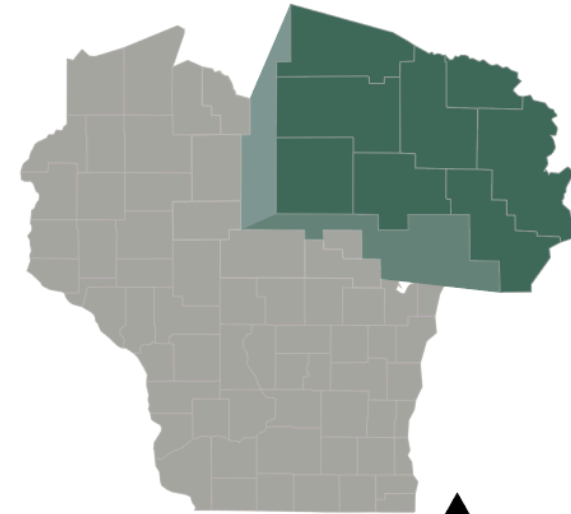



July 21, 2020

Webinar



# Resources for Municipalities





# What is Grow North?

- Regional Economic Development Corporation overseeing 8 counties and 3 Tribal Nations in the Northwoods.
- Is a catalyst for economic prosperity in the Northwoods region.
- 2020 areas of focus:
  - Workforce Cultivation
  - Housing (primarily for workforce needs)
  - COVID-19 recovery (including Broadband)
- One of 9 regions of economic development in Wisconsin




**REGIONAL LEADERSHIP COUNCIL**  
*Wisconsin Economic Development Partners*

WEDC | 7 Rivers Alliance | Centergy | Grow North | Madison Region  
Milwaukee 7 | Momentum West | New North | Prosperity Southwest | Visions Northwest



# Tell me more about your municipality

- Town, City, or County jurisdiction?
  - Is your municipality currently handling specific state or federal grants for projects?
  - What do you think would help your community be prepared for this type of budgetary support (research, planning, grant submission, and project management, etc...)?
-



# Funds for Municipalities: during normal times and COVID-19

- Many of the routes to resources are similar, yet are expansions of normal grant and loan programs
- CARES Act expanded a number of FEDERAL programs that offer support to all time levels
- State of Wisconsin's legislature created programs at the state level
- How do you build the programs to create the grant proposals?
- Regional resources of support



# BROADBAND- infrastructure buildout

State:

Public Service Commission of WI

Federal Government:

USDA Rural Telecom Programs  
(infrastructure programs)

- Who can apply? Municipalities, non-profits, hospitals, schools
  - Best practice: a consortium of many local agencies with interest in the issue. Bring UW Extension and/or County Economic Development to the table for more supports (Examples: Oneida Co, Forest Co)
  - Why aren't the big companies doing this work? It's not financially in their best interest.
  - ***As of July 2020, the Governor created a Broadband taskforce to look at the issue. More to come***
-



# Public Service Commission of WI

<https://psc.wi.gov/Pages/Home.aspx>

- \$24 Million in next round, opening up in September, due in December, 2020 (\$48 mil allocated in last budget biennium budget)
  - Northwoods has done well with the level of competitive grants
  - Keep an eye on both the Blue Ribbon Commission on Rural Prosperity and the Governor's Task Force on Broadband. Both have work that is starting in July.
-



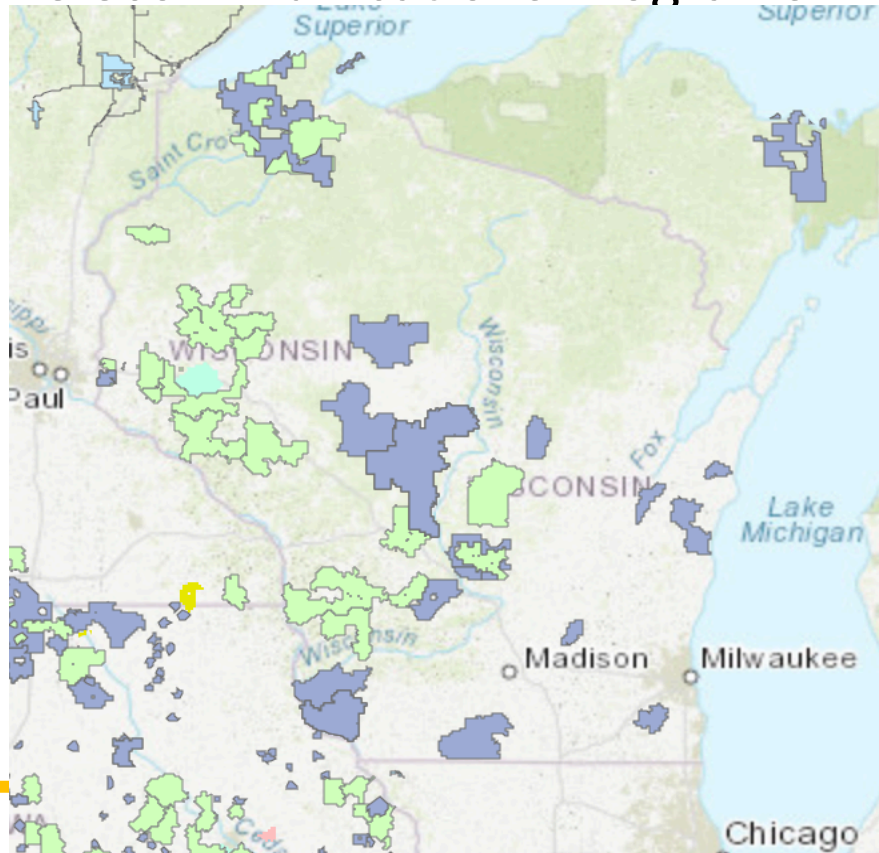
# USDA Rural Telecom Programs

<https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/all-programs/telecom-programs>

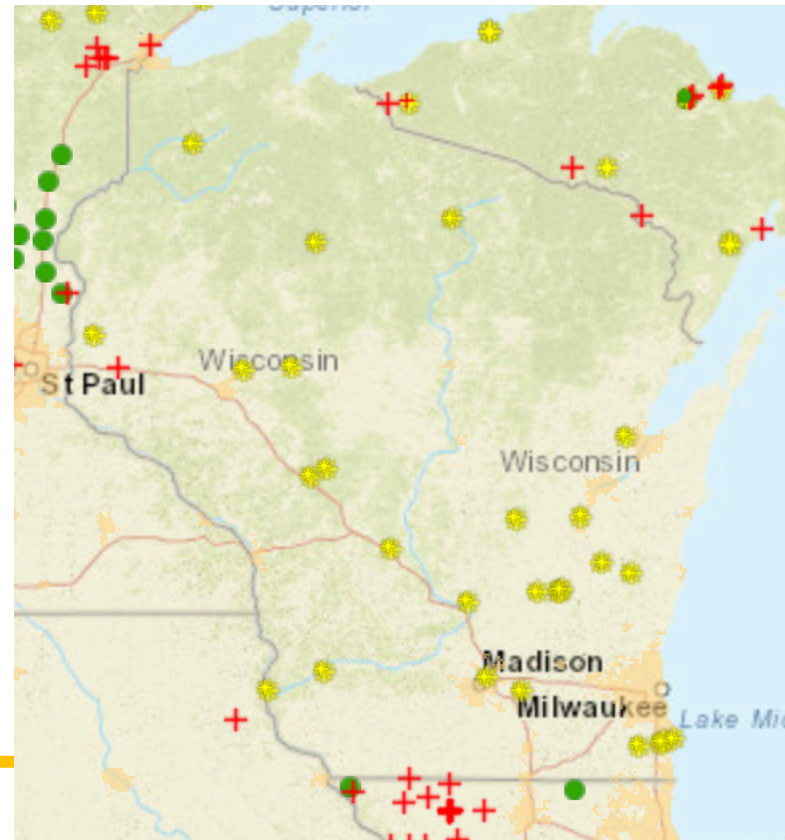
- Grants: Community Connect Grants, Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grants
  - Loans: Rural Broadband Access Loan and Loan Guarantees, Telecommunications infrastructure Loans and Guarantees
  - Federal programs- must be managed to a detailed degree
  - Commentary from USDA Rural officers- highly underutilized
-

# Federal: USDA Rural Telecom Programs

Telecommunications Programs:



Distance Learning and Telemedicine:





# How do you develop a Broadband project for your community?

- Speak to your County Economic Development Corporation to see if they have a county strategy developed
  - UW Extension- Broadband support
  - Not just one grant pathway- stack the resources
  - Keep an eye on both the Blue Ribbon Commission on Rural Prosperity and the Governor's Task Force on Broadband. Both have work that is starting late summer 2020.
-



# Economic Development / special development projects

## State:

Wisconsin Economic Development  
Corporation

## Federal Government:

~ USDA Rural programs

~ Economic Development Authority

- Who can apply? Municipalities, non-profits, hospitals, schools
  - Defined projects that receive support because they add to economic development capacity of your community
  - ***More details will be emerging as the CARES Act EDA based funded programs are finalized***
-



# Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC)

[https://wedc.org/programs/?fwpp\\_programsresources\\_category=program-community](https://wedc.org/programs/?fwpp_programsresources_category=program-community)

- Community Development Investment Grant
  - Local Town needs to be the applicant
  - Redevelopment of buildings that can be non-profits and for-profits
  - Reach out to Jim Rosenberg, area director [jim.rosenberg@wedc.org](mailto:jim.rosenberg@wedc.org)
  - Engage County EDC director in conversation
-



# Economic Development Authority

<https://www.eda.gov/funding-opportunities/>

Regular year:

1 to 1 match (50% grant- find funds for the remainder)

CARES Act Funding:

80% grant; 20% match

WEDC CDI CAN be used as match

- What type of project can count? Economic Development related. Infrastructure, building expansion, revolving loan program development- MANY avenues
  - CANNOT be used in Broadband- only route would be to do a study of coverage
  - ***Keep an eye on announcements about Technical Assistance to help submit these grants***
-



# USDA Rural Community Facilities Program

<https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/all-programs/community-facilities-programs>

“Projects include fire and rescue stations, village and town halls, health care clinics, hospitals, adult and child care centers, assisted living facilities, rehabilitation centers, public buildings, schools, libraries, and many other community-based initiatives. Financing may also cover the costs for land acquisition, professional fees, and purchase of equipment. These facilities not only improve the basic quality of life but assist in the development and sustainability of rural America.”

- Many programs to review
  - Reach out to the WI office for a conversation <https://www.rd.usda.gov/wi>
  - Program guide: [https://www.rd.usda.gov/files/WI\\_All-Program\\_Guide\\_0.pdf](https://www.rd.usda.gov/files/WI_All-Program_Guide_0.pdf)
  - USDA has loan programs and grants. Again, stack resources for multi-million dollar projects
-



# Federal Programs: MUST register

SAM.gov

[https://www.sam.gov/SAM/transcript/Quick Guide for Updating or Renewing SAM Registrations.pdf](https://www.sam.gov/SAM/transcript/Quick%20Guide%20for%20Updating%20or%20Renewing%20SAM%20Registrations.pdf)

DUNS number, SAM registration, then you can apply for a federal grant

---



# Other Resources

- League of Municipalities
  - LISC Rural (Local Initiatives Support Corp) [lisc.org](http://lisc.org)
  - Be in contact with Grow North, GRID, etc.
-



# What do you need next?

- What resources do you need at the local level to help prepare you to pursue more state and federal funding?
-



# What else is Grow North working on?

- Workforce Cultivation
    - DPI Career Pathways / Business interactions with K-12
    - Workforce Cultivation Committee
  - Workforce Housing
    - Local community housing groups
    - Workforce Housing Committee
  - COVID-19 recovery / Broadband
    - Blue Ribbon Commission on Rural Prosperity
    - Chair of the Governor's Task Force on Broadband
-

Thank you !

Brittany Beyer  
Executive Director  
bbeyer@grownorth.org

