



THE MOONSHOT

COMMUNITY GRANT FUND

Merit has secured initial support to launch a grant fund. Grant funding is now available to support some broadband expansion efforts in Michigan.

Oftentimes municipalities seeking to build their community networks need expert-level support during the early planning stages of their broadband journey. This support can be leveraged to assist in broadband expansion efforts and to obtain funding avenues. **The Moonshot Community Grant Fund** is intended to supplement tangible projects in pursuit of community network development, primarily in the area of data collection.

Community Criteria:

In order to apply for a Moonshot Community Grant, a community will have:

- Determined a Michigan-based project scope
- Taken steps to formally prioritize broadband development efforts, such as through the creation of a task force or committee, or the passage of a municipal resolution
- Full Merit Membership status

[Merit.edu/MoonshotGrant](https://merit.edu/MoonshotGrant) | Moonshot@merit.edu

For over 55 years, Merit Network has been a trusted, Michigan-based nonprofit organization that provides shared IT resources, professional development courses and cybersecurity solutions for education, government, libraries and other nonprofits.



Fundable Activities

Fundable single-community activities with a Moonshot Community Grant include:

Pathfinder Program -

During this consultation with the Michigan Broadband Alliance and Michigan Broadband Cooperative, our experts will work with your organization to explore the breadth of planning, building and running a municipal network.

Data Collection - The Michigan Moonshot's citizen science approach provides accurate connectivity and resident sentiment data which can be used by municipalities, broadband task forces and county governments to support broadband planning efforts and grant applications.

Grant amounts of up to \$10,000

Feasibility - Feasibility studies conducted through the Moonshot Marketplace will explore the viability of a community network in consideration of project scope, technological solutions and potential consumer market.

Grant amounts of up to \$8,500

provided to communities sourcing through Moonshot Marketplace.

Pre-Engineering - A Moonshot Marketplace vendor will work with you to determine the challenges, goals and overall direction of your project.

Grant amounts of up to \$8,500 provided to communities sourcing through Moonshot Marketplace.

Grant Consultation Services - The Grants Office, a Moonshot Marketplace vendor, works hand in hand with your community to identify suitable grant opportunities and provide guidance on the application process.

- Initial consultation
- Grant review consultation
- Full grant-writing support

Matching grants of up to \$2,500 are available.

METRO Act Consulting -

The METRO Act establishes standards that Michigan municipalities must adhere to when embarking on their path toward the development of

community broadband networks. Aspen Wireless, a Moonshot Marketplace vendor, specializes in guiding communities through the process of compliance.

Grant amounts are variable

Community Access Networks -

Community Access Networks assist anchor institutions in extending internet coverage at their locations for their community.

This effort is supported by Merit, philanthropic organizations and private partners.

Interested in contributing?

Have questions? Please contact us at moonshot@merit.edu for more information.

For more information on public-private community access network projects, contact: moonshot@merit.edu

[Merit.edu/MoonshotGrant](https://merit.edu/MoonshotGrant) | Moonshot@merit.edu

For over 55 years, Merit Network has been a trusted, Michigan-based nonprofit organization that provides shared IT resources, professional development courses and cybersecurity solutions for education, government, libraries and other nonprofits.

merit

MMGrantFunding - 031921