

LOCAL GOVERNMENT “CALL TO ACTION”

The Push for Federal Broadband Funding is On!

The clock is ticking for local governments as the federal Recovery Act funding programs for broadband pushes forward. With the window for Round One applications now closed (award announcements are expected in December 2009), the State of Michigan is urging local government officials to actively engage in the effort to bring broadband connectivity to their communities.

“The difference is staggering. It is apparent that an accelerated broadband build out would make a huge difference in Michigan’s economy and employment picture.”¹

-Michigan Economic Development Corporation

¹ Michigan Economic Development Corporation Releases Study Detailing Benefits of Accelerating Statewide Broadband Deployment

Why broadband? Why now?

High speed Internet access opens the door to countless opportunities for government, citizens and businesses. It broadens Michigan’s economic landscape to the world market and offers possibilities for growth, new efficiencies and development in government, education, health care and the economy. Two more applications rounds for the \$7.2 Billion in Recovery Act loans and grants are planned though these rounds could potentially be combined, leaving just one more opportunity to secure funding.

Call to Action #1: Review Round One Applications

❖ View Round One applications

- Go to www.michigan.gov/broadband → MI’s Collaborative Effort → Summary of Round 1 Applications
- Note: Round one award announcements are expected to be released in December 2009

❖ Analyze Proposed Coverage

- Is your community covered by any of the proposed plans?
 - IF NO: Reach out to providers with plans from neighboring communities (see planning for Round Two below)
 - IF YES: Partner with that provider NOW (the State can help)
 1. Invite the provider to the table along with community anchor institutions with strong interests in broadband (schools, libraries, medical facilities, etc.)
 2. Discuss proposed coverage, remaining needs, plan for implementation (if awarded), and permitting needs
 3. Stay engaged!

Call to Action #2: Get in Gear for Round 2!

✧ **The time for action is now!**

- Mobilize community anchor institutions and identify needs for broadband coverage
- Seek out providers willing to service your area (the State can help)
- Identify available assets for providers such as water towers and antennas
- Work now on plans to streamline process for permits and licenses
- Build a “shovel ready” plan with your provider
- Solicit / provide endorsements for the application

*Note: Round two application window is expected in January 2010.
Rounds two and three may be combined.*

Call to Action #3: Communicate with the State

- ✧ Visit www.michigan.gov/broadband and sign-up for email updates
- ✧ Contact the State via email (broadband@michigan.gov) with questions or requests for assistance
- ✧ Utilize www.michigan.gov/broadband as a resource for the Recovery Act funding programs and requirements

Now is the time to bring broadband to your community.

Do your part to keep Michigan thriving.