

Realizing Opportunities with Broadband Infrastructure Networks (ROBIN)

Program Fact Sheet

In early 2022, Governor Whitmer and the Michigan Legislature passed the [Building Michigan Together Plan](#). The plan includes \$250.6 million to expand high-speed internet service to unserved locations in the state. On October 7, 2022, the [United States Treasury announced](#) the approval of Michigan's plan for the use of these funds. The following provides an overview of the ROBIN Program.

- + ROBIN will be administered by the [Michigan High-Speed Internet Office \(MIHI\)](#) located within the Prosperity Division of the Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity.
- + The funding for ROBIN comes from the [Capital Projects Fund \(CPF\)](#) which is managed by the United States Treasury. The CPF was part of the American Rescue Plan Act that passed in 2021.
- + \$238.7M will be available through ROBIN for internet expansion to unserved locations. The remaining balance of funds (5% of the total award) will be used for program administration.
- + Unserved locations are homes, businesses, and institutions without internet service available at a speed of at least 100/20 Mbps from at least one internet service provider.
- + Up to 35% of ROBIN funds can be used for middle-mile projects that support deployment of broadband service to unserved areas. The remainder is dedicated for last-mile service projects.
- + Broadband service built with ROBIN funds must deliver a symmetrical end-user internet connection of at least 100 Mbps upstream and downstream unless significant topographic, geographic, or financial impracticability exists in the project area.
- + Eligible applicants for ROBIN include internet service providers, those licensed under the MI Telecommunications Act, franchise holders under the Uniform Video Services Local Franchise Act, or any entity currently providing broadband service in the state.
- + Governmental entities may apply for grants only as a public-private partnership with an internet service provider. Public-private partnerships must demonstrate a competitive bidding process and comply with applicable state laws.
- + Final grant criteria are still being developed by MIHI, but will include, at a minimum: the applicant's experience and financial wherewithal, readiness to build, operate, and maintain the project, long-term project viability, network scalability, and demonstrated community support.
- + All ROBIN grantees must participate in the [FCC's Affordable Connectivity Program](#).
- + MIHI anticipates opening the 60-day ROBIN grant application window in mid-December 2022.
- + All program funds must be expended by the end of the 2026 calendar year.
- + Interested applicants should refer to the [US Treasury Guidance for the Capital Projects Fund](#) as well as the [boilerplate legislation \(Sec. 359\)](#) appropriating the CPF funds to the Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity for more information.

Please direct any questions to the MIHI Office at: LEO-MIHighSpeedInternet@michigan.gov