Accessing the Internet

Increasing access to broadband and increasing internet speed provides opportunities across a wide range of areas, including positive impacts to economies, education, health, and quality of life. During covid-19, access to broadband and reasonable internet speed is particularly valuable for healthy distancing, telecommuting, economic development, and education.

Another Opportunity for Patience & Empathy

This is a uniquely difficult time. As much as possible, many of us are staying home to keep each other safe. At home, we may be experiencing slow internet. It is understandably frustrating to work from home with slow internet speeds, for students to try and do homework, and for people to try and keep social networks active. This can all be frustrating -- and, another opportunity for us to be patient and empathetic towards ourselves and others.

Available Broadband

Internet Resources

The Internet Resources for Wisconsin Residents During a Public Health Emergency page of the Wisconsin Public Service Commission (PSC) helps in identifying providers in your area, along with efforts the companies are making to increase accessibility to internet services. This information is useful if you are behind in paying your internet bills.

Wisconsin Broadband Map

The Wisconsin Broadband Map can help in identifying broadband providers in your area. This map shows a range of technologies, including mobile cellular and satellite connections, which may need to be explored as options in particularly underserved areas. Click on the map in your area of interest and use the areas in the pop-up box to cycle through possible providers. Please note that this map may not be accurate.

Mobile Hotspot Program

If your place of residence is home to a student, some school districts have implemented a mobile hotspot program as a resource for students. For this reason, you may want to reach out to your local school district to learn about potential additional additional details and opportunities.

Public Wi-Fi Access Points

You may want to use public wi-fi access points in your community. Some facilities, such as public libraries, may allow members of the public to access their network from a car in a parking lot.

Potentials to Increase Home Internet Service

You may already have internet access at home but speeds may be slower. If so, call your internet provider to get their recommendations on increasing the internet speed.