

CHIPPEWA COUNTY

COUNTY BOARD

SPECIAL MEETING

FEBRUARY 24, 2022

CHIPPEWA COUNTY COURTHOUSE, RM 302

6:00 PM

NOTE: THE COUNTY BOARD MEETING WILL BE LIVE STREAMED ON YOUTUBE.

During the meeting you can access the video by using the link provided below.

<https://youtu.be/I5vGOutCkIE>

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND MOMENT OF SILENCE**
3. **ROLL CALL**

Attendee Name	Organization	Title	Status	Arrived
Dean Gullickson	Chippewa County	District 7 (Chair)	Present	
Glen Sikorski	Chippewa County	District 2 (Vice-Chair)	Present	
Harold Steele	Chippewa County	District 1	Present	
Ken Schmitt	Chippewa County	District 3	Present	
Lee McMenamin	Chippewa County	District 4	Excused	
James Ericksen	Chippewa County	District 5	Present	
Don Hauser	Chippewa County	District 6	Present	
James Mickelson	Chippewa County	District 8	Excused	
Mechele Shipman	Chippewa County	District 9	Present	
Charlene Kervina	Chippewa County	District 10	Present	
David Eisenhuth	Chippewa County	District 11	Present	
Kari Ives	Chippewa County	District 12	Present	
Annette Hunt	Chippewa County	District 13	Excused	
Chuck Hull	Chippewa County	District 14	Present	
Ronald McGill	Chippewa County	District 15	Present	

others present in room 302 - Randy Scholz, Traci Bremness, Lori Zwiefelhofer, Andy Bauer, Brian Kelley, Todd Pauls, Jaclyn Sadler, Lynda Schweikert, Charlie Walker, Lisa Mancl, Tom Waldusky, John Walton, Kent Klima, Travis McFarlane

4. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

County Board

Minutes
Special Meeting

Chippewa County Courthouse, Rm 302

February 24, 2022
6:00 PM

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Ronald McGill, District 15
SECONDER:	James Ericksen, District 5
AYES:	Gullickson, Sikorski, Steele, Schmitt, Ericksen, Hauser, Shipman, Kervina, Eisenhuth, Ives, Hull, McGill
EXCUSED:	McMenamin, Mickelson, Hunt

5. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WISHING TO BE HEARD

Tom Waldusky thanked the board for their support with CVIC and expressed condolences on the passing of County Board Supervisor Tom Thornton. He asked the board to consider setting aside \$500,000 to build a new CVIC building in Chippewa County. Will be asking for matching funds from Eau Claire County and Gateway.

John Walton and his business was a 1998 graduate of the CVIC. Mr. Walton echoed the comments from Mr. Waldusky. His business and success were made possible from the Innovation Center.

6. REPORTS

A. County Administrator Review and Update

Randy Scholz, County Administrator, updated the board on the ARPA project request from the last meeting. Health and Human Services committee passed the Foster Parent Support Services with Anu Family Services project for consideration of ARPA funds. Land Conservation and Forest Management committee did not approve the project on Lake Wissota Stewardship; Targeted Water Quality and Farm Conservation at their last meeting. However, they did have another suggestion. see handout.

Supervisor Ives suggested to use funds for a re-entry coordinator in the jail instead of a jailer working on programming or contracting with LE Phillips. Would like the position to be a County employee.

Supervisor Hauser asked for explanation on the Facilities and Parks projects on the requested list.

Larry Ritzinger, Facilities and Parks Director, went through each project.

Supervisor Schmitt doesn't see the need for hands free plumbing fixtures and thinks \$450,000 is too high to move a wall. (County Board Room Expansion project)

Supervisor Shipman brought up using technology for members of the public to participate in County Board meetings and/or more education for the public on viewing the meetings on YouTube.

Supervisor Kervina said that the Senior Newsletter had information in the last two issues.

Supervisor Steele thinks more money should be allocated to roads.

1. American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) County Board Brainstorming Session

7. BUSINESS ITEMS

1. Request direction from the County Board whether the county wishes to allocate additional ARPA funds for broadband and if so, how much
Charlie Walker presented to the board on Broadband in Chippewa County.

County Board

Minutes
Special Meeting

Chippewa County Courthouse, Rm 302

February 24, 2022
6:00 PM

The vote box refers to the first part of the action item - Does the County Board wish to allocate additional ARPA funds for broadband.

The information below refers to the second part of the action item - if so, how much

Motion to increase broadband funding by \$1.

Motion made by Supervisor McGill

Second made by Supervisor Hull

Amend motion to increase broadband funding to \$500,000.

Motion made by Supervisor Steele

Second made by Supervisor Hauser

9 Yes, 3 No

Yes's - Gullickson, Sikorski, Steele, Schmitt, Ericksen, Hauser, Shipman, Kervina, Ives

No's - Hull, Eisenhuth, McGill

Motion approved as Amended

9 Yes, 3 No

Yes's - Sikorski, Steele, Schmitt, Ericksen, Hauser, Shipman, Kervina, Eisenhuth, Ives,

No's - Hull, Gullickson, McGill

RESULT:	APPROVED AS AMENDED [9 TO 3]
MOVER:	Kari Ives, District 12
SECONDER:	Charlene Kervina, District 10
AYES:	Gullickson, Sikorski, Steele, Schmitt, Ericksen, Shipman, Kervina, Eisenhuth, Ives
NAYS:	Hauser, Hull, McGill
EXCUSED:	McMenamin, Mickelson, Hunt

2. Request direction from the County Board whether the county wishes to allocate additional ARPA funds for Highway infrastructure and if so, how much

The vote box refers to the first part of the action item - does the County Board wish to allocate additional ARPA funds for Highway Infrastructure.

The information below refers to the second part of the action item - if so, how much.

Motion to allocate \$10.3 million to Highway Department for the use of pulverize, repave the shoulder and roads of approximately 44 miles.

Motion made by Supervisor McGill

Second made by Supervisor Gullickson

1 Yes, 11 No's

Yes's - McGill

No's - Gullickson, Sikorski, Steele, Schmitt, Ericksen, Hauser, Shipman, Kervina, Eisenhuth, Ives, Hull

Motion to wait on dollar amount until other projects are voted on and then allocate to the highway department

Motion made by Supervisor Hauser

Second made by Supervisor Kervina

1 Yes, 11 No - Motion Failed

County Board

Minutes
Special Meeting

Chippewa County Courthouse, Rm 302

February 24, 2022
6:00 PM

Yes's - Kervina

No's - Gullickson, Sikorski, Steele, Schmitt, Ericksen, Hauser, Shipman, Eisenhuth, Ives, Hull, McGill

Motion to allocate to remaining ARPA funds to Highway Department after other projects are voted on

Motion made by Schmitt

Second made by Supervisor McGill

2 Yes, 10 No - Motion Failed

Yes's - Hauser, Schmitt

No's - Gullickson, Sikorski, Steele, Ericksen, Shipman, Kervina Eisenhuth, Ives, Hull, McGill

Motion to allocate remaining ARPA funds to Highway Department in an amount minimum of \$2 million

Motion Made by Eisenhuth

Second Made by Steele

6 Yes, 6 No - Motion Failed

Yes's - Steele, Schmitt, Ericksen, Kervina, Eisenhuth, McGill

No's - Shipman, Sikorski, Hauser, Gullickson, Ives, Hull

Motion to allocate \$7.5 million minimum total to Highway Department

Motion made by Hull

Second Made by Shipman

10 Yes, 2 No - Motion Passed

Yes's - Gullickson, Sikorski, Steele, Schmitt, Ericksen, Shipman, Kervina, Eisenhuth, Hull, McGill

No's - Hauser, Ives

RESULT: **APPROVED AS AMENDED [11 TO 1]**

MOVER: Ronald McGill, District 15

SECONDER: Harold Steele, District 1

AYES: Gullickson, Sikorski, Steele, Schmitt, Ericksen, Hauser, Shipman, Kervina, Eisenhuth, Hull, McGill

NAYS: Ives

EXCUSED: McMenamin, Mickelson, Hunt

8. AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION

9. ADJOURN

RESULT: **APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]**

MOVER: Ken Schmitt, District 3

SECONDER: James Ericksen, District 5

AYES: Gullickson, Sikorski, Steele, Schmitt, Ericksen, Hauser, Shipman, Kervina, Eisenhuth, Ives, Hull, McGill

EXCUSED: McMenamin, Mickelson, Hunt



American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) County Board Brainstorming Session

Randy Scholz, County Administrator

February 15, 2022

Overview

- Introduction / Background
- Non-Exclusive ARPA List of Eligible Uses provided by Wisconsin Department of Revenue
- County Board Action to Date Regarding ARPA
- ARPA Planning Process to Date
- Update on Broadband Initiative
- Revenue Loss
- Summary of Projects Submitted by DH that Qualify
- Summary of Projects Submitted by DH that Don't Qualify
- Next Steps
- Questions, Comments and Brainstorming

Introduction / Background

The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 is a \$1.9 trillion Economic Stimulus Package that was signed into law by President Biden on March 11, 2021. The current estimate for Chippewa County to receive is \$12.5 million. We received \$6,279,529.50 on May 19, 2021. The second installment is expected in May 2022.

The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) has four allowable areas of usage:

- *“(A) to respond to the public health emergency with respect to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID–19) or its negative economic impacts, including assistance to households, small businesses, and nonprofits, or aid to impacted industries such as tourism, travel, and hospitality;*
- *“(B) to respond to workers performing essential work during the COVID–19 public health emergency by providing premium pay to eligible workers of the metropolitan city, non-entitlement unit of local government, or county that are performing such essential work, or by providing grants to eligible employers that have eligible workers who perform essential work;*
- *“(C) for the provision of government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue of such metropolitan city, non-entitlement unit of local government, or county due to the COVID–19 public health emergency relative to revenues collected in the most recent full fiscal year of the metropolitan city, non-entitlement unit of local government, or county prior to the emergency; or*
- *“(D) to make necessary investments in water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure.*

Introduction / Background (cont)

- On May 10, 2021, the U.S. Treasury issued an Interim Final Rule. It is important to note that if the funds are spent on projects that are not considered “allowable expenses” then the funds will need to be repaid back.
- On January 6, 2022 the U.S. Treasury released the Final Rule for ARPA which is effective April 1, 2022.

Chippewa County may use the funds to cover eligible costs that our organization incurred during the period that begins March 3, 2021 and ends on December 31, 2024, as long as the award funds for the obligations incurred by December 31, 2024 are expended by December 31, 2026.

Non-Exclusive ARPA List of Eligible Uses Provided by Wisconsin Department of Revenue

 Non-Exclusive List of Eligible Uses ARPA – Local Fiscal Recovery Funds			
Responding to the Public Health Emergency	Addressing Negative Economic Impacts	Serving the Hardest Hit	Improving Access to Infrastructure
COVID-19 mitigation • Vaccinations • Personal protective equipment (PPE) • Testing • Alternative care facilities	Workers and families • Unemployment and training • Food, housing, financial security assistance • Survivor's benefit	Health disparities • Community health works • Public benefits navigators • Community violence intervention	Water and sewer • Drinking/wastewater infrastructure • Cybersecurity • Remediation of lead pipes • Stormwater/green Infrastructure
Behavioral health care • Mental health treatment • Substance abuse treatment • Crisis intervention	Small businesses • Loans • Grants • Counseling programs	Housing and neighborhoods • Homelessness • Affordable housing • Housing vouchers • Residential counseling	Broadband • Currently unserved or underserved • Modern technologies
Public health resources • Payroll for public health and similar employees	Impacted industries • Tourism • Travel • Hospitality • Non-profits	Educational disparities • Early learning services • School district resources • Educational services	<i>Note: These are examples pending final guidance from the U.S. Dept of Treasury (Treasury).</i> <i>Review Treasury documents for details:</i> • FAQs • Interim final rule
Essential workers • Premium pay • Retroactive premium pay	Public sector • Rehire public sector employees to pre-pandemic levels • Replace lost revenue	Healthy environments • Childcare • Enhanced child welfare services	

County Board Action to Date Regarding ARPA

- **July 20, 2021 – County Board Meeting** – [View Agenda Packet](#)
 - Approved Res. 19-21 to Approve Chippewa County American Rescue Plan Act Guidelines and Procedures for Allocating ARPA Funds
 - Approved Res. 20-21 to Support the Grant Application of 24/7 Telcom, Inc. to Help Qualify for Broadband Expansion Funding from the State of WI
 - Approved Res. 21-21 to Support the Grant Application of Ntera, LLC to Help Qualify for Broadband Expansion Funding from the State of WI
 - Approved Res. 22-21 to Support the Grant Application of Bloomer Telephone Company to Help Quality for Broadband Expansion Funding from the State of WI
- **February 8, 2022 – County Board Meeting** – [View Agenda Packet](#)
 - Approved Res. 04-22 to Amend the Guidelines & Procedures for Allocating American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) Funds

ARPA Planning Process to Date

- 01/04/2022 – DH submitted draft ideas to the CA for initial review
 - 26 projects were submitted by DH
 - 13 of the projects meet the requirements and qualify for ARPA funds
 - 13 of the projects either did not meet the ARPA requirements or were moved to a CIP project instead
- 01/27/2022 – CA held listening session with municipalities
 - Great turnout – 25 municipality reps and 5 CB Supervisors attended the session
 - Lots of questions for Highway regarding the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) and what the requirements and timeline are
- 02/17/2022 – Health & Human Services Board meet to review DHS ARPA request
- 02/18/2022 – LCFM Committees meets to review LCFM ARPA request
- 02/15/2022 and 02/22/2022 – CB brainstorming sessions
 - No official action will be taken at these meeting – just information gathering

Update on Broadband Initiative

- Broadband projects qualify for the “Improve Infrastructure” category
 - \$1,709,956 total Chippewa County ARPA funds (13.6%) allocated for Broadband projects
 - \$339,549 – 24/7 Telcom, Inc.
 - \$531,657 – Ntera, LLC
 - \$838,750 – Bloomer Telephone Company
 - Staff currently working with the Broadband companies to finalize agreements before any funds are transferred
 - Additional Broadband companies have contacted the County showing interest
- Does the County Board plan to approve additional funds for other broadband requests?
 - If yes, how much?
 - If yes, what projects do you want removed in order to free up more funds for broadband?

Revenue Loss

- We expect that Chippewa County will be able to capture the remaining ARPA funds of \$10,849,103 with Revenue Loss projects.
 - (\$12,559,059 minus \$1,709,956 allocated to Broadband in July 2021 = \$10,849,103)
- FY 2019 is considered the base year based on qualified revenues as explained in Interim Final Rule and Final Rule.
- Maximum allowable annual increase is calculated from the 2019 base year and compounds each year:
 - 4.1% for 2020
 - 5.2% for 2021, 2022 and 2023

2020 Revenue Loss Calculation: (Reviewed by Sikich LLC)

2019 Qualified Revenues = \$48,287,945

2020 Expected Qualified Revenues $\$48,287,945 \times 4.1\% = \$50,267,751$

2020 Actual Qualified Revenues = \$44,514,520

2020 Loss Revenue Calculation $\$50,267,751 - \$44,514,520 = \$5,753,231$

ARPA Fund Contingency

- Any remaining ARPA funds will be held as a contingency. Since we know that projects rarely come in exactly as budgeted.
 - Goal is to have between \$1,259,906 and \$1,889,859 (10 – 15%) set aside for contingency.
- By March 2024, any ARPA funds allocated to a project with an expectation the project may not be completed within the allotted timeframe, those funds may be redirected to other projects.
 - The County Administrator will prepare a resolution to be forwarded to the Executive Committee and County Board for approval before re-allocating any funds.

DRAFT * 2021 - 2026 ARPA Project Plan *DRAFT
Initial Requests Submitted by DH - Reviewed by CA - Projects Qualify



Revised: 01/28/2022

Note: **\$12,559,059.00** Chippewa County Total ARPA Allocation
\$6,279,529.50 1st half of ARPA funds deposited into our account 05-19-2021
\$6,279,529.50 2nd half of ARPA funds to be deposited into our account 05-22-2022

Year	Project Requester / Department	Project Title	Total Project Cost	Date Committee Reviewed	Source of Funding					Category for Eligible Use
					Chippewa County ARPA Funding	Project Requester / Department Funding	Other Municipality Funding	Grants / Other	Levy	
2021 <i>Res 20-21</i>	24/7 Telecom Inc	Broadband Expansion - Towns Wheaton & Howard	\$3,902,530	07/20/21	\$339,549	\$1,272,167	\$339,549	\$1,951,265	\$0	Improve infrastructure
2021 <i>Res 21-21</i>	Ntera LLC	Broadband Expansion - Towns of Goetz, Delmar, Edson & Sigel	\$3,607,500	07/20/21	\$531,657	\$1,227,093	\$45,000	\$1,803,750	\$0	Improve infrastructure
2021 <i>Res 22-21</i>	Bloomer Telephone Company	Broadband Expansion - Town of Eagle Point & Tilden	\$3,753,849	07/20/21	\$838,750	\$457,500	\$425,000	\$2,032,599	\$0	Improve infrastructure
2021 TOTAL			\$11,263,879		\$1,709,956	\$2,956,760	\$809,549	\$5,787,614	\$0	
2022 - 2024	DOA - Facilities & Parks	Temporary Position for Maintenance Technician II	\$225,000	1/26/2022	\$225,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	Revenue Loss
2022 - 2024	DOA - Facilities & Parks	Handsfree plumbing fixtures at Courthouse	\$500,000	1/26/2022	\$500,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	Revenue Loss
2022 - 2024	DOA - Facilities & Parks	Replace domestic water piping in the 1951 Courthouse	\$600,000	1/26/2022	\$600,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	Revenue Loss
2022 - 2024	DOA - Facilities & Parks	County Board Room Expansion	\$450,000	1/26/2022	\$450,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	Revenue Loss
2022 - 2024	DOA - Facilities & Parks	Playgrounds (3) - Pine Point, Otter Lake, Round Lake	\$260,000	1/26/2022	\$260,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	Revenue Loss
2022 - 2024	DOA - Facilities & Parks	Replace Campsite Docks (43)	\$129,000	1/26/2022	\$129,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	Revenue Loss
2022 - 2024	DOA - Facilities & Parks	Add a New Mini-Marina at Pine Point Park	\$30,000	1/26/2022	\$30,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	Revenue Loss
2022 - 2024	DOA - Facilities & Parks	Add a New Fishing Dock at Otter Lake Campground	\$40,000	1/26/2022	\$40,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	Revenue Loss
2022 - 2024	DOA - Facilities & Parks	Add Automatic Firewood Dispensers (3) - Pine Point, Otter Lake, Morris Erickson	\$30,000	1/26/2022	\$30,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	Revenue Loss
2022 - 2024	DOA - Facilities & Parks	Replace Picnic Tables (30) - Pine Point, Otter Lake, Round Lake, Morris Erickson	\$24,000	1/26/2022	\$24,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	Revenue Loss
2023 - 2024	Highway	Road Improvements - 3 year plan 2022 = \$1 million; 2023 = 2 million; 2024 = 2 million	\$5,000,000	1/26/2022	\$5,000,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	Revenue Loss
2022 - 2026	Human Services	Foster Parent Support Services with Anu Family Services	\$2,172,153	2/17/2022	\$2,172,153	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	Revenue Loss
2022 - 2026	LCFM	Lake Wissota Stewardship; Targeted Water Quality & Farm Conservation Project	\$1,000,000	2/16/2022	\$1,000,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	Revenue Loss
2022-2026 TOTAL			\$10,460,153		\$10,460,153	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
2021-2026 Grand Total for All Projects			\$21,724,032		\$12,170,109	\$2,956,760	\$809,549	\$5,787,614	\$0	

Attachment: 2022 ARPA Presentation Brainstorming Session with CB 02-15-2022 (6844 : American

2021 - 2026 ARPA Project Plan

* Initial Requests from DH - Reviewed by CA - Projects Don't Qualify or Have Been Moved to CIP *

Note: \$12,559,059.00 Chippewa County Total ARPA Allocation
 \$6,279,529.50 1st half of ARPA funds deposited into our account 05-19-2021
 \$6,279,529.50 2nd half of ARPA funds to be deposited into our account 05-22-2022

Revised: 01/28/2022

Year	Project Requester / Department	Project Title	Total Project Cost	Source of Funding					CA Review Comments	Category for Eligible Use
				Chippewa County ARPA Funding	Project Requester / Department Funding	Other Municipality Funding	Grants / Other	Levy		
	Child Support - 2022	Laserfiche Updates / Upgrade	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	Use IT funds - 2021 year end \$	Negative economic impacts
	CJS - 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024	Project Manager for Take a Stand Against Meth Campaign (20 hrs per week LTE or contracted position)	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	doesn't qualify - not a govt service	Serving the hardest hit
	Clerk of Courts - 2022	Digital Audio Recorder for Court Commissioner	\$10,350	\$10,350	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	withdraw request per Judge's	Improve infrastructure
	County Clerk - 2022	Election Equipment - 2 backup machines	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	Use 2021 yr end \$	Revenue Loss
	DA - 2022	Remove front lobby microphones & replace glass, replace printer in lobby, smartboard/flip chart for jury trials, cloud storage for digital media, update electronic communication hardware and software	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	doesn't qualify - use state funds for IT items - will discuss glass issue with F&P	
	F&P - 2023	New Bathroom / Showers (1) - Otter Lake	\$325,000	\$325,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	move to CIP	Negative Economic Impacts
	F&P - 2023	New Bathroom / New Well (1) - Pine Point	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	move to CIP	Negative Economic Impacts
	F&P - 2023-2024	Remodel 10 multi-stall bathrooms at Courthouse	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	move to CIP 2023	Negative Economic Impacts
	F&P - 2023-2024	Branch II Jury Box Remodel to accommodate new chairs	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	move to CIP	Negative Economic Impacts
	LCFM - 2023	Ice Age Trail - Eastern Trail Establishment	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	Doesn't qualify as govt service	
	Public Health - 2022, 2023	Public Health Vaccine Updates - Space Remodel	\$450,000	\$450,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	move to CIP	Improve infrastructure
	Sheriff / Jail - 2022	Jail Conference Room	\$100,000	\$50,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	move to CIP 2027	Improve infrastructure
	Sheriff - 2022	911 Phone System Replacement	\$350,000	\$350,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	move to CIP 2023	
Total for Projects That Don't Qualify			\$3,731,350	\$3,681,350	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		

Other Funding Opportunities

- 5 Year Capital Improvement Plan – Projects over \$50,000
 - Allows funding to carry over to next year if project is not finished on time
- Bonding – Plan to bond in 2022 for 2023
 - Long-Term Financing Plan – Bond every two years for transportation projects – goal to maintain \$1.8M annual debt payments
- Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) / Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)
 - Funding for Roads and Bridges - \$1.29 Billion over 5 years (table below)
 - Final legislative approvals (and final Federal funding tables) are still pending, and likely will be pending until Late Spring/Early Summer 2022
 - Most projects: 80/20 cost share – Some local bridges may be eligible for 100%

	Amount \$	SFY-22	SFY-23	SFY-24	SFY-25	SFY-26
Road & Bridge	\$1,064,000,000	\$173,000,000	\$193,000,000	\$213,000,000	\$232,000,000	\$253,000,000
Bridge Only	\$225,000,000	<u>\$45,000,000</u>	<u>\$45,000,000</u>	<u>\$45,000,000</u>	<u>\$45,000,000</u>	<u>\$45,000,000</u>
Total	\$1,289,000,000	\$218,000,000	\$238,000,000	\$258,000,000	\$277,000,000	\$298,000,000

Next Steps

02/25/22	DH submit committee approved projects to CA to be incorporated into plan
04/19/22	CB meeting/CB orientation provide an overview of ARPA for new CB Supervisors
05/17/22	CA presents draft plan to Executive Committee as a report for review
05/24/22	Special CB meeting – listening session to receive feedback from the public and to review the draft plan and provide feedback
05/25/22	CA sends plan to auditing firm for compliance review before finalizing plan
07/05/22	County Administrator presents the final plan and supporting resolutions to the <u>Executive Committee</u> for recommendation to the County Board
07/12/22	County Administrator presents the final plan and supporting resolutions to <u>County Board</u> for approval
07/15/22	A copy of the ARPA Plan is posted on the employee portal and county website
11/03/22	Approved 2023 ARPA projects will be included with the 2023 Budget

Questions, Comments and Brainstorming





American Rescue Plan Act of 2021

Guidelines & Procedure for Allocating (ARPA) Funds

The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 is a \$1.9 trillion economic stimulus package that was signed into law by President Biden on March 11, 2021. The current estimate for Chippewa County to receive is \$12.5 million.

On May 19, 2021, Chippewa County received the first transaction of \$6,279,529.50. Chippewa County will receive the second half of the funds in May 2022. The funds must be obligated by December 31, 2024 and spent by December 31, 2026.

The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) has four allowable areas of usage:

- “(A) to respond to the public health emergency with respect to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID–19) or its negative economic impacts, including assistance to households, small businesses, and nonprofits, or aid to impacted industries such as tourism, travel, and hospitality;
- “(B) to respond to workers performing essential work during the COVID–19 public health emergency by providing premium pay to eligible workers of the metropolitan city, non-entitlement unit of local government, or county that are performing such essential work, or by providing grants to eligible employers that have eligible workers who perform essential work;
- “(C) for the provision of government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue of such metropolitan city, non-entitlement unit of local government, or county due to the COVID–19 public health emergency relative to revenues collected in the most recent full fiscal year of the metropolitan city, non-entitlement unit of local government, or county prior to the emergency; or
- “(D) to make necessary investments in water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure.

On May 10, 2021, the U. S. Treasury issued an Interim Final Rule and counties are still waiting for additional guidance on what is considered an “allowable expense”. It is important to note that if the funds are spent on projects that are not considered “allowable expenses” then the funds will need to be repaid.

On January 6, 2022, the U. S. Treasury issued the Final Rule. The County Administrator will work closely with the Wisconsin Counties Association (WCA) in identifying allowable expenses with the different eligible expenditure categories.

Purpose of this Policy Document

The purpose of this document is to have the County Board approve the criteria that Chippewa County will follow for utilizing ARPA funds. The criteria established by the County Board will need to be in compliance with the U. S. Treasury guidelines. The document will also identify the procedures that Chippewa County will use to allocate the funds.

Process for Establishing and Approving the Criteria for Utilizing ARPA Funds

The County Administrator will ensure the criteria complies with U. S. Treasury guidelines and will provide an initial recommendation to the Executive Committee in a report form to review and discuss. The Executive Committee will then provide a recommendation to the County Board to receive additional input. There could be consensus votes taken at both meetings, but nothing will be final, until a resolution is passed by the Executive Committee and ultimately by the County Board.

County Administrator's Recommendation on Criteria for Utilizing ARPA Funds

1. The funds may be allocated for projects that will/could reduce future operational cost.
2. The funds may be allocated for projects that are currently in Chippewa County's five-year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) or projects that are similar.
3. The funds may be allocated for projects that will promote future economic growth in Chippewa County.
4. The funds should never be allocated in a way that will increase future operational cost.

County Administrator's Recommendation on the Procedure to Allocate Funds

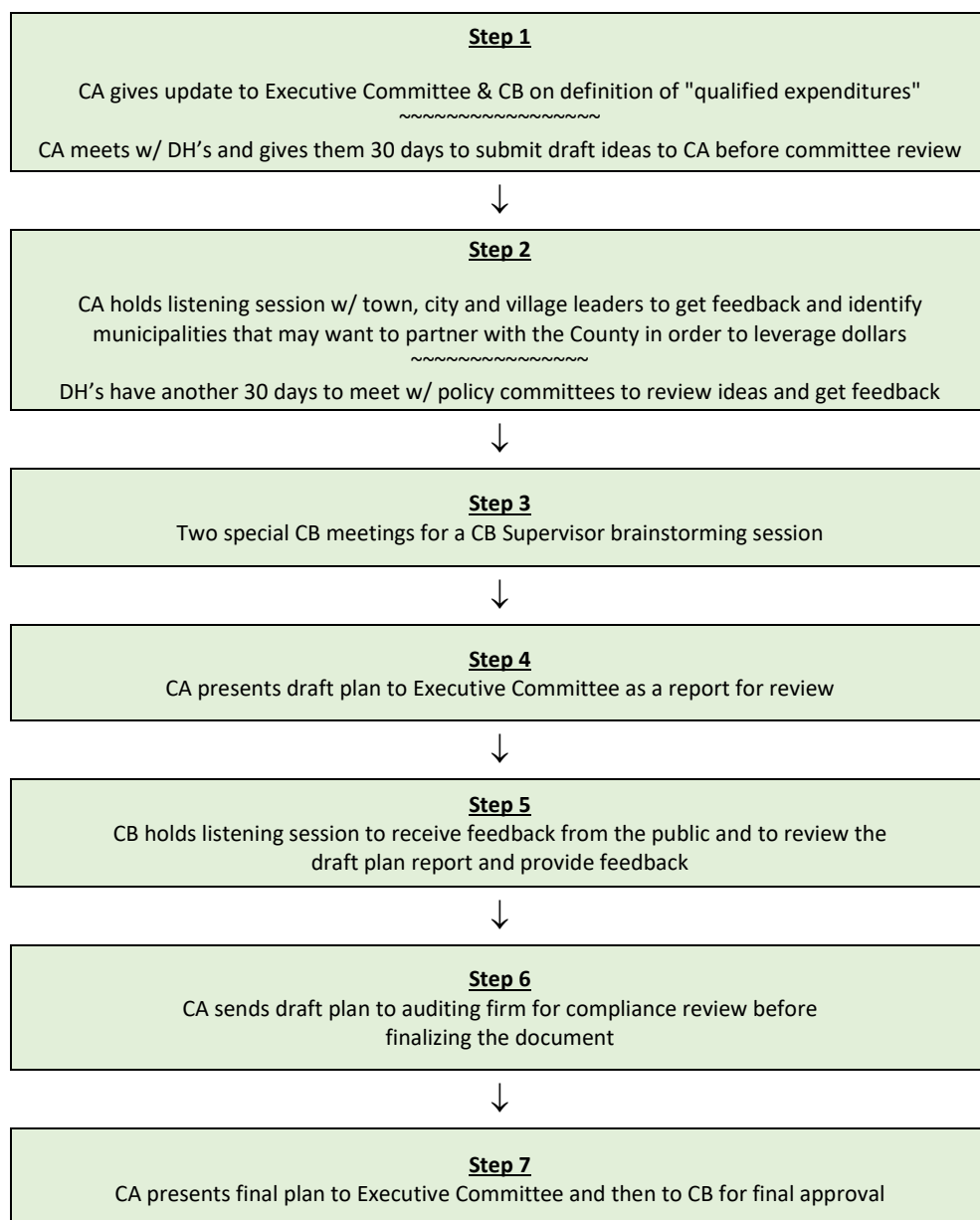
1. As soon as the final rule is released and the County Administrator has a thorough understanding of the definition for "qualified expenditures" the County Administrator will give a report to the Executive Committee and to the full County Board. The report will cover the current understanding of qualified expenditures.

During that same timeframe, the County Administrator will have a meeting with the Department Heads to explain the final rule and definition of qualified expenditures.

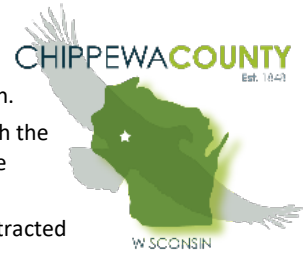
- The Department Heads will be given thirty-days (30) to submit draft ideas to the County Administrator via the Chippewa County ARPA Justification Form, before committee review, of potential projects that may be considered qualified expenditures. At this time the ideas only need to be concepts, not complete projects.
2. The County Administrator will hold a listening sessions with town, city and village leaders to review the guidelines and get input and feedback on projects they may be considering, and to identify municipalities that may want to partner with Chippewa County in order to leverage the ARPA dollars. County Board Supervisors will be invited to attend this listening session, but no formal action will be taken.
 - The Department Heads will be given another thirty-days (30) to review ideas with the policy committee for feedback before submitting their final recommendations to the County Administrator.
 3. The County Administrator will request to have a special County Board meeting for a brainstorming session so County Board Supervisors can provide additional feedback regarding items they would like to see the funds spent on. No ideas will be eliminated, unless it is known the ideas do not qualify as acceptable expenditures according to the U. S. Treasury guidelines.
 4. After receiving feedback from everyone, the County Administrator will prepare a draft plan in a format similar to the Capital Improvement Plan and present it to the Executive Committee for review, discussion, and approval to forward the draft plan to the County Board for consideration.
 5. The County Board will hold a listening session to receive feedback from the public and to review the draft plan report and provide feedback. There may be consensus votes taken at the meeting, but nothing is formally approved during this meeting(s).

6. The County Administrator will send the draft plan to the auditing firm for a compliance review before finalizing the document.
7. The County Administrator will present a plan to the Executive Committee and then to the County Board for final approval. This will be done in the form of a resolution.
8. The financial updates for ARPA funds will be included with the County financial reports that are provided by the Finance Director to the County Board on a quarterly basis.
9. By March 2024, any ARPA funds allocated to a project with an expectation the project may not be completed within the allotted timeframe, those funds may be redirected to other projects. The County Administrator will prepare a resolution to be forwarded to the Executive Committee and County Board for approval before re-allocating any funds.

Procedure to Allocate ARPA Funds



ARPA Project Request Form



- DH have 30 days to complete Section 1 and submit draft ideas to the CA for review and discussion.
- If CA supports the project, then DH have another 30 days to complete Section 3 and review it with the policy committee to get ideas and feedback. The ARPA Project Request Form with the committee feedback is then submitted back to the CA to be incorporated into the draft multi-year plan.
- All projects must be completed by September 30, 2024 in order to be considered, unless it is contracted until December 31, 2026.
- For a project to be considered, there must be NO ongoing costs for future budgets beyond 2026.

SECTION 1 – To Be Completed by DH Before Submitting to the CA for Initial Review

Project Requester/Department: _____ **Date:** _____

Name of ARPA Project: _____

☐ New Project ☐ Expansion of Existing Project *(identify below)* ☐ Replace Future CIP Project *(identify below)*
Identify: _____

Estimated Start Date of Project: _____ **Estimated Date of Completion:** _____

Identify the Category for Eligible Use: *(see Page 3 for list from the US Treasury)*

☐ Responding to the Public Health Emergency ☐ Addressing Negative Economic Impacts
☐ Serving the Hardest Hit ☐ Improving Access to Infrastructure ☐ Revenue Loss

Description – *Provide an explanation about what the project entails.*

How does this project benefit the citizens of Chippewa County?

Estimated Total Cost of Project: \$ _____

Amount of Chippewa County ARPA Funds Requested: \$ _____

Budget Year: ☐ 2021 ☐ 2022 ☐ 2023 ☐ 2024 ☐ 2025 ☐ 2026

Note: ARPA Funds are to be obligated by December 31, 2024 and spent by December 31, 2026.

Will matching funds be used by another organization/municipality? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, identify who and amount: _____

Will this project result in savings for your department or Chippewa County beyond 2026? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Do you anticipate this project to increase future revenues for Chippewa County? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, what revenues will be affected?

Is there a current program/service that will no longer be offered? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please identify the program and costs of the current program:

Will this new project require additional staff only for the duration of the project? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, how many staffing hours are anticipated? _____

Return completed form to the County Administrator

Signature of Project Requester/Department Head

Date

SECTION 2 – To Be Completed by the County Administrator

☐ Approved for Committee Review and Feedback ☐ Denied ☐ More Information Needed

If Approved, Confirm the Category for Eligible Use:

☐ Responding to the Public Health Emergency

☐ Addressing Negative Economic Impacts

☐ Serving the Hardest Hit

☐ Improving Access to Infrastructure

☐ Revenue Loss

If Approved, Confirm the Budget Year: ☐ 2021 ☐ 2022 ☐ 2023 ☐ 2024 ☐ 2025 ☐ 2026

Total Amount of Chippewa County ARPA Funds Recommended by County Administrator: \$ _____

County Administrator

Date

Comments:

SECTION 3 – Additional Action and/or Comments from Committee

Committee Meeting Date: _____ ☐ Approved ☐ Denied ☐ More Information Needed

Department Head Recommended Ranking: _____ Committee Approved Ranking: _____

Total Amount of Chippewa County ARPA Funds Approved by Committee: \$ _____

Comments:

➤ Submit completed form back to the County Administrator after policy committee has reviewed/approved.

 Non-Exclusive List of Eligible Uses ARPA – Local Fiscal Recovery Funds			
Responding to the Public Health Emergency	Addressing Negative Economic Impacts	Serving the Hardest Hit	Improving Access to Infrastructure
COVID-19 mitigation • Vaccinations • Personal protective equipment (PPE) • Testing • Alternative care facilities	Workers and families • Unemployment and training • Food, housing, financial security assistance • Survivor's benefit	Health disparities • Community health works • Public benefits navigators • Community violence intervention	Water and sewer • Drinking/wastewater infrastructure • Cybersecurity • Remediation of lead pipes • Stormwater/green infrastructure
Behavioral health care • Mental health treatment • Substance abuse treatment • Crisis intervention	Small businesses • Loans • Grants • Counseling programs	Housing and neighborhoods • Homelessness • Affordable housing • Housing vouchers • Residential counseling	Broadband • Currently unserved or underserved • Modern technologies
Public health resources • Payroll for public health and similar employees	Impacted industries • Tourism • Travel • Hospitality • Non-profits	Educational disparities • Early learning services • School district resources • Educational services	<i>Note: These are examples pending final guidance from the U.S. Dept of Treasury (Treasury).</i> Review Treasury documents for details: • FAQs • Interim final rule
Essential workers • Premium pay • Retroactive premium pay	Public sector • Rehire public sector employees to pre-pandemic levels • Replace lost revenue	Healthy environments • Childcare • Enhanced child welfare services	



**STATEMENT OF EXPLANATION
REQUEST DIRECTION FROM THE COUNTY BOARD WHETHER THE
COUNTY WISHES TO ALLOCATE ADDITIONAL ARPA FUNDS FOR
BROADBAND AND IF SO, HOW MUCH**

TO: County Board Supervisors
FR: Randy Scholz
RE: ARPA Funds for Broadband

At the February 15, 2022 County Board brainstorming session the suggestion was made to allocate more ARPA funds for our broadband. The County Board has already approved \$1,709,956 or (13.6%) for broadband as indicated below:

- \$339,549 - 24/7 Telcom Inc (Town of Wheaton & Howard)
- \$531,657 - Ntera LLC (Towns of Goetz, Delmar, Edson & Sigel)
- \$838,750 - Bloomer Telephone Company (Town of Eagle Point & Tilden)

In an effort to gauge support and direction from the County Board, I will be asking the County Board to vote on the following questions:

1. Do you wish to allocate more than \$1,709,956 or (13.6%) of ARPA funds for broadband?
2. If yes, how much?

Chippewa County Broadband!



WWW.CHIPPEWA-WI.COM

770 TECHNOLOGY WAY
CHIPPEWA FALLS, WI 54729

Agenda

I. Chippewa Economic Development Corporation

A. Mission

The primary mission of the CEDC is to be a catalyst for economic development in the Chippewa Valley and to foster a strong economic environment which supports talent, businesses, and nurtures growth and new investment in the region. CEDC is dedicated to promoting and facilitating economic development and to improve the quality of life where the Chippewa River flows by increasing its economic base.

B. Initiatives

- I. Business Attraction
- II. Entrepreneur/Business Start Ups
- III. Workforce/Talent Initiatives
- IV. Business Expansion And Retention (BEAR)

CEDC BEAR Program

- I. BEAR Visits
- II. BEAR Discussions
 - I. BEAR Discussions Podcast
 - II. BEAR Listening Sessions
 - III. BEAR Lunch & Learns/Workshops
- III. BEAR Advocacy

Grants and Federal Dollars, Establishment of new programs (Fast Forward Training Grants, Disaster Relief Programs, Work to Improve Business Climate, Elected Official Updates, **BROADBAND EXPANSION**)



Broadband Expansion

- **BROADBAND**: a high-speed connection between Homes/Businesses/Organizations and the world wide web.
- Faster than a dial-up or narrow band telephone connection
- Defined by the FCC as at least **25 Mbps** of download speed and at least 3 Mbps of upload speed.
Mbps: Megabits per second is a unit of measurement used to indicate download and upload speed.
- Increasing demand for faster connections has forced this definition, to move towards higher thresholds



Types of Broadband Connections		
Faster	Fiber	A wired technology, generally viewed as the most preferred option for broadband. It uses fiber-optic cable to transmit large amounts of information. The infrastructure is relatively expensive to build but most reliable.
	Cable	Cable uses the same coaxial cables, another wired technology, that deliver picture and sound to television sets to support broadband.
	DSL	A wired technology, DSL uses traditional copper telephone lines already connected to homes and businesses.Speed may vary with distance from the home to the nearest equipped telephone facility.
	Wireless	Wireless connections use a radio link to connect between residences or businesses and the provider's facility. Available to fixed locations as well as across broader regions via a cell phone, for example. Must be close to a cell tower.
Slower	Satellite Its Expensive	A type of wireless broadband using the satellite technology used in for telephone and television service. It is viewed as useful for getting service to remote or low-density areas. An alternative that bypass physical hindrances. Unfortunately, satellite internet is yet to catch up to the speeds of cable and fiber connections. Since the signals have to travel to the space and back, latency issues appear between the time taken to send and receive a signal. While slower speeds and latency issues are tolerable for basic requirements, it is downright unacceptable for demanding tasks like video conferencing, internet gaming, etc.

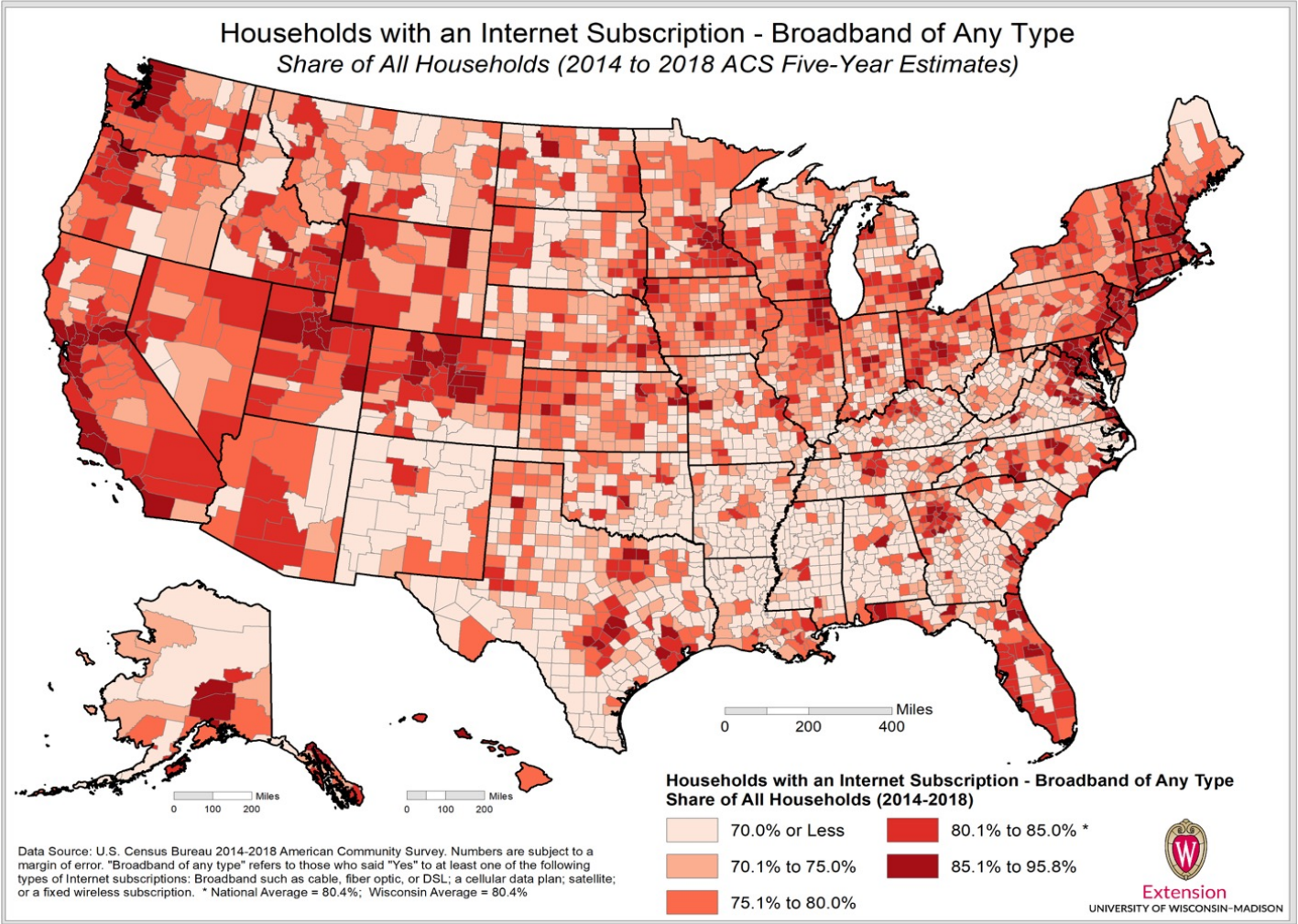
Source: (1) Federal Communication Commission. "Types of Broadband Connections." July, 23, 2014. Available at: <https://www.fcc.gov/general/types-broadband-connections>. (2) "Broadband Reference Guide: A Digital Resource for Stakeholders." Broadband & E-Commerce Education Center. University of Wisconsin Extension Madison. January, 2014. <https://cced.ces.uwex.edu/files/2018/07/007.010.2014-Broadband-Reference-Guide.pdf>

How Much Speed Do You Need?

0- 5 Mbps	General browsing, email, social media, online radio.
5- 40 Mbps	Videoconferencing, telecommuting, online gaming, streaming video, multiple device usage within a household.
40- 100 Mbps	Streaming ultra high-definition (Netflix 4K), multiple device usage within a household/business. Business use typically above 80Mbps.
100- 500+ Mbps	Online education delivery (e.g. testing services and video streaming), database access, record storage and sharing characteristic of anchor institutions. Advanced manufacturing, block-chain,

Sources: (1) Federal Communication Commission. "Household Broadband Guide."February, 5, 2020. Available at: <https://www.fcc.gov/consumers/guides/household-broadband-guide>. (2) Federal Communication Commission. "Broadband Speed Guide."February, 5, 2020. Available at: <https://www.fcc.gov/consumers/guides/broadband-speed-guide?fontsize=largeFont>. (3) Kruger, Lennard. "Defining Broadband: Minimum Threshold Speeds and Broadband Policy." Congressional Research Service. December 4, 2017. Available at: <https://fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/R45039.pdf>.

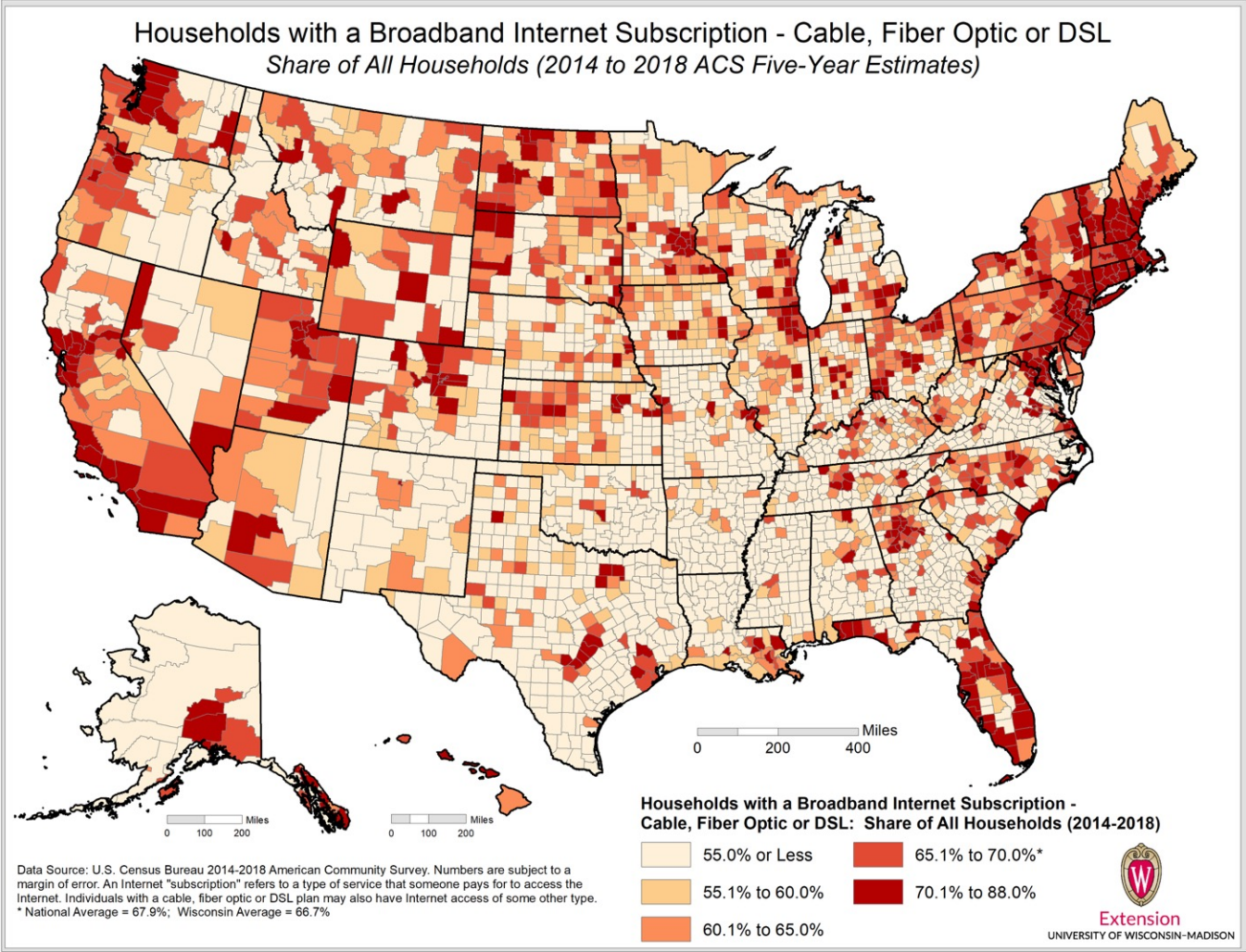
United States Coverage – Any Type



Maps showing where broadband is already deployed is a cautious tale! Accuracy and existence questions.

<https://broadbandmap.fcc.gov/#/data-download>

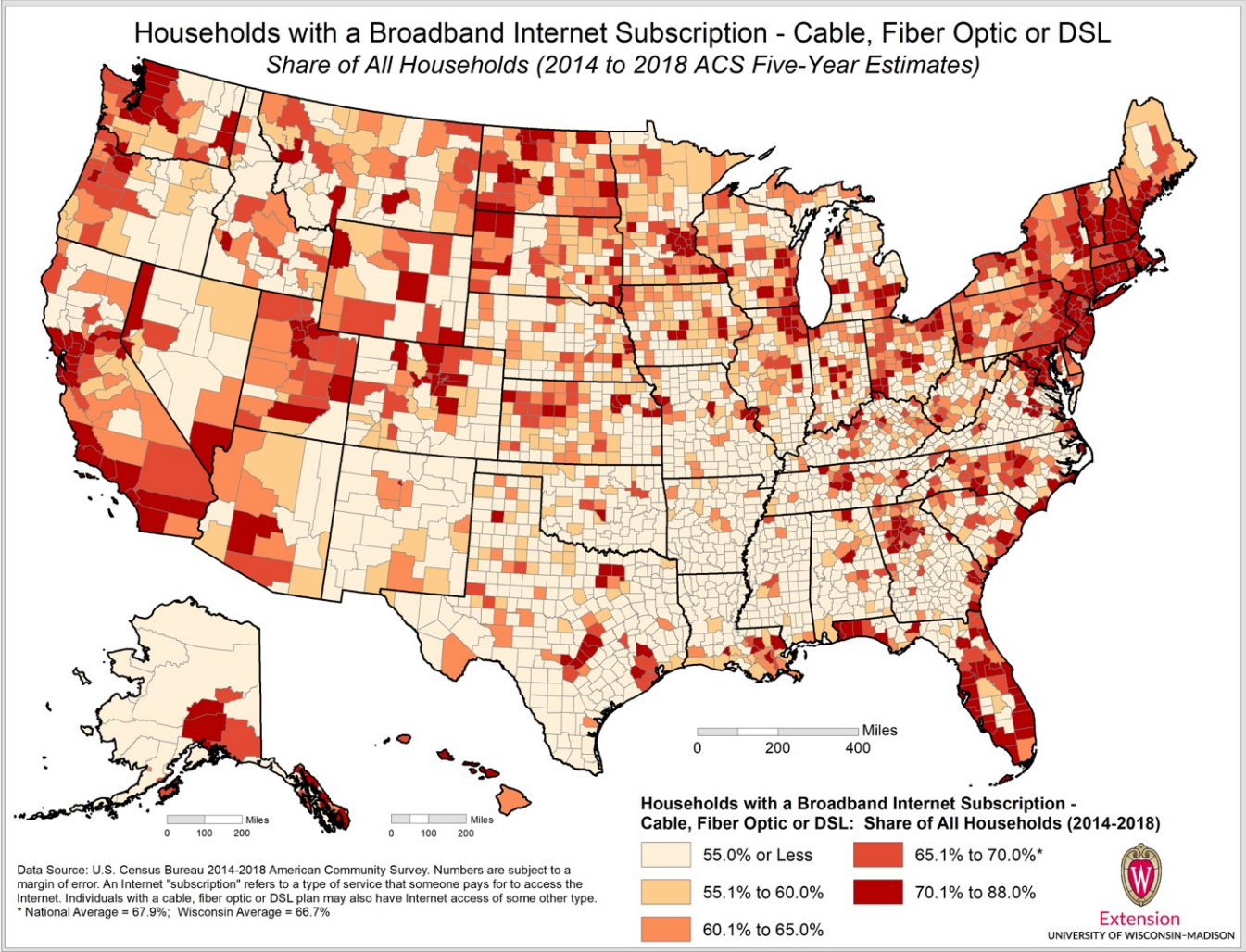
United States Coverage – Cable, Fiber, DSL



Most of the data used to generate maps above comes from the FCC's Form 477 deployment information. Well-documented limitations.

<https://broadbandmap.fcc.gov/#/data-download>

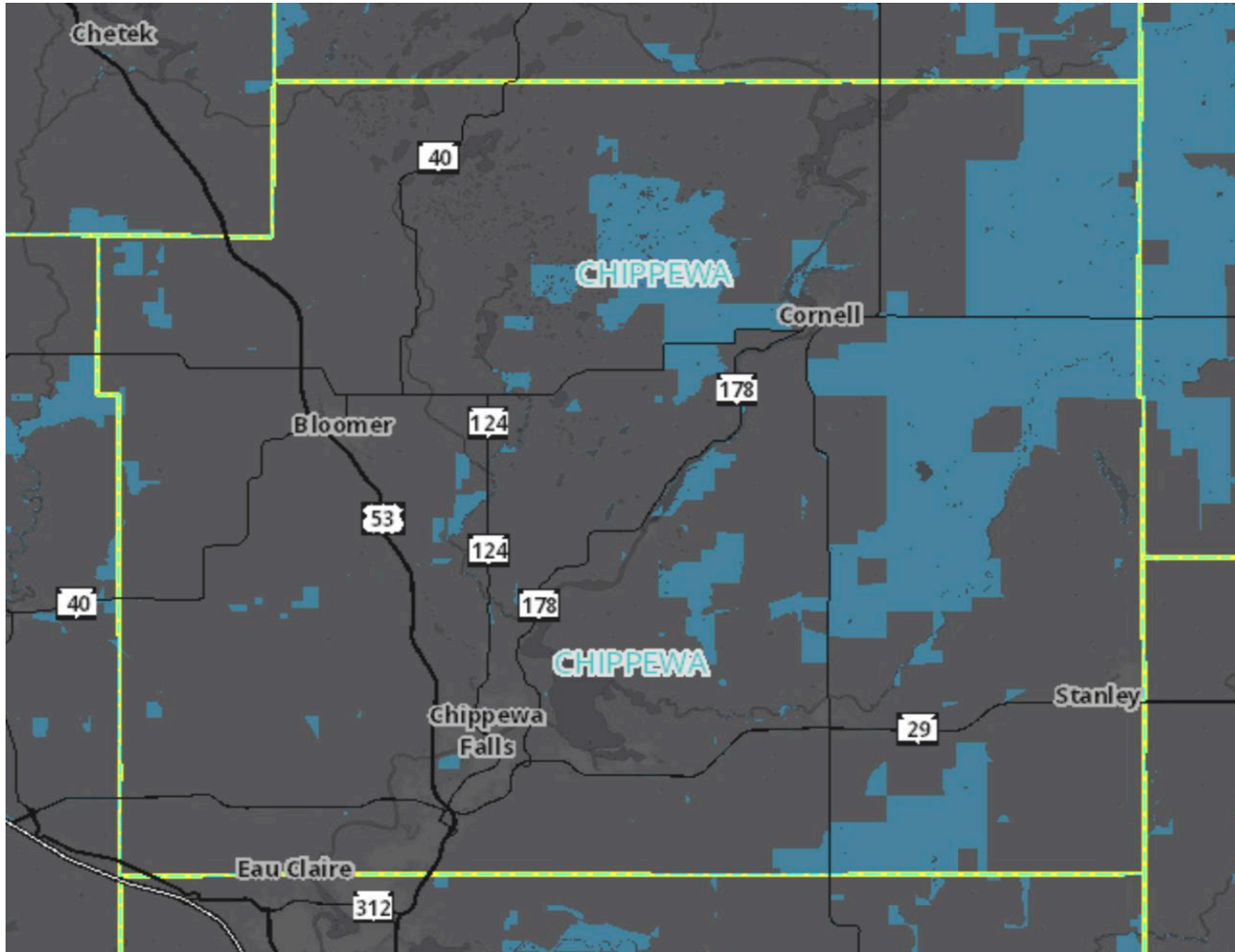
United States Coverage-CELL



Maps showing where broadband is already deployed is a cautious tale! Accuracy and existence questions.

<https://broadbandmap.fcc.gov/#/data-download>

Chippewa County Coverage



- FCC overstates coverage
- ISPs self-report at census block level
- Can claim coverage if even one household has service

Chippewa County Broadband Map

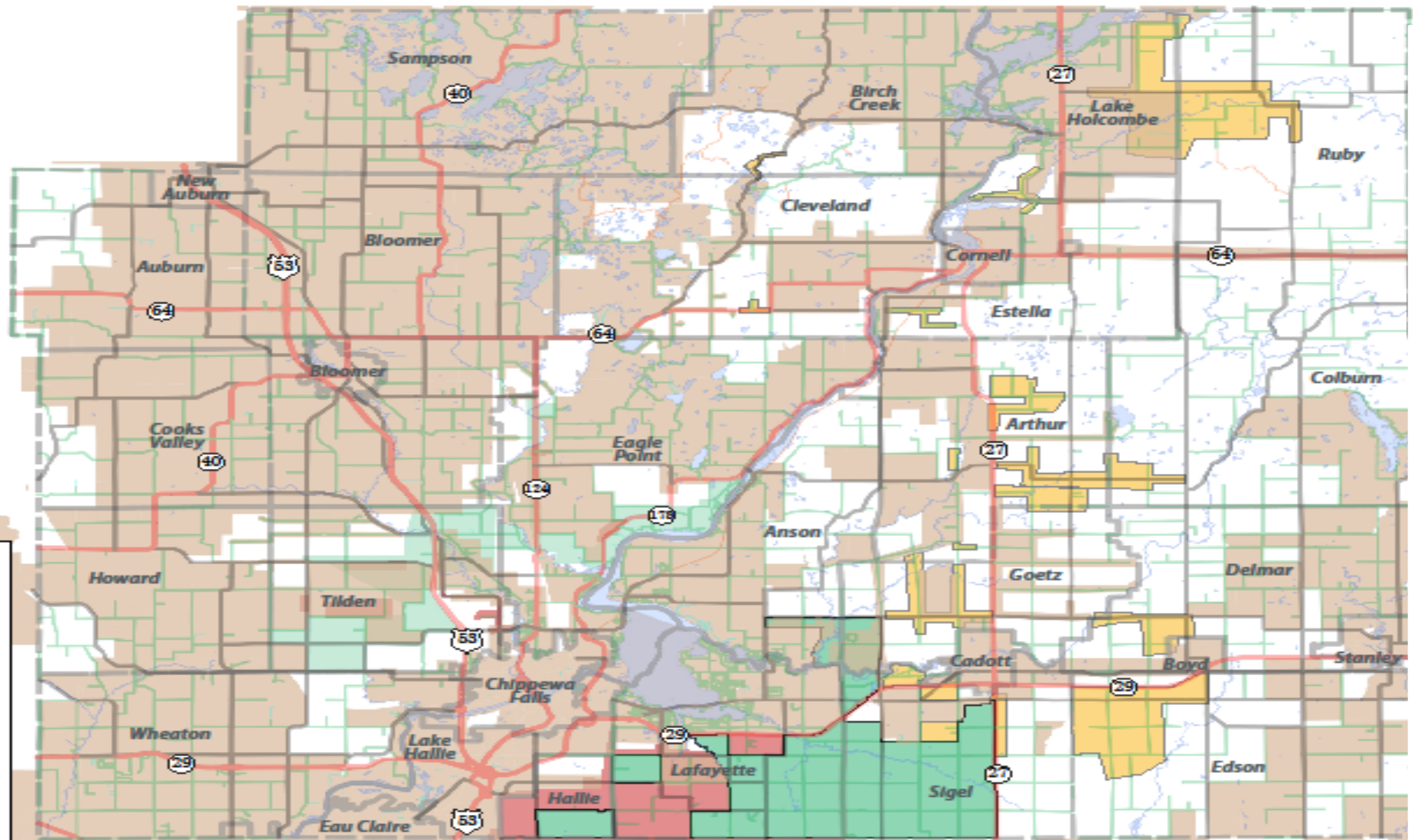
7.1.a



Broadband Served Areas have at least 25MB upload speed and 3MB download speed.
Much of the Broadband Served Area, shown on the map, came from PSC Wisconsin and the Broadband Coverage Data

Roads

- State/Federal Hwy
- County Hwy
- Town Road
- municipal boundaries
- Water
- Broadband Served Area
- Broadband Project Area
- ARPA Area
- ARPA Grant Application



Attachment: 2022-02-22Charlie Walker BROADBAND (6861 : Request direction from the

Chippewa County Broadband Map

7.1.a



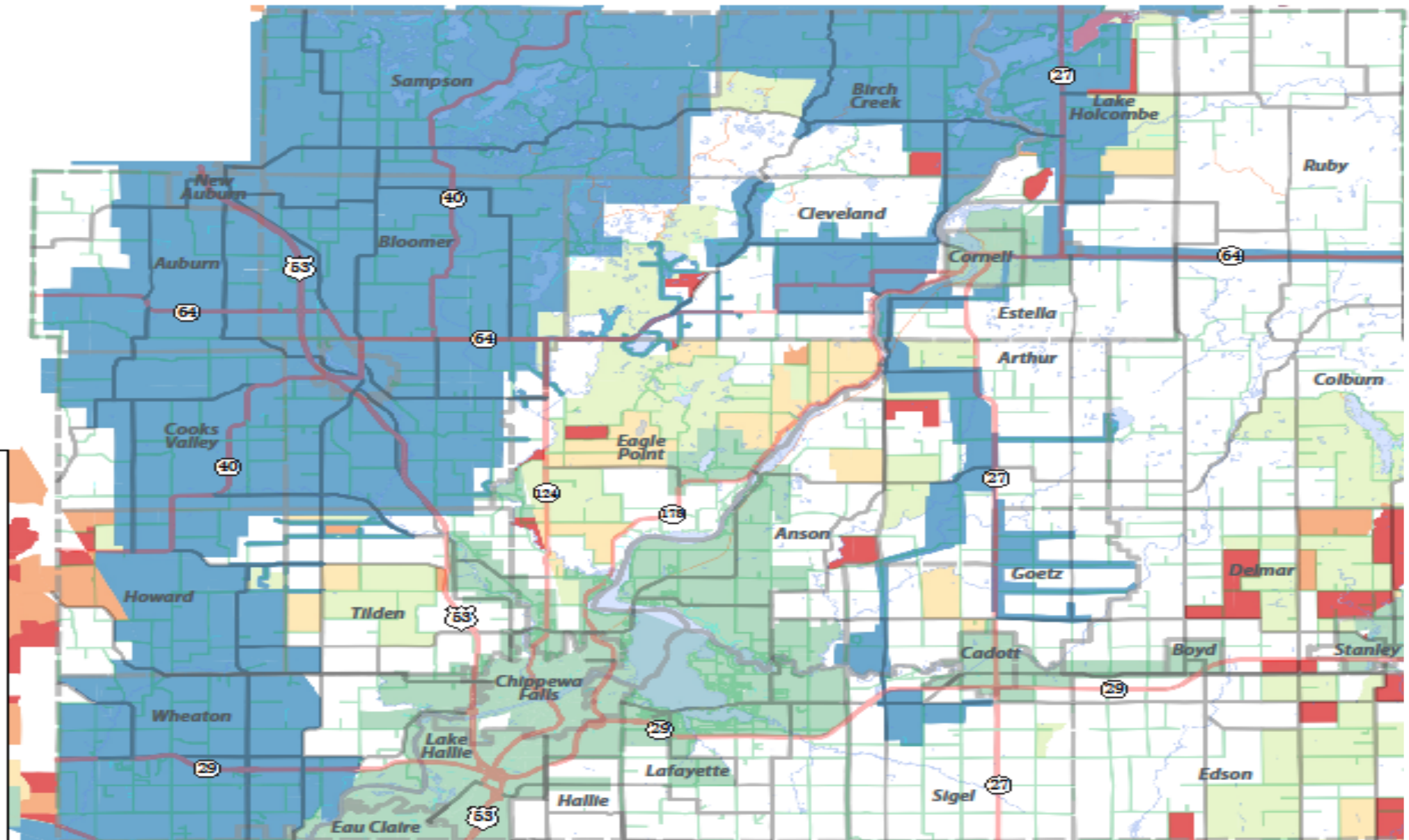
Broadband Served Areas have at least 25MB upload speed and 3MB download speed.
Much of the Broadband Served Area, shown on the map, came from PSC Wisconsin and the Broadband Coverage Data

Roads

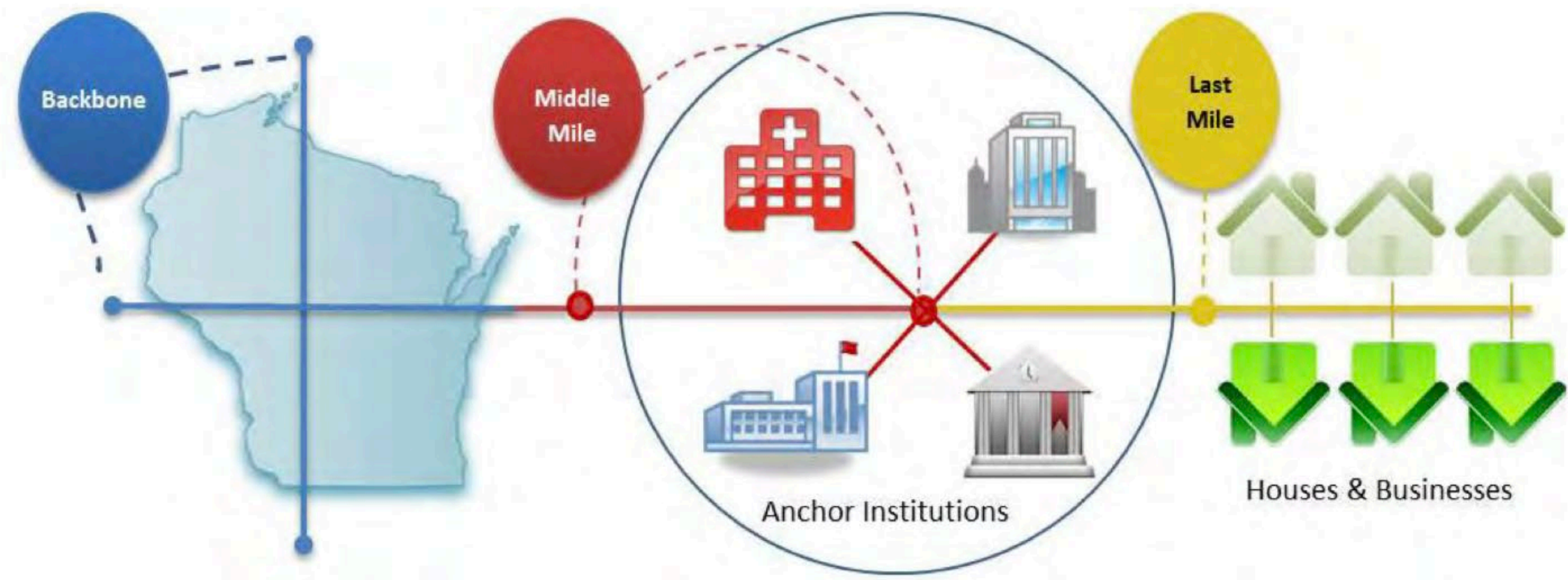
- State/Federal Hwy
- County Hwy
- Town Road
- Municipal Boundaries
- Water

Broadband Download Speed

- 40MB
- 60MB
- 80MB
- 100MB
- 940MB
- 1000MB



High Infrastructure Costs



Attachment: 2022-02-22Charlie Walker BROADBAND (6861 : Request direction from the

Labor Costs

- Skilled Labor Shortage -850,000 new workers needed by 2025
- Rising Cost of Oil-Freight cost and deployment costs
- Shortage of Chipsets, semiconductors, and other components



Economic Impacts

Rural Areas are rapidly being left behind.



Education

- Regarding education, broadband applications affect both K-12 and higher education. About the former, the homework gap is a major issue. Over 50 percent of students surveyed were unable to complete homework due to lack of broadband and 42 percent said they received a lower grade due to lack of broadband as well. Homework gap has serious life-long implications and an areas talent pipeline.
- Free or Open online courses have tremendous potential of “democratizing” higher education—In 2012 when MIT established its first virtual course—the total enrollees equaled the total number of all MITs alumni in its 150 years of existence!
- Digital Technology Transformation is happening in all Industrial sectors. **By 2025 the United States will have 25 million digital jobs!**

Broadband and the Local Economy

- Places with better access have better entrepreneurial outcomes.

Broadband improves Crowdfunding and peer-to-peer networks which have a positive impact on entrepreneurship financing. Counties with higher increases in broadband adoption do not experience losses of local sales tax revenue (Whitacre B., 2011). Start-up activity is positively associated with broadband (Audretsch, Heger, & Veith, 2015).

- Important as we rehabilitate local Chippewa economies in a post-COVID Wisconsin

Broadband is telework or telecommuting

Broadband also provides health care services through telehealth

“Precision Agriculture” has relied on multiple technologies

Source: Whitacre, B., Gallardo, R., & Stover, S. (2014). Broadband's contribution to economic growth in rural areas: Moving towards a causal relationship. Telecommunications Policy 38(11), 1011-1023

Source: Audretsch, D. B., Heger, D., & Veith, T. (2015). Infrastructure and entrepreneurship. Small Business Economics, 44(2), 219-230. Retrieved from <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s11187-014-9600-6>



**STATEMENT OF EXPLANATION
REQUEST DIRECTION FROM THE COUNTY BOARD WHETHER THE
COUNTY WISHES TO ALLOCATE ADDITIONAL ARPA FUNDS FOR
HIGHWAY INFRASTRUCTURE AND IF SO, HOW MUCH**

TO: County Board Supervisors
FR: Randy Scholz
RE: ARPA Funds for Highway Infrastructure

At the February 15, 2022 County Board brainstorming session the suggestion was made to allocate more ARPA funds for our highway infrastructure as that is something that benefits all residents of Chippewa County.

The current draft plan includes a three-year road improvement plan totaling \$5,000,000 as follows:

- 2022 = \$1 million
- 2023 = \$2 million
- 2024 = \$2 million

In an effort to gauge support and direction from the County Board, I will be asking the County Board to vote on the following questions:

1. Do you wish to allocate more than \$5,000,000 of ARPA funds for Highway infrastructure?
2. If yes, how much?