

# AT&T: Committed to Help Bridge the Digital Divide in Michigan

AT&T has invested nearly \$1.5 billion in its wired and wireless networks in Michigan from 2017-2019.

Broadband internet is critical to advancing opportunities for all Michiganders. Connectivity is essential to access education, healthcare, employment and more. The recent pandemic has magnified the need for all Michiganders to have access to reliable, affordable broadband service – especially our State’s underserved and rural communities.

AT&T is committed to finding solutions to the digital divide in Michigan, as increased broadband connectivity remains one of our top priorities. We’re proud of our efforts to help make significant progress in closing the digital divide in our state, including offering our AT&T Access program for \$10 a month.\*

The following are **AT&T Michigan's Broadband Principles** to help guide policymakers and community leaders as they work to bridge the digital divide:



Pursue **smart broadband investment** that will close the digital divide and benefit all Michiganders.



**Utilize the FCC’s forthcoming accurate address-level broadband maps:** Accurate mapping is critical to target funding to unserved locations. State and local governments should utilize this federal resource and not duplicate broadband mapping.



**Focus resources on unserved areas:** Government funding programs should prioritize getting service to people who have the least functionality, rather than areas where the market is working.



Where governments, especially at the local level, wish to take more active roles in deployment, **public-private partnerships** should first be considered over government-owned networks.



Use a competitive process to award funding in a **technologically-neutral manner** to the provider or providers offering the most efficient internet solution, combining the best performance for the least program funding per location to be served.



Allow funds to be used for **both capital and operational costs**.



**Encourage broadband adoption:** Dedicate resources toward encouraging the adoption or subscribership of available broadband, which is significantly lagging in Michigan.



**Avoid any unnecessary regulation obligations** and duplicative funding.

We support the State’s goal of connecting every Michigander with broadband and will continue to work with policymakers for accessible, affordable, and sustainable broadband connectivity.

AT&T will continue to collaborate with elected officials, community leaders school districts, cities and nonprofit organizations to address digital inclusion and help close Michigan's digital divide.

\* Available only in the AT&T wireline footprint.