



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LANSING



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GOVERNOR

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TO: Michigan Broadband Stakeholders

FROM: Kenneth D. Theis, Director
and Chief Information Officer 

SUBJECT: Broadband Deployment – Request for Assistance

Today, I deliver news of a great opportunity for our state as well as a personal request for your assistance in making it happen.

In the coming weeks, the State of Michigan will be aggressively pursuing federal stimulus dollars for the statewide deployment of broadband. In the unfolding era of an online, service-driven world, this is a critical step for Michigan. Make no mistake about it, broadband is huge for economic activity and public sector efficiency. Once we connect these dots, the playing field changes. New partnerships will open up – business to business, government to business, government to government – and from there, so much is possible for Michigan, but we need your help to get these dollars and make this vision a reality.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act will make \$7.2 billion available nationally for competitive grants to improve broadband services. From this, \$4.7 billion will be awarded by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration in grants for building broadband infrastructure, increasing public computer center capacity, funding sustainable broadband adoption programs, and implementing detailed state broadband mapping. The Michigan Department of Information Technology is working collaboratively with stakeholders (e.g., residents, businesses, vendors, local government, schools, and libraries) throughout the state, to develop a proposal that will enable us to successfully bring a significant percentage of these funds to Michigan.

What can you do?

Help us build Michigan's case and bolster our funding requests by conducting a needs assessment. Specifically, we need you to analyze your piece of the puzzle by gathering key data and supporting documents, including:

- Current broadband coverage levels in your region;
- Local areas lacking broadband coverage;
- Estimates of potential job/economic impact of increased broadband access;
- A sustainability model addressing how this infrastructure will be financially supported and maintained after the initial stimulus funding; and,
- A description of work to be done to stimulate local demand for broadband.

Most importantly, we need you to start gathering this information now. To help you in this effort, we have provided more detail at www.michigan.gov/broadband. Once the requirements for funding are made public, we must be prepared to act fast and assemble our proposal for broadband dollars. We anticipate that the federal government will release the formal submission guidelines by early July, 2009.

In the coming days and weeks, we will continue to communicate with you on this effort through the Web site and through regular email updates. Further instructions on how to submit your information will be forthcoming. Should you have any questions, please email them to broadband@michigan.gov. I encourage you to visit the site and bookmark it. Our plan is to use this as a primary communication tool for our broadband stakeholders.

Thank you for your time and support of this landmark effort. Together, we can open the door to a new era for Michigan.