



BOOSTING BROADBAND WITH NEW DOLLARS

MICHIGAN ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES
SEPTEMBER 2021



**Connecting
Michigan
Taskforce**

COLLABORATING TO CONNECT EVERY MICHIGANDER

Agenda

1. Welcome and Context
2. What is Broadband
3. Broadband in Michigan
4. State and Federal Updates
5. Michigan's Rural Electric Cooperatives
6. Building Fiber in the UP
7. Resources

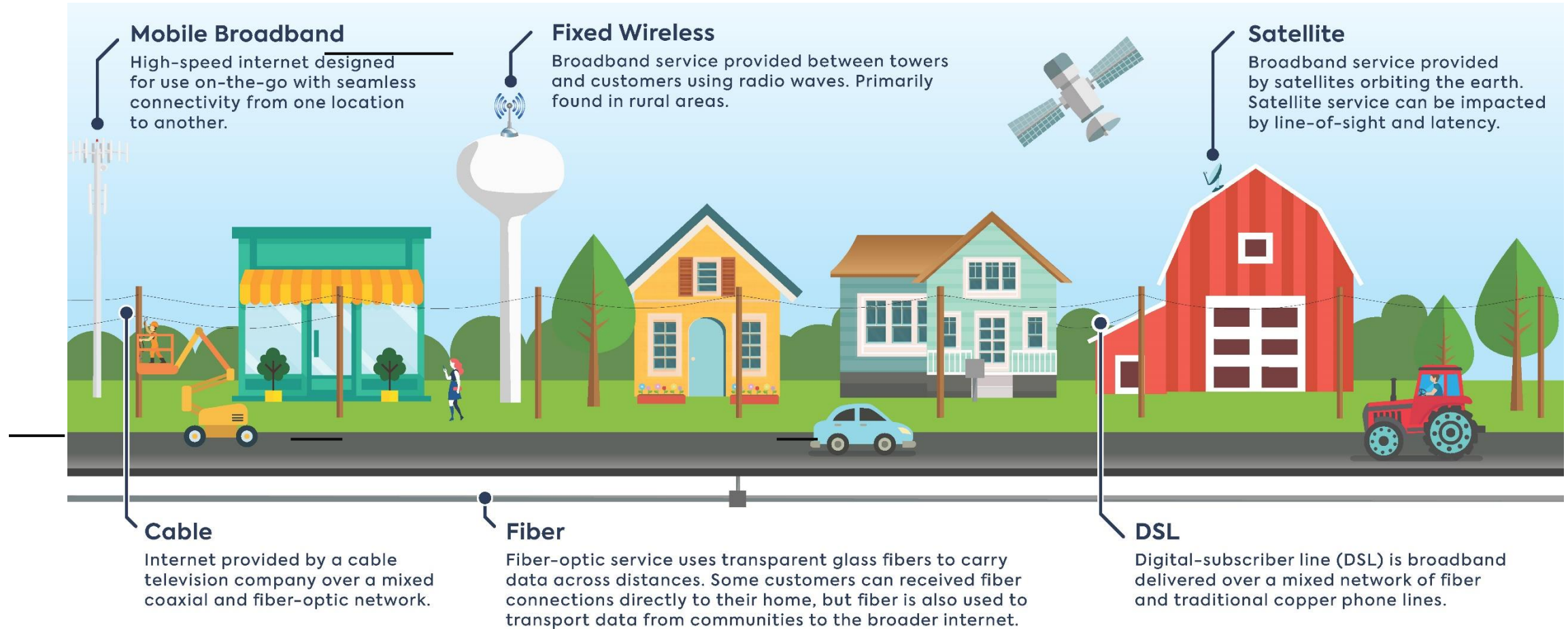
Connecting Michigan Taskforce

Established to:

1. Better coordinate broadband activity among state agencies;
2. Collectively advocate for Michigan broadband at the federal level; and
3. Review plans and recommendations to improve Michigan's broadband ecosystem

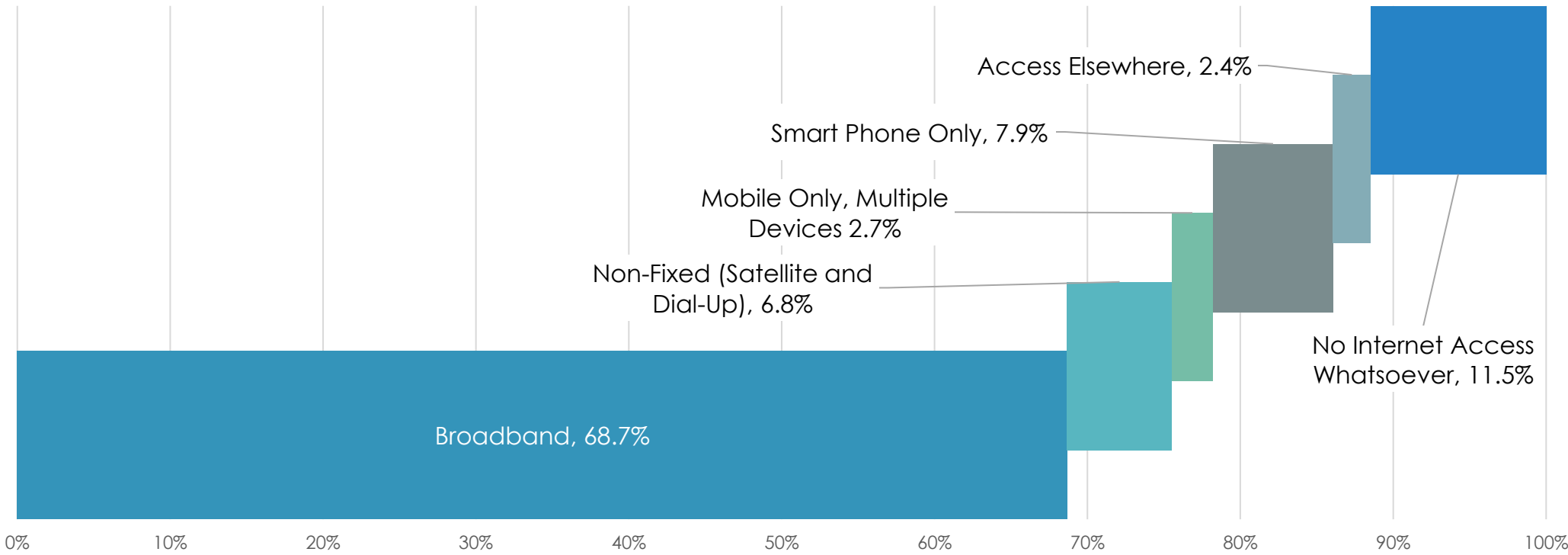


What is Broadband?



Broadband in Michigan

Broadband Among Michigan Households, 2019



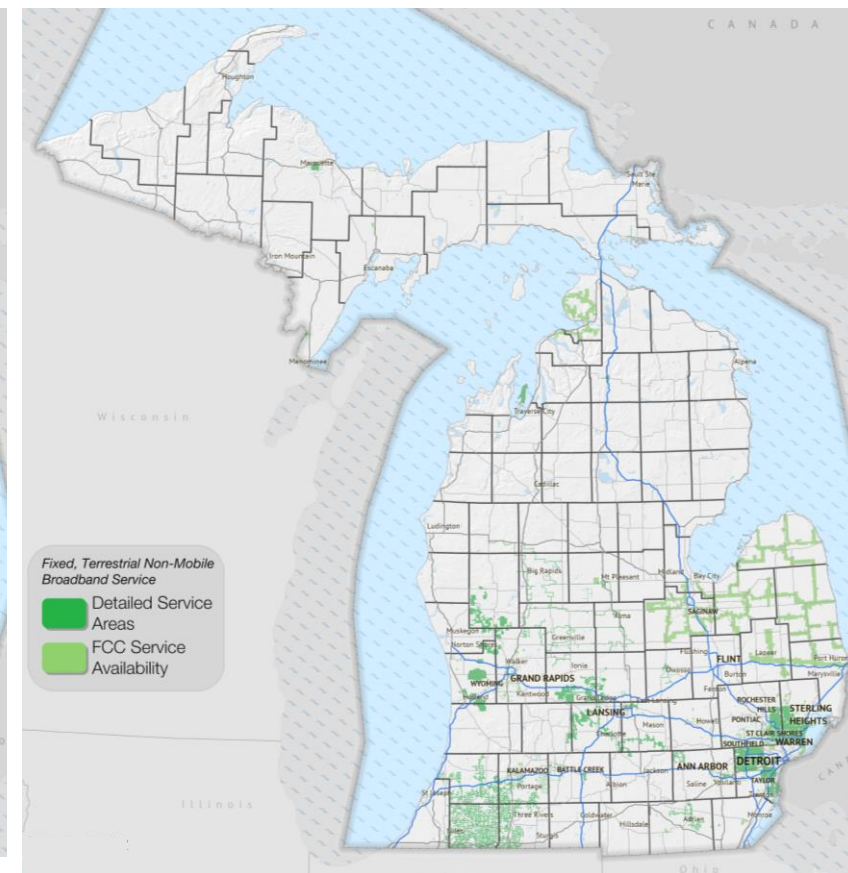
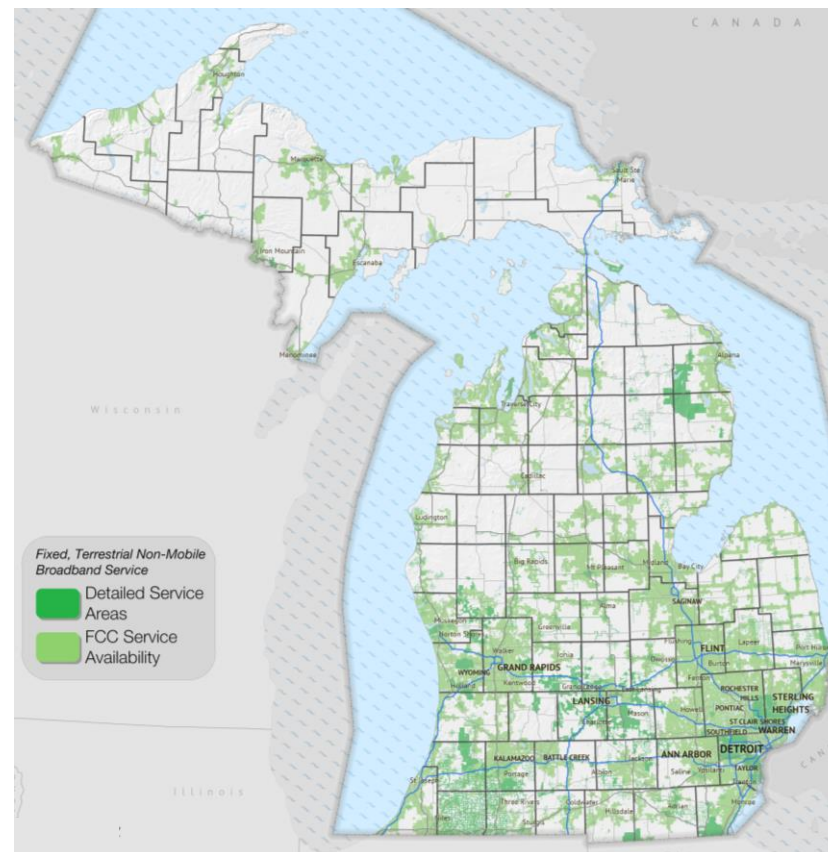
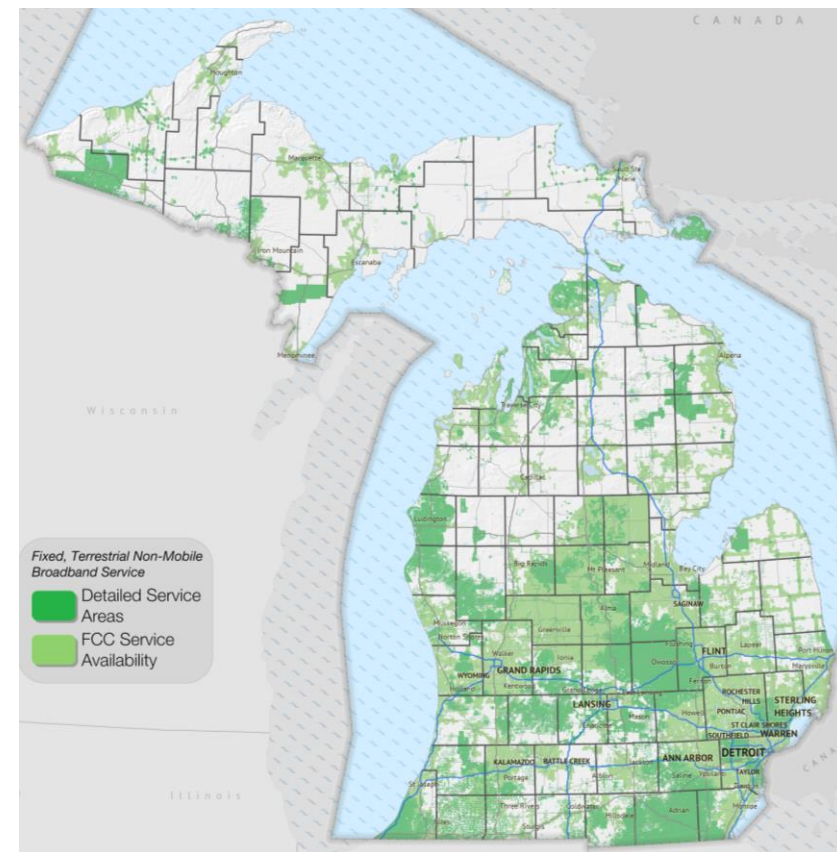
1.24M households do not have a fixed, permanent broadband connection at home.

Broadband in Michigan

25/3 Mbps

100/10 Mbps

1/x Gbps



Federal Activity/Funding Summary

| Agency | Program | Status | Details |
|----------|---|----------|--|
| FCC | Emergency Broadband Benefit | Open | \$50/ month discount |
| Treasury | State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds | Open | See US Treasury Guidance |
| FCC | Emergency Connectivity Fund (schools & libraries) Round 2 (\$2.1B left) | Sept. 28 | Funds to support home connectivity |
| USDA | Emergency Rural Health Care Grant | Oct. 12 | Economic relief and regional health care issues |
| EDA | Build Back Better Regional Challenge | Oct. 19 | \$1B to support regional plans for economic transformation |
| NTIA | PPP Infrastructure Grant (\$288M) | Closed | \$2.5B in requests |
| NTIA | Tribal Connectivity (\$980M) | Closed | \$5B in requests |
| USDA | ReConnect | Pending | \$1.3B with applications open in 2021 |
| Treasury | Capital Projects Fund for States | Pending | Waiting on US Treasury Guidance |
| NTIA | Bipartisan Infrastructure Package | Pending | Likely \$42B for broadband, \$2B for digital equity, extension of EBB |

Additional information: <https://connectednation.org/current-broadband-funding>

State Updates

Connecting Michigan Communities Grant Program

- Round 2.0 grant awards were announced in July
- Another grant application window opened this week
- <https://www.michigan.gov/cmiggrant>

Michigan Infrastructure Council's "Dig Once" Project Portal

- Portal is designed for infrastructure asset owners to document and coordinate infrastructure and utility work
- Launched earlier this year
- <https://www.michigan.gov/mic/>

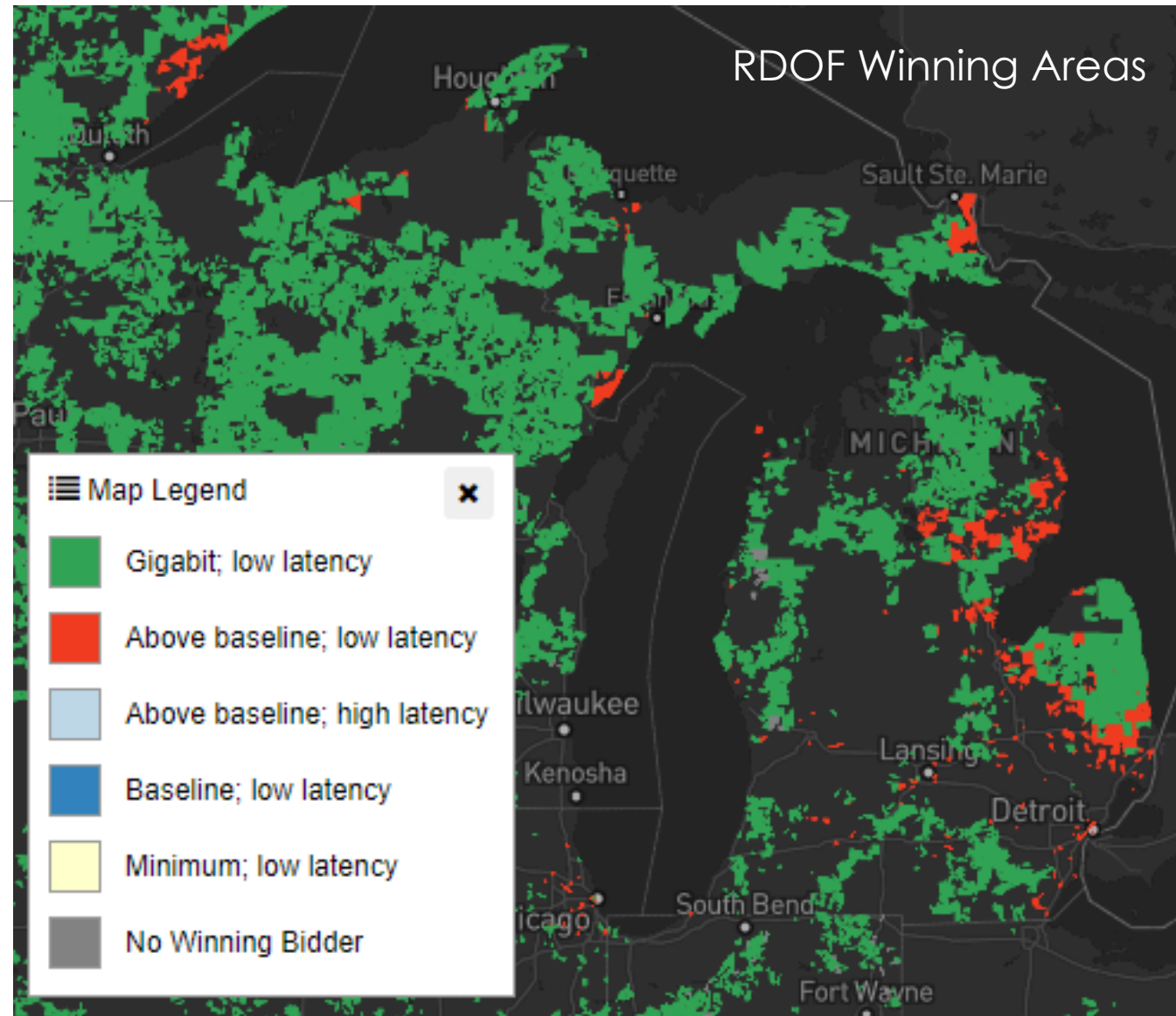
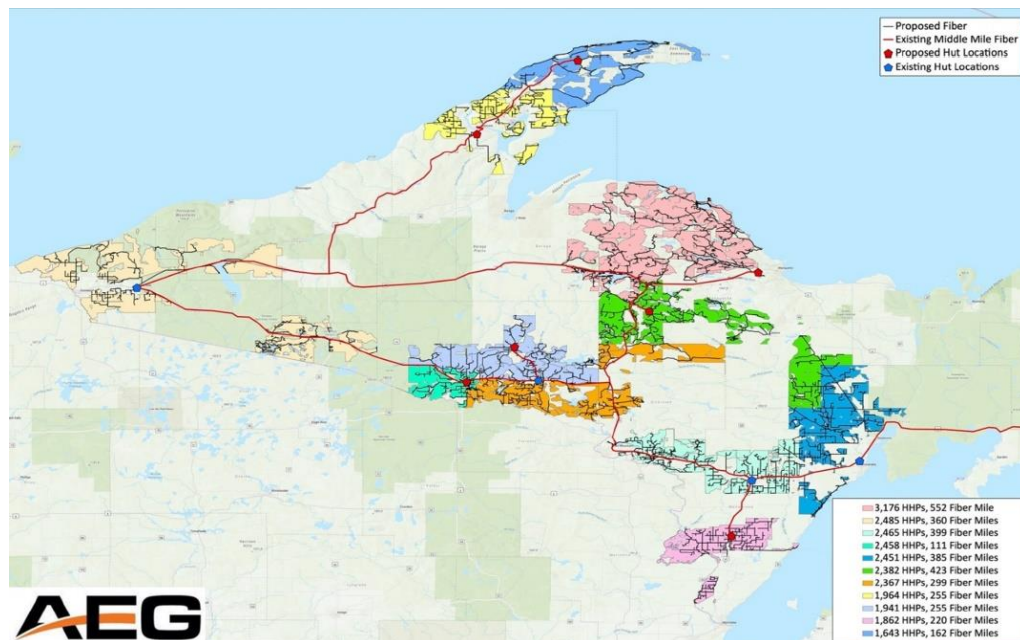
Michigan High Speed Internet Office

- Office will be in the Dept of Labor and Economic Opportunity led by a Chief Connectivity Officer
- Will be responsible for convening and coordinating departments and agencies in the advancement, implementation, and funding of the State's current and future efforts to ensure that every home and business in Michigan can access high-speed internet services that meet their needs.
- Connected Nation Michigan is supporting LEO in establishing the office.

Rural Digital Opportunity Fund

Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF)

- \$20.4B fund for rural broadband
- MI ISPs won \$363M to serve 250k locations over next six years



Michigan Electric Cooperatives

1GB+ FTTH Internet Service



Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op

- Connecting up to **35,000** accounts
- **\$130 Million** estimated investment
- Buildout to begin Fall 2021

Great Lakes Energy

- **7,700** connected accounts
- Connecting up to **11,000** in 2021
- **\$160 Million** estimated investment

Midwest Energy & Communications

- **16,100** connected accounts
- Could exceed **36,000** connected accounts in 5 years...
- **\$180 Million** estimated investment in next 5 years (**\$250 Million** total)

Thumb Electric Cooperative

- Connecting up to **15,000** accounts
- **\$80 Million** estimated investment
- Buildout to begin Summer 2021

HomeWorks Tri-County Electric Co-op

- **5,200** connected accounts
- Connecting **11,000** more...
- **\$80 Million** estimated investment

Framework for Working Together

Private Partner:

- 1) has significant prior experience working with public partners to bring fiber-to-the -home to their citizens.
- 2) already has the systems, platforms and expertise in place to operate the business.
- 3) can partner with you to operate the business or allow you to outsource the operations completely.
- 4) has a strong balance sheet and investor group and is prepared to partner with you on needed capital investment.
- 5) is prepared to work with you to tailor an approach that is best for you and your citizens to ensure them access to high quality, affordable high-speed internet to the premises.

Resources

Information and resources are available at:

<https://connectednation.org/michigan/>

Sign up for the monthly broadband newsletter:

<https://www.michiganbusiness.org/broadband/>