

SERVICE DATE
May 05, 2020

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF WISCONSIN

Universal Service Fund Grant Program for Telecommunications Access
Programs or Projects by Non-Profit Groups

5-NF-2020

ORDER

The Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (Commission) hereby orders that non-profit agencies seeking grant funding from the Universal Service Fund (USF) for the purpose of operating programs or projects to provide affordable access to telecommunications services in Wisconsin through the Telecommunication Access Program or Projects by Nonprofit Groups (Nonprofit Access Grant Program) shall be required to follow the attached Nonprofit Access Grant Program 2020 Grant Application Instructions, and complete the forms provided therein.

The Nonprofit Access Grant Program was created to assist customers located in areas of this state that have relatively high costs of telecommunications services, low-income customers and customers with disabilities in obtaining affordable access to a basic set of essential telecommunications services. Wis. Stat. § 196.218(5)(a)1.

The Commission exercised its statutory authority to promulgate rules establishing requirements and procedures for awarding grants in Section 160.125(2) of the Wisconsin Administrative Code. The rule provides that the Commission may grant partial funding to nonprofit groups for the facilitation of affordable access to telecommunications services through programs or projects, or both, that are consistent with the purposes identified in Wis. Stat. § 196.218(5)(a)1.

Wisconsin Administrative Code § PSC 160.125(2)(c) describes the information that an applicant must include in its application. The attached Universal Service Fund Nonprofit Access

Docket 5-NF-2020

Grant Program 2020 Application Instructions include the information that the Commission considers to be necessary and required for each grant applicant.

The Commission has the authority to issue this Order under Wis. Stats. § 196.02(1), 196.218(4u), Wis. Admin. Code. § PSC 160.125(2), and a delegation of authority under Wis. Stat. § 15.02(4).

Commission staff shall make these USF Nonprofit Access Grant Program 2020 Application Instructions available on the Commission's website and shall reference these instructions in the solicitation for grant applications. Commission staff shall make available any subsequent updates or corrections to the USF Nonprofit Access Grant Program 2020 Application Instructions by posting the update or correction on the Commission's Electronic Records Filing (ERF) system in docket 5-NF-2020, and on the Commission's website.

Dated at Madison, Wisconsin, May 5, 2020.

For the Commission:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kristy Nieto". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "K" and "N".

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

KN:DK:HMLO:kle DL:01711180

See attached Notice of Rights

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF WISCONSIN
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**NOTICE OF RIGHTS FOR REHEARING OR JUDICIAL REVIEW, THE
TIMES ALLOWED FOR EACH, AND THE IDENTIFICATION OF THE
PARTY TO BE NAMED AS RESPONDENT**

The following notice is served on you as part of the Commission's written decision. This general notice is for the purpose of ensuring compliance with Wis. Stat. § 227.48(2), and does not constitute a conclusion or admission that any particular party or person is necessarily aggrieved or that any particular decision or order is final or judicially reviewable.

PETITION FOR REHEARING

If this decision is an order following a contested case proceeding as defined in Wis. Stat. § 227.01(3), a person aggrieved by the decision has a right to petition the Commission for rehearing within 20 days of the date of service of this decision, as provided in Wis. Stat. § 227.49. The date of service is shown on the first page. If there is no date on the first page, the date of service is shown immediately above the signature line. The petition for rehearing must be filed with the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin and served on the parties. An appeal of this decision may also be taken directly to circuit court through the filing of a petition for judicial review. It is not necessary to first petition for rehearing.

PETITION FOR JUDICIAL REVIEW

A person aggrieved by this decision has a right to petition for judicial review as provided in Wis. Stat. § 227.53. In a contested case, the petition must be filed in circuit court and served upon the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin within 30 days of the date of service of this decision if there has been no petition for rehearing. If a timely petition for rehearing has been filed, the petition for judicial review must be filed within 30 days of the date of service of the order finally disposing of the petition for rehearing, or within 30 days after the final disposition of the petition for rehearing by operation of law pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 227.49(5), whichever is sooner. If an *untimely* petition for rehearing is filed, the 30-day period to petition for judicial review commences the date the Commission serves its original decision.¹ The Public Service Commission of Wisconsin must be named as respondent in the petition for judicial review.

If this decision is an order denying rehearing, a person aggrieved who wishes to appeal must seek judicial review rather than rehearing. A second petition for rehearing is not permitted.

Revised: March 27, 2013

¹ See *Currier v. Wisconsin Dep't of Revenue*, 2006 WI App 12, 288 Wis. 2d 693, 709 N.W.2d 520.