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**For Immediate Release**  
April 11, 2013

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## Harbor Springs Technology Action Plan Underway

Download the [Harbor Springs Technology Action Plan](#)

**Harbor Springs, MI** - Harbor Springs' Technology Action Plan was unveiled Thursday at the Harbor Springs City Hall as part of the county's participation in Connect Michigan's Connected Community Engagement Program. Harbor Springs enrolled in the program to boost the local economy and quality of life for residents through increased access, adoption, and use of broadband.

"Social media and website development programs for businesses, upgraded community websites, examination of local zoning ordinances, residential broadband surveys – these are just a few of the projects underway in the Harbor Springs area," said Eric Frederick, state program manager for Connect Michigan. "The Harbor Area Regional Board of Resources, Inc. (HARBOR, Inc.) broadband team is to be commended for understanding the quality-of-life benefits of technology access, adoption, and use for all, and their diligence and tenacity to work across sectors to expeditiously implement projects and programs designed to expand those benefits."

Twenty-five Michigan communities are currently involved in some stage of the Connected program, and now Harbor Springs has an action plan to make way for greater technology use across the community and pave the way for a brighter economic

future.

“Participating in the Connected program means the HARBOR, Inc. team has gone through an extensive assessment of its overall broadband and technology innovation,” said Rachel R. Smolinski, HARBOR, Inc. executive director. “The Technology Action Plan sets general community-wide broadband connectivity goals to work towards and gives the community step-by-step action items to make sure that the goals are met.”

Developing the plan involved participating in an extensive assessment of the county’s overall broadband and technology infrastructure. The Technology Action Plan sets general community-wide broadband connectivity goals to work toward that will support economic development and residential quality of life.

The Connected Community Engagement Program supports the development of a comprehensive strategy for building a “connected” community by reviewing the technology landscape, developing regional partnerships, establishing local teams, and conducting a thorough community assessment of the broadband infrastructure.

“The new plan will support future broadband expansion and programs that will ensure the community maintains widespread Internet access, adoption, and use,” said Smolinski. “We will continue to work with public and private entities to facilitate the availability of quality, affordable broadband in those areas that are unserved and underserved. We look forward to implementation of the recommended actions in the plan over the next 5 to 10 years.”

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Community Engagement Program

Connected Nation developed the Connected Community Engagement Program to help guide a community through an assessment of its overall broadband and technology status. Connected certified communities have measurably demonstrated their proficiency for effective Access, Adoption, and Use of broadband-supported technologies. Connected Nation through its partners provides a national platform for recognizing those communities that excel

across these important benchmarks. Funded by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), this effort is part of the State Broadband Initiative.

<http://www.connectednation.org/get-connected>

**About Connect Michigan:** As the designated entity for broadband mapping and planning in the state of Michigan, Connect Michigan is a public-private partnership between the Michigan Public Service Commission and Connected Nation to work with local governments, businesses, and citizens in the goal of increasing broadband service in the Michigan's underserved areas. For more information about what Connect Michigan is doing to accelerate technology in Michigan's communities, visit [www.connectmi.org](http://www.connectmi.org).

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