



A grass roots  
initiative to  
advance  
broadband in  
Michigan

We can bring you  
broadband if



all of us pull  
together.



## Why Broadband is Important!

- School-age kids must have internet access in order to complete their schoolwork
- Many residents work from home and must have internet service
- Residents furthering their education via on-line classes need reliable internet and uncapped data downloads
- Realtors report that quality access to internet is a requirement of most of today's home buyers

SEE OTHER SIDE FOR MORE INFORMATION



[mbcoop.org](http://mbcoop.org)

**Who we are:** An all-volunteer group of Western Washtenaw and Eastern Jackson County residents and friends, working to bring affordable high quality, reliable, and uncapped internet access to our area.

**Our history:** We have been engaged in this effort for more than 2 years. What we have learned:

☐ Despite strong support from some of our local representative in state government, we have learned that quality of rural internet access is not widely recognized as being an issue, and therefore not high on the legislative agenda.

☐ Other rural communities in Michigan have successfully brought reliable/affordable internet to their residents through citizen action. More are currently working toward this.

**The co-op model:**

☐ We work with all rural townships in Washtenaw County and Jackson County, to assist in information gathering and to help get the ball rolling

☐ Our plan is to own or facilitate public ownership of the fiber infrastructure. Internet service would be provided by third party.

**Michigan Broadband Co-op internet service will incorporate these basics:**

☐ Internet fiber will be brought to every house in a township, regardless of location, and regardless of property setback

☐ Once the fiber infrastructure is in place, the Co-op will request bids from internet service providers; internet speed, reliability and the absence of data caps will be required of the providers

☐ Remember, this service will NOT have data caps. For those who already have some form of internet service, data downloads are generally capped binge-watching a single show can exhaust 10 gigs in about 3 hours, leaving the household with the choice of NO internet service for the remainder of the month, or purchasing additional data segments if those are even offered by the provider.

**Current Efforts:**

We are working with several different townships and assisting their efforts to bring broadband to their residents. Our primary focus at this time is to put a fiber to the home build on the May 2017 ballot for Lyndon Township. We have completed a feasibility study and have concluded the project is financially sound.

We are also working with Dexter and Webster to assist in their feasibility studies for fiber-to-the-home build outs in their underserved regions.

We hope to assist Sharon Township conduct a feasibility study for their own township and assist a fiber-to-the-home build out for their community as well.