

## Grant Opportunity for Improved Internet Service in Hardwick

Hardwick Township and several other North Warren communities are working with Planet Networks, a Newton based firm, to bring much needed high-speed Internet services to our residents and provide us with more options for an internet services provider.

Planet Networks is pursuing a USDA grant that would enable them to build out underserved rural communities (such as ours) and they are asking for your assistance to help show that Hardwick Township currently has inadequate highspeed internet that would help them qualify for that USDA grant.

### *Here is what we need from Hardwick residents:*

Please visit [www.GetPlanetFiber.com](http://www.GetPlanetFiber.com) to enter your address and follow the prompts. This site will automatically run a speed test using your Internet connection so it is necessary that you use your home Internet connection to gather accurate speed test results.

The data collected will help identify places where service is inadequate or essentially non-existent. If you cannot get internet access at all at your home or if you have been quoted excessive fees to install the connection to your home from other provider, please email your address and any information you have regarding this to [community@planet.net](mailto:community@planet.net) and Planet will provide that information to the USDA to show which specific areas are underserved.

Also please provide specific examples of problems and challenges you experienced in 2020 within your household as a result of your inadequate access, such as multiple users, strain of multiple video calls, lack of consistency or reliability of connections during peak hours of the business/school day.

We have all been complaining for years about the poor internet services currently available in the area and the high cost we pay for those services. This is an opportunity to share your experiences with Planet Networks who can then use that data to qualify for the USDA grant.