

## Partnerships

The following provides descriptions of the current and planned partnerships of the Michigan High-Speed Internet Office. Additionally, this section outlines the partnership structure to be used by MIHI to develop and implement the BEAD Program.

### Key Partners

Partners	Description of Current or Planned Role in Broadband Deployment and Adoption
Michigan Infrastructure Office (MIO)	Coordinator of all IJIA infrastructure resources in Michigan. Provides cross-sectoral support to MIHI, coordinates responses to global issues such as supply chain, workforce, permitting, etc.
Lieutenant Governor's Office/EOG (Executive Office of the Governor)	Administration stakeholder and subject matter expert (SME) on digital inclusion. Propels BEAD needs and requirements within administration and with legislature.
Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC)	Telecommunications division that intersects with ISPs on the telecom and cable side. Does not regulate broadband. Provides context on telecom/cable issues, intersection with ISPs, works closely with FCC.
Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD)	Office of rural development has a specific charge to address rural broadband. The majority of BEAD funds will be deployed in rural communities. Coordination and advocacy in rural communities to ensure networks are deployed AND adopted is key.
State Legislature	Appropriates BEAD and Digital Equity (DE) Capacity funds to MIHI.
Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC)	Experience addressing broadband from a community and economic development perspective for years. Provides key insights into community needs, cybersecurity, and how to leverage new networks for economic growth. The Michigan State Historic Preservation Office for permitting is located within this department.
Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS)	Engages directly with vulnerable and covered populations. Supports messaging and future DE program implementation.
Michigan Department of Education (MDE)	Plays a key role in digital skills in the P-20 environment. Direct contact with vulnerable populations via local schools. Responsible for the Library of Michigan and has previous experience with the federal program E-rate, which provides for reduced rates on internet access and internal connections for schools and libraries.

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Michigan Department of Technology, Management & Budget (DTMB)	Provides context on state assets, networks, and CAIs.
MI State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA)	Engages with public housing entities and thus covered populations.
Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT)	Provides coordination on permitting and right-of-way (ROW) access.
Michigan Dept. of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE)	Provides coordination for environmental permitting.
Michigan Department of Corrections (MDOC)	Provides coordination with covered populations for needs identification and workforce development.
Michigan Department of Civil Rights (MDCR)	Provides context and outreach on issues of digital equity and inclusion.
Michigan Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (MMVA)	Provides coordination with covered populations for needs identification and workforce development.
ISPs	Enables deployment of new infrastructure networks and services.
Covered population organizations	Represents defined covered populations to provide MIHI with information and context for addressing the needs of those they represent. Includes AARP, ethnic commissions, etc.
CAI supporting organizations	Represents the needs of the state's many and varied community anchor institutions.
Grassroots/Community Organizations	Engage with residents, businesses, institutions, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) at the local community level throughout the state. This group will provide guidance on local engagement for digital equity planning and support efforts with community organizations for implementation. Includes community action agencies, LISC, MSU Extension, United Ways, Public Housing Commissions.

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Deployment-supporting organizations	Advise infrastructure planning, development, and implementation by providing insight to barriers and opportunities for coordination in relation to rights-of-way, permitting, pole attachments, and other topics related to the physical deployment of broadband networks. Streamlining and coordinating permit processes will be critical to deploying networks at a scale called for in BEAD. Includes road commissions, drain commissions, SHPO, MISSDIG, Rail Association, etc.
Economic Opportunity Supporting Organizations	Provide guidance on planned engagement with business and economic development communities to support leveraging new networks to create economic opportunity for Michigan residents and businesses. The BEAD Program requires states to identify each unserved and underserved business in the state and ensure their connectivity needs are met. The business community can also play a key role in digital equity and inclusion.
Tribes	Tribal communities have unique connectivity challenges that can be addressed by the BEAD and the State Digital Equity Planning Grant Program (SDEPG).
Local Government	Provide valuable insights into the connectivity needs of Michigan's many and varied communities. MIHI's federally administered programs require robust engagement with local and regional governments, and Michigan's regions, counties, townships, and cities.
Sustainability Organizations	Organizations from philanthropy, academia, and other similar groups. Implementing the MI Connected Future Plan will likely necessitate long-term sustainability to achieve systemic change. MIHI's federally funded programs will provide states with funding for infrastructure deployment and digital inclusion, but additional sources of funding and smart policy decisions will be needed to create a more digital equitable state.
Workforce Development Organizations	Organizations that impact the talent and workforce ecosystem in the state. A talented workforce will be critical to the timely deployment of broadband infrastructure in the short term but ensuring that Michigan has a well-trained workforce that can use information and communications technology will be needed to grow Michigan's economy into the future. Unions, educational entities, trade associations, etc.

**Table 5: MIHI Key Partners**