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Clerk of the Board

Debra A. Sutherland

RESOLUTION 2022 - 11

Resolution Establishing a Taskforce to Guide the Expansion of Broadband Infrastructure within Clinton County

WHEREAS, H.R. 1319 of the 117th Congress, also known as the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, became law on March 11, 2021 and Title IX, Subtitle M – Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds of the American Rescue Plan provides funding to metropolitan cities, non-entitlement units of local government and counties to mitigate the fiscal effects stemming from the public health emergency with respect to the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19); and

WHEREAS, eligible uses of the American Rescue Plan funds include:

1. To respond to the public health emergency with respect to COVID-19 or its negative economic impacts, including assistance to households, small businesses, and nonprofits, or aid to impacted industries such as tourism, travel, and hospitality;
2. To respond to workers performing essential work during the COVID-19 public health emergency by providing premium pay to eligible workers of the metropolitan cities, non-entitlement units of local government and counties that are performing such work, or by providing grants to eligible employers that have eligible workers who perform essential work;
3. For the provision of government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue of such metropolitan cities, non-entitlement units of local government and counties due to the COVID-19 public health emergency relative to revenues collected in the most recent fiscal year prior to the emergency;
4. To make necessary investments in water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, Clinton County has received \$15,460,396 in American Rescue Plan funds; and

Whereas, through the Covid-19 pandemic, the ability to have quality and reliable access to broadband internet has become a necessity for our constituent households, businesses, and students. Broadband infrastructure is essential for residents to achieve their full potential, socially, economically, and educationally; and

WHEREAS, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, 11% of Clinton County homes have no access to wired broadband internet service and 48% of households are in areas that are considered “unserved” or “underserved” by broadband internet current standards; and

WHEREAS, Clinton County will apply for appropriate grant opportunities to facilitate broadband infrastructure expansion, request proposals from industry to expand broadband infrastructure within Clinton County, is dedicating \$3,000,000 of American Rescue Plan funds to support the expansion of “Fiber to the Home” broadband infrastructure, and will act as a facilitator of expansion with no role in the ownership or operation of broadband infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, Clinton County will establish a taskforce to guide the expansion of broadband infrastructure within Clinton County that will be supported by staff from Clinton County Information Technology (IT) and consist of:

1. Clinton County Commissioner
2. Clinton County Commissioner
3. Clinton County Public Schools Representative
4. Clinton County Government Administrator or Designee
5. Clinton County Internet Service Provider
6. Business Community Representative
7. Clinton County Community Development Designee
8. Agricultural Community Representative
9. Local Government Representative

WHEREAS, Clinton County will evaluate programs to further address digital inequities that exist, such as community outreach, education, and other services to ensure our residents can maximize funded broadband resources; and

WHEREAS, the County accepts the broadband roadmap provided by Guidehouse as a reference for these initiatives.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Clinton County supports the expansion of Broadband Internet Infrastructure, a Broadband Taskforce and Digital Equity programs.

STATE OF MICHIGAN

COUNTY OF CLINTON

I, DEBRA A. SUTHERLAND, Clerk of the County of Clinton do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly adopted by the Clinton County Board of Commissioners at the regular meeting held July 26, 2022 and is on file in the records of this office.

Debra A. Sutherland