum	RDOF	2022	2026		Fiber SW of Wausau	Ahead of schedule
6	TDS	ACAM		2027		Upgrade DSL to existing customers	25% done by end of 2024, 50% by end of 2025, 75% by end of 2026, 100% by end of 2027
7	Charter/Spectrum	PSC Grant 2023	TBA		846	Fiber to SW Marathon County	PSC did not select grant application for funding; area becomes eligible for BEAD
8	Frontier	PSC Grant 2023	TBA		322	Fiber to the home in portions of the Village of Maine	PSC did not select grant application for funding; area becomes eligible for BEAD
9	Frontier	PSC Grant 2023	TBA		343	Fiber to the home in portions of the Towns of McMillian and Spencer	PSC did not select grant application for funding; area becomes eligible for BEAD
10	Frontier	PSC Grant 2023	TBA		181	Fiber to the home in portions of theTown of Emmet and Village of Edgar	PSC did not select grant application for funding; area becomes eligible for BEAD



Public Service Commission of Wisconsin

Summer Strand, Chairperson
Kristy Nieto, Commissioner

4822 Madison Yards Way
P.O. Box 7854
Madison, WI 53707-7854

Public Service Commission of Wisconsin
RECEIVED: 2/16/2024 7:57:23 AM

February 16, 2024

Ms. Diane Williams-Stinson, VP Grant Administration
Frontier North Inc
2378 Wilshire Boulevard
Mound, MN 53564

Re: Notice of suspension of grant reimbursement and data request 5-BF-2022

Dear Ms. Williams-Stinson:

This letter serves as notice that the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (Commission) has suspended reimbursement for grant award ID 393, the Clark, Lincoln and Marathon Counties Project, effective January 31, 2024.

Pursuant to the Commission's Order ([PSC REF#: 444257](#)) dated July 28, 2022 in docket 5-BF-2022, the Commission approved an award of up to \$4,293,662.00 to the Grant Recipient for eligible activities related to the Clark, Lincoln, and Marathon Counties project as described in the submitted application ([PSC REF#: 432963](#)). On October 25, 2022, a grant agreement was executed outlining the terms of the award.

Per Section 22 of the grant agreement, the Commission has authority to suspend payment for cause and upon notice. The Commission provided Frontier notice via email on January 31, 2024, and this letter serves as a formal notice documenting suspension of payment. Due to a factual error in Frontier's grant application, and Frontier's indication that it intends to pursue a reduced project scope, staff find cause to suspend payment, per the terms in the agreement. The Commission will not reimburse any costs incurred after January 31, 2024 until further notice.

The Commission requires additional information to review the application error and proposed reduction in project scope. Please provide a written response to the questions below by Monday, February 26, 2024. Frontier's response should include the original numbers and answers to the questions. Please upload the response and any supporting documentation directly to the Commission's Electronic Records Filing (ERF) system under the docket 5-BF-2022 and use the document type Data Request / Response. When uploading the document, the ERF description must be "Response-Data Request-PSCW-AK 1."

PSCW-AK 1.1 The grant application submitted by Frontier and awarded by the Commission indicated the following information. Please use the table below to confirm or update the information from the application in column B: Updated Scope Request.



March 1, 2024

Electronic Filing: Docket 5-BF-2022

Ms. Alyssa Kenney
Director, Bureau of Broadband, Digital and Telecommunications Access
Division of Digital Access, Consumer, and Environmental Affairs
4822 Madison Yards Way
P.O. Box 7854
Madison, WI 53707-7854

Re: Response-Data Request-PSCW-AK 1

Dear Ms. Kenney:

This letter serves as Frontier North Inc.'s ("Frontier") response to the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin's (Commission) request for additional information related to the data error Frontier identified in its grant project ID 393 ("Marathon A"). Frontier apologizes for the address duplication and has instituted safeguards to prevent the unlikely recurrence of an error of this nature, detailed below, all of which were in place when Frontier's filed its grant applications on November 7, 2023. To remedy the error, Frontier respectfully requests that its grant be revised to 6,889 locations and its awarded subsidy be reduced by \$1,000,000. If revised, the Marathon A project will still provide the community benefits initially envisioned, consistent with the broadband grant program, and enable Frontier to expand fiber through its complementary investment to thousands of additional County residents.

Frontier has conferred with Marathon County officials and the County supports the continuation of the project with the proposed revision. Frontier is also continuing to work with Marathon County to mitigate the inaccurate or duplicative addresses within the project.

The Commission's questions and Frontier's responses are set forth below:

PSCW-AK 1.1 The grant application submitted by Frontier and awarded by the Commission indicated the following information. Please use the table below to confirm or update the information from the application in column B: Updated Scope Request.

Frontier Response:

Table PSCW-AK 1 Scope

	A: Awarded Application	B: Updated Scope Request
Maximum proposed download transmission speed [†]	2 Gig	Improved to 5 Gig
Maximum proposed upload transmission speed	2 Gig	Improved to 5 Gig
Minimum Proposed Download Speed to customer location		500 Mbps
Minimum Proposed Upload Speed to customer location		500 Mbps
County or Counties served by this project	Marathon County	Marathon County
Community or communities served by this project:	Portions of 25 Villages or Towns will be served	Portions of 3 Cities, 6 Villages and 24 Towns will be served
Does the proposed project serve an unserved* area of the State	Yes	Yes
For last mile projects or component the expected number of Business Locations that will have access to the improved broadband service (i.e., total business locations passed or with new service access).	812	561
For last mile projects or components the expected number of Residential Locations that will have access to the improved broadband service (i.e., total residential locations passed or with new service access).	9,289 Note: Attachment B – Project Scope of the PSC REF#: 432963 Grant Agreement references 9,884 residential locations	6,328
Of the improved business locations, how many locations are unserved?	755	286
Of the improved residential locations, how many are unserved?	9,289	1,356

*For the 5-BF-2022 grant application unserved area means an area of this State that is not served by an internet service provider offering an internet service that is all of the following: 1. Fixed wireless service or wired service 2. Provided at actual speeds of at least 5 Mbps for download transmission and 600 Kbps for upload transmission ([PSC REF#: 426615](#) Section 1.4)

[†] In line with the scalability of its fiber network and its intent to make higher speed symmetrical service tiers available to customers as their capacity needs grow, Frontier has introduced a higher speed tier for residential customers since it submitted its grant application PSC REF# 432963.

PSCW-AK 1.2. The grant application submitted by Frontier and awarded by the Commission indicated the following budget information. Please use the table below to confirm or update the information from the application budget in column B: Updated Budget Request

Frontier Response: Due to the passage of time, limitations of the former consultant’s planning model, and the availability of material, among other factors, the cost of the Marathon A project has increased significantly since Frontier submitted its grant application. As specified below, to complete the revised project, **Frontier would be contributing nearly three times (295%) the funding it originally committed.** The Marathon A project would bring fiber to the premises broadband to a corrected 6,889 locations, as well as close to 4,000 additional synergy locations. Removing the duplicate addresses does not change the overall planned routes/fiber miles.

Table PSCW-AK 2 Budget

Cost categories	A: Awarded Application		B: Updated Budget Request	
	Grant Funds	Match	Grant Funds	Match
Contractual, consultant fees	\$4,050,463	\$12,396,666	\$3,050,463	\$34,919,607
Equipment	\$139,943	\$428,304	\$139,943	\$1,116,413
Supplies	0	0	0	0
Labor (Salary, Fringe)	\$28,403	\$86,929	\$28,403	\$226,588
Permitting, Licensing Fees	\$74,852	\$229,088	\$74,852	\$597,138
Travel	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0
Total	\$4,293,662	\$13,140,988	\$3,293,662	\$36,859,746
Pledged Contributions				
Frontier North Inc.		\$12,131,153	\$35,849,911	
County of Marathon		\$944,835	\$944,835	
Town of Frankfort		\$50,000	\$50,000	
Town Harrison		\$15,000	\$15,000	

PSCW-AK 1.3 Frontier North has indicated that the number of locations on the original application included an error in the count of locations. Please describe the nature of this error and the impact on the application, facilities, and budget, including by specifying its impacts on any changes to scope and budget identified in the tables above. Provide any additional details related to the updated scope or budget that impact the locations, fiber design or cost of the project. Please explain any additional steps that have been taken to prevent future errors on grant applications.

3/11/2024

UPDATE ON PSC CAPITAL PROJECT FUNDS GRANT APPLICATIONS

In the fall of 2023, the PSC facilitated the Capital Projects Funds Broadband Infrastructure Grant Program with the goal to increase broadband internet throughout the state. There were 124 applications requesting \$221.6 million for available grant funds of \$43.2 million.

A total of five applications were submitted for Marathon County. Charter/Spectrum submitted two grant applications for rural areas central/west areas of Marathon County. Frontier submitted three applications for areas in North Central, Central and SW areas of Marathon County.

While the grants scored well, the applications for Marathon County were not selected for funding. A map and list of awarded grants are attached.

AWARD SUMMARY

CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND: BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE

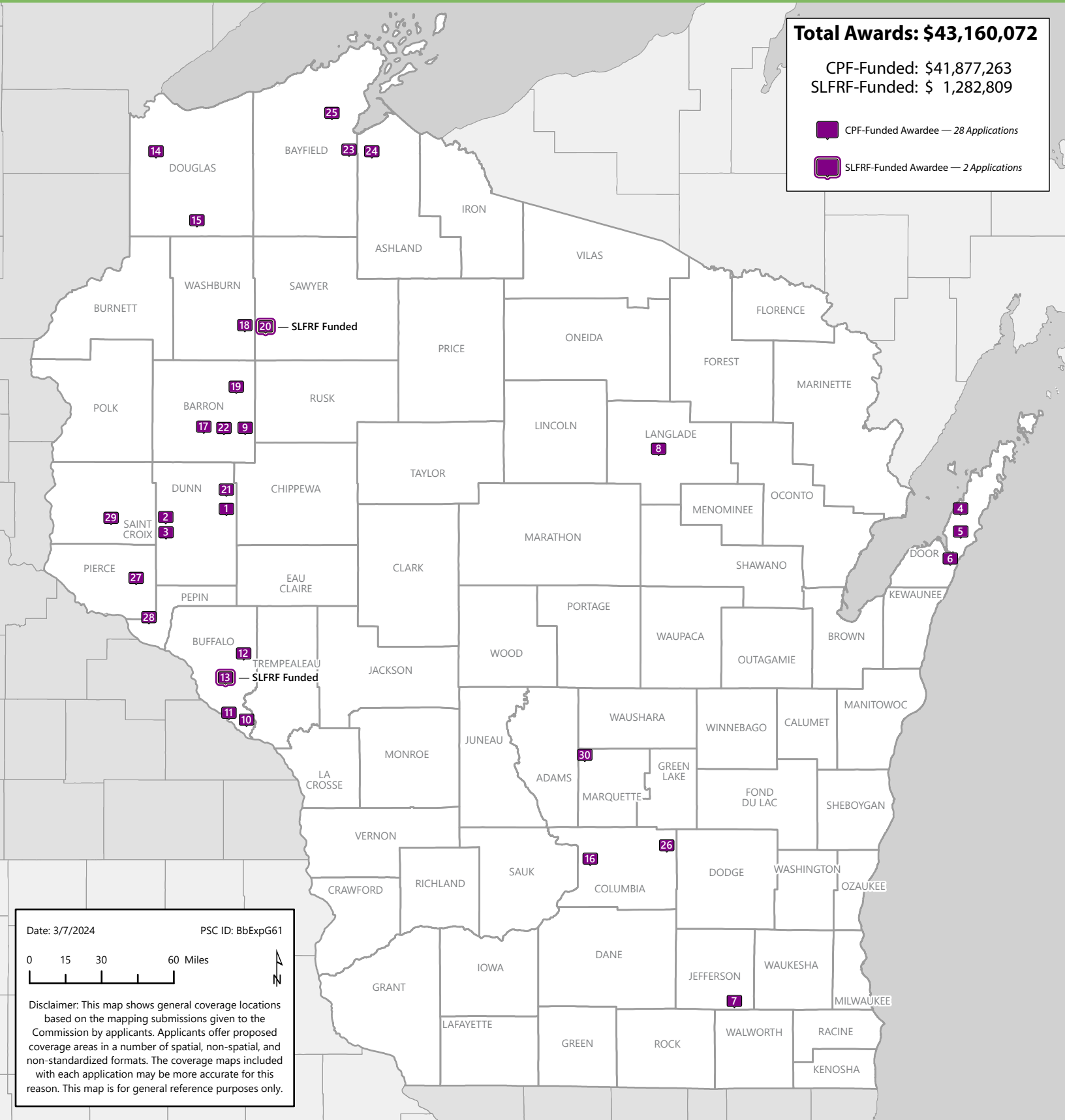
*INCLUDES TWO PROJECTS AWARDED USING STATE AND LOCAL RECOVERY FUND (SLFRF) DOLLARS

Presented by the Wisconsin Broadband Office

Total Awards: \$43,160,072

CPF-Funded: \$41,877,263
SLFRF-Funded: \$ 1,282,809

- CPF-Funded Awardee — 28 Applications
- SLFRF-Funded Awardee — 2 Applications



Date: 3/7/2024 PSC ID: BbExpG61

0 15 30 60 Miles

Disclaimer: This map shows general coverage locations based on the mapping submissions given to the Commission by applicants. Applicants offer proposed coverage areas in a number of spatial, non-spatial, and non-standardized formats. The coverage maps included with each application may be more accurate for this reason. This map is for general reference purposes only.



Wisconsin Broadband Office, Public Service Commission of Wisconsin

psc.wi.gov PSCStateBroadbandOffice@wisconsin.gov
4822 Madison Yards Way, P.O. Box 7854, Madison, WI 53707-7854



AWARD SUMMARY

CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND: BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE

*INCLUDES TWO PROJECTS AWARDED USING STATE AND LOCAL RECOVERY FUND (SLFRF) DOLLARS

Presented by the Wisconsin Broadband Office

Map Label - App. #	Project	Request Total
1-532	24-7 Telcom #1 (T. Colfax - Northwest)	\$335,000
2-537	24-7 Telcom #2 (V. Knapp)	\$580,000
3-519	24-7 Telcom #3 (T. Lucas, Phase 2)	\$535,000
4-507	AT&T #15 (T. Egg Harbor)	\$960,000
5-508	AT&T #16 (T. Sevastopol)	\$816,693
6-509	AT&T #17 (T. Sturgeon Bay)	\$552,299
7-571	Bug Tussel #3 (Young Prairie)	\$500,000
8-539	Cirrinity #1 (Co. Langlade - T. Neva)	\$900,000
9-435	Citizens Connected (T. Chetek - East)	\$541,732
10-436	Cochrane Tel. Co. #1 (T. Buffalo)	\$1,410,000
11-437	Cochrane Tel. Co. #2 (Rural Fountain City)	\$220,000
12-439	Cochrane Tel. Co. #3 (T. Montana)	\$575,000
13-438	Cochrane Tel. Co. #4 (T. Waumandee) — SLFRF Funded	\$500,000
14-431	ECE #1 (Douglas County - North)	\$3,028,044
15-463	ECE #2 (Douglas County - South)	\$4,210,761
16-516	Frontier Comm. #3 (T. Caledonia, Ci. Portage)	\$280,999
17-511	Mosaic Technologies #1 (T. Barron, T. Maple Grove)	\$3,062,628
18-541	Mosaic Technologies #2 (T. Birchwood, T. Crystal, T. Stone Lake)	\$3,111,414
19-540	Mosaic Technologies #3 (T. Doyle, T. Rice Lake)	\$3,498,216
20-542	Mosaic Technologies #4 (T. Edgewater, T. Sand Lake) — SLFRF Funded	\$782,809
21-512	Mosaic Technologies #5 (T. Grant)	\$816,954
22-453	Mosaic Technologies #6 (T. Prairie Lake)	\$1,327,352
23-457	Norvado #2 (Eileen Area, Phase 2)	\$1,395,696
24-456	Norvado #4 (Marengo Area - North)	\$376,556
25-446	Norvado #6 (Washburn Area, Phase 2)	\$1,566,662
26-465	Spectrum #3 (Co. Columbia)	\$2,903,552
27-549	SwiftCurrent Connect #1 (T. Martell)	\$3,492,226
28-548	SwiftCurrent Connect #2 (Pepin County)	\$3,499,126
29-550	SwiftCurrentConnect #3 (River Falls - East)	\$973,646
30-473	Union Tel. Co. (Pleasant Lake and Wood Lake)	\$407,706

AWARD TOTAL \$43,160,072

Award Summary

Capital Projects Fund: Broadband Infrastructure



*Two projects awarded using State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund dollars and are listed at end of report.

App#	Grantee (Project)	Project Description	Award	Match
Capital Projects Fund		Projects: 28	\$41,877,263	\$68,341,162
548	Pierce Pepin Cooperative Services DBA SwiftCurrent Connect (Pepin County)	This project will utilize fiber to the premises (FTTP) service to reach 1331 residential, 100 business, and 4 community anchor institution (CAI) locations in the municipalities of Frankfort, Maiden Rock, Pierce, and Stockholm in Pepin and Pierce Counties.	\$3,499,126	\$6,498,378
512	Chibardun Telephone Cooperative, Inc DBA Mosaic Technologies (Town of Grant)	This project will utilize FTTP service to reach 124 residential, 43 business, and 1 CAI locations in the municipality of Grant in Dunn County.	\$816,954	\$1,529,625
511	Chibardun Telephone Cooperative, Inc DBA Mosaic Technologies (Towns of Barron and Maple Grove)	This project will utilize FTTP service to reach 463 residential, 142 business, and 1 CAI locations in the municipalities of Barron and Maple Grove in Barron County.	\$3,062,628	\$3,743,213
439	Cochrane Cooperative Telephone Company (Town of Montana)	This project will utilize FTTP service to reach 152 residential and 7 business locations in the municipality of Montana in Buffalo County.	\$575,000	\$575,000
436	Cochrane Cooperative Telephone Company (Town of Buffalo)	This project will utilize FTTP service to reach 432 residential and 32 business locations in the municipality of Buffalo in Buffalo County.	\$1,410,000	\$2,590,000
437	Cochrane Cooperative Telephone Company (Rural Fountain City)	This project will utilize FTTP service to reach 64 residential and 2 business locations in the municipality of Fountain City in Buffalo County.	\$220,000	\$365,000
549	Pierce Pepin Cooperative Services DBA SwiftCurrent Connect (Town of Martell)	This project will utilize FTTP service to reach 1071 residential, 53 business, and 6 CAI locations in the municipalities of El Paso, Elmwood, Gilman, Maiden Rock, Pierce, Plum City, Rock Elm, Salem, Spring Lake, and Union in Pierce County.	\$3,492,226	\$5,238,338
453	Chibardun Telephone Cooperative, Inc DBA Mosaic Technologies (Town of Prairie Lake)	This project will utilize FTTP service to reach 184 residential, 99 business, and 1 CAI locations in the municipality of Prairie Lake in Barron County.	\$1,327,352	\$1,086,016

App#	Grantee (Project)	Project Description	Award	Match
541	Chibardun Telephone Cooperative, Inc DBA Mosaic Technologies (Towns of Birchwood, Crystal, and Stone Lake)	This project will utilize FTTP service to reach 283 residential and 308 business locations in the municipalities of Birchwood, Crystal, and Stone Lake in Washburn County.	\$3,111,414	\$3,802,839
571	Hilbert Communications, LLC DBA Bug Tussel 1, LLC (Young Prairie)	This project will utilize FTTP service to reach 131 residential and 5 business locations in the municipalities of Cold Spring and Palmyra in Jefferson County.	\$500,000	\$750,000
540	Chibardun Telephone Cooperative, Inc DBA Mosaic Technologies (Towns of Doyle and Rice Lake)	This project will utilize FTTP service to reach 598 residential, 171 business, and 1 CAI locations in the municipalities of Doyle and Rice Lake in Barron County.	\$3,498,216	\$2,862,177
456	Norvado Inc. DBA Norvado (Marengo Area - North)	This project will utilize FTTP service to reach 64 residential and 11 business locations in the municipalities of Gingles and White River in Ashland County.	\$376,556	\$376,556
550	Pierce Pepin Cooperative Services DBA SwiftCurrent Connect (River Falls - East)	This project will utilize FTTP service to reach 150 residential and 15 business locations in the municipalities of Hammond, Pleasant Valley, and Saint Croix in Saint Croix County.	\$973,646	\$973,646
435	Citizens Telephone Cooperative, Inc. DBA Citizens Connected (Town of Chetek - East)	This project will utilize FTTP service to reach 162 residential and 9 business locations in the municipality of Chetek in Barron County.	\$541,732	\$541,732
457	Norvado Inc. DBA Norvado (Eileen Area, Phase 2)	This project will utilize FTTP service to reach 343 residential and 146 business locations in the municipalities of Ashland, Eileen, Gingles, Kelly, and White River in Ashland and Bayfield Counties.	\$1,395,696	\$1,705,850
532	24-7 Telcom, Inc. (Town of Colfax - Northwest)	This project will utilize FTTP service to reach 40 residential and 5 business locations in the municipality of Colfax in Dunn County.	\$335,000	\$360,000
507	AT&T Services DBA AT&T Wisconsin (Town of Egg Harbor)	This project will utilize FTTP service to reach 1573 residential and 204 business locations in the municipality of Egg Harbor in Door County.	\$960,000	\$7,637,196
463	East Central Energy DBA ECE Fiber (Douglas County - South)	This project will utilize FTTP service to reach 909 residential, 562 business, and 1 CAI locations in the municipalities of Blaine, Gordon, Minong, and Wascott in Burnett, Douglas, and Washburn Counties.	\$4,210,761	\$5,146,485
465	Spectrum Mid-America, LLC DBA Charter Communications, Inc. (Columbia County)	This project will utilize FTTP service to reach 828 residential 29 business locations in the municipalities of Cambria, Courtland, Friesland, Randolph, and Scott in Columbia County.	\$2,903,552	\$3,503,849

App#	Grantee (Project)	Project Description	Award	Match	
431	East Central Energy DBA ECE Fiber (Douglas County - North)	This project will utilize FTTP service to reach 938 residential, 234 business, and 5 CAI locations in the municipalities of Oakland, Summit, and Superior in Douglas County.	\$3,028,044	\$3,700,942	
519	24-7 Telcom, Inc. (Town of Lucas, Phase 2)	This project will utilize FTTP service to reach 51 residential and 10 business locations in the municipality of Lucas in Dunn County.	\$535,000	\$565,000	
446	Norvado Inc. DBA Norvado (Washburn Area, Phase 2)	This project will utilize FTTP service to reach 322 residential, 38 business locations in the municipalities of Barksdale, Bayview, and Washburn in Bayfield County.	\$1,566,662	\$1,566,662	
508	AT&T Services DBA AT&T Wisconsin (Town of Sevastopol)	This project will utilize FTTP service to reach 1749 residential and 159 business locations in the municipality of Sevastopol in Door County.	\$816,693	\$6,607,787	
537	24-7 Telcom, Inc. (Village of Knapp)	This project will utilize FTTP service to reach 158 residential, 42 business, and 3 CAI locations in the municipality of Knapp in Dunn County.	\$580,000	\$670,000	
516	Frontier North Inc DBA Frontier Communications (Town of Caledonia, City of Portage)	This project will utilize FTTP service to reach 145 residential and 10 business locations in the municipalities of Caledonia and Portage in Columbia County.	\$280,999	\$377,962	
509	AT&T Services DBA AT&T Wisconsin (Town of Sturgeon Bay)	This project will utilize FTTP service to reach 609 residential and 67 business locations in the municipality of Sturgeon Bay in Door County.	\$552,299	\$4,468,601	
539	Wittenberg Telephone Company DBA Cirrinity (Langlade County - Town of Neva)	This project will utilize FTTP service to reach 171 residential, 5 business, and 2 CAI locations in the municipality of Neva in Langlade County.	\$900,000	\$600,000	
473	Union Telephone Company DBA Union Telephone Company (Pleasant Lake and Wood Lake)	This project will utilize FTTP service to reach 265 residential and 4 business locations in the municipalities of Coloma and Springfield in Waushara and Marquette Counties.	\$407,706	\$498,308	
State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund			Projects: 2	\$1,282,809	\$1,774,213
438	Cochrane Cooperative Telephone Company (Town of Waumandee)	This project will utilize FTTP service to reach 92 residential and 2 business locations in the municipality of Waumandee in Buffalo County.	\$500,000	\$600,000	
542	Chibardun Telephone Cooperative, Inc DBA Mosaic Technologies (Towns of Edgewater and Sand Lake)	This project will utilize FTTP service to reach 143 residential and 11 business locations in the municipalities of Edgewater and Sand Lake in Sawyer County.	\$782,809	\$1,174,213	



Public Service Commission of Wisconsin
RECEIVED: 3/12/2024 8:32:09 AM



Wisconsin Digital Equity Plan

2023



Wisconsin Digital Equity Plan

Values and Goals

ACCESS

Expanding high speed internet access to every residence, business, and institution in the state.

Goals

Achieve the highest possible level of broadband deployment and adoption.

Deliver sustained, long-term impact on broadband access and digital opportunity for all Wisconsin residents.

AFFORDABILITY

Ensuring broadband and key digital services are affordable for all.

Goal

Increase the affordability and reliability of broadband service in Wisconsin.

ADOPTION

Ensuring all can connect to the internet, with the appropriate accessible, internet-enabled device, skills, information and services specific to their needs in real time.

Goals

Support local digital literacy champions and digital navigators embedded within the community and trusted organizations that support the needs of covered populations.

All Wisconsinites will have accessible, culturally responsive resources to grow their digital literacy skills.

All Wisconsinites have access to resources and have the needed knowledge and resources to maintain cyber security.

Ensure every Wisconsinite has access to an internet enabled device(s) and assistive technologies, that meets their needs.

Ensure all Wisconsin populations and communities have accessible, first language, culturally responsive technical support.

TRUST

Providing readily accessible resources and supports to build trust and safety when accessing the internet.

Goals

All WI communities have resources, access to training and support that is culturally relevant, in their native languages, and clearly provided by a legitimate source that they trust.

Fostering trust and transparency among state government, local government, providers, and communities.

SUSTAINABILITY

Supporting intentional activities and investments for ongoing device access, literacy, and affordable broadband subscriptions.

Goals

Support Digital Equity work by expanding cooperation and partnerships of community-based organizations, anchor institutions, local governments, philanthropic groups, and other trusted local entities.

Ensure community-based organizations, anchor institutions, local governments, philanthropic groups, and other entities engaging in Digital Equity work are aware of and pursuing available funding sources.

Executive Summary

The Wisconsin Broadband Office and its partners formed this Wisconsin Digital Equity Plan by engaging communities through targeted outreach, gathering data, and conducting analysis to understand the unique needs of Wisconsin's covered populations. While this plan is rooted in data and analysis of digital equity needs, it is also centered around stories and direct experiences of Wisconsinites engaged through this outreach. A deeper understanding of communities' needs and barriers to digital equity informed a digital equity vision and mission, supported by more detailed values that guide the goals of this plan.

The Wisconsin Digital Equity Plan sets an ambitious vision to make sure all Wisconsinites will have equitable access to affordable broadband service and the capacity to fully engage in a digital society as the foundation of the plan. The mission coalesces around five core values that capture the many pieces that are needed to achieve true digital equity across the state. The values that frame the plan are:

Access: *Expanding high speed internet access to every residence, business, and institution in the state.*

Affordability: *Ensuring broadband and key digital services are affordable for all.*

Adoption: *Ensuring all residents can connect to the internet, with the appropriate accessible, internet-enabled devices, skills, information, and services specific to their needs in real time.*

Trust: *Providing readily accessible resources and supports to build trust with communities and ensure all feel safe when accessing the internet.*

Sustainability: *Supporting intentional activities and investments for ongoing device access, digital skills education, and affordable broadband subscriptions.*

For each of these values, targeted goals objectives, strategies and metrics were crafted to address specific digital equity gaps in Wisconsin. This includes both short- and long-term goals that are adaptable, knowing that digital equity needs are ongoing and evolving. The goals and objectives can be applied to each covered population, although not always to the same extent, particularly the strategies employed to achieve these goals will not be the same across all cover populations. Strategies will be different but the need for these strategies to be embedded in the community and culturally relevant to populations was a notable similarity across all covered populations. While targeted strategies to reach goals for each covered population will be different, the following overarching strategies have been identified to guide this digital equity plan:

1. Engage new stakeholders and grow existing partnerships to expand the Wisconsin Digital Equity ecosystem.
2. Develop programs and activities to support and compliment the Digital Equity Plan strategies.

The Broadband Office identified existing digital equity assets across the state that can support this work. These assets are vital to the success of the plan and are considered partners in this work. Many of these assets were instrumental in outreach efforts to covered populations.

This Digital Equity Plan has been carefully aligned with Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment (BEAD) program, specifically the [BEAD Five-Year Action Plan](#). As digital equity work progress and needs evolve, the broadband office will ensure ongoing alignment with BEAD and other broadband-related efforts in the state to achieve Internet for All Wisconsin.

BEAD – Broadband Equity and Deployment

BEAD PROCESS	DATE
PSC Volume 1 submitted to NTIA	12/1/ 2023
PSC Volume 2 submitted to NTIA	12/27/2023
FCC Fabric Challenges	Ongoing
Vol 1 Approved by NTIA	TBA
PSC opens challenges to confirm locations eligible for BEAD	As soon as Vol 1 approved challengers have 30 days to submit challenge
PSC 2023 Grant Awards announced	3/07/2024 – no Marathon County grants received funding
PSC Vol 2 Approval	TBA
Meeting with Marathon County ISPs to identify priority areas	TBA – Tentatively late April 2024
BEAD LOIs (Letters of Intent) Due	June- August(est)
BEAD Applications Due	September (est)
BEAD Awards Announced	TBA -Funds must be committed within 365 days of Vol 2 Approval
BEAD Grant Projects Completed	2030

Definitions:

BEAD – Broadband Equity and Deployment

PSC Submitted to NTIA:

Volume 1: Establishes the locations and Community Anchor Institutions (CAIs) eligible for BEAD funding and outlines the challenge process.

Volume 2: Details remaining requirement for initial proposals, including Letters of Intent (LOIs)

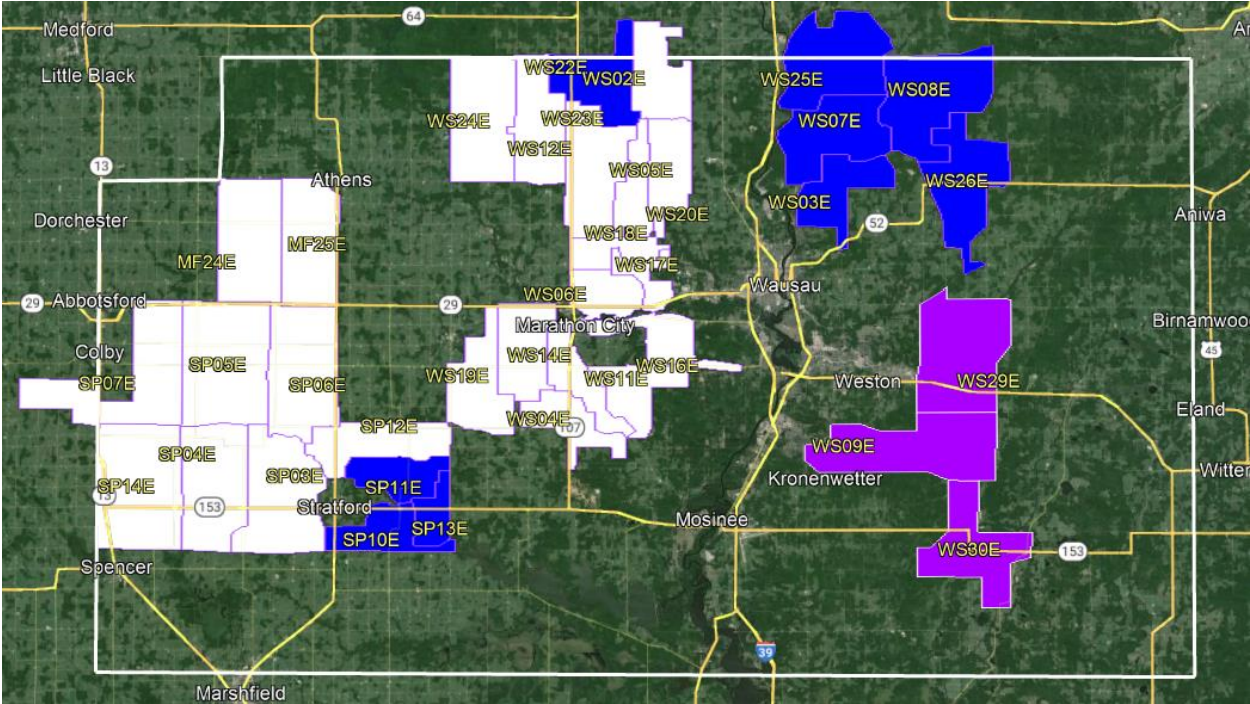
LOIs – Letters of Intent will be submitted by Internet Service Providers (ISPs) defining scope of project, including:

- Estimated number of locations applied for, the geographical area and proposed technology.
- Commitment to providing low-cost service option.
- Documentation of financial, managerial & operational capacity
- Documentation of other funding received or being pursued.



Here is the information for Marathon County requested. Please let me know if anything else is needed.

- Completed – White
- 2024 – Blue
- 2025 – Purple



Chris Crawford | Senior Manager – Government Affairs
715.301.4074 – Direct | 715.216.4266 – Cell
chris.crawford@charter.com

