



Dane County Broadband Task Force

Welcome!

The Dane County Broadband Task Force has continued to hold monthly public meetings which has largely focused on working with the County's consultant, AECOM, to complete a Broadband Engineering Assessment. This work continues and the report is anticipated to be available in the coming months. Jaron McCallum was recently hired as Dane County's Broadband Coordinator. Read on to learn about Jaron and his background. We are very pleased to have someone with Jaron's experience working for Dane County.

The information in this newsletter will provide updates of the work of the Task Force as well as share information from other entities working on broadband expansion.

If you have questions or comments regarding broadband expansion, we invite you to contact Dane County's Broadband Coordinator, Jaron McCallum at **McCallum.Jaron@countyofdane.com**, or attend one of the monthly meetings.

County Board Supervisor Melissa Ratcliff (District 36), Chair
Dane County Broadband Task Force
Ratcliff.Melissa@countyofdane.com

County Board Supervisor Jeff Glazer (District 8), Vice Chair
Dane County Broadband Task Force
Glazer.Jeffrey@countyofdane.com

Dane County Broadband Coordinator Hired!

Jaron McCallum is the Broadband Coordinator for the Dane County Planning & Development Department. In his role, Jaron will coordinate broadband expansion efforts within

Dane County, including working with the Dane County Broadband Task Force, Dane County's broadband consultant AECOM, local communities, internet service providers, and more. Jaron will also assist with grant writing and ensuring that Dane County is best positioned to take advantage of available grant funding opportunities. Finally, Jaron will work to promote digital equity initiatives and the availability of affordable broadband access in Dane County. Jaron has a wealth of broadband experience as he previously worked in the Wisconsin Broadband Office at the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin for nearly eight years. Jaron also previously worked for TDS Telecom, a large, national telecommunications provider based in Madison, WI.



PSC Capital Projects Fund: Accepting Applications

The Public Service Commission 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. For-profit internet service providers, telecommunications utilities, co-operatives, local governments, and non-profit organizations are eligible to apply. Application instructions are now available on the [Capital Projects Broadband Infrastructure](#) webpage. The application deadline is Nov. 7, 2023 at 1:30 pm.

To learn more about State resources for broadband expansion, and to keep abreast of upcoming grants, see the website of the [Public Service Commission of Wisconsin's Broadband office](#).

Broadband Regional Workshops

UW-Madison Division of Extension's Community Development Institute is offering four regional broadband workshops. The two workshops in closest proximity to Dane County will be in Tomah (September 28-29 at the Cranberry Country Lodge) and Fond du Lac (October 9-10 at the Radisson Hotel). These workshops are offered in partnership with the Wisconsin Counties Association, Wisconsin Broadband Office, Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation, Wisconsin State Telecommunication Association, and Northwood Technical College.

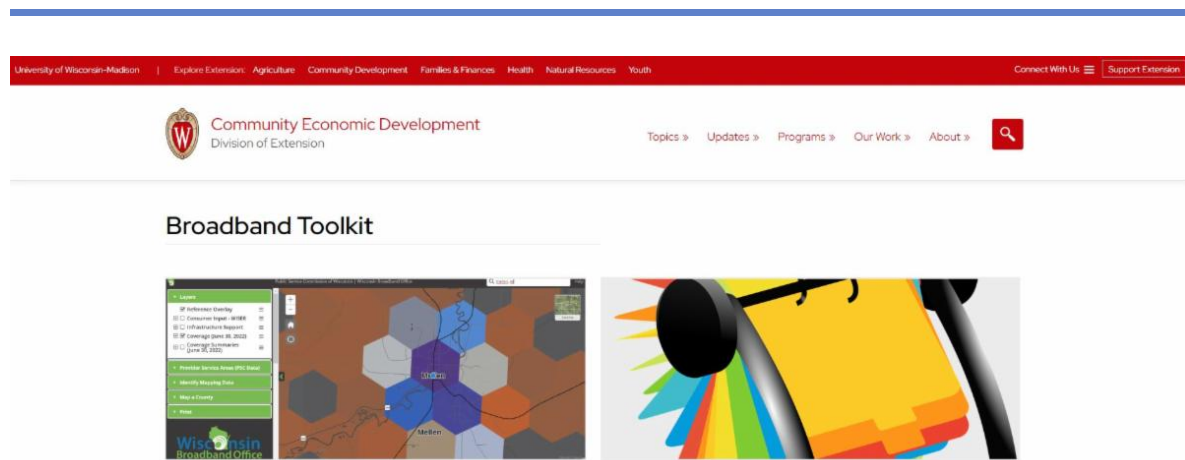
Day One of these workshops covers various topics, including the role of local government in broadband, data-driven economic storytelling, insights into workforce development, and effective public-private partnerships for broadband expansion. Day Two continues with discussions on county financing options and legal considerations in broadband deployment.

This event offers valuable strategies for leveraging BEAD funding to ensure equitable internet access. Learn more about the workshops [HERE](#). Registration is required; the registration link can be found at the bottom of the linked page.

Who should attend?

- Elected officials, community leaders, staff, and volunteer committee members working on expanding access to broadband in their community
- Organizations supporting broadband planning and expansion (school and library staff, regional economic development organizations, regional planning commissions, Extension educators, etc.)
- Internet Service Providers

[Click Here for Agenda and Registration](#)



Broadband Toolkit

Is your community working to increase access to broadband services and improve digital equity? Do you have questions about what data you need, how to engage community members in planning, or how to launch a survey? The [Broadband Toolkit](#), developed by UW-Madison Division of Extension's Community Economic Development Program, provides guidance on these topics through short summaries, worksheets, and webinar recordings. This toolkit is being updated regularly, so please check it out to assist in your broadband planning efforts.



AFFORDABLE CONNECTIVITY PROGRAM

WHAT IS IT?

The Affordable Connectivity Program is an FCC program that helps connect families and households struggling to afford internet service.

The benefit provides:

- Up to \$30/month discount for internet service;
- Up to \$75/month discount for households on qualifying Tribal lands; and
- A one-time discount of up to \$100 for a laptop, desktop computer, or tablet purchased through a participating provider.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

A household is eligible for the Affordable Connectivity Program if the household income is at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines, or if a member of the household meets at least one of the criteria below:

- Participates in any of the following assistance programs: SNAP, Medicaid, Federal Public Housing Assistance, Veterans Pension or Survivor Benefits, SSI, WIC, or Lifeline;
- Participates in any of the following Tribal specific programs: Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance, Tribal TANF, Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations, or Tribal Head Start (income based);
- Participates in 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 broadband provider's existing low-income internet program.

TWO STEPS TO ENROLL

1

Go to [GetInternet.Gov](https://www.getinternet.gov) to submit an application or print a mail-in application

2

Contact your preferred participating provider to select an eligible plan and have the discount applied to your bill.

Some providers may have an alternative application that they will ask you to complete.

Eligible households must both apply for the program and contact a participating provider to select a service plan.

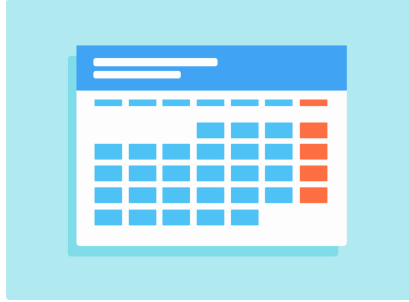
LEARN MORE

 Call 877-384-2575,
 or Visit [fcc.gov/ACP](https://www.fcc.gov/ACP)



Federal Communications Commission -
ACP

Education Superhighway ACP
Toolkit



Upcoming Dane County Broadband Task Force Meetings

Hybrid meetings (in person and virtual) will occur on the following days:
October 5 - 9:00am

For the most up to date schedule as well as agendas and minutes, information to connect or register to speak, please visit Dane County's Legislative Information Center.

[Legislative Information Center](#)

Sign up to receive the Broadband Task Force Newsletter!

Questions? Contact the Dane County Broadband Task Force by emailing Dane.Broadband.Task.Force@countyofdane.com or calling the Office of the Dane County Board of Supervisors (608) 266-5758.

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