



STATE OF MICHIGAN

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GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF TECHNOLOGY, MANAGEMENT & BUDGET  
LANSING

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## **Connecting Michigan Communities 2.0 Grant Comment and Objection Process Frequently Asked Questions March 5, 2021**

### **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 PM EST on May 5, 2021, to be considered. Anyone interested in submitting a comment or objection is required to email their completed form and all attachments to [DTMB-CMICGrant@michigan.gov](mailto:DTMB-CMICGrant@michigan.gov).

### **How will I know if my submission is received?**

Submitters will receive an email confirmation in receipt of their submission. It is the Submitters' responsibility to ensure their submission is received by DTMB prior to the submission deadline. Submissions sent to the wrong email address or received after the deadline will be rejected. Official submission date and time will be determined by the time stamp accompanying the email. Submissions dated and time stamped in any other way will be rejected. If a confirmation receipt is not received within two business days, Submitters must contact the CMIC Grant Program Office at (517) 335-3727.

### **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 Andrew Halfman 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 it is able to provide broadband service of at least 25/3 Mbs in a specific geographic area of the proposed project of the applicant to a customer that requests that service not later than 30 days after the customer requests installation of that service and without an extraordinary commitment of resources or construction charges or fees exceeding an ordinary service activation fee. The 30-day time period is extended to 60 days if permits are needed before the broadband service is activated.

## **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 two years after the date of an application.
- The proposed project includes a specific geographical area where an internet service provider has been selected to receive, provisionally or otherwise, funding by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) or the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) specifically for the expansion of broadband services. This subparagraph does not apply to an area once either of the following has occurred:
  - The Internet Service Provider does not complete the requirements for obtaining the funding described in this subparagraph.
  - The time period for the internet service provider to meet its obligation described in this subparagraph has expired and the area remains unserved.

## **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.

## **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 provider shall reimburse the department for the cost of verifying the information. An objector filing a false statement is ineligible to receive a grant under this act the next time grants are issued.

## **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 sworn affidavit from an officer of the internet service provider stating: 1) broadband service is currently provided at speeds of at least 25 Mbps download and 3 Mbps upload in the specific geographic area; and 2) the provider is able to provide broadband service in the specific geographic area at speeds of at least 25 Mbps download and 3 Mbps upload to a customer not later than 30 days after the customer requests installation of that service and without an extraordinary commitment of resources or construction charges or fees exceeding an ordinary service activation fee. The 30-day time period is extended to 60 days if permits are needed before the broadband service is activated.
- 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 as well as a GIS-compatible file

(I.e. Shapefile set or .kml/kmz file type). 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 attach a spreadsheet file that lists the addresses in the proposed CMIC grant service area included in the objection. The spreadsheet must contain columns with the following headings: number, street name, address, city, state, and zip code, as well as the download/upload speed that is or will be available to the address in Megabits per second (Mbps). See example spreadsheet below.

Incomplete, incorrect addresses, and P.O. Boxes will be discarded from the protest list.

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

- Objectors claiming that service is already available in the proposed CMIC grant service area are required to provide complete and verifiable evidence of existing service. 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. Random speed tests demonstrating the ability to deliver 25/3 Mbps service are required. Each test should have an associated address and date/time the test was conducted.
- 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 2 years?**

The following documentation is necessary to support an objection because construction of a network is currently underway or planned to provide service in a proposed grant area within the next 2 years:

- Objectors must include a sworn affidavit from an officer of the internet service provider stating: 1) The proposed project includes a specific geographic area where construction of a network to provide broadband service is underway by the objector, and the construction is scheduled to be completed within one year of the date of the application; or 2) The proposed project includes a specific geographic area where the construction of a network to provide

broadband service by the objector is planned and is to be completed no later than two years after the date of an application.

- 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 as well as a GIS-compatible file (I.e. Shapefile set or .kml/kmz file type). 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 are included in finalized network construction plans where service will be available within 2 years. 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:

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

- 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 selected to receive funding by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) or the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) specifically for the expansion of broadband services?**

The following documentation is necessary to support an objection based on awarded or provisional inclusion in the FCC or USDA:

- Objectors must include a sworn affidavit from an officer of the internet service provider stating: 1) The specific geographic area of the proposed CMIC grant service area has been selected to receive, provisionally or otherwise, funding by the FCC or the USDA specifically for the expansion of broadband services; 2) the Objector has completed the requirements for obtaining the funding described in this section; and 3) the time period for the Objector to meet its obligation described in this section has not expired.
- Objectors are required to provide: 1) the name of the provider receiving federal funding exactly as it appears on the federal documentation; 2) the portion of the federal program applicable to the indicated addresses; and 3) web links to federal resources where the claim may be verified. Federal 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 federally program. This spreadsheet should include the census block ID number as well as the provider receiving federal funds for the block and the specific federal program applicable to the census block.