

RESOLUTION NO. 06-25-06

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE BROADBAND EQUITY ACCESS AND DEPLOYMENT (BEAD) PROGRAM

WHEREAS, funding via the Broadband Equity Access and Deployment (BEAD) program was made available to provide high-speed internet access for unserved and underserved households and businesses in Monroe County; and

WHEREAS, a majority of the households and businesses in Monroe County qualified as unserved or underserved, which is defined as locations where no internet service is available, or internet service speeds are below 100 Mbps for downloads and 20 Mbps for uploads.

WHEREAS, the BEAD program, established by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration Agency as part of the "Internet for All" initiative and administered by the Wisconsin Public Service Commission, will provide up to \$1 Billion in funding for broadband infrastructure projects that would cost too much for most local internet service providers (ISPs) to undertake, and

WHEREAS, the Monroe County Board of Supervisors recognizes that high-speed broadband connectivity and reliability is critical infrastructure for the health, safety, and quality of life for all community residents, and is necessary to fully participate in our society and economy; and

WHEREAS, the Monroe County Board of Supervisors endorsed two applications for BEAD funding in December 2024, for Lynxx Networks (Lemonweir Valley Telephone Company) and Brightspeed (Connect Holdings II, LLC), and

WHEREAS, these two applications were tentatively approved by the Wisconsin Public Service Commission (PSC) in April 2025, and

WHEREAS, these projects, once completed, would bring high-speed broadband fiber to more than 95% of the households in Monroe County that do not currently have access to high-speed internet, and

~~* See paragraph 8 Amendment Attached~~

~~**WHEREAS**, the status of preliminary awards is currently unknown because the NTIA approved application process has been delayed by the U.S. Department of Commerce, and \$1 Billion in funding allocated to the state of Wisconsin for the current round of projects has not been awarded, and~~

~~* See Paragraph 9 Amendment Attached~~

~~**WHEREAS**, loss of funding for these projects would affect residents of Monroe County by further delaying their access to affordable high-speed internet, and substantially raising the cost of such projects should they be undertaken by local internet service providers in the future;~~

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Monroe County Board of Supervisors supports the goals of the Broadband Equity Access and Deployment (BEAD) program and the Wisconsin Public Service Commission, and asks that the grant application process proceed as planned, and funding allocated for this program be distributed to the state of Wisconsin;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Wisconsin Counties Association; the offices of Senator Ron Johnson, Senator Tammy Baldwin, Congressman Derrick Van Orden, and Congressman Tom Tiffany; the office of Governor Tony Evers; and the offices of State Sen. Patrick Testin, State Sen. Brad Pfaff, Rep. Nancy Vandermeer, and Rep. Jill Billing.

Dated this 25th day of June 2025.

Offered By The Economic Development & Tourism Committee

Fiscal note: There is no fiscal impact.

06-25-06

**AMENDMENTS TO RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE BROADBAND EQUITY ACCESS
AND DEPLOYMENT (BEAD) PROGRAM**

Paragraph 8

Amendment:

WHEREAS, the NTIA published a “BEAD Restructuring Policy Notice” on Friday, June 6, 2025 that requires the removal of certain requirements from the previously issued BEAD Notice of Funding Opportunity. The policy also requires the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin to rescind all preliminary awards and halt the current grant application process, and

Paragraph 9:

Amendment:

WHEREAS, these policy changes to the BEAD program will affect the residents of Monroe County by further delaying their access to affordable and reliable high-speed internet, and substantially raising the cost of proposed projects as local internet service providers await grant project approvals and award allocations;

STATE OF WISCONSIN

COUNTY OF MONROE

I, Shelley R. Bohl, Monroe County Clerk do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct amendment to Resolution #06-25-06 acted on by the Monroe County Board of Supervisors at the meeting held on June 25, 2025.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Shelley R. Bohl', is written over the printed name.

Shelley Bohl, Monroe County Clerk

Statement of purpose: A request to support the Broadband Equity Access and Deployment (BEAD) Program in the federal budget.

48 Drafted by: Roxie Anderson, Monroe County Land Use Planner

<p>Finance Vote (If required): ____ Yes ____ No ____ Absent</p> <p>*****</p> <p>Approved as to form: <u>6/25/2025</u> <u>Lisa Aldinger Hamblin</u> Lisa Aldinger Hamblin, Corporation Counsel</p>	<p>Committee of Jurisdiction Forwarded on: <u>June 12</u>, 20<u>25</u> VOTE: <u>2</u> Yes <u>0</u> No <u>1</u> Absent</p> <p>Committee Chair: <u>Adam Balz</u> <u>Joey Estelina</u></p>
<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ADOPTED <input type="checkbox"/> FAILED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AMENDED <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER _____</p> <p>County Board Vote on: <u>June 25</u>, 20<u>25</u> Carried by Voice Vote ____ Yes ____ No ____ Absent</p>	<p>STATE OF WISCONSIN COUNTY OF MONROE I, SHELLEY R. BOHL, Monroe County Clerk, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of Resolution # <u>06-25-06</u> acted on by the Monroe County Board of Supervisors at the meeting held on <u>June 25, 2025</u></p> <p><u>Shelley Bohl</u> SHELLEY R. BOHL, MONROE COUNTY CLERK A raised seal certifies an official document.</p>