



NEWS RELEASE

Date: July 14, 2014
Contact: Ross Wilson (715) 720-2029
Re: Presentation of WI PSC Broadband Grant Award by Lt. Governor Rebecca Kleefisch

On July 14, at the Chippewa Valley Regional Airport, Lt. Governor Rebecca Kleefisch presented CCI and Chippewa Valley Inter-Networking Consortium (CINC) with one of three state Public Service Commission (PSC) [Broadband Expansion Grants](#).

The Lt. Governor shared how the project will impact people in Eau Claire County. News media and elected officials were invited.

The Lt. Governor also announce Rhinelander and Platteville grants in separate events on July 14.

Photos and media reports of the event follow below.

CINC Members with Lt. Governor Rebecca Kleefisch

From left: Tom Lange (CVTC), Ross Wilson (CESA 10), Lt. Governor Rebecca Kleefisch, Dave Hayden (Eau Claire County), John Lebrun (City of Eau Claire), Cory Heigl (CCI Systems/Packerland Broadband), David Mortimer (St. Joseph's Hospital/Sacred Heart Hospital)



CINC Members with Elected State Representatives

From left: Rep. Warren Petryk (District 93), Sen. Terry Moulton (Dist. 23), Chip Eckardt (UWEC), Tom Lange (CVTC), Rep. Kathy Bernier (Dist. 68), Dave Hayden (Eau Claire County), Rep. Tom Larson (Dist. 67), John Lebrun (City of Eau Claire), Tithi Chattopadhyay (PSC), Ross Wilson (CESA 10), Cory Heigl (CCI Systems/Packerland Broadband)





FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 14, 2014

Contact: Nathan Conrad, 608-266-9600

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Lieutenant Governor Announces PSC Broadband Expansion Grant Winners

[Madison, Wis.] – Today, Lieutenant Governor Rebecca Kleefisch and PSC Broadband State Director Dr. Tithi Chattopadhyay announced the winners of the 2014 Broadband Expansion Grants at events in Rhinelander, Eau Claire and Platteville.

Broadband access has become a necessity in today's modern world. The State of Wisconsin authorized \$500,000 in grants to be distributed for this calendar year.

"Broadband internet access is about way more than streaming movies and music. It allows local businesses to connect with colleagues and customers around the globe. It enables our students to explore the world with interactive information," said Lieutenant Governor Rebecca Kleefisch. "Broadband expands the economic and educational horizons of our citizens, and we're excited to see the impact of these grants for communities across Wisconsin."

These grants will help ensure that the growth and expansion of broadband availability will begin to reach areas of the state that are in dire need of connectivity.

Today's events in Rhinelander, Eau Claire and Platteville showcase Wisconsin's commitment to increasing access and providing communities throughout the Badger State with quality contact to the wired and wireless world of the internet.

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TV, Newspaper & Radio Media

Lt. Gov. Rebecca Kleefisch Award Presentation 7-14-2014 in Eau Claire: CINC-CCI WI Public Service Commission (PSC) Broadband Grant

WQOW TV

Eau Claire Co. (WQOW) - For the first time, rural areas in three counties will have access to high speed wireless internet, thanks to a state grant. On Monday afternoon, Wisconsin's lieutenant governor was in Eau Claire to deliver the news.

Dr. Tithi Chattopadhyay, the PSC Broadband State director, said, "Broadband connectivity goes a long way in creating jobs, better healthcare and strengthening public safety and that's what we need."

High speed, wireless internet is making its way to rural areas in three western Wisconsin counties. Lt. Gov. Rebecca Kleefisch said, "Eau Claire, Chippewa and Clark counties for the award of almost \$140,000 for the fiber route and the wireless tower that is not only going to help the hospital but about 30 schools in this area."

Dave Hayden, Eau Claire County's information systems director, said, "There was a lack of coverage there and there were a number of residents that have been screaming for better coverage."

There are three towers already installed in the area and now a fourth tower will be built in Lake Eau Claire County Park to provide faster, wireless internet service to the county's rural customers.

Lt. Gov. Kleefisch said, "An ambulance driver today, can use a broadband grant like this in order to take information from an EKG and beam it to an ER, where doctors can get real time information about the health of a patient. Things like that is important to keep costs down but also to keep people alive."

The nearly \$250,000 project is a pilot program, and if it proves to be successful in its first year, additional broadband towers could be brought to other rural areas of the county.

The new tower is expected to be up and running by the fall of 2015.

Video: <http://www.wqow.com/story/26016685/2014/07/14/nearly-140000-state-grant-expands-wireless-internet-to-rural-areas-in-western-wisconsin>

WEAU TV

EAU CLAIRE, Wis. (WEAU) -- Lieutenant Governor, Rebecca Kleefisch, was in Eau Claire Monday.

She was at the Chippewa Valley Regional Airport to present one of three state Public Service Commission Broadband Expansion grants.

The grant was given to Chippewa Valley Inter-Networking Consortium and CCI/Packerland Broadband. Kleefisch says high speed internet is becoming more prevalent. She says it is not only important for education and economic development, but also for public safety.

"In some cases there are life and death situations that can now be dependent on high speed internet. What an exciting day that we are future-proofing the Eau Claire area and it's going to save lives, that's extraordinary," said Kleefisch.

Kleefisch says the grants will help hospitals, schools, and create jobs.

Video: <http://www.weau.com/home/headlines/Lt-Governor-Rebecca-Kleefisch-presents-grants-in-Eau-Claire-267071751.html>

State Awards \$500K In Grants To Expand Rural Internet Access

Funds Were Set Aside In State Budget To Spur ISPs To Add High-Speed Connections To More Areas In Wisconsin

Wisconsin Public Radio

Monday, July 14, 2014, 7:51pm

By Rich Kremer

The Wisconsin Public Service Commission is awarding \$500,000 in grants to help rural parts of the state get better Internet access.

The round of grants is part of more than \$4 million set aside in the state budget to spur Internet providers to expand higher-speed coverage in rural areas. The grants are essentially matching funds for projects spearheaded by public and private entities like school districts, local governments, hospitals, and businesses.

Lt. Gov. Rebecca Kleefisch awarded one of the grants in Eau Claire. She said if the partners can show where broadband is needed and a plan to cover an area, the grant helps give it the final push.

"Then government kind of steps in to help out to go the one step further in order to make things happen," said Kleefisch.

In 2013, the Department of Administration refused a \$23 million federal grant for expanding broadband, saying there were too many strings attached. Also, Gov. Scott Walker forced the University of Wisconsin System to cut ties with a nonprofit Internet provider called WisNet in his budget.

Kleefisch said a public-private partnership offers a more balanced approach.

"The more private-sector players we get on board in Wisconsin, the better off we are," she said. "We don't believe in simply government building everything."

In Eau Claire, five organizations — including the county, two hospitals, and a regional consortium — won grants for \$140,000 to run fiber optic lines to a new high-speed wireless transmitter that is expected to serve around 1,200 people.

When compared with other states, Wisconsin ranks 13th in average broadband speed, according to the Internet research firm Akamai.

Radio audio:

<http://www.wpr.org/state-awards-500k-grants-expand-rural-internet-access>

Eau Claire *Leader-Telegram*

Posted: Monday, July 14, 2014 10:44 pm | Updated: 10:53 pm, Mon Jul 14, 2014.

Rural broadband Internet service growing

By Courtney Kueppers *Leader-Telegram* staff

With homework and school lessons online, students need to have access to the Internet at home, said Jake Schoeder, Fall Creek school district technology coordinator.

A state grant expanding broadband Internet access will enable all students in four Eau Claire County school districts to bring the Internet home with them on a tablet or laptop.

Lt. Gov. Rebecca Kleefisch presented the broadband expansion grant to public and private partners Monday in Eau Claire.

In the Augusta school district, more speed is needed to keep up with multiple students using the Internet at the same time, said Collin Pomplun, information technology specialist for the district.

Osseo-Fairchild and Altoona school districts also will be assisted by the project.

The Public Service Commission grant was presented to CCI Systems/Packerland Broadband and Chippewa Valley Internetworking Consortium, which is made up of dozens of community groups.

Grants awarded in Eau Claire, Rhinelander and Platteville were the first doled out in the effort to improve Internet connectivity in Wisconsin.

Eau Claire received about \$135,000 in state funding for the project to expand service in more than 50 square miles in rural eastern Eau Claire County where there is little Internet and cell signal reception. The grant money was matched by various public and private collaborators to reach the \$250,000 needed for the project, which is set to be complete in two years, said David Mortimer, grant program manager for Sacred Heart Hospital.

Local paramedics using EKG equipment will be able to send real-time data to emergency room doctors so faster health care decisions can be made.

The project will update three current WiMax towers, build a new tower near Lake Eau Claire County Park to bring Wi-Fi to rural parks and lay about 15,000 feet of underground fiber.

Along with providing better Internet service to hospitals, schools, libraries, law enforcement and other public partners, the program will allow private citizens in the area to purchase Internet through Packerland Broadband, the private telecommunications company working on the project, which is owned by Michigan-based company CCI Systems.

The CINC group and CCI believe the project will serve as many as 1,200 new households in areas previously underserved and unserved, according to the grant summary.

"This is about jobs," Kleefisch said. "People will not invest in Wisconsin without high-speed Internet."

"People expect bridges and roads," she added. "And now they expect high-speed Internet."

Kueppers can be reached at 715-833-9203, 800-236-7077 or courtney.kueppers@ecpc.com.

Kleefisch: Broadband to the future

Chippewa Herald [Letter to the Editor]

July 14, 2014 6:17 am • [Rebecca Kleefisch Madison](#)

Broadband to the future

If your family is anything like my family, you've likely heard a child ask the 21st century equivalent of, "Are we there yet?" Kids these days instead demand, "Why won't this page load faster?" In our modern, globally-connected, screen-driven world, nothing frustrates a student, employee or customer more than a slow-moving webpage.

When it comes to Internet access, speed and functionality are essential. That's why we have a growing need for broadband high-speed, high-capacity Internet access that is always on and performs faster than traditional dial-up access. The days of dial-up internet connectivity are drawing to a close as the new frontier of high-speed broadband connectivity continues to emerge.

And the speed at which it is taking over is noteworthy: in just a 13-year span, the percentage of the US adult population that had access to broadband connection increased from 3 percent to more than 70 percent. Yet there are still some Wisconsinites who are waiting along the curb of this information superhighway.

That's why today I am visiting Rhinelander, Eau Claire and Platteville to announce the recipients of our broadband expansion grants. As part of our 2013-2015 budget, the Walker-Kleefisch administration allocated \$500,000 to expand and improve broadband coverage in the most underserved areas of our state.

With the assistance of these dollars, communities like Eau Claire, part of a consortium that received a \$139,467 grant, will be able to construct a fiber route and a wireless tower providing broadband connection to 30 schools across three school districts. Communities in Vilas County, with the help of a \$68,313 grant, will now be able to construct a nine-mile fiber route northwest of Eagle River to bring better Internet connectivity to more than 300 homes and businesses. And thanks to a \$13,874 grant, the townships of Cloverland, Phelps and Winchester will receive three wireless towers, providing broadband access to approximately 800 new locations.

These investments are important because broadband internet access is about way more than just streaming movies and music and surfing the web. It allows local businesses to connect with colleagues and customers across the street or across the globe. It enables our students to explore the world with interactive information. Broadband expands the economic and educational horizons of our citizens and is a key to Wisconsin's economic development. Our jobs of the future depend on it.

High-speed internet is the pathway by which we all access the accumulated knowledge and opportunities around us. Through these broadband expansion grants, state government is proving yet again its commitment to bettering the lives of all Wisconsinites and moving our state forward.

Rebecca Kleefisch is lieutenant governor of Wisconsin. Contact her at 608-266-3516, or ltgov@wisconsin.gov.

Broadband grant to aid St. Joseph's

Chippewa Herald

7/15/2014

EAU CLAIRE — St. Joseph's Hospital in Chippewa Falls is among those that will benefit from a \$139,467 grant to boost broadband coverage in Chippewa, Eau Claire and Clark counties.

Wisconsin Lt. Gov. Rebecca Kleefisch came to Chippewa Valley Regional Airport Monday morning to announce winners of statewide broadband expansion grants. She also presented grants in Rhinelander and Platteville.

Locally, the money is designed to connect St. Joseph's, 30 schools in the Augusta, Fall Creek and Osseo-Fairchild school districts, and construct a fiber route and build a wireless tower in the Lake Eau Claire area of eastern Eau Claire County.

The funds include a 46-percent match, and the projects are to be completed in 2015.

http://chippewa.com/news/local/broadband-grant-to-aid-st-joseph-s/article_247539ad-d7f9-5a03-9346-d104ffd4f076.html

State Awards Grant for Local Broadband Upgrade

Posted on 7/14/2014 12:34:00 PM by [Dan Lea](#)

Mid-West Family Broadcasting

WAXX 104.5

I-94 WIAL

92.9 The X WECL

The Chippewa Valley is getting a boost to its broadband internet capability.

Lieutenant Governor Rebecca Kleefisch announced a 140,000 dollar grant to improve broadband access, awarded to the Chippewa Valley Inter-Networking Consortium, or CINC. The group is made up of 30 public and private partners, including schools, local governments, and hospitals.

"We know that internet connectivity, broadband service, is essential to public safety and education and economic development. So, basically, the internet touches every part of your life," Kleefisch said during a stop at the Chippewa Valley Regional Airport in Eau Claire.

The Lieutenant Governor gave an example of how the upgrade will improve emergency healthcare.

"In this grant in particular, we're learning about how an ambulance can essentially 'beam up' the direct results of an EKG into an emergency room, so doctors have real-time information about the patient who is being transported," Kleefisch said.

The grant is part of 4.3 million dollars being awarded statewide over 2 years.

<http://www.todayswaxx1045.com/local-news//2014/07/14/state-awards-grant-for-local-broadband-upgrade>

Broadband Grant to Aid St. Joseph's Hospital

WWIB 103.7 FM

7/15/2014

EAU CLAIRE — St. Joseph's Hospital in Chippewa Falls is among those that will benefit from a \$139,467 grant to boost broadband coverage in Chippewa, Eau Claire and Clark counties. Wisconsin Lt. Gov. Rebecca Kleefisch came to Chippewa Valley Regional Airport Monday morning to announce winners of statewide broadband expansion grants. She also presented grants in Rhinelander and Platteville. Locally, the money is designed to connect St. Joseph's, 30 schools in the Augusta, Fall Creek and Osseo-Fairchild school districts, and construct a fiber route and build a wireless tower in the Lake Eau Claire area of eastern Eau Claire County. The funds include a 46-percent match, and the projects are to be completed in 2015.

<https://www.wwib.com/specnews.asp>



Northwoods Radio

92.5 FM • 100.7 FM • 810 AM

Northwoods Internet Providers Receive State Grants to Expand Coverage

The Wisconsin Public Service Commission has provided \$250,000 in grant money to help expand high speed internet in the Northwoods.

Lt. Governor Rebecca Kleefisch was in the northwoods yesterday as part of that announcement. The Public Service Commission will provide the matching grant to three area providers, Centrylink, Choicetell and Sonicnet.

The money will go to expand broadband in the Vilas County area according the project summaries. This includes expanding dsl coverage, installing 36 miles between two fiber optic cable routes and installing wireless towers.

In all the projects are estimated to expand coverage for more than 1,200 residents.

In addition to yesterday's stop in Rhinelander Lt. Gov. Kleefisch also made announcements in Eau Claire and Platteville. Overall the state will provide \$500,000 in broadband expansion grants.

<http://www.wjjq.com/2014/07/15/northwoods-internet-providers-receive-state-grants-to-expand-coverage/>

WJFW TV

Northwoods internet providers receive grants to expand broadband, wireless

4/14/2014

Northwoods - You might get faster internet thanks to a state grant. Three Northwoods internet providers will use the money to expand their services.

Monday, Lt. Governor Rebecca Kleefisch and the state's public service commission broadband director, Dr. Tithi Chattopadhyay, stopped in Rhinelander to present the awards. Three companies, ChoiceTEL, CenturyLink, and SonicNet, got a total of more than \$225,000. That money will be used to build a 9 mile fiber route. It will also pay for three wireless towers. That will give high speed internet to more than 1,200 homes and businesses.

"We want to make sure that these providers have access to these matching grants so that they can meet the needs of public safety, education, and economic development," says Lt. Gov. Rebecca Kleefisch. "Those are three key issues that, believe it or not, can honestly be solved with broadband internet that's high speed."

Governor Walker set aside more than \$4 million to boost broadband in underserved areas across the state. The state's Public Service Commission will give more than \$500,000 in broadband grants each year for the next seven years.

"What we're doing right now is future-proofing Wisconsin," says Kleefisch. "We are laying the groundwork, literally, to make sure that all of Wisconsin can benefit from high speed internet. And in many cases, that means laying fiber and in some cases that means connections that are wireless, and in some cases it's different types of connections."

Northwoods broadband advocates say that's just the first step in making high speed internet more available in the Northwoods.

"It gets us moving in the direction, the thought process that public-private partnerships will work and now what we do is we demonstrate success and results with these grants," says Don Sidlowski of the Northwoods Broadband Economic Development Coalition. "We take that back to the assembly and the senate and we sit in front of leadership and say, 'Look what we did with \$5 million,' and then we talk to them about the appropriate amount to increase for another round of funding."

The group also made stops in Eau Claire and Platteville to award companies in those areas.

Written By: Lauren Stephenson

http://www.wjfw.com/print_story.html?SKU=20140714144438