

**RESOLUTION TO SEEK COUNTY AMERICAN RESCUE
PLAN ACT (ARPA) FUNDS VIA GRANT**

WHEREAS, the Livingston County Broadband Assessment, is a collaborative undertaking by the County and the Michigan Moonshot at Merit Network assessing broadband within the County. That this study shows the unserved and underserved areas within the county showing the western and northern portions of the county are greatly unserved and underserved with respect to broadband access in the county. That is not to say that there are not other unserved and underserved areas within the county.

WHEREAS, broadband access is associated with increased agricultural yields;

WHEREAS, middle and high school students with high-speed Internet access at home have more digital skills, higher grades, and perform better on standardized tests, such as the SAT. Regardless of socioeconomic status, students who cannot access the Internet from home or are dependent on a cell phone for Internet access do worse in school and are less likely to attend college or university;

WHEREAS, internet connectivity, particularly access to broadband, plays an increasingly important role in both healthcare and public health;

WHEREAS, there is evidence that access to state-of-the-art internet like optical fiber and employment growth are related;

WHEREAS, it is suggested that improving broadband adoption in rural areas can improve labor productivity;

WHEREAS, compared to FCC data, 54% fewer homes have access to broadband Internet speeds at 25/3 Mbps; 2.78% fewer homes have access to broadband Internet speeds at 100/20 Mbps; 13% more homes have connections below 25/3 Mbps; and 4.41% more homes have no fixed Internet connectivity whatsoever;

WHEREAS, 96% of unserved respondents who want broadband service live in a census block marked as served by the FCC. This results in the unavailability of grants or funds for broadband infrastructure buildout;

WHEREAS, townships within the county, being the most local governmental entity, are aware of unserved and underserved areas within their township and are best able to set priorities for buildout of broadband infrastructure.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that:

1. Cohoctah Township requests that the Livingston County Board of Commissioners create a grant program for townships to apply for County American Rescue Plan Act funds held by the county to provide unserved and underserved broadband infrastructure with a partnership between the County, Township, and broadband internet service provider.

2. That the minimum download and upload speeds be a minimum of 100 megabytes.
3. That the County Board of Commissioners make it a priority that the unserved and underserved areas as identified by the local governments and in conjunction with the Livingston County Broadband Assessment be given priority over creating a trunk line internet service.

The foregoing resolution offered by Board Member

_____.

Second offered by Board Member _____.

Upon roll call the board members voted as follows:

Yea:

Nay:

The Supervisor declared the resolution adopted at a board meeting held on

Certified by:

Barbara Fear, Township Clerk