

03

# BROADBAND



# PROJECT #210

## Alaska Ridge Broadband Expansion



### Project Cost

**Minimum Cost:** \$300,000

**Maximum Cost:** \$300,000

**ARPA Request:** \$200,000

### Submitter Info

**Name:** Benjamin Swayze

**Organization:**  
Cascade Charter Township

### Project Overview

**Funding Group:** Infrastructure

**Project Theme:** Broadband

**Project Status:** Expanded Project

**Matching Funds:** 26-50%

**Eligibility:** 

**Sustainability:** 

**Feasibility:** 

**Impact:** 

### Source of Funding

*(Listed in main description)*

### Partnership

Comcast, Alaska Ridge neighborhood resident

### Identify the need for the proposed project

Cascade Township was approached by the residents of the Alaska Ridge neighborhood (located in Cascade Township near 60th Street) during the Covid-19 pandemic about the lack of broadband internet access in their neighborhood. The residents of the neighborhood struggled with the ability to work or attend school virtually during the pandemic due to the lack of high-speed internet. While the geographical footprint of their neighborhood is served by Comcast, existing infrastructure and technology limitations means that nearly 4 miles of additional broadband infrastructure is needed to serve the Alaska Ridge neighborhood. Due to the relative size of the neighborhood, funding for this additional needed infrastructure is cost prohibitive for both Comcast and the residents.

### Brief Description

The project will expand Comcast broadband internet (currently the only broadband service available in the area to be expanded) to the homes in the Alaska Ridge neighborhood. The project involves the addition of 4 miles of broadband infrastructure to the system, which could be potentially tapped into and provide service to other neighborhoods as well. Comcast is currently working on routing information to determine what other unserved or underserved neighborhoods could benefit from the proposed broadband expansion as well.

### Long-Term Benefit

The pandemic proved that access to high-speed broadband internet is essential for quality of life issues in any community. The long-term benefit will be that the residents of Alaska Ridge, and possibly other unserved and underserved neighborhoods as well, will have access to high-speed broadband to ensure an excellent quality of life for the neighborhood and the community, including the ability to effectively work from home or attend school virtually if needed.

### Intended Beneficiary

The Alaska Ridge neighborhood, whom currently do not have access to high speed broadband, will be the primary beneficiary of the project. However, the entire Cascade community will benefit as well as being a community that is able to provide basic infrastructure needs to all of its residents.

### Estimated Cost

Estimated cost for the broadband expansion is \$300,000

### \*Source of Funding

Comcast is willing to contribute an amount based on the number of customers that will be connected to the system. This is estimated at \$25,000 right now based on the Alaska Ridge neighborhood connections, but could increase if more unserved or underserved neighborhoods are able to utilize the expanded broadband infrastructure. In addition, Cascade Township will contribute \$75,000 to the project.



## Project Management Experience

While Cascade Township primarily focuses on Cascade community based projects and programs, it does participate in and lead several broader based programs and projects as well. The Township participates in several Grand Rapids metro based organizations including the Grand Valley Metro Council, The Right Place and partnerships with the Kent County Sheriff's Department, Kent District Library and Kent County Road Commission. We currently lead a multijurisdictional effort to provide building inspection services to 6 Kent County communities.

## Federal Funds Experience

Cascade Township has extensive experience in working with federal funds, including receiving CARES Act funding from several sources in 2020 and 2021 and receiving our own allocation of ARPA funds in 2021-2022. We are aware of single audit procedures for federal funds and have an audit firm in place that can help ensure compliance with all regulations.

## Studies on Impact

While there is a large body of research that proves that access to high-speed broadband internet is essential to a positive quality-of-life, the Covid-19 pandemic cemented the issue. During the pandemic, households that lacked access to high-speed internet, including those that live in the Alaska Ridge neighborhood, struggled with mandated activities such as the ability to work from home and attend school virtually. While being prepared for the next pandemic or pandemic-type event is essential, research is showing that many of the adjustments to our lives during the pandemic are becoming the "new normal." Professor Tsedal Neely from the Harvard Business School notes, "I don't think remote work will be permanent at the scale we saw in March, but I have no doubt that remote work will increase. We're definitely going to see a much bigger population working remotely." As these changes to our work life become permanent, it is as important as ever that our residents have access to the technology needed to become successful.

## Project Cost

**Minimum Cost:** \$300,000

**Maximum Cost:** \$300,000

**ARPA Request:** \$200,000

## Submitter Info

**Name:** Benjamin Swayze

**Organization:**  
Cascade Charter Township

## Project Overview

**Funding Group:** Infrastructure

**Project Theme:** Broadband

**Project Status:** Expanded Project

**Matching Funds:** 26-50%

**Eligibility:** 

**Sustainability:** 

**Feasibility:** 

**Impact:** 

## Source of Funding

(Listed in main description)

## Partnership

Comcast, Alaska Ridge neighborhood resident

## Guidehouse Ranking Notes

 Eligibility

 Sustainability

 Feasibility

*Broadband expansion is eligible*



# PROJECT #247

## Seeds of Promise - Technology to Grow

### Identify the need for the proposed project

In recent history, and currently on going, the Covid pandemic has made the need for fast and reliable internet connection and accessibility to technical hardware (laptops, printers ect.) much greater. "

### Brief Description

In the Madison Square neighborhood access to free wifi and a secure network is a need that has to be addressed expeditiously. TTG aims to enhance broadband and internet access throughout the community. Through upgrades to Connectivity and technical hardware at Seeds of Promise, there is a great opportunity to provide this community with a safe and equitable place for all residents to use any resource regarding internet access, access to laptops or desktops, printers, multimedia projects areas. Through the use of technology, we will expose the community to career opportunities and training to increase tech literacy.

### Long-Term Benefit

The community will benefit from this project through the availability and efficiency of having a safe, and efficient internet and technical support. With this project we will be able to assist students that need internet access, residents who are looking to find employment through online search, accessibility to resources that require internet access or connected hardware, and education and training support for residents looking to go into fields that require internet access and accessibility to

### Intended Beneficiary

The Madison Square Neighborhood - any resident that needs access to internet, computers and related hardware.

### Estimated Cost

30,000 - 50,000

### Project Management Experience

We have been awarded grants frequently.

### Federal Funds Experience

Seeds of Promise has been granted federal funds frequently throughout the history of the organization.

### Studies on Impact

n/a

### Project Cost

**Minimum Cost:** \$30,000

**Maximum Cost:** \$50,000

### Submitter Info

**Name:** Westly Johnson

**Organization:** Seeds Of Promise

### Project Overview

**Funding Group:** Infrastructure

**Project Theme:** Broadband

**Project Status:** New Project

**Matching Funds:** 26-50%

**Eligibility:** 

**Sustainability:** 

**Feasibility:** 

**Impact:** 

### Source of Funding

Local philanthropy and grants

### Partnership

n/a

### Guidehouse Ranking Notes

 **Eligibility**

 **Sustainability**

 **Feasibility**

*Broadband infrastructure projects are eligible*

# PROJECT #276

## CBRS/Private LTE Infrastructure for Broadband Public Experiment



### Identify the need for the proposed project

Need was initially identified via hybrid classroom experiences with GRPS Museum School students who were using existing broadband solutions. This need was further highlighted by 2020 Census Data. Current broadband survey efforts are underway in Kent County with no data currently available, but Ottawa County can reasonably be used as a comparable. A recent survey (below) identified 11% of homes have no connectivity and 26% fewer homes have access to broadband Internet speeds at 25/3 Mbps (which we would contend is a conservative estimate).

<https://www.miottawa.org/Departments/Planning/pdf/Broadband-Data-Collection-Executive-Findings-Report.pdf>

### Brief Description

We propose CBRS / Private LTE Infrastructure be developed on current fiber already existing within Greater Grand Rapids. We believe CBRS / Private LTE can provide communities access to high bandwidth connectivity more rapidly, broadly, and cost effectively than laying new fiber. Such coverage can augment current broadband needs within the community by deploying approximately mile-wide “zones of coverage” within which dozens upon dozens of households can have access to connectivity within a year that would otherwise take several years to build out and deploy. We believe such infrastructure has the further benefit of scaling cost-effectively to any community with underserved coverage that has access to fiber. As public-access CBRS / Private LTE has not been deployed on any scale within Greater Grand Rapids we do not have firm numbers on the hard costs to design, build, and maintain such coverage. That is why we firmly suggest it is critical for this public experiment to take place and the learnings of which made available to the general community in order to fully vet and evaluate this strategy that we hope will be vastly more efficacious, expedient, maintainable, scalable, and upgradable than a purely fiber-to-home strategy.

### Long-Term Benefit

The long term benefit of this proposed project will be hard data on how efficacious a CBRS / Private LTE approach is when weighed against alternative broadband connectivity strategies. Such data will greatly improve future broadband decision making with decisive data on comparable strategies, as the results of this experiment will be made publicly available. This has implications on rural areas, and is potentially an excellent way to extend fiber endpoints to many customers at a distance.

### Intended Beneficiary

Kent County communities we have identified with underserved broadband needs near fiber will receive new connectivity free of charge for 1 year as a result of this experiment in order for us to fully understand the costs and make the data results publicly available.

### Estimated Cost

3500000

### Project Management Experience

We have multiple responsibilities that have us working with the county in regular reporting cycles.

### Project Cost

**Minimum Cost:** \$3,500,000

**Maximum Cost:** \$3,500,000

**ARPA Request:** \$2,299,995

### Submitter Info

**Name:** Josh Freeny

**Organization:**  
Grand Rapids Public Museum

### Project Overview

**Funding Group:** Infrastructure

**Project Theme:** Broadband

**Project Status:** New Project

**Matching Funds:** No

**Eligibility:** 

**Sustainability:** 

**Feasibility:** 

**Impact:** 

### Source of Funding

n/a

### Partnership

Grand Rapids Public Schools,  
Grandville Avenue Arts &  
Humanities, Grand Valley  
State University, Grand  
Rapids Public Library





### Federal Funds Experience

The Grand Rapids Public Museum has worked with the National Endowment for the Humanities and Institute for Museum and Library Services.

### Studies on Impact

We are aware of one in-progress research effort through Wayne State University, but as of yet the results are not available. This highlights the need for a scaled experiment to prove or disprove the effectiveness of this approach.

### Supporting Documentation

- 1. [Letter of Support #1](#)
- 2. [Letter of Support #2](#)
- 3. [Letter of Support #3](#)

### Project Cost

**Minimum Cost:** \$3,500,000  
**Maximum Cost:** \$3,500,000  
**ARPA Request:** \$2,299,995

### Submitter Info

**Name:** Josh Freeny  
**Organization:**  
 Grand Rapids Public Museum

### Project Overview

**Funding Group:** Infrastructure  
**Project Theme:** Broadband  
**Project Status:** New Project  
**Matching Funds:** No

**Eligibility:** ●  
**Sustainability:** ●  
**Feasibility:** ●

**Impact:**

### Source of Funding

n/a

### Partnership

Grand Rapids Public Schools,  
 Grandville Avenue Arts &  
 Humanities, Grand Valley  
 State University, Grand  
 Rapids Public Library

### Guidehouse Ranking Notes

● **Eligibility**                      ● **Sustainability**                      ● **Feasibility**

*Broadband expansion is eligible*

# PROJECT #6

## Grattan Township Library/Parks and Recreational Center



### Identify the need for the proposed project

In our rural community the need for access to high speed internet, education and park facilities became increasingly evident during Covid. Professionals working remotely struggled, children and seniors had few options gather indoors and outdoors safely.

### Brief Description

The building sits on 3 acres overlooking farm fields and orchards. The building itself is over 21,000 square feet, including an indoor gym. Kent District Library is interested in operating in 4-5,000 square feet of the building, offering programs for children and seniors and giving remote workers an adequate environment with quality internet. The gym and outdoor space would be utilized for children's playground equipment, indoor recreational use and additional programming for Kent District Library. Additional office space may be created to home the Townships Sewer maintenance department that has limited internet access and no access to natural gas at its current facility. Other space could potentially be used for art programs, daycare facilities, yoga and other small group exercise classes.

### Long-Term Benefit

The residents of Grattan have long desired to have facilities in the Township that benefit its children and seniors. As a lake and agricultural area, having a community benefitting destination could will add neighborhood revitalization and other economic impacts for our local farm stands and businesses.

### Intended Beneficiary

The residents of Kent County, specifically in Grattan Township.

### Estimated Cost

2000000

### Project Management Experience

Limited.

### Federal Funds Experience

Have worked extensively with State grant funds and have always had great financial audit reports.

### Studies on Impact

No.

### Supporting Documentation

- [1. Letter of Support #1](#)
- [2. Letter of Support #2](#)

### Project Cost

**Minimum Cost:** \$2,000,000

**Maximum Cost:** \$2,000,000

**ARPA Request:** \$2,000,000

### Submitter Info

**Name:** Michelle Alberts

**Organization:** Grattan Township

### Project Overview

**Funding Group:** Quality of Life

**Project Theme:** Broadband

**Project Status:** Existing Project

**Matching Funds:** 26-50%

**Eligibility:**



**Sustainability:**



**Feasibility:**



**Impact:**



### Source of Funding

415000 from Township in Arpa funds

### Partnership

Kent District Library



### Guidehouse Ranking Notes

 Eligibility

 Sustainability

 Feasibility

*Broadband expansion is eligible*

*One time capital expense*

### Project Cost

**Minimum Cost:** \$2,000,000

**Maximum Cost:** \$2,000,000

**ARPA Request:** \$2,000,000

### Submitter Info

**Name:** Michelle Alberts

**Organization:** Grattan Township

### Project Overview

**Funding Group:** Quality of Life

**Project Theme:** Broadband

**Project Status:** Existing Project

**Matching Funds:** 26-50%

**Eligibility:** 

**Sustainability:** 

**Feasibility:** 

**Impact:** 

### Source of Funding

415000 from Township in Arpa funds

### Partnership

Kent District Library