

A low-angle photograph of the Wisconsin State Capitol dome and the Statue of Freedom. The statue is golden and stands atop the dome, holding a torch in its right hand and a bundle of wheat in its left. The dome is made of light-colored stone with arched windows. The background is a clear blue sky.

STATE OF WISCONSIN

CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND

2026 Annual
Performance Report

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LETTER FROM GOVERNOR TONY EVERS

Dear Secretary Bessent,

I am proud that Wisconsin has been committed to expanding broadband access, adoption, and affordability for all Wisconsinites, as a top priority for my administration, and we've done more to expand access to high-speed internet than at any other time in our state's history. As you know, access to affordable, reliable high-speed internet is no longer a luxury, but a necessity for all Americans, and this is especially true for many of our rural communities. Since declaring 2021 The Year of Broadband Access, we've been able to ensure that Wisconsinites are able to work, get connected to educational and telehealth services, pursue opportunities to improve their quality of life, and stay in touch with loved ones, no matter where they live.

We have enabled more than **410,000** homes and businesses across the state to connect to new or improved high-speed internet service, made possible by historic investments of state and federal funds via the CARES Act and the American Rescue Plan Act. By expanding access, we've supported local infrastructure as well as local jobs, all while addressing critical needs of our communities.

Under the Capital Projects Fund, Wisconsin has received **\$189,354,516** to fund three programs approved by the U.S. Department of Treasury; each designed to address the access, adoption, and affordability of broadband service in Wisconsin.

The **Broadband Infrastructure Program**, awarded by the Wisconsin Public Service Commission (PSC), has directed \$42 million in grants to support new or improved broadband service for nearly 17,000 homes and businesses.

The **Digital Connectivity and Navigators Program**, also overseen by the PSC, awarded nearly \$28 million to 11 projects to expand public Wi-Fi networks, digital navigation services, and the use of 44,000 digital-devices in underserved and underconnected areas of the state, helping to close the digital divide.

Finally, the **Flexible Facilities Program**, overseen by the Wisconsin Department of Administration (DOA), has awarded over \$116 million to enable a total of 35 renovations and expansions of public libraries, community centers, other anchor institutions that help connect, deliver digital services, and expand access for communities across the state. Four have already been completed, with many more on their way.

We've seen the impact of these efforts to connect communities all across our great state, and are proud to showcase modernized public services, ensuring connectivity to Wisconsin's strong 21st-century economy.

Sincerely,

Tony Evers
Governor



GOVERNOR TONY EVERS

BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM

Program Information

Approved Program Plan number	CPF_GP-000131
Program start date	October 6, 2022
Program end date	December 31, 2026
Actual CPF funds allocated to this Program	\$43,350,000 (\$41,877,262 in awarded subgrants)

Executive Summary

The U.S. Department of the Treasury (Treasury) approved the State of Wisconsin’s (Wisconsin or State) Capital Projects Broadband Infrastructure Program on October 6, 2022. Governor Evers and the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (Commission or PSC) announced the opening of the Capital Projects Broadband Infrastructure Program beginning August 14, 2023. The application window closed on November 7, 2023. The Commission received 124 grant applications requesting a total of \$221,616,886. Ultimately, the PSC awarded \$41,877,262 in Capital Projects Broadband Infrastructure Program funding to grantees on March 26, 2024, and the PSC began administering 28 sub-awarded grants on behalf of the State.

This funding, along with two grant awards funded by the American Rescue Plan Act’s State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds program awarded in this same grant round, is expected to connect nearly 17,000 homes and businesses to new or improved broadband services via more than 1,800 miles of fiber.

During the reporting period ending June 30, 2026, Wisconsin focused on program management, monitoring and compliance. Much of the staff time was dedicated to administering the program, including processing reimbursement requests, monitoring projects, reviewing reporting, project closeout, and providing technical assistance to grantees.

Uses of Funds

The primary use of funds has been for allowable project costs for grantees. As of June 30, 2026, \$ 25,990,276.92 has been paid to sub-awardees. All grantees have begun work on their projects and about 59 percent of the total award amount has been paid for documented allowable project expenses. Completed work includes engineering, mainline fiber installation, splicing, boring, installations and other eligible broadband infrastructure project costs.



At this time, the administrative costs that have been incurred are related to staff time for technical assistance, outreach, and post-award administration. These include staff time for grant specialist(s), a communications specialist, a program and policy analyst, and other PSC staff dedicated to data, GIS, financial report, management, and compliance.

During the period ending June 30, 2026, PSC staff initiated six desk reviews for subrecipients.

During the next reporting period, the PSC expects to continue post-award functions related to reimbursement, compliance, monitoring, subrecipient project closeout, and for additional households to be connected to broadband infrastructure.

Addressing Critical Needs

The Capital Projects Broadband Infrastructure Program seeks to address the needs identified in our approved program plan to address gaps in broadband access through broadband infrastructure projects in previously unserved and underserved areas. Eligible applicants had to demonstrate that the proposed communities to be served have critical needs related to work, education, and health monitoring that the proposed project would address.

All projects except one have started construction. Completed work includes engineering, mainline fiber installation, splicing, boring, and installations, among other activities. As of this report, 22 projects are at least 75 percent complete, two projects are 25-74 percent complete, and four projects are under 25 percent complete. On June 22, 2026, Wisconsin submitted requests for period of performance extensions for two projects experiencing permitting delays.

As projects reach customers, the Commission asks the ISPs to provide a survey link for served customers to report on their experiences, fees and costs, challenges, and other feedback.

Labor

Each grant recipient executed a grant agreement to effectuate their grant award. The grant agreements require that grant recipients certify that they will not discriminate in their hiring practices and that they will comply with applicable state and federal laws in their hiring practices.

Community Engagement

The PSC encouraged public participation in every step of the grantmaking process. All grant application documentation is publicly available under PSC docket 5-CPF-2023 through the PSC's Electronic Records Filing (ERF) System. Members of the public, potential grantees, and other interested stakeholders could submit letters of support with applications and participate in an objection period by filing comments through the system during this process. The PSC conducted outreach to potential grantees, including press releases, newsletters, webinars, and targeted engagement with stakeholders and current broadband grant recipients.

Civil Rights Compliance

The grant agreement incorporated state and federal requirements related to nondiscrimination, including but not limited to, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VI), 42 U.S.C. §§ 2000d et seq., including Treasury's implementing regulations, 31 C.F.R. Part 22; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Section 504), 29 U.S.C. § 794; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX), 20 U.S.C. §§ 1681 et seq., and the Department's implementing regulations, 31 C.F.R. Part 28; Age Discrimination Act of 1975, 42 U.S.C. §§ 6101 et seq., and the Department's implementing regulations at 31 C.F.R. Part 23.

DIGITAL CONNECTIVITY AND NAVIGATORS PROGRAM - DIGITAL CONNECTIVITY TECHNOLOGY PROJECTS

Program Information

Approved Program Plan number	CPF_GP-000133
Program start date	December 14, 2023
Program end date	December 31, 2026
Actual CPF funds allocated to this Program	\$29,158,323 (\$27,883,323 in awarded subgrants)

Executive Summary

The U.S. Department of the Treasury (Treasury) approved the State of Wisconsin’s (Wisconsin or State) Capital Projects Fund Digital Connectivity and Navigators program on December 14, 2023. The Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (Commission or PSC) awarded and administers the subrecipient grants on behalf of the State. On April 2, 2024, Governor Evers and the PSC announced the opening of the Digital Connectivity and Navigators Program grant application. After the application period closed in June 2024, the Broadband Office reviewed, scored, and made recommendations to the Commission. In September 2024, the Commission awarded \$27,883,323 in Capital Projects Funds to 11 grantees whose projects deploy digital devices.

The Digital Connectivity and Navigators projects are expected to provide approximately 44,000 digital devices, broadband infrastructure and digital navigation services to underserved, underconnected, and/or low-income individuals across Wisconsin.

The PSC has hired staff dedicated jointly to the Capital Projects Broadband Infrastructure and Digital Connectivity programs: a grant specialist-advanced, a communications specialist, and a program and policy analyst-advanced.

During the reporting period ending June 30, 2026, PSC staff time was dedicated to administering the program, processing reimbursement requests, reviewing reports, monitoring projects, and providing technical assistance to grantees.

All projects have reported steady progress with the bulk of project activities including device fleet acquisitions and community outreach complete. While grantees have not reported any significant challenges, some have expressed minor hurdles related to staffing and storage of acquired digital devices. One grantee has indicated a non-program-specific challenge of participants who are not able to make full use of the device at home because of the lack of quality internet service where they live.

MORE THAN

44,000

Digital devices and navigation services will be provided through Digital Connectivity and Navigator grants.

Uses of Funds

As of June 30, 2026, all grant agreements have been executed, and all of the projects have begun programming activities. Over 56 percent of the total award has been paid to subrecipients.

Administrative costs are related to staff time for the grant specialist advanced, communications specialist, and program and policy analyst advanced positions; and partial allocations of other PSC staff dedicated to data, financial, management, and compliance for both the Broadband Infrastructure and Digital Connectivity programs. Additional allocated time from PSC management contributes to CPF program development.

During the year ending June 30, 2026, PSC Staff:

- Initiated seven desk reviews (monitoring)
- Approved 761 reimbursement requests
- Issued \$12,728,769.94 in reimbursed grant funds

During the next reporting period, the PSC expects to continue post-award functions related to reimbursement, compliance, monitoring and the closeout of projects.

Grantees have reported successes related to positive participant outcomes at local libraries where the use of devices has enabled participants to use a device for work, education and health monitoring.

Addressing Critical Needs

The Capital Projects Fund Digital Connectivity Program seeks to address the critical needs identified in the Commission's approved program plan. The program targets underserved and underconnected households in Wisconsin including those with low adoption rates.

As each project is implemented, subrecipients collect program qualification data about eligible for participants, and host surveys for program results. Each subrecipient reports quarterly with progress updates to the Commission's 5-CPF-2024 docket. Through June 30, 2026, a total of 40,286 digital devices have been purchased and 36,137 digital devices have been loaned.

In the past year, grantees have reported continued successes and positive testimonials in their quarterly reports as highlighted below.

In Their Own Words: Grantee Testimonials



"It's probably one of the best experiences I've ever had. I get online, I have looked for a job, I've done resumes."



"One laptop recipient was not only able to complete her Wisconsin Works program, but she's starting her own business and taught herself to create her own website!"



"[T]hrough hands-on instruction and individualized support, she gained confidence and practical skills, particularly in managing and writing emails. These new skills have allowed her to better support her daughters with schoolwork, stay connected with her family, and feel more comfortable using a computer in her daily life."

Labor

Each grant recipient executed a grant agreement to effectuate their grant award. The grant agreements require that grant recipients certify that they will not discriminate in their hiring practices, and that they will comply with applicable state and federal laws in their hiring practices.

Community Engagement

The PSC encouraged public participation in every step of the grantmaking process. All grant documents are publicly available under PSC docket 5-CPF-2024 through the PSC's Electronic Records Filing (ERF) System. Members of the public, potential grantees, and other interested stakeholders were welcome to submit letters of support with applications. PSC staff conducted outreach to potential grantees, including press releases, one-on-one meetings, newsletters, webinars, and targeted engagement with stakeholders and current grant recipients. The Commission awards grants during an open meeting.

Civil Rights Compliance

The grant agreement incorporated state and federal requirements related to nondiscrimination, including but not limited to, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VI), 42 U.S.C. §§ 2000d et seq., including Treasury's implementing regulations, 31 C.F.R. Part 22; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Section 504), 29 U.S.C. § 794; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX), 20 U.S.C. §§ 1681 et seq., and the Department's implementing regulations, 31 C.F.R. Part 28; Age Discrimination Act of 1975, 42 U.S.C. §§ 6101 et seq., and the Department's implementing regulations at 31 C.F.R. Part 23.



A Digital Navigator from Bayfield County visits the Forest Lodge Library in Cable, Wisconsin, to help foster digital literacy and autonomy in the northern Wisconsin community. Bayfield County's grant supported device deployment and digital navigator services to serve libraries and housing authority properties.

FLEXIBLE FACILITIES PROGRAM

- MULTI-PURPOSE COMMUNITY FACILITY PROJECTS

Program Information

Approved Program Plan number	CPF_GP-000187
Program start date	December 14, 2023
Program end date	December 31, 2026
Actual CPF funds allocated to this Program	\$116,546,193 (\$115,036,955 in awarded subgrants)

Executive Summary

The State of Wisconsin Department of Administration (DOA) – Division of Energy, Housing, and Community Resources (DEHCR) created the Flexible Facilities Program (FFP) to administer the U.S. Department of the Treasury’s (Treasury) Capital Projects Fund (CPF) – Multipurpose Community Facility program. Treasury allocated the CPF funding to Wisconsin in April 2021. Grant award announcements were made on October 7, 2024.

FFP projects include the construction, renovation, or expansion of 21 libraries; nine multi-purpose facilities; and five community centers. Four projects have so far celebrated ribbon cutting and open house milestones, marking significant impact for their communities and stakeholders.

An estimated 342,498 individuals living in 28 separate counties in Wisconsin are benefiting from the FFP funding.

A total of \$116,230,693 in awards has been made to date to 35 grantees. As of June 30, 2026, \$80,701,051 (69 percent) of the FFP grant funding allocated has been spent. The capital-asset investments to date have included 46 percent for construction of a new facility; and 54 percent for the renovation and/or expansion of an existing facility. The expenditures total \$70,840,955 for construction related costs; \$991,891 for digital technology infrastructure, devices and equipment necessary for new or improved broadband/high speed internet access; \$7,908,316 for professional services; \$669,905 for furnishings and fixtures; and \$289,984 for grantees’ grant administration.

MORE THAN

342,400

Wisconsinites benefit from Flexible Facilities Program projects.

FFP community spaces developed or under development include 66 classrooms, 55 computer labs, 57 telemedicine rooms, 95 miscellaneous multi-purpose spaces, over 180 other similar capital assets. When added up, over 450,000 square feet (the equivalent of 10 acres) in community spaces will be constructed or rehabilitated.

In addition, the purchase and installation of over 1,000 pieces of digital connectivity equipment for broadband high-speed internet access will further improve the utility of these spaces.

Flexible Facilities Awards by Facility Type



21 Libraries
9 Multi-Purpose Facilities
5 Community Centers



All FFP projects are more than 50 percent complete. Seven grantees report that construction is complete with the facility occupied, and 28 report that construction remains in progress. As the State finalizes its closeout process with grantees, it will report the completion of projects to Treasury.

Uses of Funds

A total of \$116,230,693 in grant funding was awarded to 35 grantees to date. This reflects an increase of \$1,193,738 in awards during the reporting period, for which the state reallocated funds from the administration budget line to direct grantee assistance. This resulted in an increase in awards for eight grantees. FFP project expenditure metrics were gathered and compiled for all grantees, and as of June 30, 2026, \$80,701,051 has been expended on direct FFP project assistance.

FFP funding distributions and expenditures for new facility construction and existing facility renovation/expansion are summarized in the table below:

New Facility Construction vs. Existing Facility Renovation/Expansion

Facility Type	CPF Amount Budgeted	CPF Amount Expended	Share Expended
New Facility Construction & Digital Technology Improvements	\$52,207,984	\$37,285,478	71%
Existing Facility Renovation and/or Expansion & Digital Technology Improvements	\$64,022,709	\$43,415,573	68%

FFP funding distributions and expenditures for library and non-library facilities are shown in the table that follows:

Libraries vs. Other Spaces (Multi-Purpose and Community Centers)

Facility Type	CPF Amount Budgeted	CPF Amount Expended	Share Expended
Libraries & Multi-Purpose Facilities with Library Space	\$82,073,540	\$58,848,756	72%
Other Multi-Purpose Community Center Facilities	\$34,157,153	\$21,852,295	64%

FFP grant funding has also been spent on capital asset investments into the purchase and installation of digital technology infrastructure, equipment and devices needed for access to broadband high-speed internet. Over 1,000 pieces of digital connectivity equipment and devices have been purchased, including conferencing system equipment, laptops, computers, smart boards, and other equipment devices which enable remote work, education, and health monitoring.

Expenditures for FFP project related activities include:

- Facility construction (including new construction, renovations and expansion)
- Professional services (including architectural, engineering, construction management, and other services)
- Digital connectivity (including internet connections, laptop and desktop computers, printers, smartboards, and other technology devices, equipment, and infrastructure)
- Furnishings and fixtures
- Grant administration

The construction, purchasing, facility occupancy, and project completion processes remain in progress for all FFP projects. Seven grantees have reported to the State that construction is complete, and the facility is occupied. The remaining 28 grantees are finalizing construction activities. The full “completion” status of grantees will be reported to Treasury in future reports after the grantees have completed all required project completion documentation and closed out their grants with the State.

Since the last Annual Performance Report, all FFP projects have started construction, and four have celebrated openings, including renovated libraries in Elkhorn, Port Washington, and Reeseville, as well as the new library in New Glarus, bringing high speed internet access, inclusive learning rooms, and new technology to the community.

The FFP is anticipating 451,545 square feet (or 10.3 acres) of community spaces being constructed or rehabilitated, including 66 classrooms, 55 computer labs, 57 telemedicine rooms, 95 miscellaneous multi-purpose spaces, over 180 other capital assets, and overall improved American Disabilities Act (ADA) access. Construction and development of these community spaces meet the mission of the FFP by enabling access to high-speed internet, for work, education, and health monitoring.

In addition to the \$80,701,050.90 in total funds expended for direct project assistance, \$548,427.70 has been expended on the state’s administrative costs. The FFP has expended over 69 percent of the program’s allocated project budget.

The table below shows the cumulative FFP project expenditures according to the related activity.

Expenditures by Activity	
Activity Category	Total Expended Through June 30, 2026
Facility Construction	\$70,840,954.58
Digital Connectivity	\$991,890.82
Professional Services (architectural, engineering, other)	\$7,908,316.25
Furnishings and Fixtures	\$669,905.33
Grant Administration	\$289,983.92
TOTAL Grantee Assistance Expended	\$80,701,050.90

FFP grantees have completed and submitted documentation for five quarterly reporting periods, and two single audit periods. Program staff provided technical assistance to grantees; reviewed and approved payment requests; conducted grant compliance monitoring; executed grant agreement amendments; and gathered and compiled data for quarterly reports and the annual performance report.

Program staff have conducted compliance monitoring for 31 grantees since the last Annual Performance Report. The remaining four grantees are scheduled to be monitored by the end of August 2026.



Gov. Tony Evers and Department of Administration Secretary Kathy Blumenfeld gather with stakeholders to break ground on the new Denmark Community Center and Library funded by a \$4 million Flexible Facilities Program grant.

The completion of construction activities, the installation of the digital connectivity infrastructure, and the purchase of digital technology equipment are on schedule for completion by October 31, 2026, for most grantees. Three grant extensions have been approved, and others may be considered as requested; contingent sufficient justification is provided. December 16, 2026 will be the latest extension allowed for achieving substantial completion and submitting the Project Completion Report and related documentation.

Addressing Critical Needs

The goals of the FFP are to directly support recovery from the COVID-19 public health emergency by making investments in capital assets designed to provide the modern infrastructure necessary to access critical services, including a high-quality and affordable broadband internet connection.

A total of \$116,230,693 in grants were awarded for the construction, expansion or renovation of 21 libraries; nine multi-purpose facilities; and five community centers. The FFP projects are benefiting approximately 342,498 residents living in 28 counties across Wisconsin. Critical needs addressed include but are not limited to increased or improved access to education, income generation, employment and career opportunities, health care, and broadband/high-speed internet. Projects have resulted in the creation of classrooms, computer labs, interview rooms, telemedicine rooms, and other multi-purpose facility spaces; and the provision of digital technology equipment and resources (e.g., internet access, desktop and laptop computers, printers/scanners, tablets, teleconferencing and other multi-media systems, and other technology investments).

Labor

Policies and templates for labor standards requirements for FFP projects were developed and provided to grantees during the previous reporting period, summarized in [Chapter 7: Labor Standards](#) of the [FFP Implementation Handbook](#), which are posted on the [FFP Implementation Resources website](#). All grantees are monitored for compliance with the FFP labor standards policies and applicable federal, state, and local laws/regulations. Grantees and contractors working on the projects are required to complete corrective actions to address/resolve labor standards and payroll record non-compliance findings prior to the monitoring being closed and the grantee receiving future FFP payments.

Community Engagement

The State has maintained the [FFP Implementation Resources website](#), which was launched during the previous reporting period. It provides external constituents with resources, updates, and materials available to assist with project implementation.

Grantees have reported their community engagement efforts on their quarterly reports. Activities have included grantees holding project informational sessions and other events. There have been 21 groundbreaking events and four grand opening/ribbon cutting ceremonies reported. Policymaker interest and engagement have been strong with state officials visiting 12 FFP sites for announcements, events, tours, groundbreakings, and ribbon cuttings. FFP grantees also posted project site signs (per [FFP project signage specifications](#)) to inform the community members of the project and funding sources.

Civil Rights Compliance

The grant announcement and agreement incorporated state and federal nondiscrimination requirements, including but not limited to, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VI), 42 U.S.C. §§ 2000d et seq., including Treasury's implementing regulations, 31 C.F.R. Part 22; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Section 504), 29 U.S.C. § 794; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX), 20 U.S.C. §§ 1681 et seq., and the Department's implementing regulations, 31 C.F.R. Part 28; Age Discrimination Act of 1975, 42 U.S.C. §§ 6101 et seq., and the Department's implementing regulations at 31 C.F.R. Part 23.

