Respond to the questions below with current and accurate information. There is a 1000 character limit for each question.

1. Provide an explanation of any progress you have made towards convening an initial planning group.
   This could include agendas, meeting dates and listing of attendees, meeting minutes, etc. You may also provide documentation of meetings of an already existing group. Provide any relevant supplemental documents by combining with this document (see page 1).

New North convened a New North Broadband Alliance (NNBA) consisting of at least one Broadband Champion from each of the 15 regional participating counties (Brown, Calumet, Door, Florence, Fond du Lac, Kewaunee, Manitowoc, Marinette, Marquette, Menominee, Oconto, Outagamie, Shawano, Sheboygan, and Waushara) and both Regional Plan Commissions (Bay Lakes, East Central Wisconsin). Kick-off meetings were held on April 6 & 11 (Attachment 1 – agenda, list of Broadband Champions).

Since the initial meeting, the NNBA has had five "office hours" to communicate updates, discuss plans moving forward, and provide a venue to meet/greet and share best practices between counties.

2. Please provide an explanation of any progress you have made towards conducting outreach to stakeholders in your community and/or region related to broadband planning. This could include a description of outreach events, a listing of stakeholders you have contacted, or other planned efforts. Provide any relevant supplemental documents by combining with this document (see page 1).

New North initiated contact with regional partners as soon as the PSC released county opt-in letters to ask if what each partner was planning to select. Fifteen of the eighteen counties we serve decided to approach the project regionally. Since then New North has participated in county-level broadband meetings. We, along with our local partners, helped to coordinate and participated in the Internet for All Listening Session in Appleton on May 19.

Currently, the NNBA has identified additional outreach to include the Regional Plan Commissions; collaborative outreach alongside PSC's efforts via Boston Consulting Group; additional general public outreach via survey and social media; and Internet Service Providers (ISPs). Additional outreach may be coordinated as we move forward. Participating counties shared their progress in their individual county outlines (Attachment 2).

3. Please share a preliminary broadband vision for your community (region, county, or Tribe), and any associated draft goals to achieve that vision.

Preliminary Regional Vision: All residents in the New North region will have equitable access to affordable internet with a minimum of 100 Mbps down / 20 Mbps up speeds.

Preliminary Regional Goals: Overall goal is to best utilize planning grant funds to position each county and the entire region to be prepared to apply for various forthcoming grants to fund implementation. We will do this by:
• Ensuring collection of good data for local, regional and statewide Broadband planning
• Supporting the PSC and working with local Regional Plan Commissions to create maps to better visualize and communicate gaps
• Meeting with ISPs to share findings and figure the best path forward for each county/community

4. Please share the key barriers and opportunities your community or region has identified thus far related to Internet for All.

Regionally, our key barriers and opportunities are:
- Understanding of current and future broadband efforts – better communication and coordination between federal, state, regional, and local efforts and plans with public and private entities.
- Lack of adequate funds to implement broadband and provide internet for all.
- Lack of accurate data/maps to identify gap areas (access and/or affordability).
- Natural topography of the region.

Each participating county has shared their key barriers and opportunities, if available (Attachment 2).

Section III - Budget

Please provide a detailed budget by cost category in the table below. The description field for each category should describe the anticipated activities or costs covered by that line. For example, the labor line would have a description of the work duties of funded staff, and the contractual line would describe what contracted services would be procured. Your budget must connect to the activities in the scope of work in your grant agreement. Per your grant agreement terms, this submitted budget will be incorporated as your official budget. This allocation of your grant award will be the budget from which you draw down reimbursements. Please refer to the allocation letter for award amounts by recipient. See below cost category descriptions.

Cost Category	Amount	Description
Contract, Consultant fees	$ 272,567.25	research/data collection, asset mapping, outreach, other activities TBD by Alliance.
Labor (salary and fringe)	$	
Training	$	
Travel	$	
Supplies	$	
Other	$ 30,000	New North Project Management, Alliance Coordination, Convening of Stakeholders

Contractual, Consultant fees include all project expenses for work performed by a third-party contractor. A third-party contractor is any entity that is not a signatory to the grant agreement. Examples: research and data collection, asset mapping, convening stakeholders, publications, outreach, and communications support, etc. Any materials supplied by a third-party contractor should be included here.

Labor (salary and fringe) include actual labor expenses, including fringe benefits, of the signatory. This category is limited to direct personnel expenses only.

Training includes training staff, elected officials, local broadband champions, and/or related staffing capacity to effectuate the goals of the BEAD Program.

Travel includes signatory's travel expenses related to the scope of the project.

Supplies includes examples such as food, event space, postage, printing of outreach materials, technology for staff, software licensing, etc. Note: funds are not allowed to purchase equipment.

Other includes other expenses not specified above. Please provide details in the notes.

Section IV – Supplemental Information

Provide any additional comments here if needed. See page 1 for instructions on combining supplemental documents.

Each county created their own deliverable outline to supplement and support regional efforts. (Attachment 2 – county responses in alphabetical order):

Brown, Calumet, Door, Florence, Fond Du Lac, Kewaunee*, Manitowoc, Marinette*, Marquette, Menominee, Oconto, Outagamie, Shawano, Sheboygan, Waushara

*deliverables under design

Section V - Certification

Enter the contact information of the person authorizing and submitting this report. By including your name below, you certify that the above report is complete, accurate, and you have the authority, granted by the recipient agency, to submit this report on their behalf.

1. Grant Recipient Entity (County, REDO, Tribe):	
New North, Inc.	

2. Name	3. Title
Barbara Koldos	Vice President, Business Development

4. Phone Number	4. Email Address	5. Certification Date
920.336.3860	barbara.koldos@thenewnorth.com	06.19.23

New North Regional Local Planning Grant
Kick-Off Agenda

Thursday, April 6 9am – 10am	Tuesday, April 11 3:30pm – 4:30pm
Zoom Meeting https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82820869894?pwd=TjBwRW9jSHNYNk1obCt2NnVyTlBMQT09	Zoom Meeting https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82510429146?pwd=Rm4wZHFUVi92Wm1OUlUzNmd2RE9PQT09
Meeting ID: 828 2086 9894 Passcode: 821542	Meeting ID: 825 1042 9146 Passcode: 602280

please note both meetings will be recorded and available for 90 days

Overall goal is to best utilize planning grant funds to position each county and the entire region to be prepared to apply for the eventual $700M - $1.2B BEAD funding for implementation (and other funding grants)

1. Required Deliverables to PSC by June 19
   a. Convene initial planning group (regional and each county)
   b. Begin outreach to stakeholders (regional and each county)
   c. Identify preliminary regional broadband vision and draft goals
   d. Identify key barriers and opportunities related to internet for all (region and each county)
   e. Share county notes/findings by end of day May 29 for New North to compile
2. Memorandum of Understanding DRAFT Review
   a. Link to MOU Draft
3. Timeline
   a. Share county notes/findings by May 29 for New North to compile
   b. Complete activities outlined in plan by June 30, 2024
   c. Likely Q2/Q3 2024 for start of PSC BEAD Grant Broadband funding rounds
4. Shared Resources
   a. Link to SharePoint Folder
   b. Technical Assistance – UW-Extension
   c. Technical Assistance – WEDC
   d. Additional Shared Services TBD
5. Broadband Champion Collaboration Calls
   a. Through June 19 – biweekly or as needed
   b. Through June 2024 – once a month or as needed
   c. Local, Regional, and/or Statewide with Providers/ISPs, mapping, equity, workforce, etc. as needed

Attachment 1

County	BB Champion	Email	cc:
Brown	August	august.neverman@browncountywi.gov	
Calumet	Jason	Jason.Pausma@calumetcounty.org	Christopher.Meuer@calumetcounty.org
Door	Jessica	jhatch@co.door.wi.us	
Florence	Erik	eprintz@florencecountywi.gov	
Fond du Lac	Erin	erin.gerred@fdlco.wi.gov	lmcarthur@envisiongreaterfdl.com
Kewaunee	Scott	feldt.scott@kewauneeco.org	ben.nelson@kcedc.org
Manitowoc	Jamie	jamie@progresslakeshore.org	bobziegelbauer@manitowoccountywi.gov
Marinette	Jenny	jennifer.short@marinettecountywi.gov	john.lefebvre@marinettecountywi.gov
Marquette	Keri	ksolis@co.marquette.wi.us	
Menominee	Vicki	vtourtillott@co.menominee.wi.us	jweso@co.menominee.wi.us
Oconto	Erik	erik.pritzl@co.oconto.wi.us	melissa.schwaller@co.oconto.wi.us
Outagamie	Sadie	sadie.dinataleburda@outagamie.org	
Shawano	Matt	matt.hietpas@shawanocountywi.gov	peter.thillman@scepi.org
Sheboygan	Chris	chris.lewinski@sheboygancounty.com	
Waushara	Barry	Barry.west@co.waushara.wi.us	melissa.pingel@co.waushara.wi.us
Winnebago (tentative)	Ethan	EHollenberger@winnebagocountywi.gov	
Bay Lakes RPC		sswan@baylakerpc.org	nbarbiaux@baylakerpc.org
ECWRPC		mbadtke@ecwrpc.org	MZuege@ecwrpc.org

Attachment 2

Brown County
Name: August Neverman

1. Have you convened an initial planning group or can you provide documentation of meetings of an existing group in your community? Yes County Board Organized (public meetings noticed on County Website) Dates April 17, May 1 and May 15, next is June 19 Previous "rural broadband committee" Rural Broadband Subcommittee (older) Brown County Broadband Subcommittee (new – current)
2. Have you begun outreach to stakeholders in your community related to broadband planning or can you provide a timeline of when and how you will outreach to stakeholders in your community? Yes, each committee member is reaching out to 9 communities (based on the BEAD NOFO). 1.   Households with incomes below 150% of the federal poverty level 2.   Aging individuals, 60 years of age or older 3.   Incarcerated individuals except those in Federal correctional facilities 4.   Veterans 5.   Individuals with disabilities 6.   Individuals with a language barrier, including English learners and those with low levels of literacy 7.   Members of racial or ethnic minority groups; and 8.   Individuals who primarily reside in a rural area 9.   Local Municipal Representatives See Committee plan for lists of entities/contacts.

Identify a preliminary county broadband vision and draft goals.
Brown County's vision/goal:
 	
VISION
Expand and enhance broadband access to all residents, educational entities, organizations and businesses in Brown County.
 	
GOALS
1. **Local Ordinance/Policy**
     a. Work with municipalities to adopt Broadband Forward! https://psc.wi.gov/Pages/ServiceType/Broadband/BroadbandForward.aspx
     b. Work with municipalities to adopt Telecommuter Forward! https://psc.wi.gov/Pages/ServiceType/Broadband/TelecommuterForward.aspx

2. **Speed tests & surveys**
    a. Conduct and publish recurring OPTI (GeoPartners) broadband Speed Test mapping.
    b. Conduct a comprehensive assessment of broadband needs and availability within the county using WISER

3. **Improve Partnerships** to foster better broadband access
    a. Work to represent the broadband needs for COUNTY at the local, regional, WI State and Federal level where possible.
    b. Develop partnerships with internet service providers (ISPs) to expand broadband infrastructure in underserved areas for providers already in the area.
    c. Reach out to ISPs to explore partnership opportunities for ISPs not in the area.
    d. Work to provide financial incentives to ISPs, telecommunication providers or other entities to encourage investment in broadband infrastructure.

4. **Equity Steps**
    a. Foster implementation of digital literacy and adoption programs to increase broadband usage and awareness among residents.
    b. Increase awareness of: Affordable Connectivity Fund, Lifeline, Library/School device checkout, and other programs

5. **Improve Broadband Planning**
    a. Inform municipalities of the need to add conduit and/or partner with providers during major roadwork and bridgework.
    b. Inform municipalities that new roads and bridges should include conduit.
    c. Encourage the state to include conduit/fiber and partnerships during construction.

6. **Lobby to modernize WI State broadband regulations and statutes to facilitate broadband access for all residents.**
    a. Propose that a new minimum of 100mbps/20mbps be set and designate 1000/1000 as a benchmark for "good" speeds. (update 196.504)
    b. Update PSC regulation for power-utilities to pull fiber instead of copper to the home
    c. Update utility pole regulations to permit pre-planning and shared fiber use on poles to benefit the power utility, internet providers and all residents.
    d. Encourage the state to add rules that rely on independently measured ACTUAL broadband performance instead of "advertised" speed, perhaps using WISER.

7. **Targeted Improvements**
    a. Facilitate middle mile to rural housing clusters (but not necessarily to the home)
    b. Ensure all Anchor Institutions have access
    c. Ensure all Students have necessary Internet access
    d. Ensure necessary Internet access for businesses (economic development)

8. **Work to Remove Barriers**
    a. Remove/Reduce broadband barriers to technology adoption: ESL, Affordability, Device Access, ADRC/aging, etc.

b. Remove/Reduce broadband barriers for the delivery of: Healthcare, public services, education etc.

9. Monitor progress towards achieving universal broadband access and adjust strategies as needed.

4. What are you hoping to accomplish with this planning effort?

Measurably improve broadband in Brown County.

5. What are some key barriers related to internet for all in your community?

1. Funding for:
   a. Ontime funding for providers to install fiber or wireless service to EVERYONE (estimate $140m for Brown County). Passing costs are prohibitive at least with current business models
   b. Ongoing funding to subsidize the most rural/low population areas (the operational expenses outweigh the revenue).
   c. Broadband Affordability (including devices/services)
   d. Broadband education – small portions of the public needs help with digital literacy.
   e. Staff to keep the projects moving (public or private but someone to keep it going).
2. Reduce State Regulatory Barriers (see goals above) -
3. Local regulation (see goals above) – see broadband forward and local regs above
4. Utility Pole and new site planning
5. Lack of consistent (or non existent) dig once rules
6. Lack of treatment of Broadband as equally important as electricity or water

What are some activities your community would like to undertake between now and July 1, 2024?

- Participate in regional mapping – led by New North
  - Specifically Equity related mapping
  - Regional mapping of service providers
- Review and update previous Brown County and Regional broadband plans
- Create county-specific vision/goals
- Consider: Promote WISER survey
- Consider: Promote OPTI speed test
- Use social media to inform the public, and request feedback
  - Broadband speed tests
  - Consider: General broadband information – Equity/Affordability/Access/Workforce
  - WISER Survey (if applicable)
- Public media campaign for OPTI speed test and WISER survey
- Host meetings for stakeholders including ISPs, elected officials, Broadband Taskforce, etc.
- Consider: Use of grant funds for mailings and public information gathering
- Coordinated local/regional discussion per internet services provider

Calumet County
Name: Jason Pausma

Have you convened an initial planning group or can you provide documentation of meetings of an existing group in your community?

Yes, Calumet County has a broadband task force that started meeting 1st quarter of 2023. This task force has external stakeholders. See the attached charter for more information. There is also an internal county team that has also met going back to 2019. Link to documentation.

Have you begun outreach to stakeholders in your community related to broadband planning or can you provide a timeline of when and how you will outreach to stakeholders in your community?

Yes. 4,000 mailers with a survey and additional questionnaire relating to existing broadband and speed test were sent out. We have also had multiple conversations with stakeholders from the towns in the county. There are various stakeholders on the task force as well. Moving forward we plan on having informational meetings with municipalities to discuss broadband needs and issues.

What are you hoping to accomplish with this planning effort?

Collaborate with other counties in the New North region, sharing data, get more accurate representation of actual speeds in rural areas of the county.

Build on prior speed test data and planning efforts.

Identify localized areas to focus resources on to improve broadband.

What are some key barriers related to internet for all in your community?

Cost of middle mile infrastructure, and making the last connection to the residences.

Topography / line of site issues with cell tower broadband.

Large tracts of state owned property and large wetland areas create challenges when planning for broadband infrastructure.

Ensuring equitable access, with a focus on rural areas.

What are some activities your community would like to undertake between now and July 1, 2024?
- *Participate in regional mapping – led by New North*
- Review and update previous broadband plans and update them.
- Remove the participants that have submitted speed test data and target those that haven't responded.
- *Create county-specific vision/goals by December 2023*
- *Continue to use social media to inform the public, and request feedback*
  - *Broadband speed tests*
  - *General broadband information – Equity/Affordability/Access/Workforce*
  - *Possible Survey with New North group*
- *Host meetings for stakeholders including ISPs, elected officials, Broadband Taskforce, etc.*
- *Use funds to cover staff time or marketing expenses to support Broadband efforts*

Door County
Name: Jessica Hatch

Have you convened an initial planning group or can you provide documentation of meetings of an existing group in your community? • Yes, we have had a County Broadband Advisory Committee in place since June of 2022. • Agenda Center will provide agenda's, packets and minutes.
Have you begun outreach to stakeholders in your community related to broadband planning or can you provide a timeline of when and how you will outreach to stakeholders in your community? • Yes, outreach throughout Door County started in April of 2022. Our County Administrator requested our municipalities to create an ad-hoc broadband committee or have their Boards have broadband discussions and determine the needs of their residents and businesses. • This work and outreach have been ongoing the past year. This is a link to our Municipal Committee Contacts . • This work and outreach will continue through the next year during our regional work, between the Broadband Coordinator and the municipal ad-hoc committees and Boards
What are you hoping to accomplish with this planning effort? • The Door County vision/goal is to ensure that ALL residents and businesses have access to affordable, high-speed FTTP services with minimum speeds of 100/20, and an overall goal of symmetrical speeds. • Continue to collect a variety of quality data for local broadband planning for our municipalities to use in their grant applications and public private partnerships with ISP's.
What are some key barriers related to internet for all in your community? • Being a dead-end County • Low year-round population/lack of density • High cost per passing due to long distances between BSL's • Utility pole make-ready costs & buried costs due to the County topography of limestone and limited topsoil

What are some activities your community would like to undertake between now and July 1, 2024?
• Participate in regional mapping-led by New North
• Review and update previous broadband plans
• Send and compile survey to residents -continuation/refresh of WISER outreach
• Send out speed test flyers for OptiMap
• Community outreach sessions on digital equity & inclusion in partnership with United Way of Door County.
• Continue to use our FiberNet website to inform the public, and request feedback on
    ○ WISER Internet Self-Report - Broadband Planning Map
    ○ Speed tests - Broadband Planning Map
    ○ General broadband information – including DEI, and workforce discussions
    ○ Additional survey outreach – including DEI & economic development information
• Provide training/workshop for elected officials, staff, residents
• Allocate time for staff to attend/participate in technical assistance conference(s), workshops, and webinars.

- Hire translators, interpreters, or provide childcare for those attending our planning meetings
- Use funds to cover staff time to support Broadband efforts

Florence County

Name: Eric Printz

Have you convened an initial planning group or can you provide documentation of meetings of an existing group in your community?
No there has been no planning group. I will gather a mix of people once all has been approved to move forward by my Economic Development Committee.
Have you begun outreach to stakeholders in your community related to broadband planning or can you provide a timeline of when and how you will outreach to stakeholders in your community?
Same as above
Identify a preliminary county broadband vision and draft goals.
The vison/goal from this planning is to identify the gaps throughout the county. The minimums listed above will be difficult in many areas of our county due to topography, types of tech as well as infrastructure.
What are you hoping to accomplish with this planning effort?
As mentioned above, we want to identify the gaps for access throughout the county
What are some key barriers related to internet for all in your community?
Topography is a barrier. Costs for some folks is difficult as well as the lack of technical knowledge.
What are some activities your community would like to undertake between now and July 1, 2024?
If approved, Economic Development would like to bring in a person who can lead many of the efforts listed above.

Fond du Lac County

Name: Sam Kaufman, County Executive / Erin Gerred, Director of Administration

Have you convened an initial planning group or can you provide documentation of meetings of an existing group in your community?
A county committee must be formed through a resolution approved by our County Board. A discussion is in process with the County Board Chairman as to the creation of a committee. The goal is to have the committee in place by the end of 2023.
Have you begun outreach to stakeholders in your community related to broadband planning or can you provide a timeline of when and how you will outreach to stakeholders in your community?
Our county is currently engaged in broadband fiber optic installation throughout the county with a 3rd party internet provider. Throughout this process various groups within the county have been part of the discussion as to the broadband needs within areas of the county, particularly the rural areas. Once a committee is created the intents would be to have the committee engage the community, including rural governmental bodies, school districts, corporations, etc. to assist in determining the areas of most need.
Identify a preliminary county broadband vision and draft goals.
Our county vision is to provide greater access to affordable internet by partnering with 3rd parties, such as Bug Tussel, in the installation of fiber optic lines throughout the county. Specifically, our goal is to ensure that many of our rural areas in the southern and western portions of our county, where the need is greatest, have access to affordable and high speed internet.
What are you hoping to accomplish with this planning effort?
To assist in recognizing the areas of greatest need throughout the county.
What are some key barriers related to internet for all in your community?
Lack of fiber optic line installation in our rural areas, affordability, and availability of choice of providers.
What are some activities your community would like to undertake between now and July 1, 2024?
The activities will be determined by the created committee which will focus on which activities, based on resources available, will best achieve the goal of increasing fiber optic line installations, affordability and providing our communities more access to a greater number of providers.

Manitowoc County

Name: Jamie Zastrow, Progress Lakeshore

Have you convened an initial planning group or can you provide documentation of meetings of an existing group in your community?   **Link** to agendas from task force meetings.
Have you begun outreach to stakeholders in your community related to broadband planning or can you provide a timeline of when and how you will outreach to stakeholders in your community?   We reached out to school districts, healthcare organizations, utilities, and county leadership to form the broadband taskforce. Any additional stakeholders will be contacted as we move through this process.
Identify a preliminary county broadband vision and draft goals.   Our county is working toward vision/goals as we move through the process.
What are you hoping to accomplish with this planning effort?   Collection of accurate data to identify areas to increase broadband service, assistance in dealing with providers and future funding sources.
What are some key barriers related to internet for all in your community?   Knowing where to focus efforts and who should lead the initiatives.
What are some activities your community would like to undertake between now and July 1, 2024?   • Participate in regional mapping – led by New North   • Review and update previous broadband plans   • Use social media to inform the public, and request feedback   • Broadband speed tests   • General broadband information – Equity/Affordability/Access/Workforce   • Survey (if applicable)   • Host meetings for stakeholders including ISPs, elected officials, Broadband Taskforce, etc.   • Provide training/workshop for elected officials, staff, taskforce, residents, etc. or allocate time for staff to attend/participate in technical assistance workshops or webinars   • Use funds to cover staff time to support Broadband efforts   Based upon budget, possibly: • Send and compile survey to Residents   • Send out speed test flyers

Marquette County
Name: Keri Solis

Have you convened an initial planning group or can you provide documentation of meetings of an existing group in your community?
We have not met yet, but plan to begin meetings in August. The group will consist of members from school districts, libraries, senior groups, county human services, businesses, local government officials and internet service providers.
Have you begun outreach to stakeholders in your community related to broadband planning or can you provide a timeline of when and how you will outreach to stakeholders in your community?
Yes, I have begun outreach to the various parties that will be a part of the planning group.
What are you hoping to accomplish with this planning effort?
To be sure all residents, visitors, and businesses have access to high-speed internet in the county. We are hoping to uncover the needs of the county related to broadband speed, reliability and use. We are hoping to learn more about needs regarding computer training, affordability and device affordability.
What are some key barriers related to internet for all in your community?
Matching funds to complete broadband and funds for training programs, devices, etc. for low income residents.
What are some activities your community would like to undertake between now and July 1, 2024?
We would like to participate in the regional mapping, review and update previous plans, create county specific vison and goals. Conduct an equity survey and speed tests. We also plan to use funds to cover staff time to support broadband efforts.

Menominee County

Name: Vicki Tourtillott

Have you convened an initial planning group or can you provide documentation of meetings of an existing group in your community? Yes & No, unable to get volunteers, but I have people contributing information when requested.
Have you begun outreach to stakeholders in your community related to broadband planning or can you provide a timeline of when and how you will outreach to stakeholders in your community? I will contact a Tribal employee that will be able to provide data about what their involvement was in the past, contracts, etc.
What are you hoping to accomplish with this planning effort? All residents of Menominee County will have equitable access to affordable Internet with a minimum of 100 Mbps down / 20 Mbps up speeds.
What are some key barriers related to internet for all in your community? Community participation with surveys and speed tests. ISP cooperation, would like to bring more ISPs to the table.
What are some activities your community would like to undertake between now and July 1, 2024? Participation in county mapping, resident surveys, speed test, ISP participation. Review and update previous broadband plans (Contacting MITW). Create county-specific vision/goals by December 2023.

Oconto County
Name: Erik Pritzl

Have you convened an initial planning group or can you provide documentation of meetings of an existing group in your community? The County Board authorized the forming of a Broadband Taskforce through a resolution on May 18, 2023 (Link). The next steps are to recruit volunteers to serve on the committee based on the structure and to have them appointed and confirmed at the June 22, 2023 County Board meeting. An initial meeting should be held by July 30, 2023.
Have you begun outreach to stakeholders in your community related to broadband planning or can you provide a timeline of when and how you will outreach to stakeholders in your community? Outreach to serve on the Broadband Taskforce will occur between May 18, 2023 and June 22, 2023. A structure outreach plan for stakeholder engagement needs to be developed by the taskforce, and will be part of the initial meetings of the group that will occur in July and August.
What are you hoping to accomplish with this planning effort? To develop and share an understanding of broadband availability visually, and see how projects currently in progress fit together. There are grant related projects, RDOF projects, county projects and ISP activity that are taking in place in different areas without an idea of how they fit together. I also hope we can understand what the different needs are for getting broadband into homes---service access, affordability, or consumer knowledge/awareness.
What are some key barriers related to internet for all in your community? Access to service at advertised speeds, availability in parts of the county where geographic features can create problems (heavily forested, hills, county or national forest land).
What are some activities your community would like to undertake between now and July 1, 2024? Stakeholder outreach and engagement to identify barriers to broadband adoption, identifying existing broadband projects, supporting the development of maps that capture equity, access and deployment challenges, developing broadband related speed testing and surveys to guide future projects and priorities, and developing the vision of broadband service in Oconto County.

Outagamie County
Name: Sadie DiNatale Burda

Have you convened an initial planning group or can you provide documentation of meetings of an existing group in your community?

Outagamie County will convene an initial planning group meeting this summer (tentative: July 2023) to discuss existing broadband initiatives in the county and to gather feedback on initiatives and priorities. The County will invite our Town's Association Broadband Taskforce and representatives from each Town in Outagamie County. We will also extend an invitation to applicable stakeholders including New North, ECWRPC, and Bug Tussel.

The anticipated agenda will be:

- Welcome and Background (why are we here) – *Outagamie County DLS*
- Discussion of Existing Initiatives – Brief Presentations followed by Q&A
    - Middle Mile Broadband Project – *Bug Tussel*
    - BEAD – *New North?*
    - ARPA Last Mile Grants – *Outagamie County DLS*
- Breakout Stations
    - Activity 1: Middle Mile Feedback & Input on Last Mile Connections
    - Activity 2: County Priorities, Goals, & Digital Equity Exercise
- Closing Remarks and Next Steps

Have you begun outreach to stakeholders in your community related to broadband planning or can you provide a timeline of when and how you will outreach to stakeholders in your community?

Outagamie County has already begun outreach to stakeholders, including outreach to staff from various County Departments, internet service providers, our Town's Association, and our Town's Association Broadband Task Force.

Identify a preliminary county broadband vision and draft goals.

Outagamie County does not have a local vision/goal(s); however, this may be determined following the initial planning group meeting we plan to hold this summer.

What are you hoping to accomplish with this planning effort?

1. We would like to have a detailed plan outlining the steps and resources needed to ensure all residents and businesses in Outagamie County have access to reliable and affordable broadband. In particular, we would the planning effort to result in:
    - An identification of the county sub-areas in greatest need. We are aware of existing projects in the works, but we know they will still leave gaps. (Note: existing projects include anticipated middle mile proposal with Bug Tussel and the RDOF-funded build out of fiber by Charter/Spectrum).

2. We would like to better understand what role the county could/should play in support of digital equity efforts.

3. We would like to better understand what the county's long-term role could/should entail (i.e., once we feel the county is fully served – or – is there an expectation that there will always be an active role for the County to play; is being "fully served" a moving target?).

What are some key barriers related to internet for all in your community?

- Lack of access to internet services
- High costs of service packages – especially those offering higher speeds
- Lack of knowledge about which service provider(s) serve their area (and navigating different service packages)

What are some activities your community would like to undertake between now and July 1, 2024?

- Participate in regional mapping – led by New North
- Send out speed test flyers
- Analyze regional mapping & speed test results. For each county:
    - Identify specific geographic areas that are unserved & underserved
    - Within these areas, determine number and type of HHs and Bsnses (consumer base), and barriers to serving these areas (e.g., lack of access to middle mile, enviro/topographical constraints, etc.)
    - Establish criteria and prioritize these areas by greatest need
- Create county-specific vision/goals by December 2023
- Host meetings for stakeholders including ISPs, elected officials, Broadband Taskforce, etc.
- As we gear up for the grant cycle, meetings/trainings/workshops on what to expect – what role should Counties play / how should we get involved

Shawano County

Name: Matt Hietpas

Have you convened an initial planning group or can you provide documentation of meetings of an existing group in your community?
Broadband Committee creation has been approved at Committee level and will go to County Board for final approval and appointment of members in June.
Identify a preliminary county broadband vision and draft goals.
All residents in the New North region will have equitable access to affordable internet with a minimum of 100 Mbps down / 20 Mbps up speeds.
What are you hoping to accomplish with this planning effort?
Locate areas that are underserved in our county and develop a plan to bring broadband with acceptable speeds to these locations.
What are some key barriers related to internet for all in your community?
Build and Install costs in rural areas.
What are some activities your community would like to undertake between now and July 1, 2024?
In addition to participating in the regional broadband mapping efforts, Shawano County will use funds to cover staff time to support Broadband efforts

Sheboygan County
Name: Christopher S. Lewinski

Have you convened an initial planning group or can you provide documentation of meetings of an existing group in your community?
Sheboygan County convened its ARPA Broadband Development Taskforce in August 2021. From August 2021 through January 2022, this group met several times to establish goals and develop recommendations for utilizing ARPA funding to expand access to broadband internet in Sheboygan County. Those recommendations resulted in the Sheboygan County Board of Supervisors allocating a portion of the County's ARPA funding to broadband at their June 2022 meeting. Since that time, the County's broadband champion has led mapping efforts to identify areas of greatest need for broadband expansion in the County. As that mapping project ends, it is anticipated that this Taskforce will reconvene in 2023 to review responses to a Request for Proposal (RFP) for broadband development that will be published in summer of 2023. Meeting minutes from 2021 are included (Link)
Have you begun outreach to stakeholders in your community related to broadband planning or can you provide a timeline of when and how you will outreach to stakeholders in your community?
In 2022, the County's broadband champion gave two broadband presentations to the Sheboygan County Heads of Local Government group, which is comprised of Town and Municipal leaders. Additionally, he attended several Town Board meetings to hear feedback about broadband challenges, as well as provide updates on the County's efforts to address this issue. It is anticipated that more of this outreach will occur in 2023 with the posting of the Request for Proposal (RFP) for broadband development in Sheboygan County.
Identify a preliminary county broadband vision and draft goals.
Per the Sheboygan County ARPA Broadband Development Taskforce Charter: "(Develop Recommendations to) *Significantly Enhance Broadband Access, Affordability and Services Countywide*".
What are you hoping to accomplish with this planning effort?
Information/data sharing with other New North Counties; Identification of potential collaboration opportunities; Input to regional planning effort.
What are some key barriers related to internet for all in your community?
Low population density and challenging terrain in rural areas of the County greatly increases cost to deliver wireline broadband internet. Additionally, there are only a few wireline broadband providers in the County, which reduces competition and adversely impacts affordability of broadband in underserved areas. Lastly, incomplete maps and speed data lead to inaccurate conclusions regarding the number of unserved and underserved locations in the County.
What are some activities your community would like to undertake between now and July 1, 2024?
Participate in regional mapping by providing our GIS data to New North; Create county-specific goals to inform decision-making on funding; Host meetings for County stakeholders including ISP's; Develop a Request for Proposal for broadband development in the County

Waushara County

Name: Barry West

Have you convened an initial planning group or can you provide documentation of meetings of an existing group in your community? Yes we have established a group, however we have not had formal meetings yet and the group is still in developement
Have you begun outreach to stakeholders in your community related to broadband planning or can you provide a timeline of when and how you will outreach to stakeholders in your community? Yes, we have done some outreach from previous surveys and in conjunction with Bug Tussel, and we plan to utilize the WISER surveys and other tools with help from New North
Identify a preliminary county broadband vision and draft goals. Our goal aligns the same as the regional vision and goals as we are wanting to get good internet to all of Waushara County
What are you hoping to accomplish with this planning effort? Waushara County would like to get good broadband internet to all of the county.
What are some key barriers related to internet for all in your community? Barriers include, lakes, many trees that cause interference, an aging population that may not participate in the data gathering process

What are some activities your community would like to undertake between now and July 1, 2024?
 	
• *Participate in regional mapping – led by New North*
• *Review and update previous broadband plans*
• *Create county-specific vision/goals by December 2023*
• *Send and compile survey to Residents*
• *Send out speed test flyers*
• *Use social media to inform the public, and request feedback*
    ○ *Broadband speed tests*
    ○ *General broadband information – Equity/Affordability/Access/Workforce*
    ○ *Survey (if applicable)*
• *Host meetings for stakeholders including ISPs, elected officials, Broadband Taskforce, etc.*
• *Provide training/workshop for elected officials, staff, taskforce, residents, etc. or allocate time for staff to attend/participate in technical assistance workshops or webinars*
• *Hire translators, interpreters, or provide childcare for those attending your planning meetings*
• *Use funds to cover staff time to support Broadband efforts*
 	
We would like to work on all of the above listed options in order to provide better assistance to the community.