COVID-19 has brought new attention to the challenges Wisconsin’s rural residents face accessing online resources critical to health, learning, working and commerce. The Broadband Connectors Pilot initiative is a joint effort between the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation’s Office of Rural Prosperity and the Public Service Commission to increase communities’ readiness to apply for federal, state, and private-sector broadband expansion funds. Six communities will be selected to participate in this initiative and will receive technical assistance from WEDC in the fall 2020 to increase their preparedness to apply for state, federal or private broadband programs.

Eligibility

- Local Governments (city, village, town or county)
- Tribal Governments
- School Districts

Pilot Timeframe:
October – December 2020

Application Period:
Sept. 21-30, 2020

Be Prepared:
Applicants will be asked to identify one point of contact to work with WEDC and should be prepared to:

- Describe the community’s main challenges in accessing effective, reliable, and affordable internet for all;
- Detail the community’s broadband goals;
- Identify any partners that have committed to working on broadband expansion; and
- Outline steps the community has already taken to expand broadband.

Have Questions?
Visit wedc.org/programs-and-resources/broadband-connectors-pilot/ for answers to frequently asked questions about the Broadband Connectors Pilot initiative and to apply.