



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LANSING



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

July 14, 2009

TO: Officials from County Government, Local Government, Education, Libraries, Health Care and Public Safety

FROM: Kenneth D. Theis, Director
and Chief Information Officer

SUBJECT: HIGH PRIORITY: Broadband Recovery Funding

With a deadline of **August 14, 2009**, the clock is now ticking for the first round of federal recovery dollars tied to broadband development. This is the first of three opportunities where Michigan and its many stakeholders can apply for federal funds for broadband development.

Round One – A Call for “Shovel Ready” Projects

On July 1, the federal government released its requirements for the first round of funding, providing little more than a month to assemble “shovel ready” projects for unserved and underserved areas of our state. This first round is specifically focused on projects that can hit the ground running while meeting all of the eligibility requirements defined in the application (see attachment). As anticipated, many broadband providers are already actively assembling applications, as are some public sector organizations.

The State of Michigan is working to coordinate these efforts, bridge cooperation on overlapping projects, disseminate information and provide guidance to broadband providers. Due to the specificity of the application requirements, the State of Michigan will not be submitting a comprehensive application, however, the Governor will be involved in the formal review of projects to ensure applications align with the state’s vision. That vision is to provide coverage to every corner of the state, transform Michigan’s economic competitiveness, provide better government, and strengthen homeland security.

A Seat at the Table

Now is your moment to work collaboratively with providers in identifying the needs of your community and ensuring a strategy is in the works to move your community forward into an era of broadband connectivity. All key stakeholders should come to together for this purpose, including government, education, libraries, health care, public safety, and broadband providers. If you need assistance with this effort, please send an email to broadband@michigan.gov.

Thank you for your continued time and commitment. The State will continue to keep you updated as events unfold. For the most up-to-date information, visit Michigan.gov/broadband. I am confident that together we can open the door to a new era for Michigan.