**196.504 Broadband Forward! community**

**(4)**A political subdivision may apply to the commission for certification as a Broadband Forward! community. The commission shall prescribe the form and manner for making an application. The commission shall prescribe a process for public notice and comment on an application for a period of at least 30 days after the application is received, except that the process does not apply to an application by a political subdivision that enacts a model ordinance developed under sub. [(9) (a)](https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/document/statutes/196.504%289%29%28a%29) or submits a written statement under sub. [(9) (b)](https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/document/statutes/196.504%289%29%28b%29). The commission shall approve an application and certify a political subdivision as a Broadband Forward! community if the commission determines that the political subdivision has enacted an ordinance that complies with sub. [(5)](https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/document/statutes/196.504%285%29). If the process for public notice and comment applies to an application, the commission shall, before approving the application, consider any public comments made regarding the application.

**(5)**A political subdivision may not be certified as a Broadband Forward! community under sub. [(4)](https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/document/statutes/196.504%284%29) unless the political subdivision enacts an ordinance for reviewing applications and issuing permits related to broadband network projects that provides for all of the following:

**(a)** Appointing a single point of contact for all matters related to a broadband network project.

**(b)** Requiring the political subdivision to determine whether an application is complete and notifying the applicant about the determination in writing within 10 days of receiving the application.

**(c)** If the political subdivision does not believe that an application is complete, requiring the written notification under par. [(b)](https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/document/statutes/196.504%285%29%28b%29) to specify in detail the required information that is incomplete.

**(d)** If the political subdivision does not make the written notification required under par. [(b)](https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/document/statutes/196.504%285%29%28b%29), requiring the political subdivision to consider an application to be complete.

**(e)** Allowing an applicant to resubmit an application as often as necessary until the application is complete.

**(f)** Within 60 days of receiving an application that is complete, requiring the political subdivision to approve or deny the application and provide the applicant written notification of the approval or denial.

**(g)** If the political subdivision denies an application, requiring the political subdivision to include in the written notification under par. [(f)](https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/document/statutes/196.504%285%29%28f%29) evidence that the denial is not arbitrary and capricious.

**(h)** Requiring that an application is considered approved and any required permit is issued if the political subdivision does not provide the written notification under par. [(f)](https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/document/statutes/196.504%285%29%28f%29).

**(i)** Providing that any fee imposed by the political subdivision to review an application, issue a permit, or perform any other activity related to a broadband network project is reasonable.

**(k)** Allowing all forms, applications, and documentation related to a broadband network project to be filed and signed by electronic or another means authorized by the commission.

**(6)**A political subdivision that the commission has certified as a Broadband Forward! community under sub. [(4)](https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/document/statutes/196.504%284%29) may not do any of the following:

**(a)** Require an applicant to designate a final contractor to complete a broadband network project.

**(b)** Impose an unreasonable fee to review an application or issue a permit for a broadband network project application. Any application fee that exceeds $100 is considered unreasonable.

**(c)** Impose a moratorium of any kind on the approval of applications and issuance of permits for broadband network projects or on construction related to broadband network projects.

**(d)** Discriminate among providers of telecommunications service, as defined in s. [182.017 (1g) (cq)](https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/document/statutes/182.017%281g%29%28cq%29), or public utilities with respect to any action described in this section or otherwise related to a broadband network project, including granting access to public rights-of-way, infrastructure and poles, river and bridge crossings, or any other physical assets owned or controlled by the political subdivision.