



Notice of Public Meeting

Committee: Economic Development
Date: Thursday, February 16, 2023
Time: 8:30 a.m.
Location: 3rd Floor County Board Room
Remote Access: [Click here to join the meeting](#)

The meeting is open to the public, but portions of the meeting may be closed if this notice indicates that the committee may convene in closed session. The following matters may be considered and acted upon at the meeting, but deviations from the order shown may occur:

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call of Members
3. Public Comment Regarding Posted Agenda Items
4. Review/Discussion/Action ~ Election of Chair and Vice Chair
5. Review/Discussion/Action ~ Approval of the Previous Meeting Minutes
6. Review/Discussion/Action ~ Revolving Loan Fund Update
7. Review/Discussion/Action ~ A Resolution to Support Economic Development in Buffalo County with CAPX2020 Funding
8. Review/Discussion/Action ~ BEAD Local Planning Grant
9. Review/Discussion/Action ~ Flyway Trail Update
10. Review/Discussion/Action ~ Broadband Update
11. Review/Discussion/Action ~ Together Farms Loan Funding
12. Review/Discussion ~ Committee Chair Report
13. Review/Discussion/Action ~ Next meeting date and time
14. Adjournment.

Date: February 9, 2023

By: Roxann M. Halverson, County Clerk

Board Members: If unable to attend, please contact the Chair. If the Chair is unavailable, please contact the County Clerk's Office at 608-685-6209. If the Chair and the County Clerk are not available, please call the Administrative Coordinator at 608-685-6234.

Persons with Disabilities: Buffalo County shall attempt to provide reasonable accommodations to the public for access to its public meetings, provided reasonable notice of special need is given. If you require special accommodations to attend this meeting, please contact the County Clerk's Office at 608-685-6209.

Public Access to the Courthouse: The South Entrance will be the only access to the building after 4:30 p.m.

Persons who are members of another governmental body, but who are not members of this committee, may attend this meeting. Their attendance could result in a quorum of another governmental body being present. Such a quorum is unintended, and they are not meeting to exercise the authority, duties, or responsibilities of any other governmental body.

BUFFALO COUNTY MINUTES

Committee of the Board: Economic Development Committee

Date of the Meeting: Thursday, January 19, 2023

Chair Schmidtknecht called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

Board Members Present: Mr. Brad Schmidtknecht, Mr. Brian Michaels, Ms. LeeAnne Bulman, Mr. Max Weiss, and Mr. Tom Taylor.

Others Present for All or Parts of the Meeting: Mr. Lee Engfer, Ms. Roxann Halverson, Ms. Laura Gullickson, Mr. Shawn Squires, Mr. Bill Hedman, Ms. Tina Anibas, Mr. Garrett Martin, and Mr. Chris Woda.

Public Comments regarding Agenda Items: None.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding the Previous Meeting Minutes: Mr. Michaels made a motion to approve the previous meeting minutes, seconded by Ms. Bulman. Carried.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding a Broadband Funding Request for the Town of Montana and CCT: Mr. Squires discussed the work the Town of Montana did in a short time to get this project ready. The Town of Montana has been certified at a Telecommuting and Broadband Forward community. This will help in the grant review process. They have three providers in the area, but still have a large portion of their municipality that is not serviced by anyone. Mr. Schmidtknecht made a motion to recommend approving the funding request of \$100,000.00, seconded by Ms. Bulman. Carried.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding a Broadband Funding Request for the Town of Buffalo and CCT: Mr. Squires explained this project was originally approved last year but grant funding was denied. There has been more work done to collect needed data and that was included in this grant application. Mr. Schmidtknecht made a motion to recommend approval of the funding request of \$100,000.00, seconded by Ms. Bulman. Carried.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding a Broadband Funding Request for the City of Mondovi and Ntec: Ms. Gullickson and Mr. Martin explained the funding request. The new industrial park in the City of Mondovi does not have internet and with this project it would entice business to come to Mondovi and help with the tax base. It will also help with the creation of jobs in the area. If the county does not partner with Ntec and the City of Mondovi the likelihood of the grant being approved diminishes. Without the grant the project cannot move forward. Mr. Taylor made a motion to recommend approval of the funding request of \$100,000.00, seconded by Mr. Schmidtknecht. Mr. Weiss voting no. Carried.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding Creating a Revolving Loan Fund and Funding Mechanism: Mr. Hedman explained the requirements he found during his research for CDBG funds and CAPX funds. He has concerns about using either of the funds without approval. A discussion was held on those requirements and how to get funds without so many of the requirements involved in the CDBG and CAPX funding. Mr. Hedman suggested a letter to the PSC requesting an allowance to use \$100,000.00 of CAPX funds for economic development. Mr. Schmidtknecht made a motion to have Mr. Hedman move forward with the letter to the PSC, seconded by Ms. Bulman. Carried.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding A Resolution to Support Economic Development in Buffalo County with CAPX2020 Funding: Mr. Michaels made a motion to table the resolution, seconded by Mr. Taylor. Carried.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding a Revolving Loan Fund Request from Together Farms: Mr. Weiss made a motion to table this item pending more information, seconded by Ms. Bulman. Carried.

Review/Discussion regarding the Committee Chair Report: None.

Review/Discussion/Action regarding the next meeting date and time: The next meeting will be February 16th at 8:30 a.m.

Mr. Taylor made a motion to adjourn at 9:37 a.m. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Roxann Halverson
Buffalo County Clerk



Buffalo County Resolution

Drafted By:
Month/Year:
Committee:

Department:
Fiscal Impact: Yes/No

Resolution # _____

A Resolution to Support Economic Development in Buffalo County with CAPX2020 Funding

Whereas, the Buffalo County Board of Supervisors wishes to encourage Economic Development in Buffalo County, and;

Whereas, the Economic Development Committee wishes to establish a fund to encourage business growth and Economic Development in Buffalo County through loans and grants, and;

Whereas, the Economic Development Committee requests \$100,000.00 of CAPX2020 funding for loan and grants for business and economic growth, and;

Now, Therefore Be It Resolved, that the Buffalo County Board of Supervisors hereby grants authorization to provide up to \$100,000.00 of CAPX2020 funds to the Economic Development Committee to be used for loans and grants for business and economic growth in Buffalo County.

Adopted at a duly called and noticed meeting of the Buffalo County Board of Supervisors on the _____ day of _____, 2023.

County Clerk

ATTEST:

County Board Chairperson

Respectfully Submitted:
Economic Development Committee

Finance Committee

Brad Schmidtknecht

Dennis Bork

Max Weiss

Max Weiss

Brian Michaels

Brad Schmidtknecht

Tom Taylor

Brian Michaels

LeeAnne Bulman

William Bruegger, Sr.

Public Service Commission of Wisconsin



Public Service Commission of Wisconsin
RECEIVED: 1/26/2023 1:59:52 PM

BEAD Workforce Planning Grant Program Grant Application Instructions Docket 5-BP-2023

Application Deadline
March 1, 2023
1:30 P.M.

Overview

The Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (Commission) is seeking applications for Broadband Equity Access & Deployment (BEAD) Workforce Planning Grants. BEAD Workforce Planning Grants will provide up to \$100,000 funding to eligible applicants to assess Wisconsin's broadband workforce readiness in preparation for BEAD funding and the subsequent broadband infrastructure projects that will begin thereafter.

BEAD Workforce Planning activities may include but are not limited to planning workforce development strategies, mapping assets, diverse stakeholder engagement, and studying policy and funding models to ultimately offer solutions that will best prepare the state and to ensure all Wisconsinites have a pathway to these career opportunities. The deliverables from successful applicants will inform a statewide workforce plan that will be submitted to the federal government to secure Wisconsin's BEAD funding and will serve as a broadband workforce resource for the State going forward.

The Commission may award one or more grants during this grant round to public or private entities whose applications meet the requirements in this application, pursuant to the BEAD Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) issued by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), U.S. Department of Commerce.

The application is due March 1, 2023 at 1:30 pm C.T.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to complete and submit the application ahead of the deadline.

The instructions for completing a BEAD Workforce Planning Grant application are in two parts. Both parts are available on the PSC BEAD Workforce Planning Grant webpage:

<https://psc.wi.gov/Pages/ServiceType/Broadband/GrantWorkforcePlanning.aspx>.

- i. PSC Grants System User's Guide for Grant Applicants and Recipients. The User's Guide provides step-by-step instructions to create a system account, navigate the online grant application, validate the application, and submit the complete application. The PSC Grants System account will also provide the online form and filing process that grant recipients will use to request reimbursement. The User's Guide is the primary resource an applicant should consult to enter and use the online grant system.
<https://psc.wi.gov/Documents/GrantsSystemUsersGuide.pdf>
- ii. BEAD Workforce Planning Grant Application Instructions. These instructions are written specifically for the BEAD Workforce Planning Grant round and should be used only for this grant round. Other grant programs using the PSC Grants System will each have their own instructions. An applicant should use these instructions to understand the information that is requested for each section of the BEAD Workforce Planning Grant Application.

1. General Information

1.1. Reasonable Accommodations

The Commission will provide reasonable accommodations, including the provision of informational material in an alternate format, for qualified individuals with disabilities upon request. Applicants should contact Matt Marcus at (608) 266-8097 or matthew.marcus@wisconsin.gov for accommodation requests.

1.2. Clarification and/or revisions to the specifications and requirements for grant application

Any questions concerning this application must be submitted in writing via email on or before February 23rd, 2023, to:

Email address: matthew.marcus@wisconsin.gov

Subject line: BEAD Workforce Planning Grant Application Question

If an applicant discovers any significant ambiguity, error, conflict, discrepancy, omission, or other deficiency in this application, the applicant should notify the Commission immediately by emailing matthew.marcus@wisconsin.gov. The applicant should describe the error and request modification or clarification of the application.

If it becomes necessary to provide additional clarifying data or information, or to revise any part of this application, revisions, amendments, and/or supplements will be uploaded the ERF system in docket 5-BP-2023 and on the BEAD Workforce Planning Grant webpage.

Any contact with state employees concerning this application is prohibited, except as authorized by the grant manager (Matt Marcus) or authorized by the grant administrator (Alyssa Kenney).

1.3. Procuring and Contracting

This request for applications is issued by the Commission, which is the sole point of contact for the State of Wisconsin during the selection process. The person responsible for managing the grant application process is Matt Marcus, Broadband Policy Analyst.

The grant award(s) resulting from this application process will be administered by the Commission. The grant administrator will be Alyssa Kenney, State Broadband and Digital Equity Director.

1.4. Definitions

The following definitions are used throughout the application.

Agency or Commission means the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin.

Applicant means an individual or organization submitting an application in response to this request for grant applications.

Grantee or grant recipient means an applicant awarded a BEAD Workforce Planning Grant.

Infrastructure Act means the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, Public Law No. 117-58, also referred to as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

State means State of Wisconsin and includes the Commission.

Underrepresented Communities per the BEAD NOFO means groups that have been systematically denied a full opportunity to participate in aspects of economic, social, and civic life, including: low-income households, aging individuals, incarcerated individuals, veterans, persons of color, Indigenous and Native American persons, members of ethnic and religious minorities, women, LGBTQI+ persons, persons with disabilities, persons with limited English proficiency, persons who live in rural areas, and persons otherwise adversely affected by persistent poverty or inequality.

1.5. Background

To ensure all Americans have access to high-speed broadband, the Infrastructure Act¹, created the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program (BEAD). The principal focus of the program is on deployment of broadband service, but also supports planning, mapping, equity and adoption efforts. Consistent with Wis. Stat. § 16.54, Governor Tony Evers authorized the Commission to administer any BEAD Program funds. Federal BEAD funding will be allocated to Wisconsin in two phases, first to support planning, data gathering, community engagement, workforce planning and local coordination; then to implement those plans through infrastructure investment. The BEAD Workforce Planning Grants Program draws funds from the first phase of federal funding to support broadband workforce development planning.

1.6. Scope of the Program

1.6.1. Program Description

The BEAD Workforce Planning Grant Program makes \$100,000 of BEAD planning funds available to existing entities operating in Wisconsin that are involved in workforce development – such as, but not limited to industry groups, labor organizations, and technical colleges – to plan workforce development strategies, map assets, study policy and funding models, and assess Wisconsin’s workforce readiness in preparation for the

¹ The text of the Infrastructure Act is available at: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/housebill/3684/text>

influx of BEAD funding. Final deliverables will include collection and analysis of workforce data, research or experience-based recommendations, and a robust state broadband workforce plan informed by a diverse group of stakeholders.

Eligible applicants include entities operating within the state of Wisconsin – public, private, nonprofit, and tribal entities – that are involved in workforce development efforts. There is no maximum subgrant award amount and applicants can request up to the total \$100,000 of available funding.

1.6.2. Program Objective

Ensuring the state has a viable workforce for broadband infrastructure deployment under Wisconsin’s BEAD competitive grant program supports the goal of ensuring all unserved and underserved households are connected to high-speed internet. As part of its proposal to receive implementation funding, Wisconsin must prepare a plan to ensure a highly skilled workforce is trained and available to build and maintain proposed broadband infrastructure investments. The BEAD Workforce Planning Grant Program’s goal is to understand the impacts of \$1 billion in additional public funding for broadband infrastructure on the many associated workforce sectors and markets in Wisconsin. This includes construction and highly skilled technician workforce for the build-out of networks, as well as workforce for ongoing maintenance, customer service, adoption support, and many other positions. Final deliverables from successful applicants will report on Wisconsin’s existing workforce capacity and assets, gaps in the workforce ecosystem, and recommendations to bridge these gaps and alleviate future potential broadband workforce challenges.

1.7. Schedule of Events

DATE	EVENT
Jan 30, 2023	Date application instructions issued
Feb 23, 2023	Deadline for submitting questions and requests for clarification
Feb 28, 2023	Deadline for requesting Grant System assistance
March 1, 2023 1:30 pm C.T.	Applications due from applicants (deadline for submitting on PSC Grants System). Applications are public.

1.8. Performance Period and Use of Funds

A subrecipient of a BEAD Workforce Planning Grant may use the sub awarded BEAD planning funds following the Commission award Order and ending on September 30, 2023, for the eligible uses outlined in the applicant’s proposal, pursuant to the rules set forth in Section 60102(e)(1)(c) of the Infrastructure Act. Specific dates for subgrantee reporting and final deliverables will be communicated in grant agreements.

April	Commission determination of BEAD Workforce Planning Grant Awards
June	Subgrantee interim reporting due to Commission
August	Subgrantee final deliverables due to Commission

1.9. Federal Requirements

This grant program is funded through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, and subgrantees will be required to comply with federal reporting requirements found in 2 C.F.R. Part 200, as well the requirements put forth in the grant agreement.

The Commission requires that subgrantees submit regular reporting, at least semiannually, for the duration of the subgrant to track the effectiveness of the use of funds provided. Each report shall describe progress towards the final workforce broadband plan. The Commission may add additional reporting requirements.

Grant awards awarded to the grant recipient under the BEAD program shall be used to supplement, and not supplant, the amount of federal or non-federal funds that the grant recipient would otherwise make available for the purposes for which the grant funds may be used.

The grant recipient must comply with all other applicable federal requirements, including but not limited to, Department of Commerce regulations relating to the protection of human subjects for all research conducted or supported pursuant the grant award, 2 CFR § 200.322, Domestic Preference for Procurements (Buy America), 2 CFR § 200.321 (Contracting with Small and Minority Businesses, Women’s Business Enterprises, and Labor Surplus Area Firms, Section 905(e)(3) of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 and principles of 2 CFR part 200 (Prevention of Waste, Fraud, and Abuse), and Department of Commerce Financial Assistance Standard Terms and Conditions, in particular whistleblower protections afforded by 41 U.S.C. § 4712.

2. Application and Procedures

2.1. Submitting the Grant Application

The Commission has developed an online application system to submit grant applications, the PSC Grants System. The Commission has adopted the online application system to streamline the application process, produce grant applications that better respond to the criteria, and provide applicants confidence that their submission meets the filing requirements for this grant. Applicants no longer will have to upload the application to the Electronic Regulatory Filing (ERF) System. The new PSC Grants System will automatically upload the application to ERF (provided the application is submitted on time).

Do not use hyperlinks or attachments in the grant system. Hyperlinks to additional information are not evaluated, nor are they considered to be part of the applications.

The evaluation of an application and selection of an applicant for an award will be based upon the information submitted in the application. Failure to respond to each of the requirements in the application may adversely affect the evaluation of the grant application.

2.2. Confidential and Proprietary Information

All application information filed with the Commission is considered public. Do not include confidential or proprietary information in the application.

2.3. Multiple Applications

Multiple applications from a single applicant are not permitted.

2.4. Withdrawal of Application

Applicants may withdraw an application at any time by submitting a signed letter from an authorized representative of the applicant organization in the docket 5-BP-2023. A request to withdraw and resubmit after the application deadline has passed will be denied.

2.5. Instructions for Accessing the Grant Application

Step 1: From the BEAD Workforce Planning Grant webpage, select ‘PSC Grants System Login’ or visit this link: <https://psc.wi.gov/Pages/GrantsSystem.aspx>. This will open the login page of the PSC Grants System. For new applicants (those who have not logged into ERF), an applicant will first need to create an ERF system account and can do so from the Grant System login page. (See User’s Guide page 2.) Applicants should remember their username and password for future access to the system.

Step 2: Upon completing the login, the homepage for the PSC Grants System will display the page titled Available Grants. Find the line for the BEAD Workforce Planning Grant and click on ‘Apply.’ (Information at [User’s Guide page 4.](#))

Step 3: The program will now display the application form. The application is arranged in a series of tabs along the top of the form. Each tab brings a page to the top for completion. **Section 3 below explains each application section in order, assuming that an applicant will open the tabs in succession from left to right. It is very important that the work is saved (using the save icon at the bottom of the page) before moving to another page. Unsaved entries will be lost.**

3. Application Form Content

Each sub-section below corresponds to the tabs displayed along the top of the application form in the online PSC Grants System.

3.1. Details

Select the ‘Details’ tab and fill in the required information, including a project name and a two-sentence project description. For recipient and partner contributions please enter 0, the application should only include the requested funds and not any matching or partner contributions. (Information at [User’s Guide page 5](#).) Application data must be validated before moving to the next page/tab.

3.2. Contacts

Select the Contacts tab and fill in the required information and fill in one Primary Contact. Use the ‘Add New Contact’ button to add additional contacts. ([See User’s Guide page 5-6](#).)

If the financial manager will be different than the grant applicant, be sure to add a Financial Manager contact. Please also fill in the Authorized Representative, the person who will sign the grant agreement.

A grant recipient can use this page to add additional names or change the Primary Contact for the grant if the recipient has turnover or other change in staff assignment while the grant project is underway.

3.3. Budget

Select the Budget tab and fill in the required information. ([See User’s Guide page 6-7](#).) Again, there is a validation step. Entries on the Budget page cannot be saved unless the entries agree with the data entered on the Details page. The Budget page requires that the applicant enter the total cost of all requested budget categories that will be purchased on a single line of the budget. Applicants must enter zero if no costs are associated with a budget field.

3.4. Narrative

Select the Narrative tab and fill in the required information. ([See User’s Guide page 9](#).)

The Narrative section consists of 9 questions. Answer every question and save before advancing to the next page of the Narrative section. What follows is a list of each question in the narrative section.

Section 1 – Eligibility

1. ELIGIBILITY: Is the applicant an entity operating in the state of Wisconsin that is engaged in workforce development efforts, planning or strategy development?
2. ELIGIBILITY: Which of the following allowable activities per the BEAD NOFO is the Applicant planning to pursue?
 - i. Research and data collection related to existing broadband workforce populations and future broadband workforce needs.
 - ii. Outreach to groups that represent, train, and/or employ those in the broadband workforce. Outreach includes understanding capacity, role, and needs of each entity.
3. ELIGIBILITY: Do you have a System for Award Management (SAM) Unique Entity Identifier (UEID), or will you apply for a SAM UEID before executing the grant agreement?

Section 2 – Project Description and Details

4. Briefly describe the applicant entity including the history, capabilities, or key activities. Provide details as it relates to experience/expertise in broadband and/or telecommunications workforce development, training, policy or other activities.
5. Explain the workforce planning activities in detail. What type of planning strategies will be used (i.e. data collection, research, surveys, outreach to groups that represent, train, and/or employ those in the broadband workforce).
6. Describe the entity's existing partnerships in the broadband workforce sphere and experience collaborating with a diverse set of stakeholders.
7. A comprehensive workforce plan would ensure broad stakeholder feedback. Describe the strategy for understanding and connecting with a diverse set of stakeholders in the broadband workforce ecosystem.
8. A successful applicant will produce deliverables that inform the development a of a statewide broadband workforce plan. Describe in detail the expected results of grant project activities. Deliverables could include research findings, stakeholder feedback, workforce data, and policy recommendations.
9. Provide justification for the budget, in narrative form. For each category listed in the budget, describe the item and provide additional detail. Explain how the proposed project meets the desired public need in a least-cost manner.

4. Application Selection and Award Process

4.1. Evaluation Criteria

4.1.1. Eligibility

- a. Applicant is an entity operating in the State of Wisconsin (public, private, nonprofit, and/or tribal) that actively engages in workforce development activities.
- b. Applicant has a SAM UEID or indicated they will apply for a SAM UEID before executing a grant agreement.

4.1.2. Merit

- c. Applicant has prior experience in broadband and/or telecom, as it relates to workforce development and/or other activities.
- d. Applicant's proposed impact is statewide and/or comprehensive.
- e. Applicant's proposal ensures diversity in stakeholder engagement.
- f. Applicant's proposed project activities and deliverables feasible given the stated performance period and deadline for submission of deliverables.
- g. Applicant's proposed budget is feasible given the scope and details of the proposed activities.

4.2. Commission Order Awarding Grants

A panel of technical or program professionals will review eligible applications. Reviewers will use a rating checklist that determines the relative merit of each application based on the criteria described above. The review panel provides review and expertise. Results of this analysis and review will be reported in a memorandum to the Commissioners and posted on ERF. Commissioners are not bound by the merit criteria or resulting recommendations from the panel, which are intended for advisory purposes only. The Commissioners utilize their experience, technical competence, and specialized knowledge. The Commissioners, as the finder of fact and decision makers, are charged with evaluating all available information and applying any relevant statutory criteria to reach well-reasoned decisions.

4.3. Final Decision on Grant Awards

After the screening and review process is complete, the Commission will decide which grants to award. The Commission makes its decisions in Open Meetings of the Commission. The Commission will notify all grant applicants of its decision by adopting and serving on all applicants an Order awarding grants.

The Commission will determine in writing which applicants will receive a BEAD Workforce Planning Grant by issuing an Order awarding grants in the appropriate proceeding. The Order will also specify certain terms and conditions that the Commission finds appropriate and necessary for the administration of the approved grant projects.

4.4. Request for Additional Information

The Commission may request additional information from a grant recipient before awarding a grant.

4.5. Right to Reject Applications and Negotiate Grant Terms

The Commission may reject any application as filed, and negotiate the terms of a grant award, including the award amount, with the selected applicant prior to offering the grant and executing a grant agreement. If negotiations cannot be concluded successfully with an applicant, as determined solely by the Commission, the Commission may withdraw its award offer.

4.6. Incurring Costs

Neither the PSC nor the state of Wisconsin are liable for any cost incurred by the applicant in preparing this application.

4.7. No Appeal Process

The Applicant may have general remedies under other provisions of Wis. Stat. chs. 196 and 227 if the Applicant believes it is aggrieved by any final award determination. This provision is for information purposes only and is not a determination by the PSC that the Applicant has any protest or appeal rights with respect to the PSC's decision in this grant cycle.

4.8. Grant Agreement

4.8.1. Requirement to enter into a grant agreement

The Order will require that each approved grant applicant enter into a grant agreement with the Commission. The grant agreement will confirm the grant award, including the amount of the grant award and required match or contributions, the scope of the project and the terms and conditions ordered by the Commission. The grant award is not final until the applicant signs and returns the grant agreement and the Commission executes the document. Failure to complete and return the grant agreement by the due date may result in cancellation of the award.

4.8.2. System for Award Management (SAM.gov) Registration

Applicants must register with SAM.gov and obtain a Universal Entity Identifier (UEID) prior to receiving a grant award and are encouraged to do so as soon as possible, to provide the UEID number with the application. A UEID number is a unique twelve-character alphanumeric ID used to identify an entity. New in 2022, the federal government changed from use of the DUNS Number to the UEID number (generated by SAM.gov).

SAM is a web-based, government-wide application that collects, validates, stores, and disseminates business information about intended federal grant recipients and other partners. Instructions for registering with SAM and obtaining a UEID are available here: <https://sam.gov/content/home>.

4.8.3. Compliance with statutes, regulations and executive orders

The Order will provide that a grant recipient must comply with all other applicable federal statutes, regulations, and executive orders, including the requirements of the BEAD NOFO, 2 C.F.R. Part 200, the terms and conditions of the award, and any other applicable federal or state laws.

4.8.4. Compliance with the Infrastructure Act

The Order will provide that a grant recipient shall provide for compliance with the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Public Law No. 117-58) and any other regulatory or implementing guidance. The grant recipient shall ensure compliance with these requirements by other parties in any agreements it enters relating to these funds.

4.8.5. Terms and Conditions

The Commission Order will also specify certain terms and conditions that the Commission finds appropriate and necessary for the administration of the approved grant projects.

Section I: Overview

Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Local Planning Grants are available in the form of formula funding of \$1.5 million under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act to Wisconsin counties and federally recognized Tribes to generate locally informed analysis of broadband needs and develop each community's vision for broadband development. The Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (Commission) approved the allocation of this formula funding in docket 5-BP-2023 on February 1, 2023. Local planning activities may include a needs assessment, outreach and stakeholder engagement, and a strategy for broadband deployment. County and Tribal planning activities will inform Wisconsin's Five-Year Broadband Action Plan and future grant funding for broadband infrastructure projects across the state.

BEAD Local Planning Grants are not competitive grants but rather formula funding that will be allocated to each applicant that elects to participate in the program. Counties that elect to participate in the program may opt to (1) collaborate regionally through their respective [Regional Development organization \(REDO\)](#) or (2) participate independently. Tribes that elect to participate may opt to (1) collaborate regionally with a REDO, (2) collaborate with the Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council, or (3) participate independently.

Funding will be distributed equally to all participating counties and Tribes, with those collaborating in groups receiving an additional 10 percent of the base allocation. Participation is not required, and the total grant allocation amount for each participating entity will be formulated following the submission deadline of this participation form. If a REDO or the Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council coordinates on behalf of multiple counties or Tribes, it will receive and administer funding directly.

By completing this form, counties and Tribes are certifying their intent to participate in the program, including complying with related grant requirements. A subsequent grant agreement will delineate eligible costs for use of funding, applicable federal grant compliance requirements, and project deliverables. Each entity that opts in will be responsible to ensure compliance with applicable federal and state requirements related to this funding.

Following the Commission's Wisconsin Broadband Office's announcement of formula grant awards, those counties and Tribes that elected to participate individually and participating collaboratives will complete a brief application in the Commission's Online Grants System that describes planned activities and the intended use of funding among cost categories. Further details on completing the online application will be made available in forthcoming grant instructions available on the Commission website. The Wisconsin Broadband Office will inform participating REDOs, Tribes, and individual counties when the formula allocation has been processed and that the application is open in the online grants system, likely by March 13, 2023.

This BEAD Local Planning Grant Program Participation Form must be uploaded to the Commission's [Electronic Records Filing System \(ERF\)](#) by March 7, 2023, 1:30 P.M. For help uploading documents to ERF, see the [ERF user manual](#) or contact PSCStateBroadbandOffice@wisconsin.gov for assistance.

BEAD Local Planning Grant Program – Letter of Intent

Election to participate and receive formula funds



Section II: Election to Participate

Please select whether your county or Tribe elects to:

Participate in the BEAD Local Planning Grant Program collaboratively with a Regional Economic Development Organization (REDO) Specify REDO: _____	
Participate in the BEAD Local Planning Grant Program collaboratively with the Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council	
Participate in the BEAD Local Planning Grant Program independently	
Not participate in the BEAD Local Planning Grant Program	

Section III: Primary Point of Contact

The primary point of contact will be the recipient of further communication from the Wisconsin Broadband Office regarding the BEAD Local Planning Program and need not be the authorized representative signing below.

1. Name	2. Position
3. Email	4. Phone

Section IV: Certification from Authorized Representative

Please sign below to declare your county or Tribe’s intent to participate in the BEAD Local Planning Program. The authorized representative could be a local elected official or executive of Tribal or county government and must be authorized under applicable laws to act on behalf of the entity related to receipt and administration of federal funding. By signing below, you are affirming and certifying that you are an authorized representative of your county or Tribe and are authorized to act on behalf of the county or Tribe related to this funding. If you have questions regarding whether as an authorized representative, you are authorized to act on behalf of the county or Tribe, please consult your legal counsel.

Signature below does not constitute an obligation of a county, Tribe, or its collaborating partners to comply with any terms or conditions of the grant program. For entities submitting this letter of intent, a grant agreement will be provided for review and signature.

1. Name	2. Position
3. Email	4. Phone
5. Signature	6. Date