

## **Dane County Broadband Task Force Information**

### **What is the Broadband Task Force?**

In 2021, the Dane County Board of Supervisors created the Dane County Broadband Task Force. The 15 member Task Force was created by [2020 RES 415](#) and focuses on how to provide broadband access to all of Dane County's residents, particularly those who live in rural areas where broadband access may be lacking or non-existent. The Task Force meets monthly to explore solutions to inadequate broadband service. This includes collecting data on underserved and vulnerable populations and partnering with stakeholders to identify where broadband is and isn't available.

### **What are the objectives of the Task Force?**

The Task Force aims to create a greater community understanding of Dane County's challenges related to high-speed, reliable and affordable internet access for the County as a whole. Additionally, the Task Force is working to prepare local partners in Dane County to have the background and knowledge (e.g. accurate maps, data on speeds, access, etc.) to apply for various grants and funding to expand access to unserved and underserved areas of the county, and increase awareness of the issues those without reliable internet access face.

### **How is the Task Force achieving these objectives?**

The Task Force is working to collect data, research and explore various funding mechanisms, partner with stakeholders to identify where broadband access is and is not, explore alternative solutions, and make recommendations to the County Board on the role of Dane County in facilitating the expansion of broadband services to residents. The Task Force will hold two public hearings to hear from local officials and residents about challenges related to broadband. The Task Force is working to survey rural residents in specific areas to identify homes and neighborhoods in which service is not available, and communities and internet service providers will be able to use this information to be able to apply for grants to expand access to these areas.

**More information can be found on the [Task Force website](#):**

<https://board.countyofdane.com/initiatives/Broadband-Task-Force>