

To date there have been four primary phases to the broadband expansion project;

Phase I connected the Cities of Clare, Harrison, the Village of Farwell, the Clare County Building, the **Sheriff's Department, Surrey Township, the Pere Marquette District Library, the Harrison District Library and the Surrey Township Library.** Concurrent with the fiber build, the City of Clare also extended fiber optic cabling into its municipal water tower for future development of its own wireless network and for the expansion into the next phase of the governmental and community project.

Phase II started developing during Phase I as partnerships were being formed between the City of Clare, the Village of Farwell and ISP Management, a wireless Internet Service Provider based in Alma. This partnership expanded and then quickly encompassed the development of the county-wide wireless internet service envisioned by the Enterprise Community and the original group of individuals working on the project. As of January 2016, a total of 12 communication towers have been activated in Sheridan, Arthur, Hamilton, Franklin/Frost (3), Hayes, Hatton, Surrey and Freeman Townships, as well as Farwell and Clare.

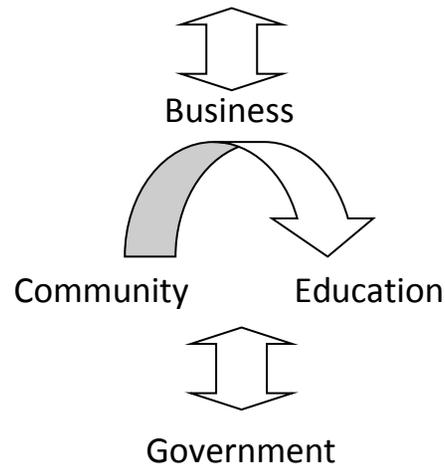
Phase III continues to develop and expand as additional Townships make the decision to install communication towers, connect to the governmental network and offer, in partnership with ISP Management, high-speed wireless internet service to the residents and businesses within their respective townships.

Phase IV Access, Adoption

Rev. 2016

Clare County Broadband Network Group

A Partnership of Cooperation



History: In the mid-1990's the Clare-Gladwin Regional Education Services District, through an interactive distance learning initiative with Mid Michigan Community College, Beaverton, Clare, Gladwin, Harrison and later Farwell school districts, completed the creation and establishment of a high-speed fiber network within the county.

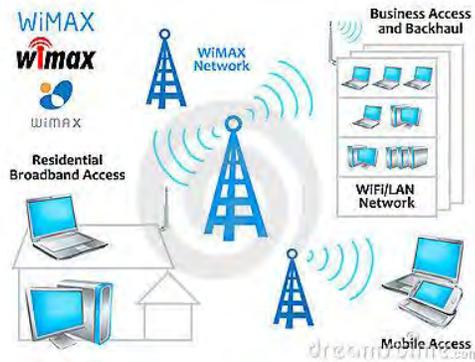
Around that time, the Clare County Enterprise Community also identified technology infrastructure as a critical component necessary for the future development of the county. The vision was developing within these groups and others, on how important technology and high-speed communication are to the community but the full scope of that potential had not yet been put into practical, everyday use.

In late 2008, the Clare County Broadband initiative was first conceived through casual conversations between members of the educational and governmental communities, and then more formerly through a working partnership of key entities.

The initial focus was to utilize the use of the existing fiber optic network and local infrastructure and to expand the high speed data network where possible. At that time, local officials were struggling with slow and unreliable data communications critical to the completion of vital governmental duties.

In 2009, as work continued and additional stakeholders became active within the initiative, a key decision was made by the Clare County Enterprise Community to

invest in the expansion of the fiber network. Because the Enterprise Community's vision and focus were very broad, the assistance of the developing broadband network group helped encompass both governmental connectivity as well as the expansion of high-speed internet service. This brought affordable, high-speed internet throughout the county to individuals and businesses that had never had access before.



Additional information can be found at: www.clareco.net

www.connectmi.org

This project has taken a couple of years to form and develop based upon a cooperative, can-do group of community-minded leaders from a cross-section of governmental and educational entities working in partnership with members of the business community. We currently have ten governmental entities participating in the most efficient, shared communications network, resulting in thousands of dollars saved annually in communications and internet service costs. Wireless Broadband Internet service is now available in multiple townships throughout the county where it was previously not available. At printing time there were a total of (13) active sites: See Site Map at: http://clareco.net/emergency_services/broadband.htm

The Clare County Broadband Group has developed a relationship with Connect Michigan which has assisted the group with communication and development efforts. As a result of this relationship, Connect Michigan has been provided with additional resources to aide their work throughout the entire State of Michigan.



Where we are today: