



GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF TECHNOLOGY, MANAGEMENT & BUDGET  
LANSING

BROM STIBITZ  
ACTING DIRECTOR

## **Connecting Michigan Communities Grant Comment and Objection Process Frequently Asked Questions**

*May 27, 2020*

### **How do I submit a comment or objection?**

Completed Comment and Objection Form(s) and supporting documentation must be received by the Department of Technology, Management, and Budget (DTMB), Center for Shared Solutions by 4:00 p.m. on July 27, 2020, to be considered. Anyone interested in submitting a comment or objection is required to email their completed form and all attachments in PDF format to [DTMB-CMICGrant@michigan.gov](mailto:DTMB-CMICGrant@michigan.gov). Submitters will receive an email confirmation of their submission. Call (517) 335-3727 if you have not received a confirmation receipt within 48 business hours of submitting your comment or objection. Please fill out the appropriate sections of the Comment and Objection Form and clearly label any attachments with the question/statement number from the form.

### **What if my attachment(s) is too large?**

Emails coming into the State of Michigan are limited to 35Mb in size. Applicants may submit zipped files or in multiple emails to accommodate larger attachments. Multiple emails should be noted in the subject line (i.e. Company Name, Attachment Name, email 1 of 4). If you will be submitting a file(s) larger than 35Mb, please contact Pamela Matelski at (517) 335-3727 or [DTMB-CMICGrant@michigan.gov](mailto:DTMB-CMICGrant@michigan.gov) to establish an uploadable link at least 10 days prior to the submission deadline.

### **How is a “served” location defined for an objection?**

A location is determined to be “served” if broadband service of at least 10/1 Mbps can be deployed to a location within 10 business days of a request for service being made to the provider without any additional construction cost to the customer.

## **Who can submit a comment or objection?**

Anyone can file a comment or objection to a CMIC Initial Grant Recommendation. Narrative comments can be filed in opposition to or in support of a particular grant recommendation. Objections are a more formal filing and can be submitted for the following reasons:

- The proposed grant project includes an area that is already being served by at least one internet service provider offering broadband service.
- The proposed grant project includes an area where the construction of a network to provide broadband service is to be completed no later than three years after the date of an application.
- The grant project includes an area that has been selected to receive, provisionally or otherwise, Connect America funds from the Federal Communications Commission.

## **Once filed, are comments and objections posted online?**

Comments and objections are not posted once filed, however, any materials submitted to DTMB as part of a comment or objection are subject to public disclosure via Freedom of Information Act requests.

## **Can a comment or objection be filed for a portion of a proposed grant area?**

Comments and objections may be filed for the full extent or only a portion of a proposed service area of a preliminary grant recommendation, however, the same level of detail is required of objectors for both full and partial preliminary grant recommendation objections.

## **What happens to comments or objections once they are submitted?**

Following the comment and objection period, the department shall review and verify each comment and objection for validity and determine if the objection meets the standards outlined in the grant enabling legislation. This review shall include, but is not limited to, desktop data verification research, on-sight field validation, interviews with interested parties, and discussions with the Michigan Public Service Commission and the Federal Communications Commission.

## **Am I required to do anything further after an objection is filed?**

If a grant award recommendation is rejected because the proposed project includes an area where the construction of a network to provide broadband service is to be completed no later than three years from the date of the original grant application, the objector installing the broadband service in lieu of the grant award recommended applicant shall provide notice to the department when the construction of the broadband service is completed. If no notice is received, or if the completion date is later than the

three years, the internet service provider shall reimburse the department for the cost of verifying the status of the provider's construction.

**What if I submit an objection and it is found to be inaccurate?**

If an objection submitted is determined to contain information that results in an investigation and the objection is found to be inaccurate, the objector shall reimburse the department for the cost of verifying the objection information.

**What type of documentation do I need to submit if I want to object to a grant award because I am currently providing service in the grant area?**

The following documentation is necessary to support an objection because service already exists in a proposed grant area:

- Objectors must include a map of the area of the state that includes the proposed service area to which the objection applies. Objectors are required to attach a PDF map of the objected area. The map of the objected area must also include place names, boundaries, buildings, road/street names, street addresses, or other features that clearly identify the location.
- Objectors must also attach a spreadsheet file that includes the addresses included in the proposed service area that either; 1) already have service available from the objector with a speed of at least 10/1 Mbps; 2) are included in finalized network construction plans where service will be available within 3 years; or 3) have received funding from the FCC Connect America Fund, provisionally or otherwise. The spreadsheet must contain columns with the following headings: street number and name, city, state, and zip code, as well as the download/upload speed that is or will be available to the address in Mbps. See example spreadsheet below:

Street	City	State	Zip Code	Speed (Mbps)
123 Sample St.	Testtown	MI	48888	25/3
456 Sample St.	Testtown	MI	48888	25/3

- Objectors are required to provide complete and verifiable evidence that service is already available in the proposed service area. This evidence may include, but is not limited to, tower lease agreements, pole attachment agreements, as-built engineering diagrams of the network in the proposed service area, or similar.
- For fixed and mobile wireless providers filing an objection claiming existing service, objections must also include wireless service propagation diagrams showing availability in the proposed service area.

**What type of documentation do I need to submit if I want to object because I am planning to provide service in the same area within the next 3 years?**

The following documentation is necessary to support an objection because service will be provided in a proposed grant area within the next 3 years:

- Objectors must include a map of the area of the state that includes the proposed service area to which the objection applies. Objectors are required to attach a PDF map of the objected area. The map of the objected area must also include place names, boundaries, buildings, road/street names, street addresses, or other features that clearly identify the location.
- Objectors must also attach a spreadsheet file that includes the addresses included in the proposed service area that either; 1) already have service available from the objector with a speed of at least 10/1 Mbps; 2) are included in finalized network construction plans where service will be available within 3 years; or 3) have received funding from the FCC Connect America Fund, provisionally or otherwise. The spreadsheet must contain columns with the following headings: street number and name, city, state, and zip code, as well as the download/upload speed that is or will be available to the address in Mbps. See example spreadsheet below:

<b>Street</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Zip Code</b>	<b>Speed (Mbps)</b>
123 Sample St.	Testtown	MI	48888	25/3
456 Sample St.	Testtown	MI	48888	25/3

- Objectors must submit an Affidavit of Commitment to build the network as stated in the objected area within three years of the date of the original grant application.
- Objectors are required to provide complete and verifiable evidence of planned service in the proposed grant area. This evidence may include, but is not limited to, examples of financial commitment to the project such as letters of credit (or similar), engineering designs of the network in the proposed service area (or similar), tower lease agreements, pole attachment agreements, feasibility studies, consumer surveys, bills of lading for project materials or other ordering documentation (or similar), description of any local, county, state, environmental, historic, architectural, or archeological permits (or similar) that are needed and have been obtained for the network in the objected area.
- For fixed and mobile wireless providers filing an objection claiming future service, objections must also include wireless service propagation diagrams showing future availability in the proposed service area.

**What type of documentation do I need to submit if I want to object to a grant award because the proposed service area has been awarded Connect America Funds?**

- For objections based on awarded or provisional inclusion in the Federal Communications Commission Connect America Fund (CAF), objections must include; 1) the name of the provider receiving CAF funding; 2) the portion of the CAF program applicable to the indicated addresses; and 3) web links to FCC resources where the claim may be verified. FCC resources may include, but are not limited to, press releases, data tables, maps, dockets, orders, or similar.
- Objectors must also include a spreadsheet of the census blocks in the proposed grant area that are part of the stated CAF program. This spreadsheet should include the census block ID number as well as the provider receiving CAF funds for the block and the specific CAF program applicable to the census block.