



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Lt. Governor Gilchrist announces award to increase high-speed internet access across Michigan

LANSING, Mich. – Lt. Governor Gilchrist and the Department of Technology, Management & Budget (DTMB) today announced an additional \$15.3 million in funding awarded through the Connecting Michigan Communities (CMIC) grant program. The grant funding announced today will support 20 projects across the state that will bring service to 6,700 locations and is projected to have an annual economic benefit of as much as \$12.4 million.

"During my first days in office, I committed to working to increase high-speed internet availability, affordability, and adoption across our state," said **Lt. Governor Garlin Gilchrist**. "We will continue to invest in expanding infrastructure to allow all Michiganders the opportunity to access high-speed internet. The funding in the CMIC grant will increase access for families and better connect people, communities, and businesses across Michigan."

With high-speed internet becoming a necessity in our educational, professional, and personal lives, the CMIC grant program was established to expand broadband service to unserved areas in Michigan and supports the mission of the new Michigan High-Speed Internet Office (MIHI), recently established by Gov. Whitmer to help close the digital divide. The funds will go towards projects that will expand broadband infrastructure across Michigan and provide access to high-speed internet for residents and businesses to compete in today's digital society. This is the third round of awards, and the Governor looks forward to working with the legislature to ensure it is not the last.

The first round of CMIC grant funds were announced in October 2020, with \$11.9 million awarded to 10 projects and a second round of \$1 million and an additional four projects was awarded in April 2021. Overall, the total grant funds awarded so far will impact more than 18,000 locations in Michigan and generate annual economic benefits that could exceed \$32 million.

All projects awarded funding have committed to closing the digital divide and providing digital literacy training materials to residents and businesses in their proposed service area, while working with local community and anchor institutions and foundations to host events to promote e-learning, job, and workforce training.

Access to broadband and high-speed internet is vital to people's ability to work, learn and carry out business. The COVID-19 pandemic has made it more imperative than ever and building and strengthening broadband infrastructure throughout Michigan will be a driver of economic recovery efforts statewide.

By establishing MIHI, the Whitmer-Gilchrist administration is continuing to improve coordination of the work being done across state agencies and departments to improve high-speed internet access, affordability, and use. The need for a single point-of-contact regarding these critical topics was identified by the [Connecting Michigan Taskforce](#), an interagency working group that was announced by Gov. Whitmer and Lt. Gov. Gilchrist in October 2020 at the same time Gov. Whitmer signed into law the Broadband Expansion Act of Michigan, which codified the Connecting Michigan Communities (CMIC) grant program.

A full list of the CMIC grant awards can be accessed on the [CMIC website](#), along with information about future grant awards.

Charter will receive \$2,318,642 to build to 912 unserved addresses in Michigan. Total build cost of our seven projects is \$5,017,591 with Charter funding the balance.

CMIC 2.0 Winners are listed below ~

| APPLICANT | PROJECT NAME | GEOGRAPHIC SERVICE AREA | PROPOSED BROADBAND SERVICE SPEEDS | Project Total | Grant Award |
|----------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------|-------------|
| Ace Telephone | Mesick Exchange | Wexford | 2.4 Gbps/1.2 Gbps | \$5,382,972 | \$2,153,189 |
| Agri-Valley Services | Gladwin | Gladwin, Clare | 50 Mbps/3 Mbps | \$154,858 | \$77,429 |
| Air Advantage | Akron | Tuscola | 1 Gbps / 1 Gbps | \$292,127 | \$145,077 |
| Air Advantage | Deford | Tuscola | 1 Gbps / 1 Gbps | \$321,571 | \$160,464 |
| Charter Spectrum | Cedar Springs | Kent | 940 Mbps /35 Mbps | \$2,523,124 | \$1,236,331 |
| Charter Spectrum | Durand | Shiawassee | 940 Mbps/35 Mbps | \$480,552 | \$235,470 |
| Charter Spectrum | Gladwin | Gladwin | 940 Mbps/35 Mbps | \$21,145 | \$10,361 |
| Charter Spectrum | Hale | Ogemaw | 940 Mbps/35 Mbps | \$444,139 | \$217,628 |
| Charter Spectrum | Kingsley | Grand Traverse | 940 Mbps/35 Mbps | \$186,285 | \$91,280 |
| Charter Spectrum | Pellston | Cheboygan | 940 Mbps/35 Mbps | \$691,195 | \$338,686 |
| Charter Spectrum | West Olive | Ottawa | 940 Mbps/35 Mbps | \$385,482 | \$188,886 |
| Comcast | Grattan Twp. | Kent | 2 Gbps/2 Gbps | \$2,345,266 | \$1,876,213 |
| Comcast | Washtenaw County | Washtenaw | 2 Gbps/2 Gbps | \$3,897,553 | \$3,118,043 |
| Duke Broadband | Cottrellville | St. Clair | 1000 Mbps/100 Mbps | \$679,378 | \$502,740 |
| Duke Broadband | St. Clair Twp. | St. Clair | 1000 Mbps/100 Mbps | \$1,521,670 | \$1,262,986 |
| LakeNet | Lakefield-Jonesfield | Saginaw | 1000 Mbps/500 Mbps | \$1,289,427 | \$812,275 |