BROADBANDUSA
CONNECTING AMERICA'S COMMUNITIES

Organization:	**Michigan State University**
Project Name:	**Evidence Based Computer Center Deployment**
Project Type:	**Public Computer Centers**
State(s):	**Michigan**
Federal Award:	**$895,482**

ABOUT THE PROJECT

The Evidence Based Computer Center Deployment project proposes to expand 84 existing library computer centers and establish four new public computer centers that serve 15 underserved counties with high unemployment rates. The sites were selected by targeting vulnerable population areas and then focusing on those libraries with the greatest need for additional computing capacity. The project expects to add 500 new workstations at public computer centers throughout the state, serving nearly 13,000 additional users per week. The project involves major state government programs including the Michigan Economic Development Corporation, and Michigan Works! Association for job retraining, and local and county government programs to expand training and business support services.

The Evidence Based Computer Center Deployment project plans to:

- Train the next generation of information technology workers by using Michigan State University students to perform the initial setup, testing, and network configuration for the new computer center work stations.
- Expand access to libraries, especially the Michigan eLibrary, which provides state residents with free access to online courses, articles, books, digital images, and other valuable research information.
- Provide Michigan's unemployed workers, children, and others with reliable Internet service at 88 public computer centers for access to educational and job research, and other government resources.

ORGANIZATION'S HISTORY

Michigan State University was founded in 1855 and has more than 45,000 undergraduate and graduate students. The University has substantial experience administering grants and managed $376 million in externally funded research projects during the 2007-2008 academic year. The University's Department of Telecommunication, Information Studies and Media has an established history of working with broadband, stimulating broadband adoption, and researching telehealth and healthcare providers. The department has experience in how to stimulate broadband adoption in the most efficient and cost-effective way. The University also has established relationships with various community outreach groups, and encourages students and faculty to participate in engagement programs.

PROJECT PARTNERS

- Gogebic Community College
- Marquette Housing Commission
- The Library of Michigan and 84 Michigan public libraries