

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE STATE DIGITAL EQUITY CAPACITY GRANT PROGRAM**

**WHEREAS**, funding for the State Digital Equity Capacity Grant Program established by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration and administered by the Wisconsin Public Service Commission was terminated on May 9, 2025 in the middle of an open grant application period; and

**WHEREAS**, the purpose of the State Digital Equity Capacity Grant program was to promote internet adoption and digital skills by deploying internet enabled devices and providing digital navigation and digital literacy services to target populations; and

**WHEREAS**, target populations include low-income individuals, veterans, individuals with disabilities, individuals with language barriers, individuals who are members of racial or ethnic minority groups, incarcerated individuals, or individuals who reside in rural areas; and

**WHEREAS**, a significant portion of the County's population includes target populations eligible for internet enabled devices and digital navigation services to access the internet for work, education, and health monitoring; and

**WHEREAS**, local governments and non-profit organizations were coordinating with Great Rivers United Way to submit a grant proposal for up to \$950,000 in funding to form a Digital Opportunity Coalition to serve Monroe County and Jackson County by establishing Digital Navigator positions at Workforce Connections and utilizing the Winding Rivers Library System and Western Technical Colleges to provide digital navigation services; and

**WHEREAS**, the termination of the State Digital Equity Capacity Grant Program affects the residents of Monroe County by limiting access to essential services provide by the internet; hindering digital literacy to utilize the internet and internet enabled devices effectively; and deepening the digital divide for rural populations; and

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Monroe County Board of Supervisors supports the goals of the State Digital Equity Capacity Grant Program and the Wisconsin Public Service Commission and asks for the funding for this program to be re-allocated 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 Billings.

Dated this 25<sup>th</sup> day of June 2025.

Offered By The Economic Development & Tourism Committee

Fiscal note: There is no fiscal impact.

Statement of purpose: A request to support the State Digital Equity Capacity Grant Program in the federal budget.

40 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 Boel</u> <u>Jeff Esterline</u></p>
<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ADOPTED <input type="checkbox"/> FAILED <input type="checkbox"/> AMENDED <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER _____</p> <p>County Board Vote on: <u>June 25</u> 20<u>25</u> Carried by <u>Voice</u> 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>06-25-07</u> acted on by the Monroe County Board of Supervisors at the meeting held on <u>June 25, 2025</u></p> <p><u>Shelley R. Bohl</u> SHELLEY R. BOHL, MONROE COUNTY CLERK A raised seal certifies an official document.</p>