



Public Service Commission of Wisconsin

Rebecca Cameron Valcq, Chairperson
Ellen Nowak, Commissioner
Mike Huebsch, Commissioner

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

September 4, 2019

To: Persons Interested in the Broadband Expansion Grant Program

Re: FY 2020 Broadband Expansion Grants

Docket ID 5-BF-2020

Announcement of the Commencement of the
FY 2020 Broadband Expansion Grant Cycle

The Public Service Commission is pleased to announce that it is now accepting applications for Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 Broadband Expansion Grants. This round will make available \$24 million of the funds recently appropriated in the state budget for the FY 2020-2021 biennium. There are a few changes in the grant application instructions for the FY 2020 grant cycle, and we wish to highlight those changes in this announcement letter.

1. Schedule of Events

The schedule of events related to this year's grant application is as follows:

DATE	EVENT
September 4, 2019	Date of issue of the application instructions
December 5, 2019	Last day for submitting questions and requests for clarification
December 19, 2019	Applications due from applicants
January 9, 2020	Last day for submitting an objection to a grant application
January 16, 2020	Last day for submitting a response to an objection

- ## 2. The Commission will only accept letters, signatures, and other comments in support of a grant application if those letters, signatures, and comments are included as part of an attachment to the grant application, and filed with the grant application in a single document.
- The Commission will continue to schedule a comment period after grant applicants file their applications, but the comment period will be limited to comments that object to specific grant applications and comments that respond to those objections.

This change will not prevent applicants from providing letters of support from potential customers and interested parties. The Commission does not wish to discourage this type of comment. In past grant cycles, some thoughtful letters of support have contributed to a better or more understandable grant application. The Commission simply requires that all letters of support be part of the body of the application. The list of documents in the docket record will separately list each grant application, and the Commissioners will review each application, including all attachments.

3. We have made a Budget and Income Summary spreadsheet available on our website in order for applicants to submit a budget for a grant project. [Summary of Project Budget and Funding Statement](#). A project budget is a required element of the application. Using the appropriate form is part of this requirement.

We have developed this form for submitting a budget to permit easier comparison of the financial details of the grant projects and to ensure that the math is correct in the application budgets. (Be sure to upload this document to ERF in Excel format along with your Application.)

4. The Commission's mapping team is available to assist applicants in submitting accurate mapping files of proposed service areas. See 3.2.2 Description of the Project in the application instructions for more information.
5. The comment period extends through the winter holidays. We have added a week to the comment period to avoid conflicts with holiday plans.

Questions or concerns about the grant application process, program administration, content of the application, or the meaning of any provision of the application instructions should be submitted by e-mail message to the State Broadband Office at PSCStatebroadbandoffice@wisconsin.gov, as provided in the Application Instructions at section 1.5. If the Commission finds that the Instructions are unclear or in error, it will provide a clarification to the mailing list for this docket.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kristy Nieto". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned between two small black square markers.

Kristy Nieto
Division Administrator
Division of Digital Access, Consumer and Environmental Affairs