



Washtenaw County Broadband Task Force

Established by the Washtenaw County Board of
Commissioners

Working to Achieve Countywide Broadband Equity by 2022



BBTF UPDATE

FROM: Barb Fuller, Chair Washtenaw County Broadband Task Force
DATE: May 20 2021 (submitted 05-15-21)

TAKE ACTION

- Townships are urged to adopt, and forward to the BOC, a Resolution supporting allocation of American Rescue Plan dollars towards the deployment of high-speed broadband to areas not included in RDOF or CMIC awards.
- Townships are urged to protect their allocated American Rescue Plan dollars to support the deployment of high-speed broadband in their township.
- A template Resolution is provided

INFORMATIONAL:

- **MAY Community Observer** – An article on Washtenaw County broadband access https://annarborobserver.com/s/closing_the_broadband_gap.html#.YJ1-a2ZKgUE
- **RFP (Request for Proposals) posted** Sunday May 16, 2021 to deploy high-speed broadband to premises not covered by RDOF or CMIC grant awards
- **May 14, 2021** – BFuller phone interview with Elena Durnbaugh, reporter for the Battle Creek Enquirer because of the broadband work underway in Calhoun County
- **SEMCOG Broadband Web Site** – greatly enhanced!
[Broadband \(semcog.org\)](http://Broadband(semcog.org))
- **FCC Emergency Broadband Benefit Program** – economic assistance for broadband access.
<https://www.fcc.gov/broadbandbenefit>

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN (ARP) ACT of 2021

Broadband expansion is one of the approved uses for these funds. Townships are encouraged to set aside funds to fill in the gaps that will not be covered by the RDOF awards.

To find the allocation amount for your township, as well as a narrative about the ARP

<https://www.semco.org/blog/what-the-american-rescue-plan-act-means-for-local-governments>

- scroll down to Non-entitlement Communities
- within that section scroll to the 3rd paragraph and click on the ***This spreadsheet*** link
- scroll down to find your Township's line (the governmental units are listed alphabetically)

The Michigan Townships Association is likely another helpful resource

<https://www.michigantownships.org/>

ATTACHMENT

- Template Resolution supporting use of ARP awards to achieve high-speed broadband coverage