



## MICHIGAN INFRASTRUCTURE OFFICE

Governor Whitmer understands that every person in Michigan should have access to affordable high-speed internet to realize their full potential. That is why she has leveraged hundreds of millions of federal dollars under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to expand broadband service to underserved communities and launched efforts to bring affordable access to low-income families. Since taking office, Governor Whitmer has expanded broadband service to more than 23,000 homes, businesses, and community centers, with the goal of providing access to 100% of homes in Michigan within the next 5 years. Closing the digital divide will help our students further their education and bring more revenue to our farmers and small businesses.

*“COVID-19 has only confirmed how the lack of high-speed internet access can cause too many Michiganders to struggle in their ability to engage in online learning, to use telemedicine to seek needed healthcare, to search for a new job or to take advantage of all the online resources. A fully connected Michigan is essential for our state to reach its economic potential in the 21<sup>st</sup> century global economy.”*

*-Governor Gretchen Whitmer*

### Why Does Broadband Matter?

- There is an unrealized economic benefit of \$1.8-\$2.5 billion among disconnected households.
- Farmers with broadband access see a 6% increase in farm revenue on average.
- Rural communities with broadband have access to telemedicine, which adds about \$522,000 to their economies and reduces hospitalizations.
- 50% of K-12 students say they can't complete their homework due to the lack of an internet connection at home; 42% receive a lower grade because of a lack of connection.
- Disconnected communities experience an average of 25% higher rates of injuries and crime.

### Project Spotlight

#### Peninsula Fiber Network

Peninsula Fiber Network received a [\\$61 million grant](#) from the federal Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure Grant Program, allowing it to expand fiber optic coverage to rural communities in Michigan. According to [this map](#), the project will link areas in Northern Michigan, the UP, Southwest Michigan, and the Thumb. Once complete, 35,000 more rural homes will have access to high-speed internet, furthering Governor Whitmer's goal of providing universal high-speed internet access in Michigan.



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### NHBP Tribal Broadband and Use Project

Michigan continues to utilize available funding to support internet in tribal communities. For example, the Nottasweppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi received a [\\$1.2 million grant](#) under the Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program to upgrade existing fiber optic infrastructure within government offices and expand it to 35 households and 11 anchor institutions within the community. The project proposal also includes purchasing licenses for Microsoft Office 365 and Zoom in order to encourage professional development and provide access to telehealth services.

### Expanding High-Speed Broadband in Michigan

- Michigan will receive more than [\\$1.5 billion](#) through the federal Broadband, Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) program to expand service to 200,000 Michiganders.
- Michigan received [\\$363 million](#) in 2020 to increase access to high-speed internet among rural communities across 81 counties.
- The Realizing Opportunity with Broadband Infrastructure Networks (ROBIN) grant program will utilize [\\$238 million](#) in federal funding to expand high speed internet service to about 100,000 unserved locations across the state.
- The Whitmer Administration began the [ACP Act Now initiative](#) to spread awareness about the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law's Affordable Connectivity Plan, which helps lower income families pay for high-speed internet. Currently, 1.7 million Michiganders are eligible, but only 644,000 have enrolled.
- Governor Whitmer signed the [Broadband Expansion Act](#) into law, providing four rounds of funding for high-speed internet expansion under the [Connecting Michigan Communities Grant program](#).
- Signed directives to create the [Michigan High Speed Internet Office](#) and the [Connecting Michigan Task Force](#) to coordinate further expansion and align it with economic development.
- Created the [Office of Rural Development](#), which will collaborate with the Michigan High-Speed Internet Office to expand high-speed internet connectivity in rural communities.
- [Mapped](#) current access and service expansions in Michigan.