

2021 WLIP Report

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 Wisconsin Land Information Program
 Wisconsin Department of Administration
 608-267-3369
wlip@wisconsin.gov
doa.wi.gov/WLIP

OVERVIEW

The Wisconsin Land Information Program (WLIP), administered by the Division of Intergovernmental Relations within the Wisconsin Department of Administration (DOA), provides public funding to Wisconsin counties for the modernization of local land records. This funding takes the form of register of deeds real estate document recording fees retained at the county level and grants awarded by DOA.

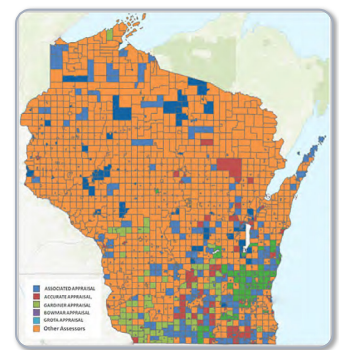
This annual report discusses the year in review for WLIP program activities and how WLIP funding was invested in county geospatial technology and infrastructure in the previous reporting year (2020).

WLIP YEAR IN REVIEW

ASHLAND COUNTY BUILDING INVENTORY

The Ashland County Building Inventory project is developing a detailed **building inventory for Ashland County to assist in flood preparedness and mitigation.**

The project is an effort of the State Cartographer's Office and the Geographic Information Officer (GIO) Jim Giglierano and is funded through the Wisconsin Coastal Management Program. The inventory is constructed with property assessment data, parcel data, lidar imagery, and building footprints. One key finding is that because Wisconsin property assessment data is collected locally in each city, village, and town, this makes it more difficult to aggregate data for larger areas, such as a county. Parcel attributes from the Statewide Parcel Map were joined to the county data for building polygons, with the end result to be a detailed building inventory.

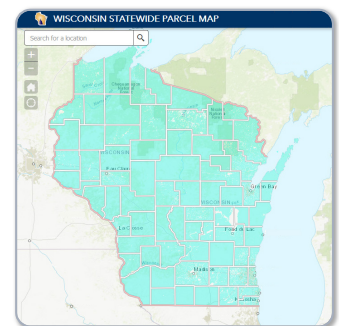


2022 GRANT APPLICATION RELEASE

The 2022 WLIP Grant Application was made available in September offering three types of WLIP grants totaling \$6.2 million. Each county is eligible to receive a \$60k Strategic Initiative grant for 2022. Strategic Initiative grants are prioritized to meet standards known as “benchmarks” for parcel dataset development, which includes the annual parcel/tax roll data submission. Every county is also eligible for a \$1k Training & Education grant, and the 42 counties that retained less than \$100k in recording fees during the previous fiscal year are eligible for Base Budget grants.

V7 STATEWIDE PARCEL MAP DATABASE PROJECT

The Version 7 Statewide Parcel Map Database Project (V7) is part of the larger Statewide Digital Parcel Map Initiative, a multi-year DOA initiative that resulted from Act 20 of 2013. The Parcel Initiative is important for improving the quality of Wisconsin's real estate information, economic development, emergency planning and response, and other citizen services. Like V1-V6, the V7 Project was a collaboration between DOA and the State Cartographer's Office (SCO). Counties submit data according to the Searchable Format, a set of standards detailed in the Submission Documentation that followed from the statutory directives in Act 20. On June 29th, **the V7 statewide parcel database was released**—the seventh version of the state's publicly available digital parcel map, featuring 3.5 million parcel records. Visit the statewide parcel map webpage for data downloads, a web app, and more.



V7 Observation Reports

The V1-V7 Projects have made it a point to provide feedback designed to aid counties in achieving the Searchable Format, which they must do each year no later than March 31st. With an eye toward accountability and in an effort to assess county progress, each county received an individual observation report on its V7 data submission. These V7 Observation Reports document progress in meeting the Searchable Format. This is intended to help counties design WLIP grant projects to ensure they meet the Searchable Format standard. On a statewide level, overall, the reports indicate that progress has been made, but there is work yet to do in order to achieve and maintain the Searchable Format statewide. Detailed analysis related to V7 can be found in the V7 Final Report.

Statewide PLSS Layer Sub-Project

In 2021, DOA and SCO continued work to create an updated a statewide PLSS database, constructed from local PLSS corner data collected as part of the V7 Project. Learn more about PLSS data in Wisconsin at www.sco.wisc.edu/surveying.

COUNTY DATA ACCESS & OPEN DATA

For Version 7 of the Statewide Parcel Map Database Project, the data request was coordinated with the UW-Madison Robinson Map Library (RML). RML collects and archives annual snapshots of several framework vector layers which are available for download via GeoData@Wisconsin, a geospatial data portal developed in partnership with SCO. In 2021, **390 new county GIS datasets with a total of 514 feature classes were added to GeoData@Wisconsin** for public download. For the most current county data, users can always consult county webpages, listed at doa.wi.gov/DIR/County_Contacts.pdf.

FEDERAL FUNDING FOR LIDAR

Although all 72 Wisconsin counties have pending or existing lidar coverage, only 62 counties meet the federally-desired Quality Level 2 lidar standard or better. The GIO helped coordinate grant applications for QL2 lidar data through the federal USGS 3D Elevation Program (3DEP). County land information programs that directly participate in the lidar acquisitions mostly do so through the Wisconsin Regional Orthophoto Consortium (WROC).

- All 8 of the Wisconsin FY21 3DEP lidar projects submitted through DOA were funded, and flown in the spring—Crawford, Juneau, Kewaunee, Marinette, Marathon, Pierce, Richland, and St. Croix Counties—for a total of \$1,009,505 in federal funding. Counties contribute \$336,500 (25%) towards the data acquisition and processing.
- 3DEP applications were also submitted on behalf of 12 counties for FY22 grants as well.
- DOA helped facilitate a new contract process in 2021, whereby funding from counties is collected and sent to USGS, who undertakes the majority of the contracting tasks. This new process reduces the cost to partners from 50% of total acquisition down to 25%.
- 3DEP data as well as WLIP-funded lidar data have been made available via the WisconsinView FTP site at <ftp://ftp.ssec.wisc.edu/pub/wisconsinview/lidar> and through an interactive map at www.sco.wisc.edu/data/elevationlidar.
- The status of the statewide elevation effort can be viewed at <https://coast.noaa.gov/inventory>.

This totals **\$4,257,422 of federal funding netted for lidar** in 2015-2021 3DEP applications coordinated by DOA on behalf of county and other Wisconsin partners. Planning efforts are beginning to look at the next acquisition cycle, now that the USGS national goal of finishing QL2 coverage by 2023 is near. Beyond refreshing the QL2 lidar coverage, many new products may be offered including QL1 and QL0 (30 psm), topobathy lidar for rivers and lakes, and bathymetry from sonar for deeper water bodies.

HAZARD RESPONSE/MITIGATION & LIDAR DERIVATIVES

Work continued on the **Wisconsin Coastal Management Data Infrastructure project (WICDI)** in 2021, calling attention to the important role of drainage structures in local infrastructure. The project is focused on providing culvert mapping data, tools, and training to Wisconsin's coastal communities. It is a collaboration with the State Cartographer's Office funded by a National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration grant through the Wisconsin Coastal Management Program. One product has been a unified culvert database, a broad regional dataset that can serve as a template and starting point for agencies planning to start collecting culverts, local governments looking to create or maintain culvert data, and for use in many other applications.

The GIO has also engaged in other efforts related to updates for lidar-derived **hydrologic products**, particularly in concert with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, where work is underway to update a GIS layer referred to as the 24k hydro layer. The USGS is beginning development of a new 3D Hydrography Program, which will update the National Hydrography Layer.

WISCONSIN LAND INFORMATION COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

The Wisconsin Land Information Council (WLIC) serves in an advisory role to DOA on matters relating to the WLIP. The WLIC met two times during 2021, providing a channel for stakeholder organizations to voice their opinions on matters relating to land information records modernization.

FUNDING

Since the Program’s earliest days, from 1990 through June 30, 2021, Wisconsin counties have retained a total of \$216 million for land information activities and received a total of \$73 million in land information grants. In order to retain fees for land information and be eligible for WLIP grants, county land information offices must meet several **requirements for accountability and transparency**:

- Update the county’s land information plan at least every three years
- Meet with the county land information council to review expenditures, policies, and priorities of the land information office at least once per year
- Report on expenditure activities each year
- Submit detailed applications for WLIP grants
- Complete the annual WLIP survey, if conducted
- Subscribe to DOA’s land information listserv
- Submit parcel data in the Searchable Format to DOA
- Submit other WLIP-funded GIS layers to DOA as requested

WLIP REVENUE AND GRANTS

As of January 1, 2015, counties are required to submit \$7 per document recorded to the state Land Information Fund. The \$7 contribution to the state Land Information Fund amounted to program revenue of \$9.5 million in FY2021, which is the source of funding for WLIP grants and administration of the program.

ROD Document Recording Fee	
\$15	County Undesignated
\$ 8	County Retained for Land Information
<u>\$ 7</u>	State Land Information Fund
\$30	

Because counties with modest real estate market activity do not generate substantial land information office revenue, WLIP Base Budget grants are provided in order to enable eligible counties to develop, maintain, and operate a basic land information system. Counties that retain less than \$100k in retained fees for land information are eligible for a Base Budget grant according to the formula at right.

WLIP Base Budget Grant Eligibility Formula

\$100k – ROD document recording fees @ \$8 per doc recorded

Example: County records 5,000 documents
 $\$100k - (5,000 \times \$8)$
 $\$100k - (\$40k)$
 $\$ 60k =$ Base Budget grant eligibility

Base Budget grants totaled \$2.4 million statewide and were awarded to 48 counties in 2021. Counties are projected to retain fees and receive grants that combined total \$16 million for 2021.

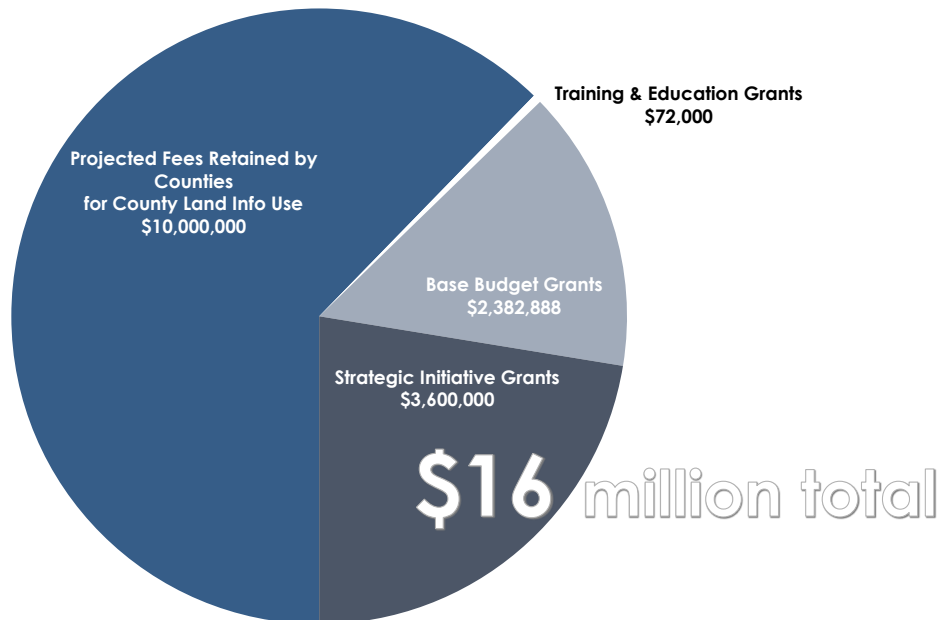


Figure 1. Projected 2021 County Land Information Funding – Fees Retained and WLIP Grants

EXPENDITURE OF RETAINED FEES AND GRANTS IN 2020

Counties submit annual expenditure reports on how WLIP retained fees and grants were utilized in the previous year and categorize their expenditures in a Retained Fee/Grant Report, in keeping with s. 59.72(2)(b).

In 2020, counties retained fees and received grants for land information totaling \$15.6 million. The dollars spent on land information in 2020 were devoted to the areas depicted in Figure 2.

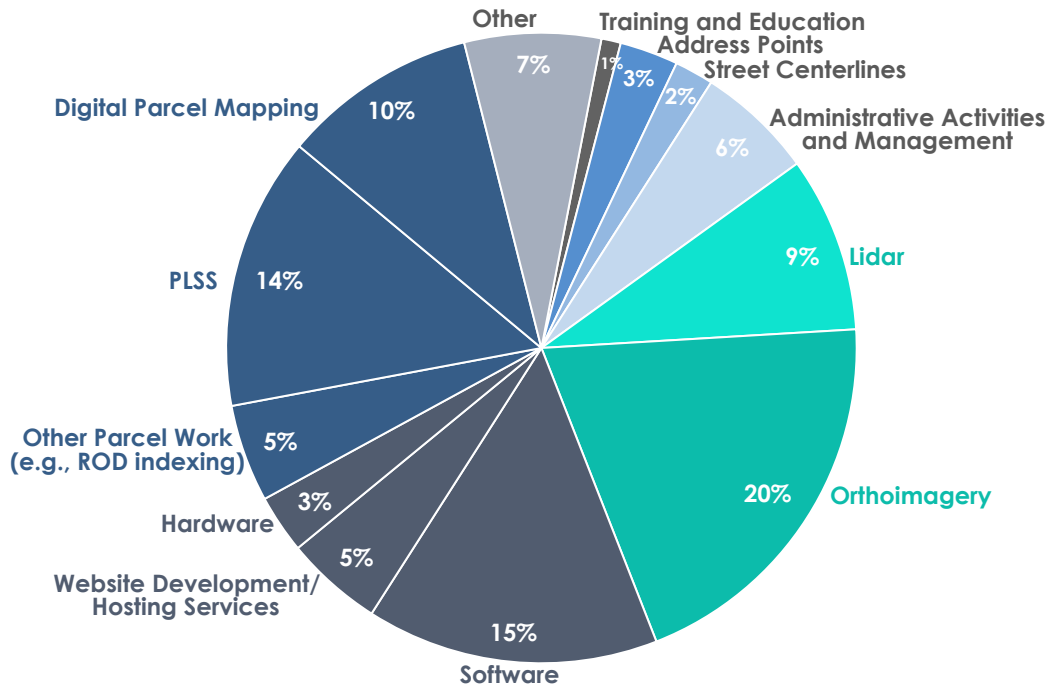


Figure 2. County 2020 Expenditures Reported

Roughly consistent with previous years, Figure 2 illustrates that a little over a quarter of WLIP funding was used for the development and maintenance of county parcel datasets, including Public Land Survey System remonumentation and other parcel work.

About a quarter of the funding was used for computer hardware, software, and website development and hosting. These expenditures help to provide convenient access to land records through searchable databases, online interactive maps, and various types of mapping applications.

Twenty percent was spent on orthoimagery and nine percent on lidar. The spending on these two areas may have been in part to coincide with the decennial Census and five-year aerial imagery update schedule. Some lidar and orthoimagery acquisitions are packaged together.

The remaining funding supported a diverse range of activities, including the development of address points and street centerlines to meet Next Generation 911 standards. A portion of funding goes to administrative activities and management, a category that is primarily associated with counties that have large land information office budgets and thus employ multiple staff persons.

FUTURE GRANT PROJECTIONS

Figure 3 shows grants already awarded and the projected Land Information Program budget for the next few years.

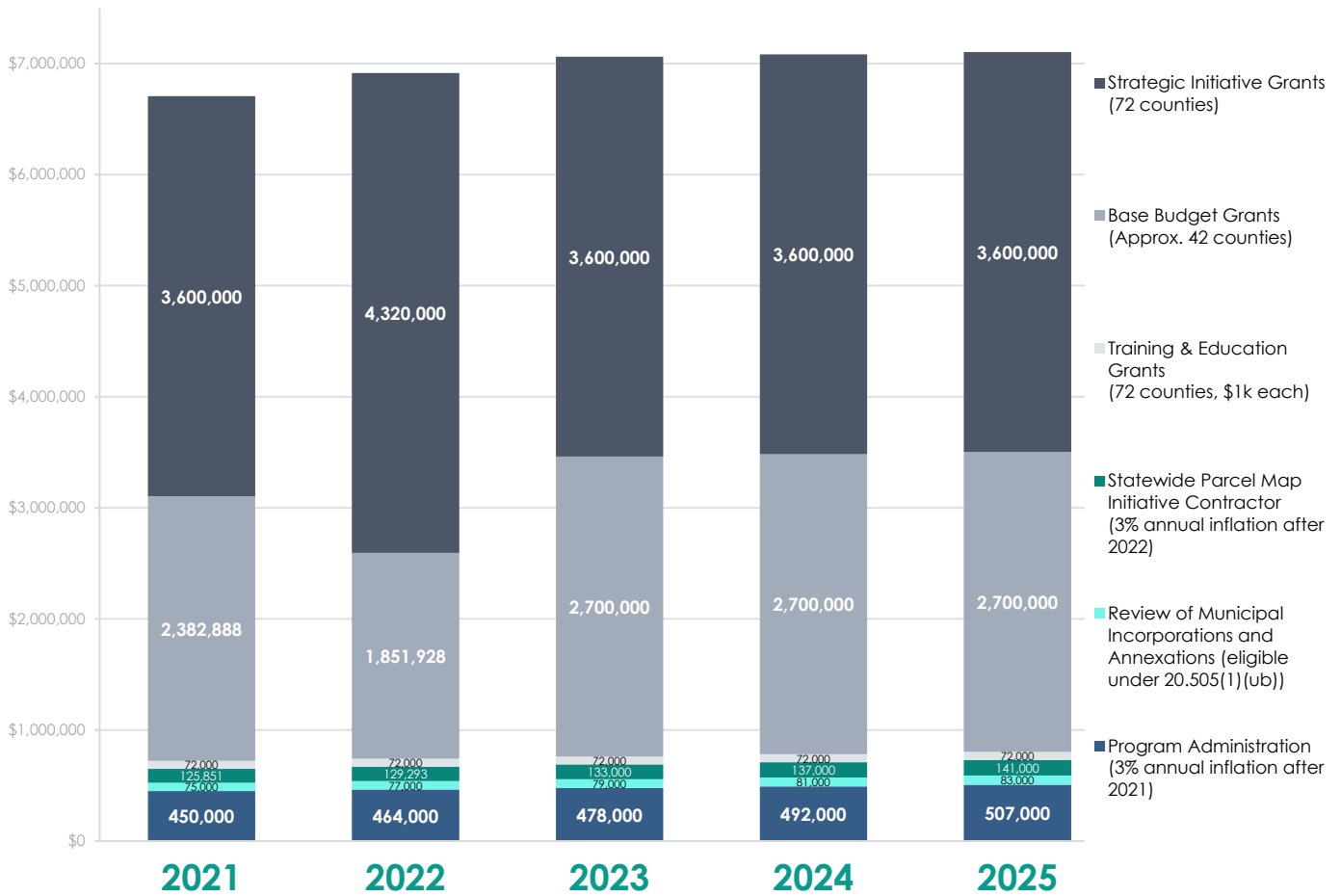


Figure 3. Projected Land Information Program Budget

If implemented as depicted in Figure 3, in 2022 all counties would receive at least \$161,000 in WLIP funding, made up of retained fees, Base Budget grants where applicable, a \$1k Training & Education grant, and a \$60k Strategic Initiative grant.

Projected WLIP Funding to Counties

- ≥ \$100k Base Budget grant + Retained fees
- \$ 1k Training & Education grant
- \$ 60k Strategic Initiative grant
- ≥ \$161k **per county**

Such a scenario would mean that **about 90% of Land Information Fund spending will be invested in grants to counties** for local land records modernization.

DOA is mindful that utilization of Land Information Fund revenue must be consistent with statutory spending authority as described by state statutes 16.967, 20.505(1)(ub-ud), and schedule under s.20.005(3), and should be for well-defined activities with statewide benefits.