Mission:

To build open access, community-controlled broadband infrastructure for unserved and underserved areas of Michigan.
Truly high-speed wired Internet access is as basic to innovation, economic growth, social communication, and the country’s competitiveness as electricity was a century ago.

- Susan P. Crawford
The Homework Gap
Broadband Gap in Home Values

- **No Broadband**
- **Broadband**

20.9%

$153,054

$126,568
Quality of Life
Cable Coverage
Cable + DSL Coverage
Data Caps
Streaming Video: $1,605
Home Computer Backups: $2,320
Security Camera: $1,220
Software Updates: $135
Software Purchases: $600
Video Chat: $575

Total: $6,455
e.g. Google Fiber

FCC Broadband Threshold

Bandwidth (Mbps)
Nielsen’s Law of Bandwidth
Sharon Township Survey

Does your broadband service meet your needs?

- Yes: 30%
- No: 70%

Are you interested in alternate broadband providers?

- Yes: 95%
- No: 5%
How to Get Broadband

1. Assess Community Need and Support
2. Conduct Feasibility Study
3. Obtain Funding
4. Build Fiber Network
5. Operate Fiber Network
Funding Models

- General Fund
- Millage and Bond
- Special Assessment Districts
- Crowdsourcing
Sebawing, MI

- Built fiber to the home for 1700 residents
- Offering up to 1Gb service
- Leveraging municipal power co.
- Funded out of general fund
Funding Example: Lyndon

~56 Road Miles

~$6,800,000 Project

$122,539,598 taxable value

3.7 Mills = $32/month average