

STATE OF WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION

Tony Evers, Governor Kathy Blumenfeld, Secretary David Pawlisch, Division Administrator

Capital Projects Fund Flexible Facilities Program Overview

(updated 7/18/2024)

Background

The federal American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 appropriated \$10 billion to the U.S. Department of Treasury to provide payments to states, territories, and freely associated states to carry out critical capital projects directly enabling work, education, and health monitoring in response to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic public health emergency. This established the Capital Projects Fund (CPF) program, which aims to:

- Directly support recovery from the COVID-19 public health emergency by strengthening and improving the infrastructure necessary for participation in work, education, and health monitoring that will last beyond the pandemic;
- Enable investments in capital assets designed to address inequities in access to critical services; and
- Provide the modern infrastructure necessary to access critical services, including a high-quality and affordable broadband internet connection.

The Treasury published the <u>allocations</u> available to each eligible entity in August 2021 on the <u>Treasury CPF website</u>. Funding is available for reliable, affordable broadband infrastructure and other digital connectivity technology projects and certain other capital projects, such as multi-purpose community facilities that enable work, education, and health monitoring, including remote options. The program encourages recipients to focus on economically distressed areas, support community empowerment, and adopt strong labor practices.

The CPF grants from Treasury are not competitive but States were required to submit an Application and a Grant Plan to Treasury to be eligible to access the CPF allocation.

Wisconsin Program

The State of Wisconsin Department of Administration received approval from the U.S. Department of Treasury on December 4, 2023 for the State's Application and Grant Plan for \$107 Million in funds for a CPF <u>Flexible Facilities</u> <u>Program</u> (FFP) to provide grants to units of general local government (UGLGs) and tribal governments for purposes of enabling work, education, and health monitoring, including remote options, in public libraries, community centers, and multi-purpose community facilities to address the needs of residents living in communities disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Eligible projects include the construction of new or the renovation or expansion of existing libraries, community centers, or multi-purpose community facilities, <u>and</u> the purchase and/or installation of digital connectivity technology, devices and/or equipment to provide high-speed internet services, including remote options, that will directly enable work, education, <u>and</u> health monitoring in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Libraries, senior citizen centers, youth centers, and general community centers are examples of eligible facilities. General construction or improvement of traditional schools and general public facilities infrastructure (e.g., streets, utilities, bridges, ports, etc.) are ineligible under this program. The program criteria include but are not limited to:

Grant Application & Project Types: Awards through a competitive application process. Two project categories: Category A: New facility construction project; and Category B: Existing facility renovation or expansion project.

Eligible Applicants: Units of General Local Government (UGLGs) and Tribal Governments

Minimum Criteria: The project must address a demonstrated critical need resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic; <u>and</u> include the construction, renovation or expansion of a community facility <u>and</u> the purchase and/or installation of new or improved digital connectivity technology (equipment, devices, services, etc.) <u>and</u> provide high speed internet that will directly enable work, education <u>and</u> health monitoring, including remote options.

Maximum Number of Projects/Awards per Applicant: 1 Application per Category; 2 Applications Total

Maximum Award Amount per Project: \$4,250,000

Grantee Performance Period: Award Date through 10/31/2026 (Construction completed by 9/30/2026)

Application Timeline: Application Period was 4/26/2024 - 7/11/24 and is now closed; Awards anticipated by 10/1/2024

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