

## Bring Competition for Internet Services to Baltimore Citywide Grassroots Campaign – Learn More at [http:// baltimorebroadband.org/](http://baltimorebroadband.org/)

There is a monopoly for fast Internet services in Baltimore leaving us with little choice in the broadband market. Compared to surrounding counties, where effective competition for Internet services exist, we pay more (as much as \$1000 more over two years) and get less. Available choices of services are inferior when connectivity is essential for effective participation in all aspects of life.

Despite the importance of the Internet, 20-40% of city residents are not connecting and this lack of access results in what has been termed digital injustice. Digital injustice refers to the inequalities in digital access across society. As reported by the Pew Research Center, broadband use at home varies markedly by income (88% ( $\geq$  \$75K) versus 54% ( $\leq$  \$30K)), education (89% (college graduates) versus 57% (high school graduates)), and race (74% (white non-Hispanic) versus 64% (Black non-Hispanic) versus 53% (Hispanic)).

We use the Internet to find jobs, to apply for jobs, to train for jobs. Of the Fortune 500 companies, over 80% post jobs and accept job applications only on line. Children use the Internet to do their school work, many use it to connect with family and friends and religious organizations use it to connect with their community.

**We invite all those living and working in the Greater Mondawmin area to back this citywide campaign to bring competition for Internet services through the deployment of fiber optic lines to homes, businesses and anchor institutions throughout Baltimore.** An open fiber infrastructure is important to promote competition by Internet service providers. Fiber broadband service is faster than that currently available by cable or DSL technology. With competitive technologies, it can also be less expensive. There must be low cost connectivity options for those with low incomes. There should be educational efforts to help those disconnected from the Internet to understand the importance of connecting and to assist those having difficulty to connect.

Our grassroots effort is in partnership with elected officials, anchor institutions and commercial stakeholders.

The campaign is organized into 67 multi-neighborhood zones. Each zone has a goal and for greater Mondawmin the goal is to recruit 410 backers. Zone goals have been set as the sum of 20% of number of owner occupied homes and 5% of the number of rental occupied units. We believe when there are sufficient numbers of campaign backers in multiple zones, fiber providers will see Baltimore as a city in which to invest and our elected officials will be motivated to participate in the effort. Four neighborhood zones have already met their target.

Our campaign is citywide and inclusive; we believe fiber should be deployed to all Baltimore neighborhoods and should occur with every city utility and work project along major corridors. Fiber deployment is not one-plan-fits-all. We understand that fiber is expensive and where demand is sufficiently strong, we favor immediate fiber deployment; where market demand is less strong, fiber could extend along corridors (so-called middle mile) and then connect to individual homes and businesses (so-called last mile) with other technologies like high-speed wireless. High priority for fiber deployment is to anchor institutions including schools and libraries. Connectivity is critical even in neighborhoods where demand does not drive the need for fiber connections to all homes.

***The Greater Mondawmin Coordinating Council  
Supports the Baltimore  
Broadband Campaign***

For more information and to join the campaign click here. Follow us on Twitter or friend on Facebook. If any trouble enrolling, ask for help at [BaltimoreBroadband@gmail.com](mailto:BaltimoreBroadband@gmail.com)