

# 2018 WLIP Report

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# 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 2017.

## WLIP YEAR IN REVIEW

### COUNTY DATA ACCESS & OPEN DATA

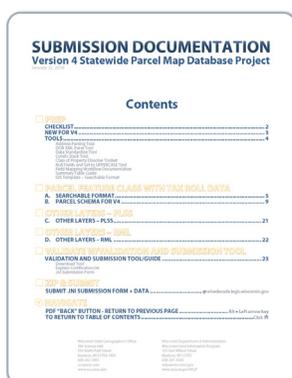
Consistent with the WLIP program goal of facilitating access to WLIP-funded data elaborated in the WLIP Program Plan 2016-2021, DOA and several partners have worked to make a significant amount of new GIS data available in 2018. For Version 4 of the Statewide Parcel Map Database Project, the data request 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 the State Cartographer's Office (SCO). In 2018, RML added **374 new county GIS datasets for public download**, or a total of 446 datasets with parcels included.

**County lidar datasets were also made more accessible**, through a WisconsinView FTP site, <ftp://ftp.ssec.wisc.edu/pub/wisconsinview/lidar>. To date, 47 counties already have lidar datasets posted here, and more are queued for upload. The FTP site offers a one-stop shop for data that can be downloaded in bulk, offering a practical advantage for users. The growth of this portal and the discoverability of more data help the program continue on the path to enabling access to county GIS data. The most current data can always be accessed from county webpages, which are listed at [doa.wi.gov/DIR/County\\_Contacts.pdf](http://doa.wi.gov/DIR/County_Contacts.pdf).

- ✓ PLSS
- ✓ Zoning – General
- ✓ Zoning – Shoreland
- ✓ Zoning – Airport Protection
- ✓ Rights of Way
- ✓ Roads/Streets/Centerlines
- ✓ Hydrography
- ✓ Addresses
- ✓ Buildings/Building Footprints
- ✓ Land Use
- ✓ Parks/OpenSpace
- ✓ Trails
- ✓ Other Recreation
- ✓ + Lidar and derivatives (via WisconsinView FTP)

### 2018 GRANT APPLICATION RELEASE

The 2019 WLIP Grant Application was made available on September 17, offering three types of WLIP grants totaling \$6.2 million. As in 2016-2018, each county is eligible to receive a \$50k Strategic Initiative grant. Strategic Initiative grants are prioritized to meet standards known as “benchmarks” for parcel dataset development, which includes the annual parcel data submission. Every county is also eligible for a \$1k Training & Education grant, and the 50 counties that retained less than \$100k in recording fees during the previous state fiscal year are eligible for Base Budget grants.



### V4 STATEWIDE PARCEL MAP DATABASE PROJECT

The Version 4 Statewide Parcel Map Database Project (V4) 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, V2, and V3, the V4 Project was a collaboration between DOA and SCO. In the V4 request for county data, DOA asked for the third time that counties submit data according **the Searchable Format**, a set of standards for parcel data that followed from the directives in Act 20. In the Searchable Format, a county data submittal is ready for immediate aggregation into the statewide parcel layer. The Searchable Format is detailed in the Submission Documentation.

To assist in data formatting and standardization for V4, SCO created a number of geoprocessing tools and a tool that counties are required to use prior to submitting data called the Validation and Submission Tool.

On July 31, **the V4 statewide parcel database was released**—the fourth version of the state’s publicly available statewide digital parcel map, featuring 3.49 million parcel records. Visit the statewide parcel map webpage for statewide downloads, individual county downloads, schema documentation, and more.



## V4 OBSERVATION REPORTS

The V1, V2, V3, and V4 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 V4 parcel dataset. These V4 Observation Reports document progress in meeting the Searchable Format and describe steps still necessary to meet the standard. This is intended to help counties design WLIP grant projects to ensure that they meet the Searchable Format standard. On a statewide level, overall, the reports indicated that progress has been made, but there is work yet to do in order to achieve and maintain the Searchable Format statewide.

## STATEWIDE PLSS LAYER UPDATE

DOA and SCO have expanded the V4 and V5 Parcel Projects to add value through the creation of a statewide PLSS layer. V4 and V5 will include the collection and aggregation of local PLSS corner data, culminating in an initial statewide PLSS layer to be made available online for download. A statewide PLSS layer will serve as a tool to monitor the progress of PLSS data development, help to analyze geospatial accuracy of the parcel layer, and aid in identifying and resolving county boundary gaps and overlaps. Proportionally, the largest segment of WLIP funds counties devote to land records modernization is dedicated to PLSS completion and integration. Learn more about the PLSS subproject at [www.sco.wisc.edu/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/v4-statewide-parcels-and-plss.pdf](http://www.sco.wisc.edu/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/v4-statewide-parcels-and-plss.pdf).

## FEDERAL FUNDING FOR LIDAR

With the Fiscal Year 2018 application cycle, lidar coverage for the state is to be completed for the first time. All 72 Wisconsin counties now have pending or existing lidar coverage, including twenty-nine 3DEP funded counties. The Geographic Information Officer (GIO), Jim Giglierano, helped coordinate 2018 grant applications for QL2 (Quality Level 2) lidar data through the federal USGS 3DEP Program.

- All six of the Wisconsin FY18 3DEP lidar projects submitted through DOA were funded—Calumet, Clark, Fond du Lac, Green Lake, Price, and Waupaca Counties—for a total of \$538,988 in federal funding.
- 3DEP applications were also coordinated on behalf of five counties for 2019 grants as well (Adams, Jefferson, Lafayette, Monroe, and Pepin Counties).
- All 3DEP data for FY15-18, as well as WLIP-funded lidar data, has been made available via the WisconsinView FTP site accessible at <ftp://ftp.ssec.wisc.edu/pub/wisconsinview/lidar>.

This totals **\$2,195,011 of federal funding netted for lidar** in 2015-2018 applications coordinated by the GIO. In addition, Wisconsin is participating in the National States Geographic Information Council state elevation plan working group. Planning efforts will revolve around working with the several Wisconsin counties who have older, non-QL2 standard lidar to work toward the national goal of finishing statewide QL2 coverage by 2023.

## LIDAR WORKSHOPS WITH SCO

The GIO worked with the State Cartographer’s Office, who hosted the Basics of Lidar Data Workshop series. The two-day lidar workshop included lectures and hands-on experience manipulating lidar data. Several separate workshops were held in FY18 at UW-Eau Claire, UW-Milwaukee, St. Norbert College, and Michigan State University.

## WISCONSIN LAND INFORMATION COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

The Wisconsin Land Information Council (WLIC) serves in an advisory role to DOA on matters relating to the WLIP. In 2018, they participated in the process of interpreting the results of a 2017 GIS user survey, and other strategic planning matters. The WLIC met three times during 2018, 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 July 1, 2018, Wisconsin counties have retained a total of \$190 million for land information activities and received a total of \$55 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
- 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 \$6.5 million in FY2018, which is the source of funding for WLIP grants and administration of the program.

### ROD Document Recording Fee After Jan 1, 2015

\$15	County Undesignated
\$8	County Retained for Land Information
<u>\$7</u>	State Land Information Fund
<b>\$30</b>	

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

$$\text{\$100k} - \text{ROD document recording fees @ \$8 per doc recorded}$$

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

Base Budget grants totaled \$2.5 million statewide and were awarded to 50 counties in 2018. Counties are projected to retain fees and receive grants that combined total \$13.6 million for 2018.

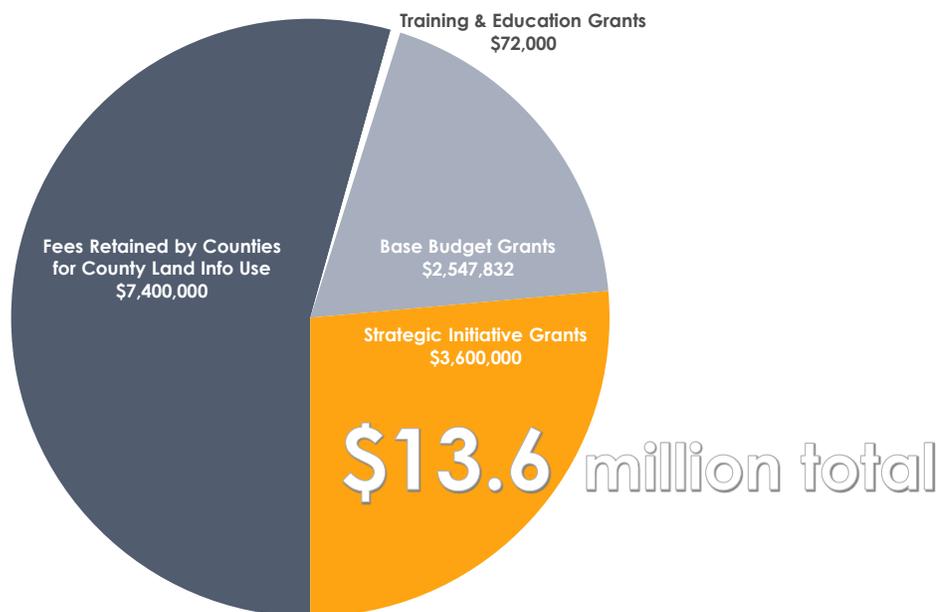
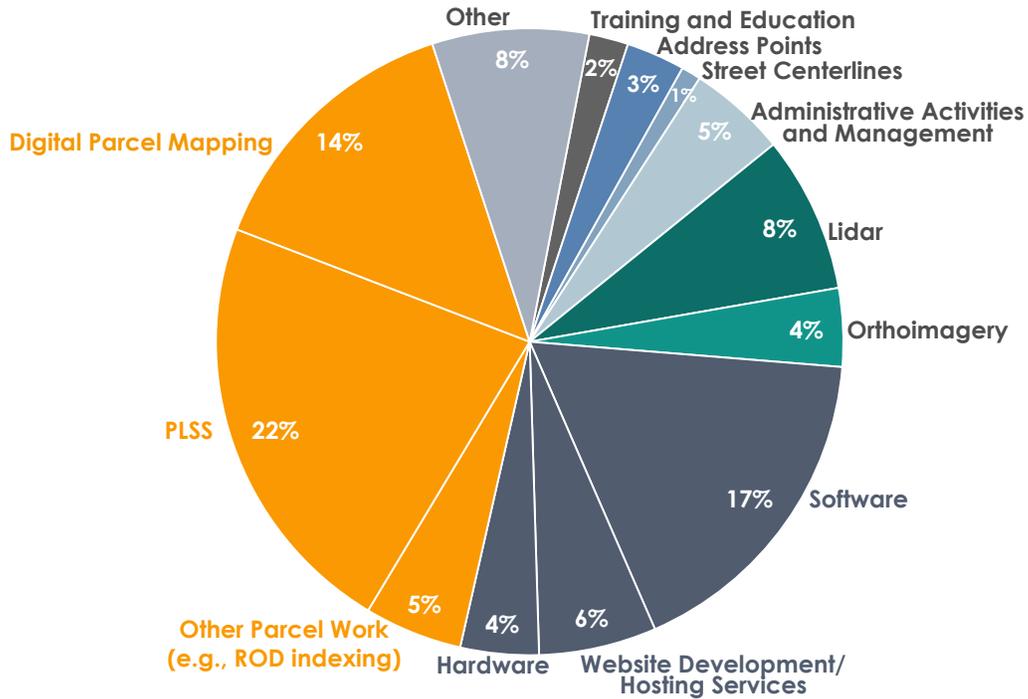


Figure 1. Projected 2018 County Land Information Funding – Fees Retained and WLIP Grants

## EXPENDITURE OF RETAINED FEES AND GRANTS IN 2017

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 2017, counties retained fees and received grants for land information totaling \$13.9 million. The dollars spent on land information in 2017 were devoted to the areas depicted in Figure 2.



**Figure 2. County 2017 Expenditures Reported**

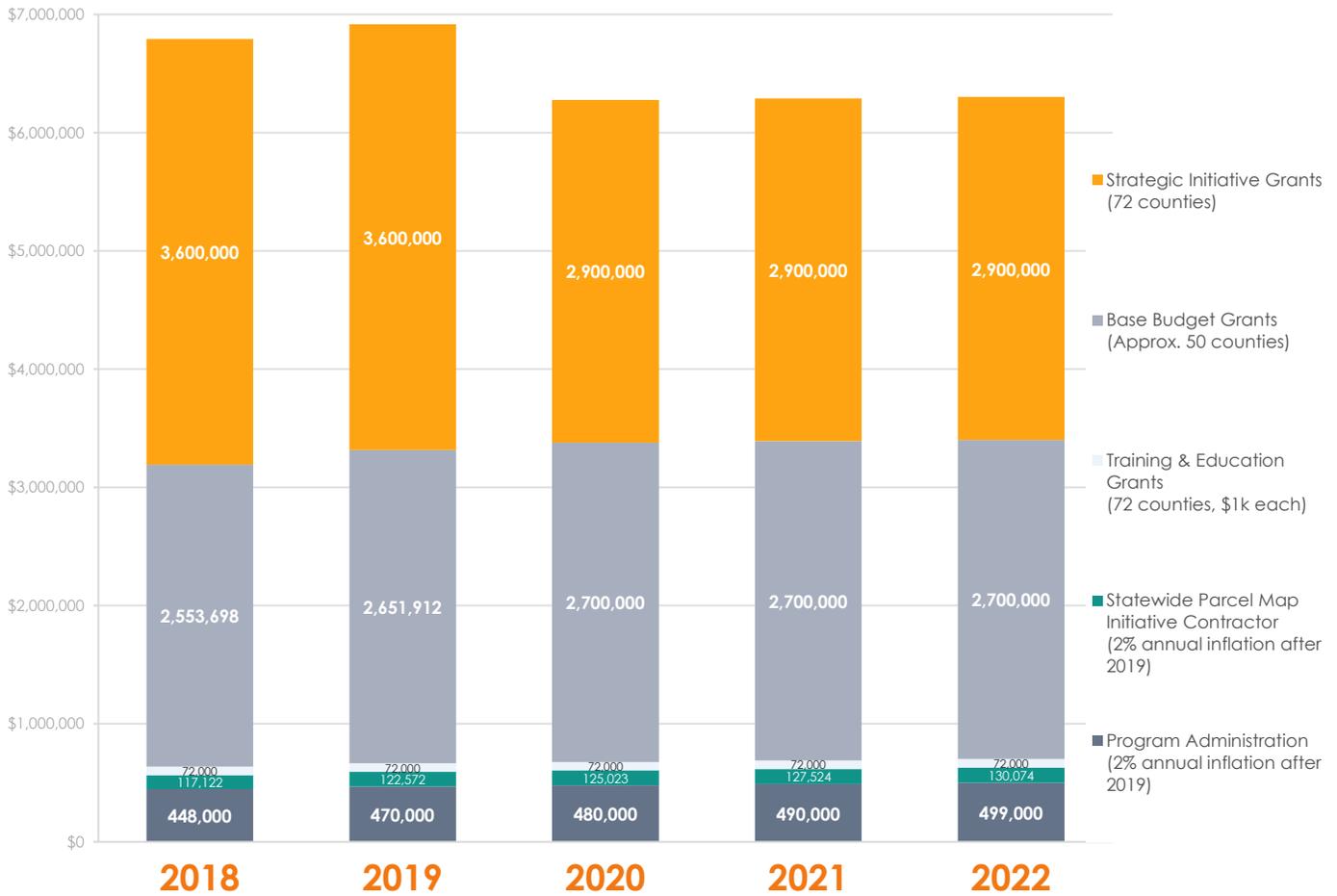
Roughly consistent with previous years, Figure 2 illustrates that a little over a third of WLIP funding was used for the development and maintenance of county parcel datasets, including Public Land Survey System remonumentation and other parcel work.

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.

The remaining third of funding supported a diverse range of activities, including the acquisition of lidar and orthoimagery, as well as the development of address points and street centerlines. 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 2018 and 2019 all counties would receive at least \$151,000 in WLIP funding, made up of retained fees, Base Budget grants where applicable, a \$1k Training & Education grant, and a \$50k Strategic Initiative grant.

### Projected WLIP Funding to Counties in 2017

- ≥ \$100k Base Budget grant + Retained fees
- \$ 1k Training & Education grant
- \$ 50k Strategic Initiative grant
- ≥ \$151k per county**

Such a scenario would mean that approximately **90% of Land Information Fund revenue 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.