

March 13, 2023

Dear Michigan High-Speed Internet Office (MIHI),

I am writing to you in support of the ROBIN grant applications for Berrien County from submitting Internet Service Providers (ISPs).

As the largest health care organization and one of the largest employers in Berrien County we believe the availability of high-speed broadband internet services is directly linked to helping people be well so they can live their healthiest life possible.

Just as we believe health and well-being should be within reach for all, we also believe that access to, and use of, the Internet is an integral component of everyday life in the 21st century and should be accessible to all residents in our community.

Digital equity is directly linked to health equity. Without the wired broadband infrastructure necessary to provide service to the unserved and underserved addresses in Berrien County, we will never be able to sufficiently care for our community through telehealth visits, access to electronic medical records, and the ability to search relevant quality reviews and information about health care services and providers.

Through the work of the Berrien County Internet Task Force (BCBIT), along with community leaders, we have identified gaps in broadband coverage that the awarding of this grant will directly help to address.

We respectfully ask when considering grant applications that you keep our intended goals of equity, accessibility and affordability in mind when awarding the grant to the successful ISP applicant.

Sincerely,



Loren B. Hamel, MD
President, Corewell Health South