

CONNECTING MICHIGAN COMMUNITIES

From the Chief Connectivity Officer

We've said it before and we're saying it again, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has released a new National Broadband Map. Since high-speed internet is not available to nearly half a million homes in Michigan, we are continuing to urge every Michigander to check their home and business address on the preliminary broadband map to ensure it accurately reflects their level of internet access. Our office is working to challenge the map too, but it's important for everyone across the state to know how to view and challenge the map.

Here's how to access the FCC broadband map:

1. [Visit broadbandmap.fcc.gov/home here](https://broadbandmap.fcc.gov/home), then type in an address and see if the reported coverage is accurate. You can access the site from a computer or a mobile device.
2. Residents can submit a challenge by clicking "Location Challenge" if the location of their home or business is missing or incorrect, or "Availability Challenge" if the internet service information is incorrect.
3. Residents should visit the website of any internet service provider that claims to serve their location and use the website's "Check Availability" or similar tool to determine if the provider can serve their location.
4. If they can't, a screenshot of their website can be submitted to the FCC as evidence for an Availability Challenge.



Consumers can [follow the instructions on how to file an availability challenge using the new map here](#).

The FCC also allows local governments, tribal governments and other stakeholders to file bulk challenges for multiple locations on behalf of their communities. [Governmental entities can access the underlying broadband serviceable location fabric](#) that forms the foundation for the address locations on the map. [Data can be downloaded here](#) for various geographies by speed for comparison.

MIHI is developing several methodologies that we will use to identify errors and inconsistencies on the map and develop and file bulk challenges to the FCC map.

Our methodologies will be applied statewide to ensure we are finding all potential issues with the map and making these known to the FCC.

Additionally, our team is encouraging consumers, communities and any others with a stake in broadband availability to submit challenges to the FCC map if a discrepancy is found. Having an accurate federal map will ensure that Michigan receives its equitable share of federal funding to achieve universal broadband availability for all Michiganders.

To ensure an accurate map is used for funding decisions, all challenges must be submitted by January 13, 2023.

Sincerely,
Eric Frederick
Chief Connectivity Officer
Michigan High-Speed Internet Office
Leo-mihighspeedinternet@michigan.gov

Resources

[Join the Michigan Statewide Digital Inclusion Database](#). MIHI is creating an inventory of organizations and facilities that are providing digital inclusion services. If you provide public access to computers, digital literacy training, cybersafety training or other similar services, [click here to join our growing network of practitioners and providers across the state](#).

[Apply to host a Regional Broadband Navigator](#). The Regional Broadband Navigator Grant Program seeks to provide Economic Development Organizations and other regional entities with funding to support a broadband-focused staff member to assist in coordination, development, capacity building and executive of broadband planning. [Apply for funding to support a navigator in your region here](#).

[Maps of broadband service availability can help identify gaps in your community – check them out here](#).

Nearly 1.7 million Michigan households are estimated to qualify for the [Affordable Connectivity Program](#) (ACP) from the FCC, but only 30% of qualifying households participate. The ACP provides a discount of up to \$30 per month toward broadband service for eligible households and up to \$75 per month for households on qualifying Tribal lands. Eligible households can also receive a one-time discount of up to \$100 to purchase a laptop, desktop computer or tablet from participating providers. Eligible [households can enroll through a participating broadband provider](#) or directly with the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) using an [online application here](#) or mail in application.

Protect the important devices and people in your life with Michigan Secure, the free security app only for Michigan residents. Michigan Secure helps protect you from unsecure Wi-Fi networks, phishing emails, unsafe apps and more. [Learn more about Michigan Secure here](#).

The USDA Rural Utility Service is accepting applications for the Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grants program. This \$60M federal program seeks to promote

equity and economic opportunity in rural areas through the use of advanced telecommunications technology. [Learn more about the Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grants program here.](#)

Please forward this newsletter to others that may be interested. Please send any questions to: LEO-MIHighSpeedInternet@michigan.gov.

