**196.5045  Telecommuter Forward! certification.**

**(1)**In this section, “political subdivision" means a city, village, town, or county.

**(2)**A political subdivision may apply to the commission for certification as a Telecommuter Forward! community. The commission shall prescribe the form and manner for making an application and a process for public notice and comment on an application. The commission shall approve an application and certify a political subdivision as a Telecommuter Forward! community if the commission determines that the political subdivision has adopted a resolution that complies with sub. [(3)](https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/document/statutes/196.5045%283%29). Before approving an application, the commission shall consider any public comments made regarding the application.

**(3)**A political subdivision may not be certified as a Telecommuter Forward! community under sub. [(2)](https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/document/statutes/196.5045%282%29) unless the political subdivision adopts a resolution that does all of the following:

**(a)** States the political subdivision's support and commitment to promote the availability of telecommuting options.

**(b)** Provides for a single point of contact for coordinating telecommuting opportunities that has all of the following responsibilities:

**1.** Coordination and partnership with broadband providers, realtors, economic development professionals, employers, employees, and other telecommuting stakeholders.

**2.** Collaboration with broadband providers and employers to identify, develop, and market telecommuter-capable broadband packages.

**3.** Communication and partnership with broadband providers and economic development professionals to develop common goals.

**4.** Promotion of telecommuter-friendly workspaces, such as business incubators with telecommuting spaces, if such a workspace has been established in the political subdivision at the time the political subdivision adopts the resolution.

**5.** Familiarity with broadband mapping tools and other state-level resources.

**6.** Maintaining regular communication with the state broadband office.

**7.** Making regular reports to the governing body of the political subdivision.

**History:**[2017 a. 342](https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/document/acts/2017/342).