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Ogemaw County Launches Technology Action Plan

Download the [Ogemaw County Technology Action Plan](#)

West Branch, MI – Ogemaw County unveiled its Technology Action Plan Tuesday at the Michigan Works Building as part of its participation in Connect Michigan’s Connected Community Engagement Program. The Technology Action Plan sets general community-wide broadband connectivity goals to work toward that will support economic development and residential quality of life.

“Reliable and affordable broadband connectivity is a priority of the East Michigan Council of Governments and its 14 county membership,” said Jane Fitzpatrick, economic and community development programs coordinator, East Michigan Council of Governments. “Broadband is crucial to the sustainability of a community, the educational system, health and medical services, emergency management and response, commerce, tourism and so many other aspects of our lives.”

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. There are 26 Michigan communities engaged in the program and Ogemaw County is the 11th community to complete a plan.

The new plan gives the community step-by-step action items to make sure that the goals are met. The plan will also support future broadband expansion and programs that will ensure the community maintains widespread Internet access, adoption, and use.

The top goals from the Ogemaw County plan are to:

1. Develop a digital literacy and low-cost broadband program
2. Develop a program supporting schools in new technology initiatives,
3. Host website and social media classes for local businesses, and
4. Identify, map, and validate broadband demand for further expansion

“The Technology Action Plan sets general community-wide broadband connectivity goals to work toward that will support economic development and residential quality of life,” said Mandi Chasey, director of business and economic services for Ogemaw County. “The plan gives the community step-by-step action items to meet the goals in a timely fashion. The possibilities are endless on where this project will take us.”

As part of a continuing effort to foster broadband access, adoption and use in the state, on October 24, Connect Michigan is hosting the **2013 Michigan Broadband Conference**. This event is being held in conjunction with the Library of Michigan. Sponsoring partners include Frontier Communications, Comlink, United States Department of Agriculture – Rural Development, Prima Civitas, Comcast Internet Essentials, LocaLoop, Michigan Farm Bureau, and CenturyLink. In-kind sponsors include the Community Economic Development Association of Michigan and the Michigan Public Service Commission. This forum will provide residents, businesses, and communities an opportunity to learn best practices for expanding broadband and moving Michigan to the forefront of the digital economy. Community, state, and industry leaders are encouraged to register. For more information on the conference [click here](#).

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CONNECTEDSM
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.

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