

TOWN OF PRAIRIE DU SAC BROADBAND INFORMATION UPDATES SPRING 2022

Internet Service Providers In The Town include:

(As found on [Wisconsin Broadband Map - Public Service Commission of Wisconsin](#))

Wired Line: Frontier Communications, <https://frontier.com/> ; TDS, [TDS High-Speed Internet, TV and Home Phone Service | TDS \(tdstelecom.com\)](#) ;

Fixed Wireless: Bug Tussel, [What is Wireless Internet - Bug Tussel Wireless](#); US Cellular, [High-Speed Internet Provider | UScellular](#) ;

Mobile Wireless: Verizon, [Verizon: Wireless, Internet, TV and Phone Services | Official Site](#) ; T-Mobile, [T-Mobile & Sprint merged to create America's 5G leader in coverage](#); AT&T [Newest Phones & Best Wireless Plans | AT&T \(att.com\)](#) ; US Cellular, [High-Speed Internet Provider | UScellular](#) ;

Satellite: Hughes net [High-Speed Satellite Internet from HughesNet® | 844-737-2700](#) ; Viasat, [Global Communications | Services, Solutions & Satellite Internet | Viasat](#)

Wired lines, Fixed Wireless, Mobile Wireless and Satellite availability is sporadic in our town and some service options have high costs and/or different limitations.

Broadband Services Are Reaching More Households In Our Town!

The town will benefit from a recent broadband grant under the American Recovery Plan (Covid Relief Funds) that will provide high speed internet service to areas in the north and southwest portions of the township.

The grant of \$7 million dollars was a part of an effort by Sauk County and the Reedsburg Utility Commission to provide high speed internet service to unserved or underserved areas including portions of the towns of Troy, Honey Creek, Sumpter and Prairie du Sac. Construction on the first phase of the project will start in 2022 and is targeted to be completed by 2028. At this time, it is unknown when service will be provided in our township.

More information on the service area covered under the grant can be found at <https://ruclightspeed.com/new-customers/>

Broadband Help Is Available

From the Wisconsin State Journal, 1/25/2022,
[Governor urges 1.6 million residents to apply for broadband assistance | Local Government | madison.com:](#)

AFFORDABLE CONNECTIVITY | \$30 A MONTH BENEFIT **Broadband help available to 650K households** **CHRIS HUBBUCH**

Gov. Tony Evers is urging Wisconsin residents who can't afford internet service to sign up for new federal subsidies.

Administered by the Federal Communications Commission, the Affordable Connectivity Program provides discounts of up to \$30 a month for eligible households and up to \$75 a month for homes on tribal lands. Established this year with \$14.2 billion from the federal infrastructure act, the affordable connectivity program replaced a previous program known as the Emergency Broadband Benefit Program, cutting the benefit from \$50 but expanding eligibility.

Some households can also receive up to \$100 toward the purchase of a computer. Only about 20% of the estimated 650,000 eligible households — representing nearly 1.6 million people — were enrolled in the broadband benefit program, according to research by the website [Research on Internet Access and the Digital Divide | BroadbandNow.com](#). There are nearly 47,000 Milwaukee County households enrolled and about 8,500 in Dane County, according to the program administrator.

Evers said Wisconsin residents should not have to choose between essential needs and internet access, which has become increasingly important since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. “We know that the digital divide in our state is holding our communities back, as highspeed internet is no longer a luxury but a necessity to learn, work, and access critical resources in our state and country today,” Evers said in a statement.

According to a 2021 report from the Federal Communications Commission, roughly 394,900 people in Wisconsin lack access to quality broadband service, though a private study estimated the actual number could be higher than 600,000.

That has long been a problem in rural Wisconsin, especially remote areas where there aren't enough customers to justify the high cost of running wires, but a recent UW-Extension study found internet access is also a problem in cities where many can't afford it.

To qualify for the affordable connectivity program, households must have income less than twice the federal poverty guidelines — about \$46,000 a year for a family of three — or receive certain types of government assistance such as Medicaid, SSI or school lunch

subsidies. Current recipients of federal Pell Grants are also eligible. Participating broadband providers — including AT& T, CenturyLink, Comcast, and TDS — receive money directly from the program and apply the discount to customer bills.

Those enrolled in the previous program will continue to receive benefits through February but may need to re-enroll after March 1.

Eligible households can enroll by visiting [Home - ACP - Universal Service Administrative Company \(acpbenefit.org\)](https://www.acpbenefit.org) or by contacting participating broadband providers. Customers who need additional assistance can call the FCC's information line at 877-384-2575.