

# merit

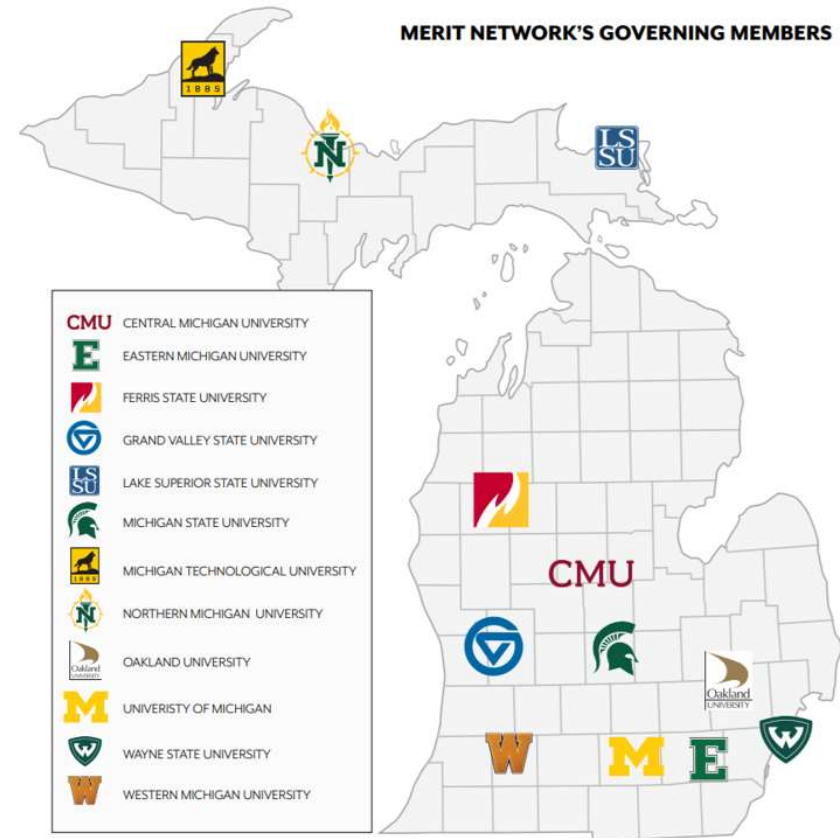
*“Connecting organizations and building community”*

- ✓ Network
- ✓ Security
- ✓ Community

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 370 affiliate members and anchor institutions.

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

## MERIT NETWORK'S GOVERNING MEMBERS



# MERIT COMMUNITY MEMBERSHIP

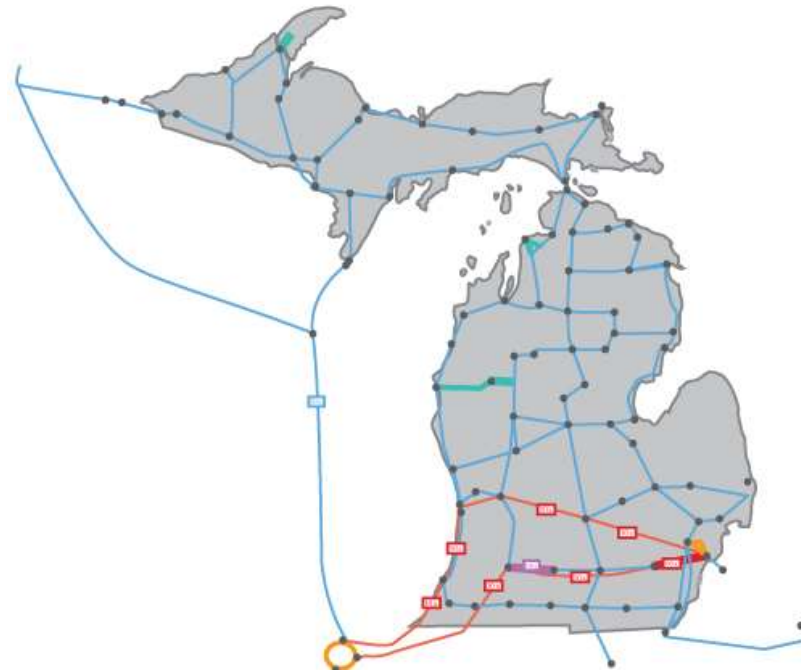
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**OVER 370**  
MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

**694**  
CONNECTIONS

**OVER 76%**  
CONNECTED BY FIBER

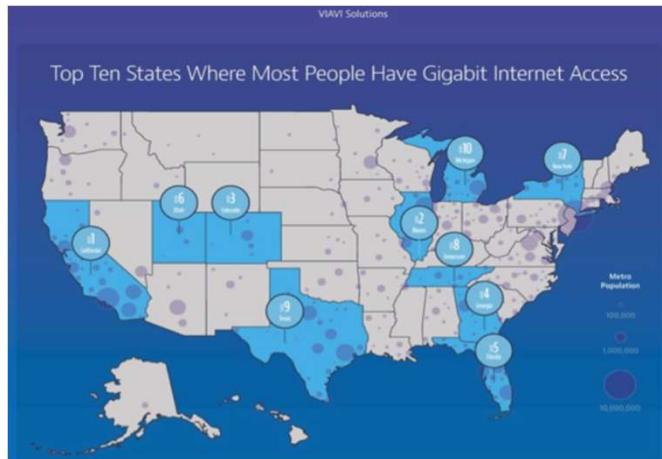
- 100% PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES
- 50% PRIVATE COLLEGES
- 86% COMMUNITY COLLEGES
  
- 98% K-12 ISDs
- 11% HEALTHCARE
- 46% LIBRARY COOPERATIVES
- 27% ELECTRICAL CO-OP'S
  
- 40% COUNTY GOVERNMENT
- 5% CITY & TOWNSHIP GOVERNMENT





**Governor Rick Snyder** @onetoughnerd · 8h

MI is a top 10 state and the tech hub Detroit is a top 10 city in terms of gigabit connectivity. [bit.ly/2i3Tojk](https://bit.ly/2i3Tojk)



## Gov. Rick Snyder Signs Executive Order to Enhance Statewide Broadband Access

DBUSINESS DAILY NEWS

Published: Tuesday, January 30, 2018



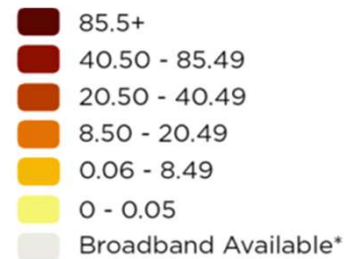
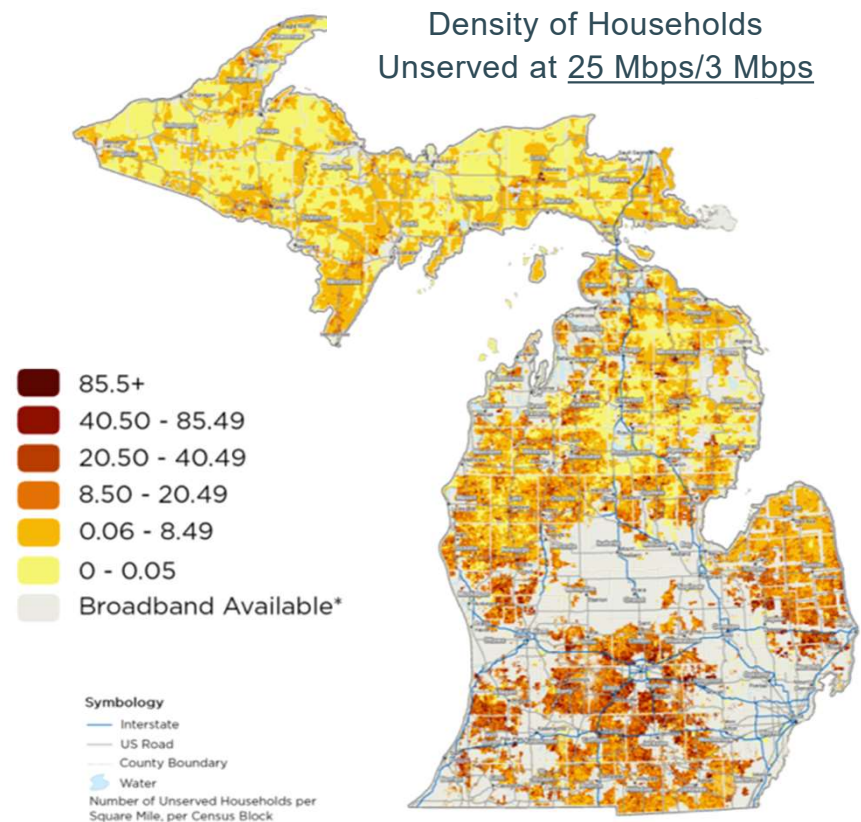
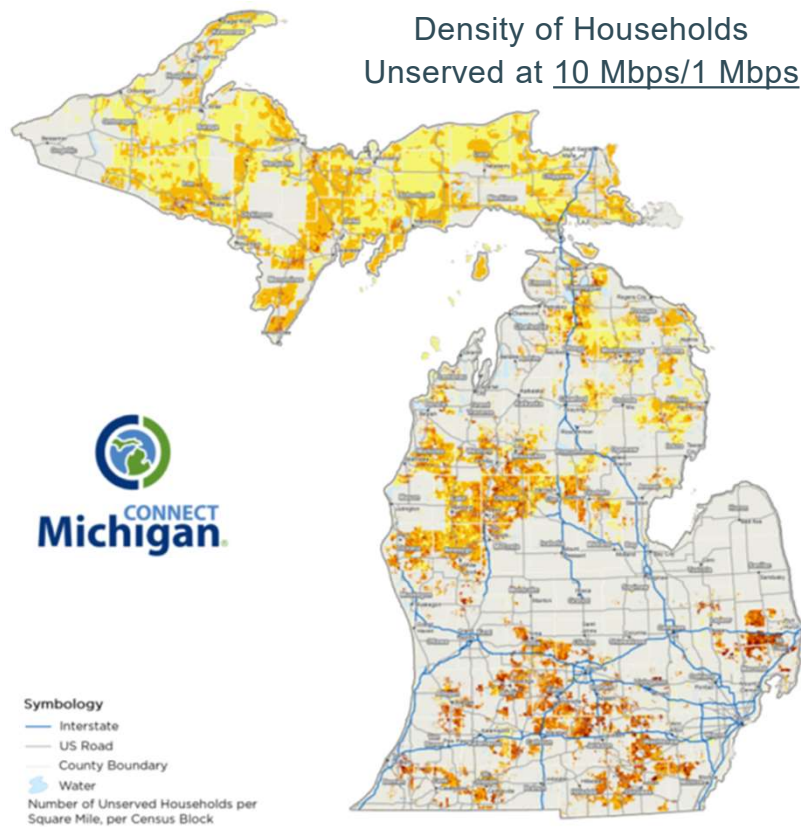
A comprehensive plan to improve access to broadband services in Michigan will be developed under an Executive Order signed by Gov. Rick Snyder.

PHOTO COURTESY: OFFICE OF RICK SNYDER

A comprehensive plan to improve access to broadband services in Michigan will be developed under an

- Michigan ranks 30<sup>th</sup> for broadband adoption
- 368,000 homes in rural Michigan do not have access to broadband
- 27% of K12 students do not have access to broadband in their homes

# UNSERVED HOUSEHOLD DENSITY



## CALL FOR STATE AND COMMUNITY ACTION



- Establish unbiased community connectivity teams to provide expertise in technology, financing, grant writing and project management
- Support planning grants through state or philanthropic means
- Share information statewide and become active nationally
- Provide one-time construction subsidies to worthy community projects
- Develop citizen-science/crowd-sourcing techniques to assess the “homework gap” in a more granular manner