



# Public Service Commission of Wisconsin

Rebecca Cameron Valcq, Chairperson  
Ellen Nowak, Commissioner  
Tyler Huebner, Commissioner

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

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May 5, 2020

Prospective Grant Applicants

Re: Universal Service Fund Grant Program for 5-NF-2020  
Telecommunications Access Programs or Projects by  
Nonprofit Groups

Dear Prospective Grant Applicant:

The Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (Commission) is pleased to announce its release of the Nonprofit Access Grant Program 2020 Application Instructions.<sup>1</sup> A Universal Service Fund grant program, the Nonprofit Access Grant Program funds nonprofit organizations to facilitate affordable access to telecommunications services in Wisconsin.

The COVID-19 pandemic has underscored the need for affordable access to essential telecommunications services, including access to broadband internet. Up to \$500,000 is available in grants to applicants.

**The grant application deadline is Tuesday, May 26, 2020 at 4:00 p.m. CT.**

For more information, please review the complete application instructions on the Commission's website at <https://psc.wi.gov/Pages/Programs/NonProfitGrants.aspx> before proceeding.

Important items to note include:

- Applicant must be a nonprofit organization as defined in IRS § 501(c)(3).
- Funding will be approved for a 12 month period.
- Matching funds are required for at least 25 percent of the total project cost.
- The project must assist residents as described in the instructions, including those located in areas with relatively high costs of telecommunications services, low-income customers or customers with disabilities in obtaining affordable access to a basic set of essential telecommunications services.<sup>2</sup>

While the types of projects funded by the Nonprofit Access Grant Program vary, Commission staff encourages applicants to include information in their proposals, if applicable, about how the

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<sup>1</sup> See Wis. Admin. Code § PSC 160.125(2).

<sup>2</sup> The Nonprofit Access Grant Program may include funding for broadband connections, or other internet-related projects.

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proposed project would actively address needs that have arisen given the COVID-19 pandemic, including but not limited to, establishing individual and/or household connections to reliable and affordable telecommunications services.

Please contact Holly O'Higgins, Universal Service Fund Director at [holly.ohiggins@wisconsin.gov](mailto:holly.ohiggins@wisconsin.gov) with questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kristy Nieto". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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

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