

## City of Clare

### **January 2014 Update of the February 1, 2013 Cooperation, Collaboration, Consolidation and Process Improvement Service Initiatives Report**

The City of Clare has for decades successfully partnered with other local units of government, public, private and non-profit organizations throughout the community with the specific intent of being a good neighbor through the development and implementation of cooperative cost-saving opportunities for the City as well as all other public service organizations. Within rural Michigan this is not a new concept or practice, rather it is a way of life. This good neighbor philosophy and practice continues to be a fiscally important practice due to the continued reductions of State Revenue Sharing, reduced property values and consequently the tax revenues that local units of government depend.

Itemized below is an update of Cooperation, Collaboration, Consolidation and Process Improvement Service Initiatives that the City of Clare developed, implemented and reported within our EVIP Category II February 1, 2013 report to the State of Michigan Department of Treasury.

#### **Community Warning Siren/Notification System**

During the summer of 2012 while working on updating the City of Clare's community emergency warning systems to the new narrow band communications requirements we became aware that a neighboring township was contemplating decommissioning their warning siren and dismantling it. As there is a fairly significant number of the township's population that resides just outside of the City of Clare on the north end of our community and the City did not currently have a warning system located in that area a conversation was initiated by the City to purchase the townships warning system, to upgrade it to the new communications standard and then to relocate it to the north end of the City on a high point that will serve both the City and the township.

This cooperative endeavor has been completed and now a significant segment of the residential population of both the City and the township as well as a large commercial district on the north side of the City benefit from an effective community warning system. The cost savings of approximately \$3,000 for the upgrade and relocation of the warning system for this cooperative initiative were realized by the township and paid by the City of Clare, however, both the City and the township significantly benefit through the expansion of the City's community warning system.

<b>Project Start:</b>	<b>Summer 2012</b>
<b>Project Completion:</b>	<b>Fall 2012</b>
<b>Barriers:</b>	<b>None encountered</b>

**City of Clare**  
**January 2014 Update of the**  
**February 1, 2013**  
**Cooperation, Collaboration,**  
**Consolidation and Process Improvement**  
**Service Initiatives Report**  
**Continued**

**Broadband Availability/Expansion**

Over the past few years the City of Clare has been working with several other community organizations to expand the availability of broadband Internet service for the general public throughout Clare County. We have achieved considerable success as discussed in our prior Cooperation, Collaboration, Consolidation and Process Improvement Service Initiatives Report. Over the past few years our work has been used as an example by various organizations, most notably Connect Michigan/Connected Nation, to demonstrate how these types of cooperative initiatives can succeed. In fact, Clare County was recently selected by the Community Economic Development Association of Michigan (CEDAM) to be one of four communities in the state to implement a small and micro-business broadband awareness and use initiative. The first training events for this initiative was completed in September 2013 with additional events planned. Though no cost savings can easily be identified from this training partnership beyond the \$1,000 grant that was awarded by CEDAM to assist our local group it is anticipated that the impact will continue to be very positive impact within the local business community based upon our first training event.

As part of the City of Clare's commitment to the expansion of broadband Internet availability for the public the City entered into an agreement with Merit Networks in August 2012 to provide a co-location site in the City's Public Safety Building as part of Merit's 2,287 mile fiber optic communications network expansion project throughout the State of Michigan. Merit's initiative is being funded through two federal grants totaling in excess of \$100 million and is part of the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP), an integral part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. The fiber optic cabling and electronics equipment has been installed and connected into Merit's state-wide network and as of the fall of 2013 is now operational.

The installation of 32 strands of 10 Gigabit fiber optic communications technology into the City of Clare's Public Safety Building provides an access point for the public through Merit's middle mile partners into this cutting edge communications technology. The City is providing this space, primary and uninterruptable electrical power at no cost to Merit as a commitment to the development of this technology throughout our local community. The City of Clare as well as all other local governmental entities simply could not afford to build this type of technology on our own and view the partnering with Merit in this project as an effective cooperative effort between local government, education and federal government partners.

On November 6, 2013 the grassroots Clare County Broadband initiative was publicly certified by Connect Michigan as just the seventh county in the entire State of Michigan as being certified as a broadband community! This is a tremendous accomplishment recognized by the Michigan Public Service Commission.

<b>Project Start:</b>	<b>Winter 2010</b>
<b>Project Completion:</b>	<b>Winter/Fall 2013</b>
<b>Barriers:</b>	<b>None encountered.</b>

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### January 2014 Update of the February 1, 2013 Cooperation, Collaboration, Consolidation and Process Improvement Service Initiatives Report Continued

#### Formal Adoption of Cooperative Agreements

- In March 2012 the City of Clare and the Village of Farwell formalized its cooperative agreement of sharing their respective Department of Public Works equipment and personnel resources by entering into an Intergovernmental Agreement pursuant to MCL 124.1, et seq. Though the formalizing of this long standing arrangement does not change our cooperative relationship it does provide some structure to its operation.

**Project Start:** Fall 2011  
**Project Completion:** Winter 2012  
**Barriers:** None Encountered.

- In November 2012 the City of Clare and the Pere Marquette District Library formalized its long standing relationship whereby the City of Clare fulfills all of the Library's human resource payroll processing, record keeping and reporting needs at no cost to the Library. This very natural evolutionary development is a logical continuation of the City and Library's relationship back to when the Library was a department of the City.

**Project Start:** Winter 2005  
**Project Completion:** Winter 2012  
**Barriers:** None Encountered.

- After years of providing electrical inspection services using City staff in late 2012 the City of Clare added these services to its existing contractual relationship with Isabella County which is already providing mechanical and plumbing inspection services for the City and eliminated our on-staff electrical inspector position. This is another cooperative agreement that saves the City by eliminating this department while simultaneously helping Isabella County by providing another market area to support the County's existing community inspection/permit issuance services. The annual savings for the City of Clare is estimated to be approximately \$2,500.

**Project Start:** Summer 2012  
**Project Completion:** Fall 2012  
**Barriers:** None Encountered.

- In January 2013 the City of Clare and the City of Harrison formalized its cooperative agreement of sharing their respective Department of Public Works equipment and personnel resources by entering into an Intergovernmental Agreement pursuant to MCL 124.1, et seq. Though the formalizing of this long standing arrangement does not change our cooperative relationship it does provide some structure to its operation.

**Project Start:** Fall 2012  
**Project Completion:** Winter 2013  
**Barriers:** None Encountered.