MICHIGAN HIGH-SPEED INTERNET OFFICE

+ Michigan’s single point of contact for all things broadband
+ Administrators of federal funds for broadband expansion
+ Created by Executive Directive in June 2021, authorized for funding and staff in April 2022
+ Located within the Prosperity Division of the Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity
+ Eight staff:
  + Chief Connectivity Officer – Eric Frederick
  + Digital Equity Director – Allie Herkenroder
  + Executive Assistant – Leslie McCarrick
  + Infrastructure Program Manager – TBD
  + Digital Equity Program Manager – TBD
  + Data/Policy Manager – TBD
  + 2x Compliance/Reporting Managers – TBD
OUR MISSION

+ Create a more digitally equitable Michigan where everyone can leverage technology to improve their quality of life.

OUR GOALS

+ Ensure universal availability of broadband to every home, business, institution, and community
+ Ensure 95% of households adopt a permanent connection at home
Digital Equity is the goal.
Digital Divide is the issue.
Digital Inclusion is the work:

- Affordable, robust broadband internet service
- Internet-enabled devices that meet the needs of the user
- Access to digital literacy training
- Quality technical support
- Applications and online content designed to enable and encourage self-sufficiency, participation, and collaboration
GUIDING PRINCIPLES

+ Creativity
+ Efficiency
+ Transparency
FORTHCOMING PROGRAMS

- Realizing Opportunity with Broadband Infrastructure Networks (ROBIN)
- Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program (BEAD)
- State Digital Equity Planning & Capacity Grant Programs (SDEPG & SDECG)
ROBIN PROGRAM

+ Last-mile and middle-mile grant program
+ Unserved defined at 100/20 Mbps
+ Funded with $250M from the Capital Projects Fund
+ Administered by US Treasury; may announce approval of our plan next week
+ Anticipated to open the program for applications in late fall/early winter for deployment next spring
BEAD PROGRAM

+ Largest source of broadband funding
+ Priority given to building networks that connect unserved and underserved locations and community anchor institutions
+ Exact allocation is not yet known but is estimated to be $1.5B - $1.7B
+ Implemented as a subgrant program to a variety of entities include private ISPs, non-profits, communities, co-operatives, and others
+ Begins with robust and thorough planning beginning in fall 2022
+ Funds likely to start being distributed in early 2024
STATE DIGITAL EQUITY PLANNING & CAPACITY

- Provides states with two opportunities; 1) to create a statewide digital equity plan; and 2) a follow-on program for implementing that plan
- Planning will begin this fall and capacity is expected to follow next year
- NTIA will also be administering a competitive digital equity grant program to which anyone can apply
- Designed to address the needs of ‘covered populations;’ rural residents, aging individuals, low-income households, veterans, those with disabilities, individuals with a language barrier, members of a racial or ethnic minority group, and incarcerated individuals
Embarking on a comprehensive and robust statewide broadband planning effort this fall

Plan will meet the requirements of both the BEAD and SDEPG programs and provide the state with a plan for achieving universal access and improving digital equity

MIHI plans to implement multiple communications and feedback streams to ensure we are listening to all of Michigan’s diverse voices and identifying solutions that close our gaps
NEXT STEPS

+ Secure initial federal funding
+ Onboard additional MIHI Office staff
+ Build-out detailed engagement strategy and begin creating the MI Connected Future Plan
+ Complete the infrastructure asset audit project and begin developing the broadband geospatial data strategy
+ Develop scoring rubric, application, and other materials for the ROBIN Program
+ Questions
Thank you.

MICHIGAN HIGH-SPEED INTERNET OFFICE
LEO-MIHIGHSPEEDINTERNET@MICHIGAN.GOV