

# How County Commissions Can Improve Broadband

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*Broadband Opportunities for Counties*



# PRESENTER



**Chris Greene Hutchings**

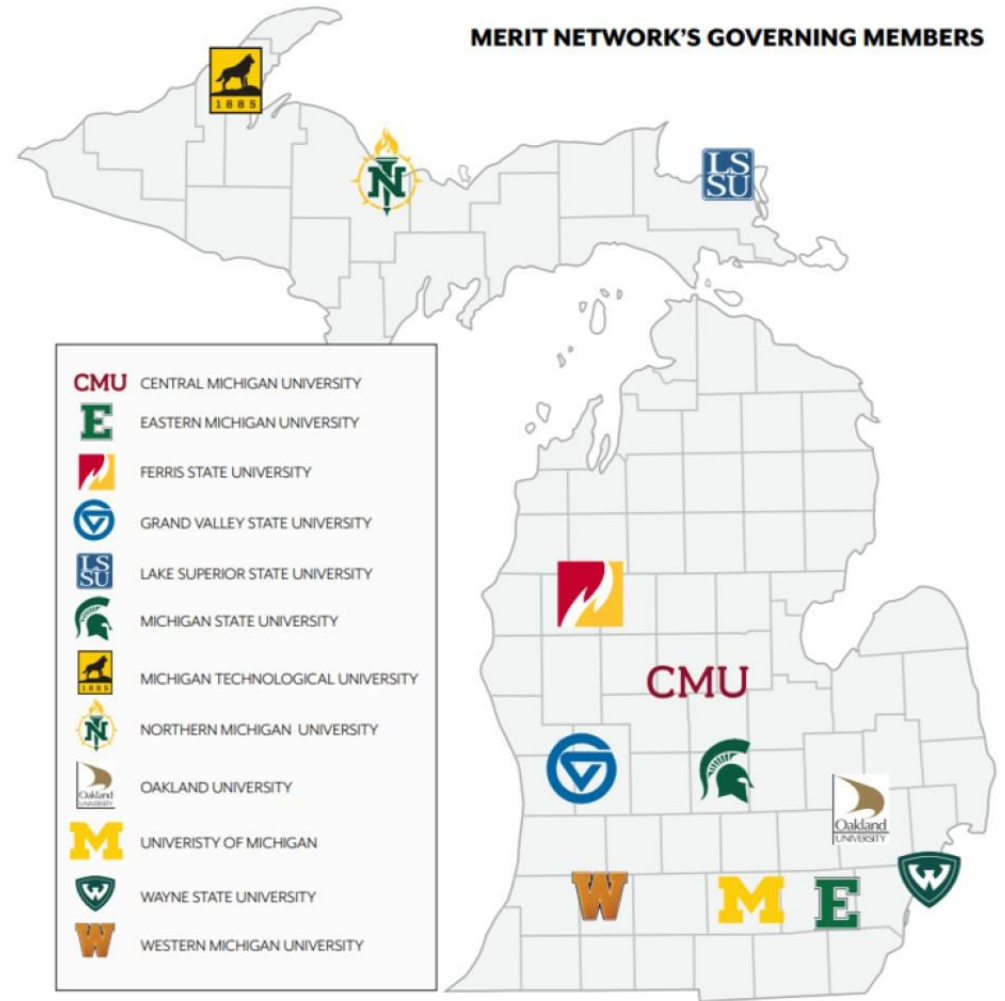
*Program Manager*

Michigan Moonshot

# merit

Merit, the longest running R&E network in the U.S., is an **independent non-profit organization** governed by 12 public universities and supported by over 400 affiliate Members and anchor institutions.

Our Members are community-facing organizations from across the **education, library, government, healthcare and non-profit sectors.**



# THE MICHIGAN MOONSHOT

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LET'S EXPAND COMMUNITY NETWORKS IN MICHIGAN

*Michigan Moonshot:  
Merit's commitment to Digital Equity, Inclusion & Empowerment  
A Community Ecosystems Approach*

merit

MLAB

MICHIGAN STATE  
UNIVERSITY

quello center





# AGENDA



- What is "Broadband"?
- Why is this an important issue?
- What problem(s) are we trying to solve?
- Can the market solve this problem?
- You need to prioritize this issue NOW
- What local leaders can do about internet problems
- Federal and state grants available in 2024
- Next steps you can take today
- Resources

# What is “Broadband”?

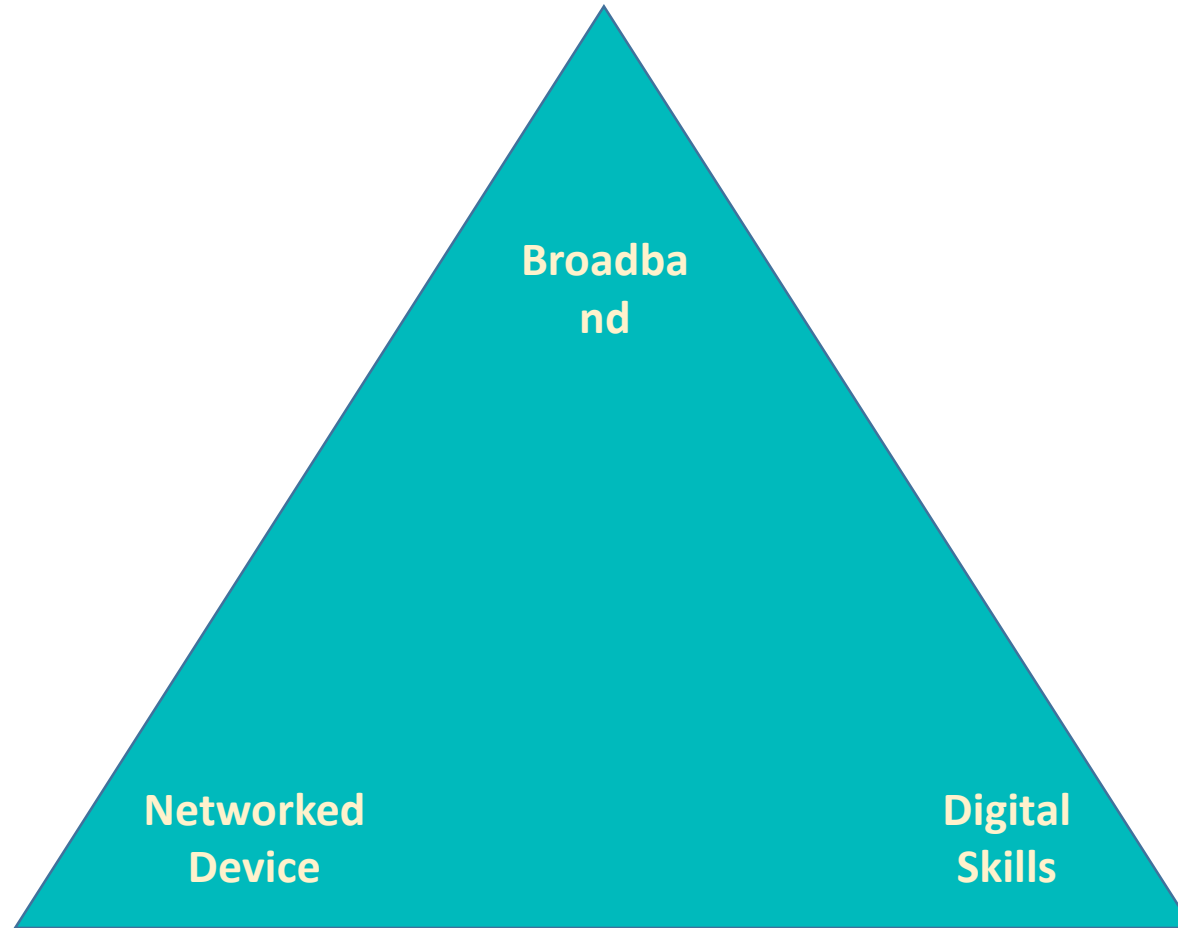




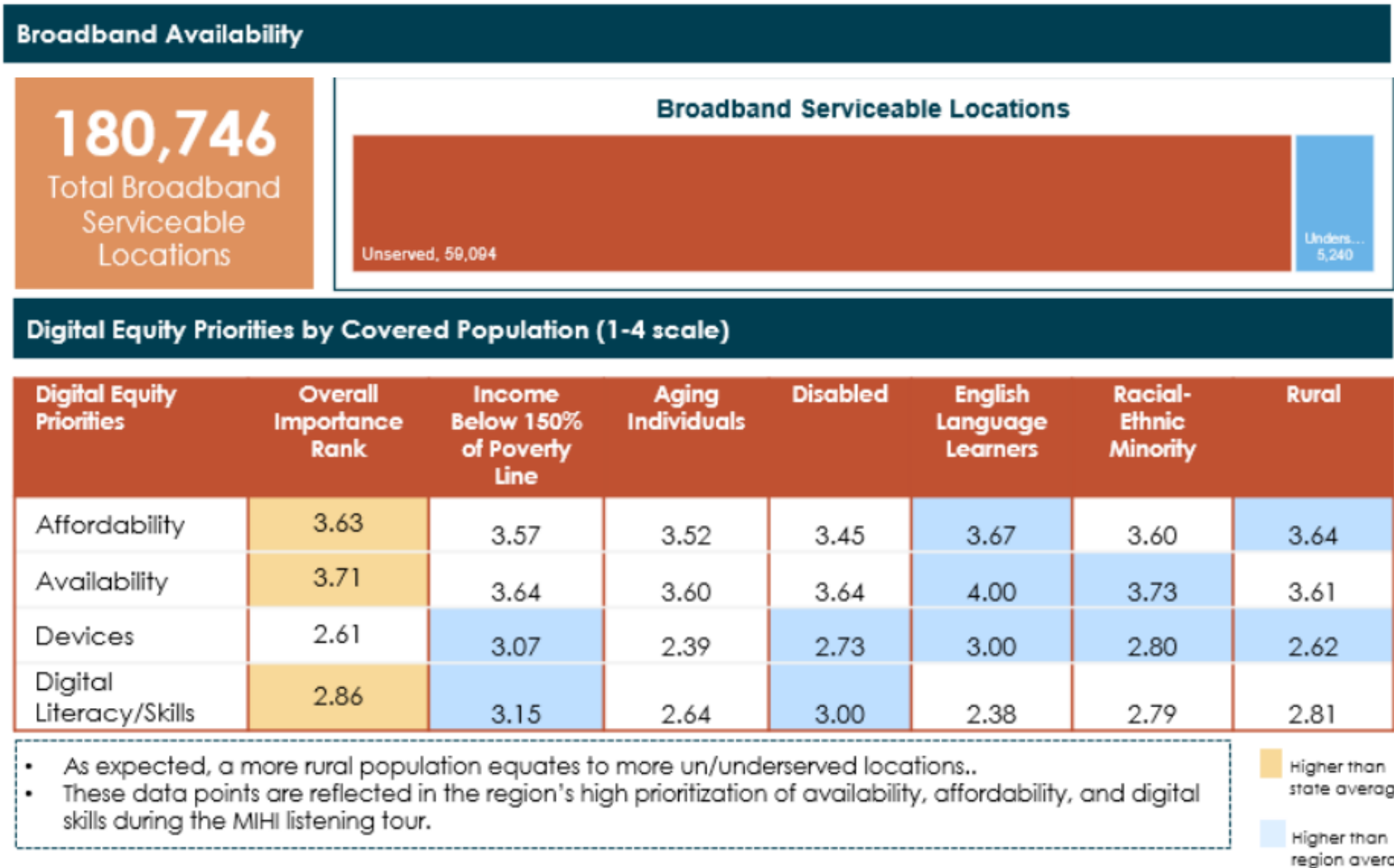
- **Primary Education**
- **Home Employment**
- **Agriculture**
- **Continuing Education**
- **Health and Public Safety**
- **Quality of Life**
- **Etc...**



# What Problem(s) Are We Trying to Solve?

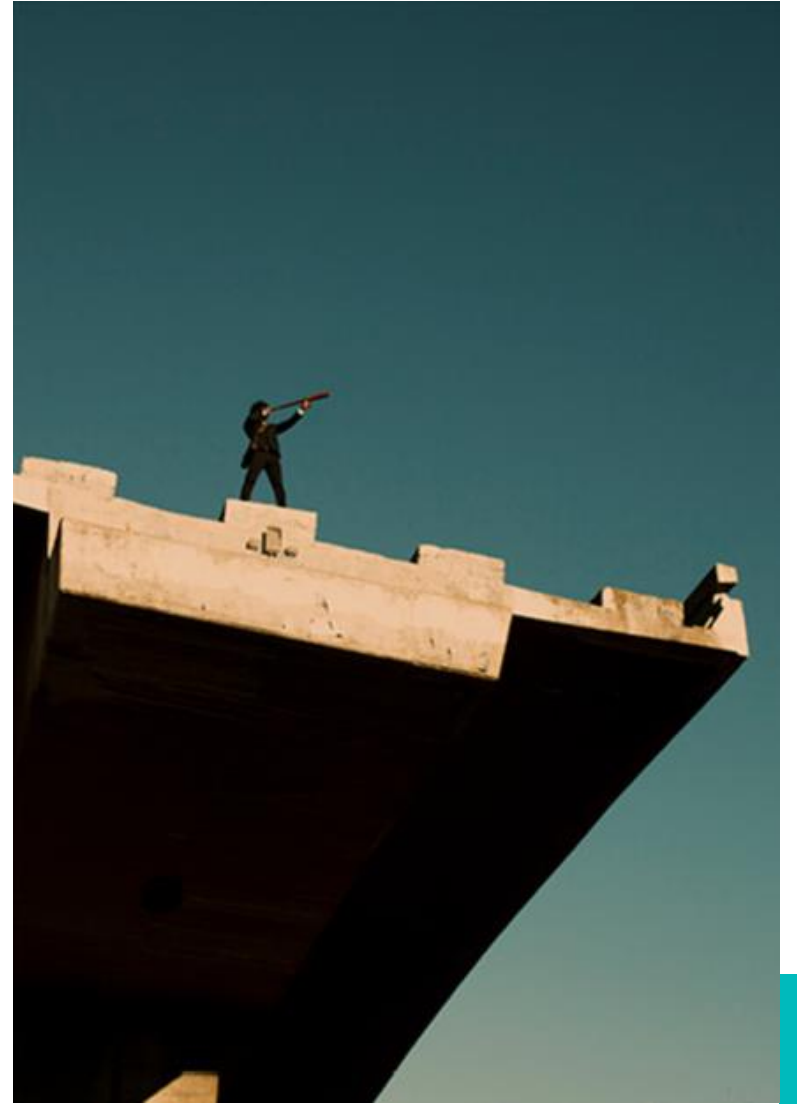


# The Problem According to MIHI (UP data)

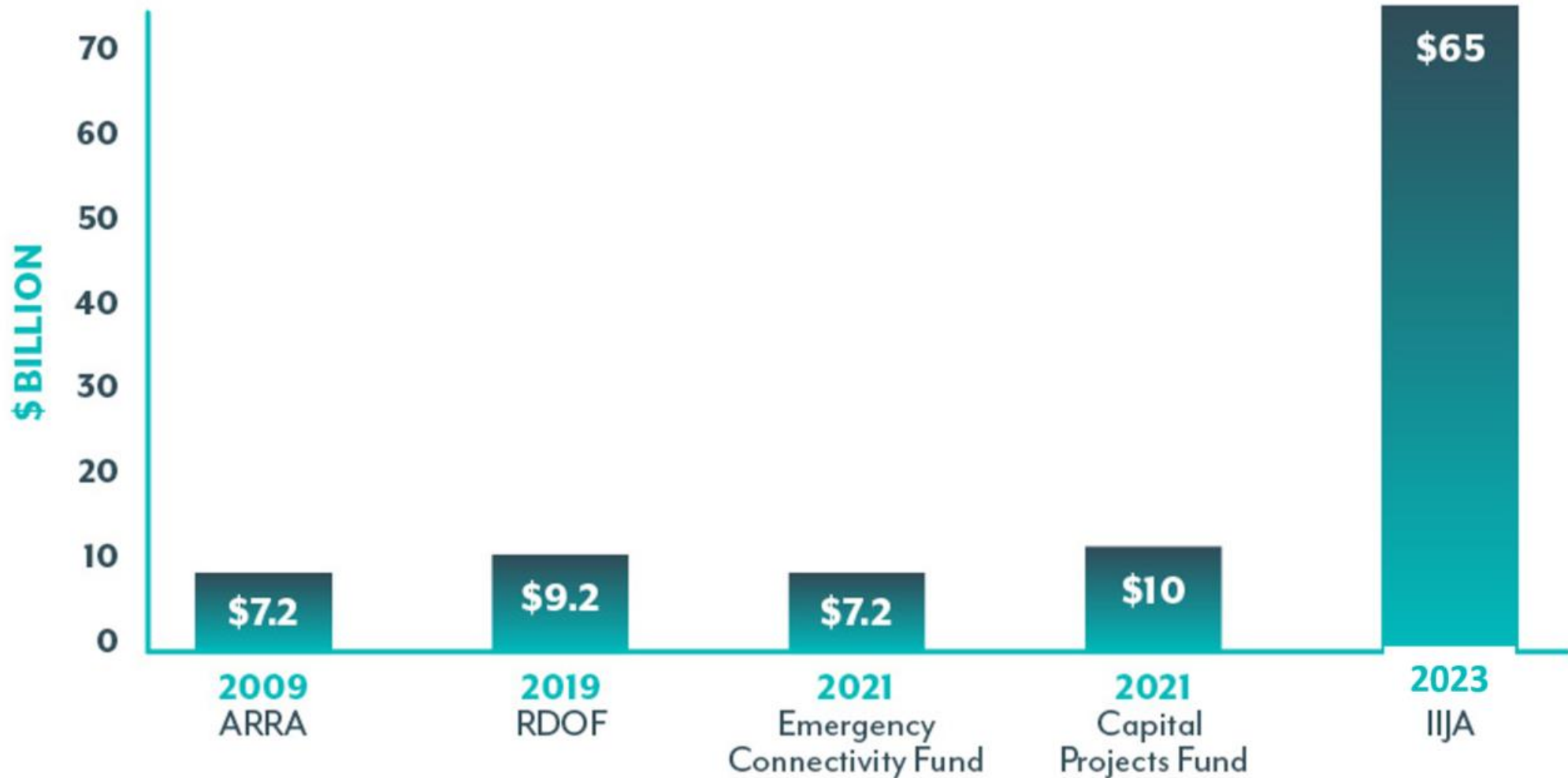


# Can the Market Solve this Problem?

- Commercial Internet Service Providers since 1989
- Expansion driven by return on investment
- Similar to rural electrification
- Digital divide disproportionately affects children

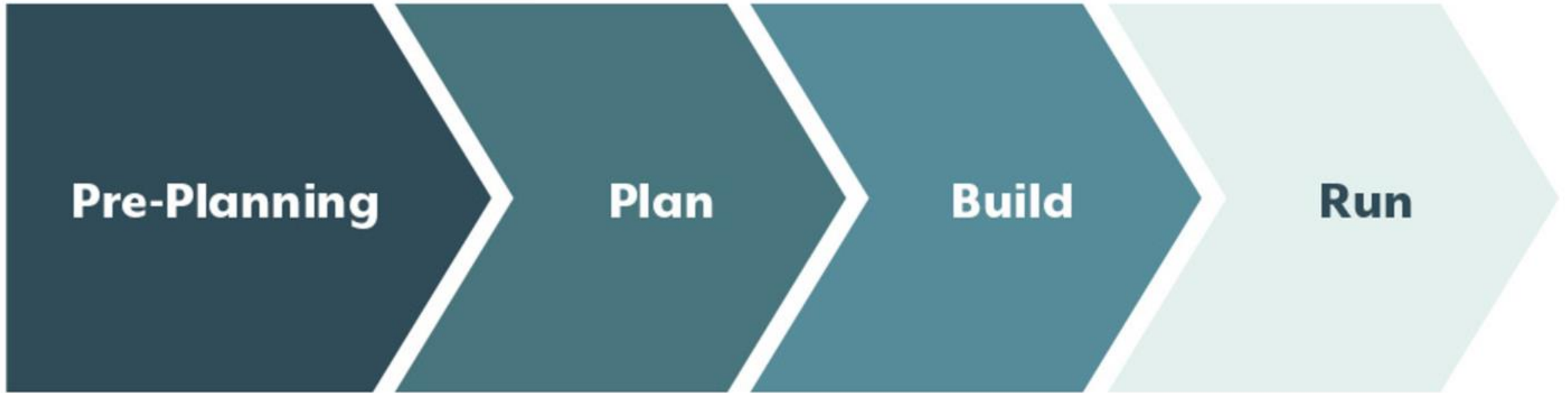


## Why is this a Priority NOW?





# What Needs to Happen?



# How do we affect internet availability?

**1 Assess Current State & Set Goals**

**2 Collect Connectivity Data & Resident Sentiment**

**3 Select an Ownership & Operations Model**

**4 Feasibility, OSP Inspection, & Pre-Engineering**

**5 Navigate Legislative & Legal Requirements**

**6 Secure Funding**

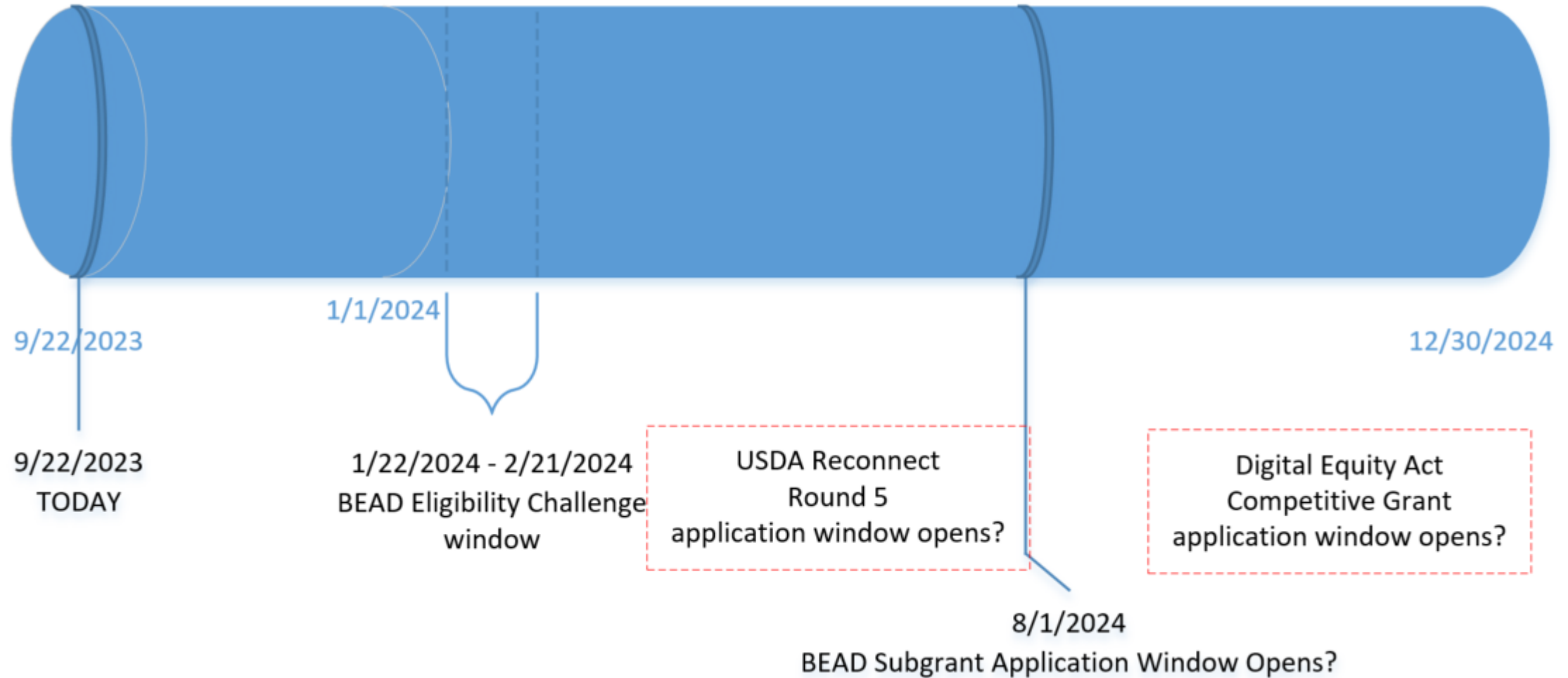
**7 Engineer & Build or Expand**

**8 Network Operation Guidance**

Grants available 2024

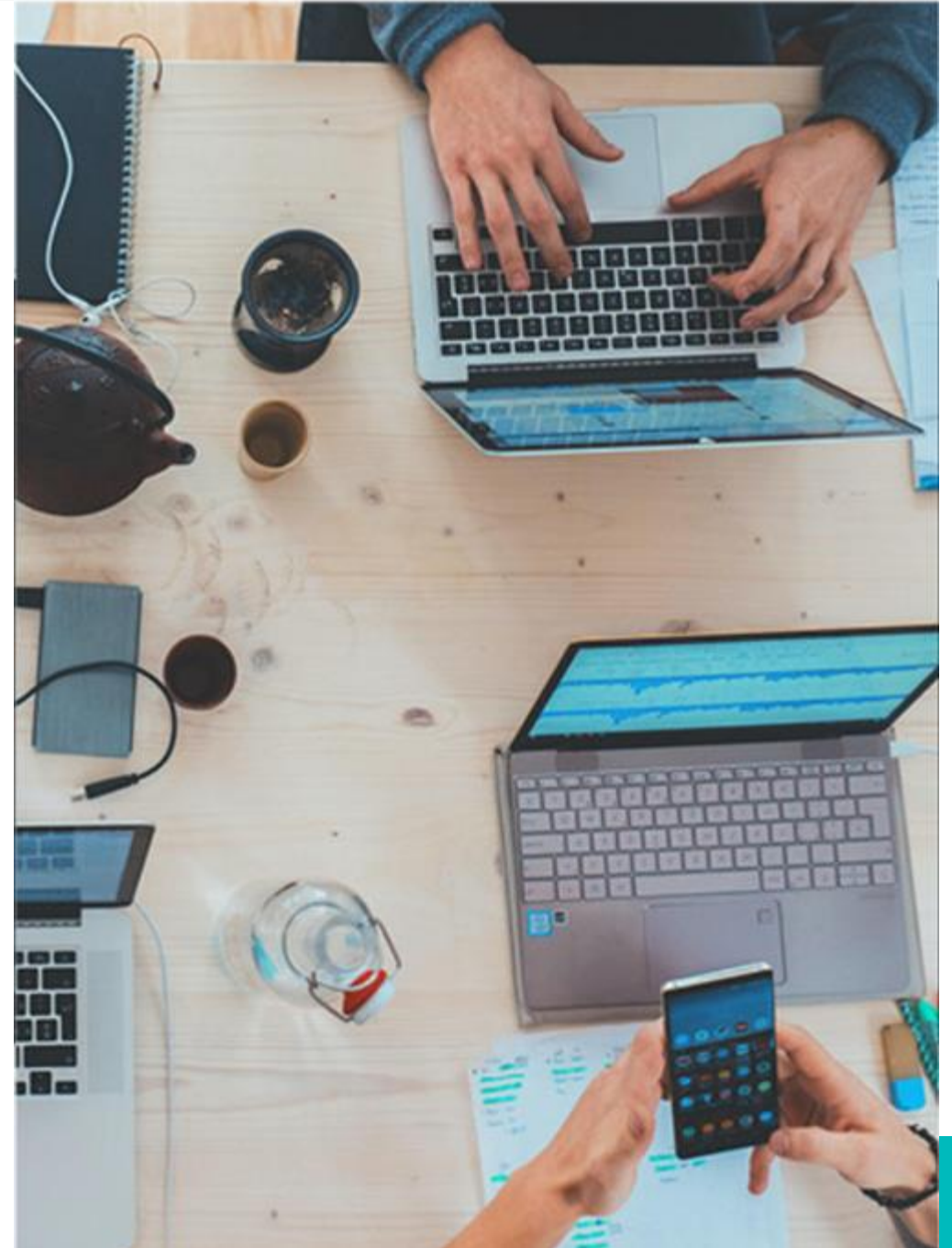
THE MICHIGAN  
**MOONSHOT**

# BEAD, ReConnect, Digital Equity Act



# How to Prepare for Federal Broadband Grants

1. Form your coalition
2. Assess Current State of the Community
3. Engage Stakeholders in the Community
4. Identify community needs / coalition interests
5. Identify targeted grants & read fine print
6. Design program with targeted grant(s) in mind
7. Develop Cost Estimate
8. Narrative Development
9. Budget Development
10. Submit application





# 5 Things You Can Do Today To Get Started



1. Download your availability data from FCC's **National Broadband Map**
2. Locate your county's data set from the 2022 Michigan broadband infrastructure audit
3. Put the 10/27 BEAD Map Challenge Working Group on your calendar and invite your GIS lead
4. Email [justcamp@merit.edu](mailto:justcamp@merit.edu) to register for the 11/7 webinar "How Counties can Prepare for BEAD"
5. Contact your local internet service providers to discuss
  - Current service areas
  - Planned expansion
  - Potential partnerships for high cost/low profit areas

## Key Resources

### Information sources

- [MichiganMoonshot.org](http://MichiganMoonshot.org)
- [Michigan.gov/leo/bureaus-agencies/MIHI](http://Michigan.gov/leo/bureaus-agencies/MIHI)

### Funding sources

- [InternetForAll.gov](http://InternetForAll.gov)
- [RD.USDA.gov/programs-services/telecommunications-programs](http://RD.USDA.gov/programs-services/telecommunications-programs)

### Grant Seeking Support

- [GrantsOffice.com](http://GrantsOffice.com)
  - [LearnDesignApply.com](http://LearnDesignApply.com)
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BROADBAND SUMMIT

November 2 - 3 | East Lansing, MI

# Navigating the Infrastructure and Digital Equity Landscape

**Register Today:**

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