

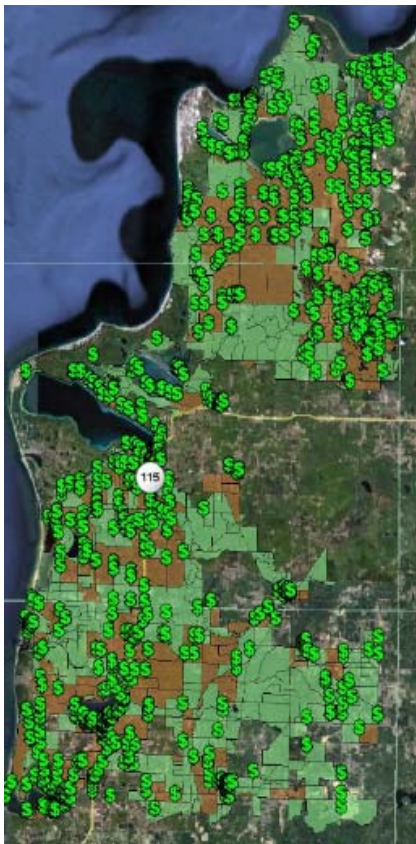
# “Benzie CAN” serving Benzie County and Portions of Leelanau and Manistee Counties!

**Affordable Internet access to all residents and businesses\***

## FACT SHEET

### What is the *Benzie CAN Project*?

The *Benzie CAN* project’s goal is to pursue development of an affordable high-speed service to provide affordable Internet access to all un-served and underserved community members within the identified service area. In early 2009, Congress passed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) to help stimulate job growth across the country. Among many other important initiatives the ARRA marked 7.2 billion dollars to be made available nationally for



improving access to, and use of, broadband services. In response to this federal funding, Benzie County launched a project called *Benzie CAN* with a vision to provide broadband coverage to every corner of the county.

### What is Broadband?

Broadband can be simply defined as a fast connection to the Internet that is always *on*. It allows you to send emails, surf the web, download images and music, watch

videos, join a web conference, and much more. Broadband has the ability to bring people from different regions together in a common meeting place, enable employees to work from home, or students to attend class and complete assignments remotely.

### How was the *Benzie CAN County* project initiated?

At the July County Commissioners’ Board Meeting, the Commissioners approved a resolution of support for the Cherry Capital Connection, LLC and the Coalition 4 Limitless Broadband, on behalf of the County, to

collaborate with various community groups and organizations to apply for federal stimulus funding. On August 20, 2009 Benzie County applied for the funds required to develop a county-wide high speed hybrid Fiber and Wi-Fi communications system.

### Who Supports the *Benzie CAN Project*?

A number of organizations support the initiative. A leadership team continues their due diligence in preparation for accepting the Federal ARRA funds. Support for this project includes:

- Benzie County Board of Commissioners
- Benzie County Economic Development Corp
- Traverse Bay Economic Development Corp
- Leelanau County Board of Commissioners
- Grand Traverse Board of Commissioners
- Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians
- Benzie County Library
- Crystal Mountain
- Blaine Township
- City of Frankfort
- Carl Levin—US Senator
- Debbie Stabenow—US Senator
- Bark Stupak—Congressman
- Jason Allen—State Senator
- Kevin Elsenheimer—State Rep
- Frankfort Rotary
- And over 50 other local organizations and individuals

### Why Now?

In Benzie County, high speed broadband capability has been identified as a significant infrastructure need through the county-wide visioning effort and in most strategic planning initiatives. Funding has been one of the greatest challenges. With the potential for ARRA funding, the time was right and the Benzie County Commissioners demonstrated strong leadership and took bold action to meet the needs of Benzie County.

**Attend the public meeting Oct 22 at 7:00 pm to be held at the Garden Theater in downtown Frankfort. For more information about this project contact the Benzie CAN team via email at [benzieCAN@cccwifi.com](mailto:benzieCAN@cccwifi.com) or [getinfo@c4lb.org](mailto:getinfo@c4lb.org) web site [www.benziecan.org](http://www.benziecan.org).**

\*The Benzie CAN project based on ARRA Rules focuses on the Un-Served and Underserved areas associated with the application. Service is available to anyone within the service region and within radio reception of the project. The deployment must be substantially completed in 2 years. “Benzie CAN - Benzie County Alliance Network” Version 1.1