



## EMPOWERING MARION FOR SUCCESS II

### Administration

#### **FY 23/24 – 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Goals (October - December):**

##### Planning and Future Growth

1. Improve Broadband Service Countywide
  - a. Raise awareness of federal funding programs for eligible residents
    - i. Worked with Marion County Public Relations to create literature highlighting FCC's Affordable Connectivity Program. Disseminated literature around various locations in the county.
2. Focus on equitable access to broadband services for Marion County residents
  - a. Determine the unserved areas of the county
    - i. Devoted portions of the monthly Local Technology Planning Team meetings to creating specific events aimed at improving an understanding of current and future service availability, as well as digital literacy skills and digital equity.
3. Improve Broadband Service Countywide
  - a. Determine the unserved areas of the county
    - i. Worked directly with internet service providers operating within the county who are members of the Local Technology Planning Team to determine best practices for expanding access to unserved and underserved residents.

#### **FY 23/24 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Goals (January - March):**

##### Planning and Future Growth

1. Improve Broadband Service Countywide
  - a. Assist internet service providers in securing grants for expansions of their service areas within Marion County by including them in the Local Technology Planning Team and providing them with letters of support for their grant applications
2. Educate Marion County residents on broadband expansion areas
  - a. Respond to resident requests for information on when/if their area will see broadband service as service providers receive grants for expanding their infrastructure within Marion County.
  - b. Present information during different Community and Property Association meetings
3. Focus on equitable access to broadband services for Marion County residents
  - a. Position the county to receive funding from the NITA's Digital Equity grant program once the application process begins.

##### **Public Infrastructure – Grants:**



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Florida Job Growth Grant Fund – Applied for and was awarded \$4.7 million. This grant will be used for road improvements connecting parcels within the Florida Crossroads Commerce Park.

### **Public Safety – Grants:**

Marion County Board of County Commissioners made its \$12 million PSC tower upgrades a federal legislative priority for the 118<sup>th</sup> Congress in an effort to identify and apply for federal grant programs.