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Governor Doyle Announces Over \$450,000 for Telecommunication Grants to Non-profit Organizations

MADISON – Governor Jim Doyle announced today that non-profit organizations around the state will receive \$450,820 in grants from Wisconsin's Universal Service Fund (USF) program to help provide telecommunications services to low income and disabled customers.

"The USF program plays a vital role in helping our state's non-profit organizations provide essential telecommunications services to their clients," Governor Doyle said. "I am pleased that we were able to award these grants. The USF program continues to provide extraordinary value and assistance to all of the state's telecommunications customers."

The Universal Service Fund, created under Wisconsin law, allows the PSC to collect fees from telecommunication providers to fund various USF programs, including the non-profit access grants program. These grants help low income and disabled customers access telecommunications services and assists in providing access to advanced telecommunications services to the public.

The following non-profit organizations were awarded Wisconsin USF grants:

- **ABC for Health, Inc.**, in Madison, Wisconsin, is a public interest law firm that helps link citizens who have special health care needs to health care benefits and services. ABC for Health, Inc. received \$27,105 to purchase equipment to educate families about advanced telecommunication options that are available to assist families of children with disabilities.
- **The Adult Learning Center**, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, provides educational opportunities to economically and educationally disadvantaged adults. The Adult Learning Center received \$17,800 to provide internet access and training for low-income individuals.
- **The Badger Association of the Blind and Visually Impaired**, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, promotes personal development, career growth, and community awareness through specialized services and programs for people who are visually impaired. The Badger Association of the Blind and Visually Impaired received \$28,210 to provide internet access and training for their clients.
- **The Boys and Girls Club of Greater Milwaukee**, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, is Milwaukee's largest neighborhood-based youth guidance organization whose primary purpose is to have a positive impact on the lives of low-income youth. The Boys and Girls Club of Greater Milwaukee received \$40,200 to upgrade their internet connectivity for six club locations.

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- **The Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing**, in West Allis, Wisconsin, provides in-home assistive technology consultations to low-income, disabled Wisconsin residents to ensure access to basic telecommunication services. The Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing received \$2,375 to offset client training and travel costs.
- **The Center for Independent Living for Western Wisconsin**, in Menomonie, Wisconsin, provides services to people with disabilities to assist them with becoming or remaining as independent as possible. The Center for Independent Living for Western Wisconsin received \$20,000 to provide outreach to individuals who are disabled and to increase consumer knowledge about specialized telecommunications equipment.
- **Community Action Coalition for South Central Wisconsin (CAC)**, in Madison, Wisconsin, helps develop the economic and social capacities of individuals, families, and communities to reduce poverty in Dane, Jefferson, and Waukesha Counties. CAC received \$15,000 to assist low income clients in obtaining or maintaining basic telephone service and provide education about low-cost internet services.
- **Goodman Atwood Community Center**, in Madison, Wisconsin, provides safe, accessible space for activities and programs that strengthen the lives of people in the Dane County community. Goodman Atwood Community Center received \$44,065 to fund a public access computer area for a new community center opening in fall 2008.
- **Hmong American Friendship Association**, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, is an organization founded to improve the quality of life for Hmong and Laotian refugees and the community at large. Hmong American Friendship Association received \$11,300 to provide Internet access to Hmong youth and Hmong job-seekers.
- **Independence First**, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, provides services that promote independence and self-sufficiency for people with disabilities. Independence First received \$24,000 to provide one year of broadband access to low-income deaf individuals to use video relay services.
- **Independent Living, Inc.**, in Madison, Wisconsin, is a health and human services organization that provides in-home services and affordable housing options to the elderly and disabled adults in Dane County. Independent Living, Inc. received \$3,493 to upgrade the infrastructure of a computer lab to improve accessibility for low-income seniors.
- **Midstate Independent Living Consultants, Inc.**, in Stevens Point, Wisconsin, provides services such as independent living skills, peer support and referrals to individuals with disabilities. Midstate Independent Living Consultants, Inc. received \$13,000 to purchase telecommunications equipment for a model accessible home and provide outreach and demonstrations on the availability of specialized telecommunications equipment.
- **New Concept Self Development Center**, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, is a comprehensive human services agency providing educational enrichment, mental health and child development services encompassing the entire family structure. New Concept Self Development Center received \$23,082 to expand computer access for low-income fathers and their families for using the Internet for GED completion, employment searches and practice tests.
- **Neighborhood House of Milwaukee**, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, helps neighborhood residents and families improve the quality of life for themselves, their relatives, the neighborhood and the

community. Neighborhood House of Milwaukee received \$20,000 to provide access, training and technical support for the Internet and computers to low-income youth and families.

- **North Country Independent Living**, in Superior, Wisconsin, provides counseling, home modification, independent living skills training, and peer support to disabled people. North Country Independent Living received \$25,000 to provide a community site in Ashland and Superior for free access to video relay and for remote video interpreting.
- **Options for Independent Living**, in Green Bay, Wisconsin, supports empowering people with disabilities to lead independent and productive lives. Options for Independent Living received \$14,955 to increase telecommunications access for individuals with disabilities.
- **St. Catherine Residence**, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, ensures safe, affordable and supportive housing to women with limited income. St. Catherine Residence received \$3,200 to provide a computer resource lab to enable low-income, disabled women to have access to computers and the internet.
- **St. Mark A.M.E. Church**, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, provides support and services to at-risk-youth, their families and low-income adults in the neighborhood. St. Mark A.M.E. Church received \$27,300 to expand access to computers and the Internet to low-income youth and adults.
- **Society's Assets**, in Racine, Wisconsin, is an independent living center providing comprehensive services to assist people with living independently. Society's Assets received \$33,500 to provide outreach and access to specialized telecommunications equipment to disabled, low-income individuals with expanded outreach to the Hispanic community.
- **Stout University Foundation**, in Menomonie, Wisconsin, enhances the vocational potential for individuals and the productivity of organizations through service, education, training and research. The Stout University Foundation received \$20,000 to provide training to service providers statewide on specialized telecommunications equipment.
- **United Community Center**, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, provides programs to the Hispanic community in the areas of education, cultural arts, recreation, community development and health and human services. United Community Center received \$20,000 to develop a learning lab to enable distance learning opportunities for low-income students, faculty, staff and community members.
- **Wisconsin Council of Blind and Visually Impaired**, in Madison, Wisconsin, promotes the dignity and independence of all Wisconsin citizens who have visual impairments. The Wisconsin Council of Blind and Visually Impaired received \$12,000 provide training to webmasters in Dane County to ensure Web sites are accessible to blind and visually-impaired consumers.
- **Wisconsin Judicare, Inc.**, in Wausau, Wisconsin, offers free legal services to low-income clients. Wisconsin Judicare, Inc. received \$5,235 to update their telephone and voicemail system to allow more extensive and efficient services to low-income individuals with legal problems.

For more information about Wisconsin's USF programs and how your organization can apply for grants, please visit the PSC's website at: <http://psc.wi.gov/utilityinfo/tele/usf/usf-index.htm>.