



#### FEDERAL & STATE ACTIVITIES TO CLOSE THE DIGITAL DIVIDE

#### MARCH 23, 2022 MICHIGAN ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES



## Today's Topics

- 1. Broadband in Michigan
- 2. Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act
- 3. Michigan High-Speed Internet Office
- 4. Infrastructure Audit and Validation Project
- 5. What's Next for Michigan

## Broadband in Michigan

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**Estimated Availability** 

1

1/x Gbps 25/3 Mbps 100/10 Mbps Fixed, Terrestrial Non-Mobile Fixed, Terrestrial Non-Mobile Fixed, Terrestrial Non-Mobile Broadband Service oadband Service **Broadband Service** Detailed Service **Detailed Service Detailed Service** Areas Areas FCC Service FCC Service FCC Service Availabilit Availability Availabilit

CONNECTED

NATION

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Michigan Infrastructure Council

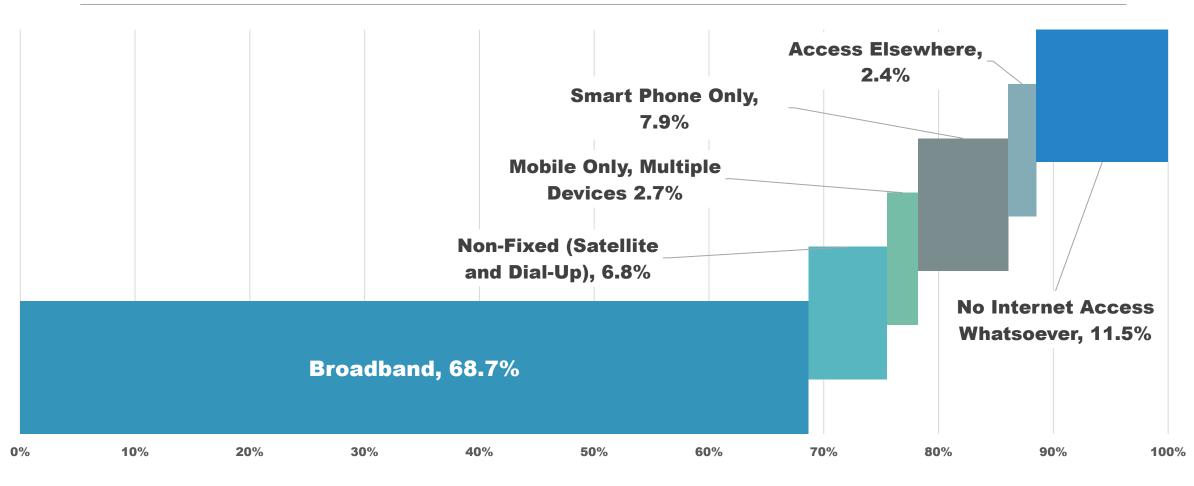
Eric Frederick, Vice President, Broadband Planning : Connected Nation Michigan : efrederick@connectmi.org : 517-994-8024

## Broadband in Michigan

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#### 1.24M households struggling with some form of the digital divide

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## Broadband in Michigan

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\$61B for infrastructure and digital equity

Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program (BEAD) \$42.5B	Digital Equity Act \$2.75B	Enabling Middle Mile Infrastructure \$1B	Broadband Affordability \$14.2B
	Consumer Broadband Labels	Digital Discrimination	

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#### Broadband, Equity, Access, and Deployment Program \$41.5B focused on infrastructure

- Formula-based grants to states (allocations calculated using yet developed FCC maps, likely available in early 2023)
- States will administer funds through a competitive subgrant process
- IIJA defines the priority order in which funds should be spent:
  - 1. Locations unserved at 25/3 Mbps
  - 2. Locations underserved at 100/20 Mbps
  - 3. Community Anchor Institutions with less than 1 Gbps
- Notice of Funding Opportunity will likely be published in May
- States will file a letter of intent and start the 5-year action planning process
- States must identify every location within their borders that meet the three priorities above
- Michigan expects to administer \$1.3B-\$1.5B in funding, and there is a 25% matching requirement



#### Digital Equity Act \$2.75B focused on digital equity and inclusion

- Digital equity is the condition in which individuals and communities have the information technology capacity that is needed for full participation in the society and economy of the United States. Intended to address issues of affordability, devices, digital literacy, technical support, and online content
- Two programs; competitive digital equity grant and state digital equity planning and capacity grants
- States will receive ~\$1M to create a comprehensive digital equity plan, then \$1.44B will be allocated across all states over a five-year period to implement those plans



#### Enabling Middle Mile Infrastructure \$1B competitive grant program

- A variety of entities are eligible for this program including states, political subdivisions, tribes, ISPs, electric utilities, etc.
- Priority is given to connecting middle mile infrastructure to last mile networks in unserved areas
- Must be completed by 2026

## New IIJA Federal Policies

Consumer broadband labels and digital discrimination

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF LABOR & ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY **EMDOT** 

Michigan Infrastructure

MDHHS

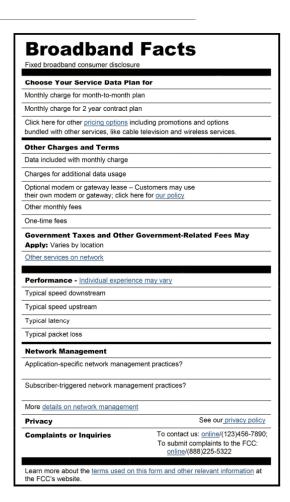
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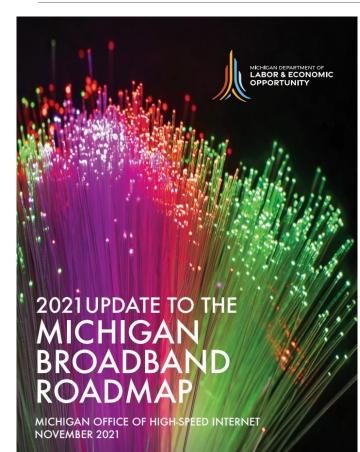
- The FCC has been tasked with developing consistent broadband service labels across ISPs and geographies to bring transparency to service pricing
- Resurrects FCC work that was halted in 2016

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- FCC must also adopt rules to address digital discrimination based on income, race, ethnicity, color, religion, or national origin, and must identify steps for the FCC to eliminate such discrimination
- Must facilitate equal access to broadband service
- FCC recently created a taskforce to begin addressing this topic



### Michigan High-Speed Internet Office



 Gov. Whitmer created the office in June 2021 at the Dept. of Labor and Economic Opportunity through Executive Directive

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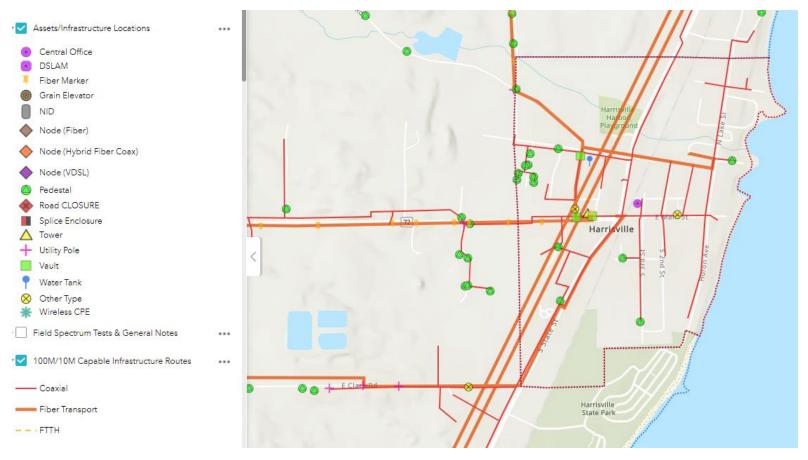
- LEO is working with the State Budget Office and the legislature for eight FTEs and a supplemental budget appropriation of federal funds to staff and resource the office
- Hopeful for legislative response in an infrastructure supplemental bill in the near future

# Broadband Infrastructure Audit and Validation Project

 CNMI has partnered with MEDC to embark on a project to identify the location of broadbandsupporting infrastructure in the public right-of-way

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- Over the next six months, CNMI engineering staff will be traveling more than 65,000 miles of roadway in Michigan to identify broadband infrastructure
- Will support planning efforts for federal funding to come and identify precisely where infrastructure ends and the addresses it can serve



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## What's Next for Michigan

- Staff and build the capacity of the MIHI Office
- Prepare for the notice of funds for new federal programs to be released in May
- Simultaneously develop a five-year infrastructure and a state digital equity plan
- Complete the infrastructure audit project in October
- Administer federal funding in 2023