

KIM REYNOLDS, GOVERNOR ADAM GREGG, LT. GOVERNOR

Annette Dunn
Chief Information Officer

# FINAL AGENCY DECISION

Docket No. SD20V3037<sup>1</sup> February 3, 2021

In response to the Notice of Appeal ("Appeal") filed by River Valley Telecommunications Coop ("Appellant") pursuant to and in accordance with Iowa Administrative Code rules 129—20.5(1) and (2), and following the Office of the Chief Information Officer of the State of Iowa's ("Office") notification of and opportunity for input from affected persons and parties pursuant to and in accordance with Iowa Administrative Code rule 129—20.5(3), the Office has conducted an internal review of all relevant evidence and information both submitted in connection with this Appeal and otherwise available to the Office related to the United States Census Blocks ("Census Blocks") forming the basis of this Appeal. See Iowa Admin. Code r. 129—20.5(4). Following its review of the entire record before it, the Office issues the following FINAL AGENCY DECISION ("Decision"). Iowa Admin. Code r. 129—20.5(5).

# I. ISSUE(S) ON APPEAL.

Whether the Office correctly determined that the Census Blocks forming the basis of this Appeal constitute Targeted Service Areas ("TSAs") as defined by Iowa Code section 8B.1(13) and Iowa Administrative Code rule 129—20.1.

# II. BACKGROUND, LAW, AND PROCEEDINGS.

Iowa Code section 8B.11, as amended, creates programs the Office is responsible for or involved in administering, including a Broadband Grants Program and a Property Tax Exemption Program (Iowa Code section 427.1(40)). At a high level, these programs are designed to reduce or eliminate areas in the State that do not have access to Broadband service at minimally acceptable speed thresholds. *See* Iowa Code § 8B.11. In order to identify these unserved and underserved areas and best direct the incentives available through these programs, the Office is required to make determinations as to whether any Communications Service Providers already offer or Facilitate Broadband service at or above twenty-five megabits per second of download speed and three megabits per second of upload speed ("25/3") as of July 31, 2020 ("As of Date"). The Office makes these determinations on an individual Census Block basis by referencing Broadband availability maps or data sources that are widely accepted for accuracy and available for public review and comment. Iowa Code § 8B.10. In October 2020, the Office documented and communicated its TSA determinations by publishing Version 3 ("V3") of the Statewide Broadband

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Appellant filed an "Affirmation, Attestation, and Certification of Service or lack of Service in Census Block Broadband Grants Program Broadband Availability Map Challenge Process" ("Certification") to initiate this Appeal. The Office considers this Certification to constitute a proper Notice of Appeal that comports with the form and content requirements of Iowa Administrative Code rule 129—20.5(1).

Availability Map ("Map"). Iowa Admin. Code r. 129—20.3, 20.4.

On October 28, 2020, the Office published V3 of the Map. V3 of the Map is based on maps and data sources made available by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and/or developed or produced by contractors or third parties retained or utilized by the Office for such purpose. Iowa Admin. Code r. 129—20.3. Data representing the status of fixed Broadband in Iowa is as of July 31, 2020. Iowa Admin. Code r. 129—20.1, 20.3, 20.4(1); see Broadband Availability Map - Version 3 Challenge Process, at OCIO.IOWA.GOV (https://ocio.iowa.gov/broadband-availability-map-version-3-challenge-process). In publishing V3 of the Map, the Office triggered a statutorily-required challenge period whereby "[w]ithin 20 days after [October 28], any person or party aggrieved or adversely affected by such determination may challenge the office's finding by filing a notice of appeal with the office" and "provid[ing] the office with all evidence and information necessary to support the appeal." Iowa Admin. Code r. 129-20.5(1); see also Iowa Code § 8B.10(2) ("The office shall establish procedures to allow challenges to the office's finding on whether an area meets the definition of targeted service area."). After the expiration of this initial twenty-day appeal window, the Office was to post any notices of appeal received by the Office online at ocio.iowa.gov/broadband. Id. r. 20.5(3). From the date of such posting, any other persons or parties affected by a challenge received by the Office would "have 20 calendar days to submit evidence and information in support of, or in opposition to, such appeal" to the Office. Id. After expiration of this second twenty-day submission window, the Office would "consolidate all appeals involving the same census block[s] and conduct an internal review of the evidence and information submitted by all appellants related thereto, in conjunction with any other evidence and information submitted by any affected persons or parties . . ., the maps and data sources originally utilized [by the Office], and any other information deemed relevant by the office." Id. r. 20.5(4). Thereafter, the Office would issue a final agency decision stating the reasons for the Office's decision concerning the census block(s) in question. *Id.* r. 20.5(5).

The period for appeals closed November 16, 2020 at 11:59 p.m. In accordance with Iowa Administrative Code rule 129—20.5(5), the Office is considering the evidence and information submitted to or otherwise available to the Office, and issuing final decisions concerning all of the Census Blocks forming the basis of appeals received by the Office.

# III. FACTUAL BACKGROUND.

On November 13, 2020, within the initial twenty-day window, Appellant filed this Appeal (Docket 20OCIO037)<sup>2</sup>. Therein, Appellant challenged the Office's determination with respect to the following fifty-seven (57) Census Blocks:

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Appendix A - River Valley Telecommunications Coop Map Challenge Appeal

190630702001170	191479602001043	191479602001072
190630702001187	191479602001049	191479602001076
191479602001020	191479602001050	191479602001078
191479602001023	191479602001051	191479602001079
191479602001024	191479602001052	191479602001082
191479602001025	191479602001053	191479602001084
191479602001027	191479602001054	191479602001085
191479602001028	191479602001055	191479602001087
191479602001029	191479602001056	191479602001088
191479602001030	191479602001057	191479602001089
191479602001031	191479602001061	191479602001090
191479602001034	191479602001062	191479602001091
191479602001035	191479602001063	191479602001092
191479602001036	191479602001065	191479602001094
191479602001037	191479602001066	191479602001097
191479602001038	191479602001067	191479602001098
191479602001039	191479602001068	191479602002031
191479602001041	191479602001069	191479602002034
191479602001042	191479602001070	191479602002040

Supporting its Appeal, Appellant completed and submitted a Certification. Pursuant to this Certification, Appellant attested and certified under penalty of perjury that it offered or Facilitated 25/3 Broadband service in these Census Blocks as of July 31, 2020. With respect to these Census Blocks, Appellant explained:

Census blocks on this map were approved for our OCIO (00#3) grant award. Also, we are also approved for ACAM II on the federal side for funding to complete these Census Blocks in our service territory that a lot of the fiber has been constructed already. Construction of the entire census blocks listed the remainder construction will be completed next spring. We have been providing 25/3 in all the map census blocks listed for more than a year now and even higher speeds. I see no reason to fund any of the census blocks listed above when it has been budgeted, designed, engineered, and started already. The mapping is still incorrect and getting mapping correct is crucial going forward for any such Broadband Funds either State or Federal side.

Appellant requested that these Census Blocks be designated as non-TSA.

As required by Iowa Administrative Code rule 129—20.5(3), the Office posted this Appeal online on November 16, 2020. *See Broadband Availability Map - Version 3 Challenge Process*, at OCIO.IOWA.GOV (<a href="https://ocio.iowa.gov/broadband-availability-map-version-3-challenge-process">https://ocio.iowa.gov/broadband-availability-map-version-3-challenge-process</a>). Over the course of the next twenty days, "[no other] affected persons or parties . . . submit[ted] evidence and information in support of, or in opposition to, such appeal." Iowa Admin. Code r. 129—20.5(3). The Office subsequently conducted an internal review of all relevant evidence and information submitted by Appellant and otherwise available to the Office in connection with the Census Blocks forming the basis of

this Appeal. *Id.* r. 20.5(4). Based on that review, the Office now issues the following Decision. *Id.* r. 20.5(5).

# IV. DECISION(S) AND REASONING.

- **A. DECISION REGARDING BLOCK IDs (the "IV.A Blocks"):** 191479602001051; 191479602001052; 191479602001053.
  - 1. SUMMARY: APPEAL DENIED. The Office will maintain the current designation as TSAs for the three (3) Census Blocks identified in Section IV.A due to insufficient evidence or information to the contrary.
  - 2. **DETAILED RESPONSE:** With respect to the IV.A Blocks, the Office has reviewed the evidence and information submitted by Appellant related thereto, in conjunction with the maps and data sources originally utilized in determining whether these Census Blocks are or are not TSAs. Iowa Admin. Code r. 129—20.5(4). In reviewing this evidence and information, the Office's specific objective is to determine whether it should change its original determination of "whether a communications service provider offers or facilitates broadband service" at or above 25/3 in the Census Blocks forming the basis of this Appeal as of July 31, 2020, based on the additional evidence and information now available to it, or whether its original determination based on the Broadband Availability Map V3 should stand. Iowa Code §§ 8B.1(13), 8B.10(1-2); Iowa Admin. Code r. 129—20.1, 20.3, 20.4, 20.5.

Here, the map data representing the status of fixed Broadband in Iowa as of July 31, 2020, and originally relied on by the Office in generating V3 of the Map indicates that no Communications Service Provider offered or Facilitated 25/3 Broadband as of July 31, 2020. Appellant completed and submitted a Certification on forms provided by the Office attesting under penalty of perjury that Appellant offered or Facilitated 25/3 Broadband in the Census Blocks forming the basis of this Appeal as of July 31, 2020. While the Office generally considers this Certification to be particularly probative evidence of 25/3 Broadband service, the Office may additionally consider "any other information deemed relevant by the office." *See* Iowa Admin. Code r. 129–20.5(4). Such additional relevant information may include but is not limited to prior Certifications and applications provided to the Office under previous State incentives programs or Notices of Funding Availability.

In this instance, the IV.A Blocks were previously identified as unserved Broadband Units in Exhibit B of Appellant's Core Application to Notice Of Funding Availability #003, Control No. 368167 ("NOFA #003 Application")<sup>3</sup>.

Under the terms of NOFA #003, in order for the applicant to be eligible for an award they must have affirmed that their proposed infrastructure project was

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Appendix B - NOFA #003 application materials

"shovel ready, meaning both that the Project **ha[d] not yet commenced into active buildout phases**, but [was] ready for rapid deployment..." NOFA #003, Section 1.4.7 (Emphasis ours). Furthermore, "Applicants must [have] certif[ied] that no portion of the proposed Infrastructure Project ha[d] already commenced construction or buildout..." NOFA #003, Section 1.4.7.2. Finally, pursuant to NOFA #003, Section 2.2.6.1.1.3, and as part of Exhibit B of the Core Application, Applicant was required to certify "that each of the unserved Broadband Units in the form of Homes, Businesses, and Schools located within Census Blocks forming the basis of the Project that will be Facilitated with 25/3 Broadband or 100/20 Broadband, as applicable, as a result of the Project **DO NOT currently have 25/3 Broadband service available**, meaning no other known Communications Services Provider currently Facilitates 25/3 Broadband or greater to the Broadband Unit." (Emphasis ours.)

Appellant submitted their NOFA #003 Application, along with all necessary Certifications as required under NOFA #003, on August 5, 2020. Appellant was asked to recertify that the Homes, Schools, and Businesses ("HSBs") within the Census Blocks of the project were not currently receiving 25/3 Broadband, to which Applicant sent certification on August 12, 2020.<sup>4</sup> Of the IV.A Blocks comprising a portion of Applicant's NOFA #003 Application, a total of 44 HSBs were reported. Appellant's proposed NOFA #003 project sought to provide service to all 44 of those HSBs. Accordingly, the Office may infer that no other service provider is facilitating 25/3 Broadband to these HSBs and, therefore, that the IV.A Blocks included in Appellant's NOFA #003 Application were not receiving service as of the date of the NOFA #003 Application (August 5, 2020), or 5 days after the As of Date of V3 of the Map (July 31, 2020). Appellant thereafter was offered, and accepted an award under that State incentive program.

The purpose of the Office's Decision is to determine "whether a communications service provider offers or facilitates broadband service" at or above 25/3 as of July 31, 2020. Based upon the Certifications provided to the Office by Appellant during prior State incentives programs, the Office reasonably believes that no broadband service was available in the above-referenced Census Blocks as of August 5, 2020.

In addition, the Office did not receive any conflicting evidence or information from other interested Communications Service Providers or members of the public as it relates to these Census Blocks during the period for input from affected persons or parties. Iowa Admin. Code r. 129—20.5(3). Considering Appellant's Certification, and the lack of any competing evidence or information, the Office concludes 25/3 Broadband service was not available in these Census Blocks as of July 31, 2020, and that these Census Blocks should be designated as TSAs and thereby are eligible to receive State incentives under the programs administered by the Office.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Appendix C - Applicant certification of HSBs

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B. DECISION REGARDING BLOCK IDs (the "IV.B Blocks"): 190630702001170;
                       191479602001020;
                                            191479602001023;
   190630702001187;
                                                                191479602001024;
   191479602001025;
                       191479602001027;
                                            191479602001028;
                                                                191479602001029;
   191479602001030;
                       191479602001031;
                                            191479602001034;
                                                                191479602001035;
   191479602001036;
                       191479602001037;
                                            191479602001038;
                                                                191479602001039;
   191479602001041;
                       191479602001042;
                                            191479602001043;
                                                                191479602001049;
   191479602001050;
                       191479602001054;
                                            191479602001055;
                                                                191479602001056;
   191479602001057;
                       191479602001061;
                                            191479602001062;
                                                                191479602001063;
   191479602001065;
                       191479602001066;
                                            191479602001067;
                                                                191479602001068;
   191479602001069:
                       191479602001070:
                                            191479602001072:
                                                                191479602001076;
   191479602001078;
                       191479602001079;
                                            191479602001082;
                                                                191479602001084;
   191479602001085;
                       191479602001087;
                                            191479602001088;
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   191479602001090;
                       191479602001091;
                                            191479602001092;
                                                                191479602001094;
   191479602001097;
                       191479602001098;
                                            191479602002031;
                                                                191479602002034;
   191479602002040.
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- 1. SUMMARY: APPEAL GRANTED. The Office has received sufficient evidence to modify the current designation for IV.B Blocks changing them from TSAs to non-TSAs.
- 2. **DETAILED RESPONSE:** With respect to the IV.B Blocks, the Office has reviewed the evidence and information submitted by Appellant related thereto, in conjunction with the maps and data sources originally utilized in determining whether this Census Block is or is not a TSA. Iowa Admin. Code r. 129—20.5(4). In reviewing this evidence and information, the Office's specific objective is to determine whether it should change its original determination of "whether a communications service provider offers or facilitates broadband service" at or above 25/3 in the Census Blocks forming the basis of this Appeal as of July 31, 2020, based on the additional evidence and information now available to it, or whether its original determination based on the Broadband Availability Map V3 should stand. Iowa Code §§ 8B.1(13), 8B.10(1-2); Iowa Admin. Code r. 129—20.1, 20.3, 20.4, 20.5.

Here, the map data representing the status of fixed Broadband in Iowa as of July 31, 2020, and originally relied on by the Office in generating V3 of the Map indicates that no Communications Service Provider offered or Facilitated 25/3 Broadband as of July 31, 2020.

Appellant completed and submitted a Certification on forms provided by the Office attesting under penalty of perjury that Appellant offered or Facilitated 25/3 Broadband in the IV.B Blocks as of July 31, 2020. The Office considers this Certification to be particularly probative of 25/3 Broadband service as of July 31, 2020. In addition, the Office did not receive any conflicting evidence or information from other interested Communications Service Providers or members of the public as it relates to this Census Blocks during the period for input from affected persons

or parties. Iowa Admin. Code r. 129—20.5(3). Considering Appellant's Certification, and the lack of any competing evidence or information, the Office concludes 25/3 Broadband service was available in these Census Blocks as of July 31, 2020, and that these Census Blocks should therefore be designated as non-TSA and are hereby ineligible to receive State incentives under the programs administered by the Office.

V. APPEALING FURTHER. If you wish to appeal this Decision further, within thirty (30) days of the posting of this Decision at <u>ocio.iowa.gov/broadband</u>, you must notify us in writing by mailing a written request for a contested case proceeding to:

Office of the Chief Information Officer
c/o Matt Behrens
200 E. Grand Avenue
Des Moines, Iowa 50309

In so doing, you must state the reason(s) you are appealing this Decision, specifically identifying the particular aspects of the Decision with which you disagree and the reasons why, whether factual or legal in nature. The request for a contested case proceeding should state the name and address of the requester; identify the specific Office action which is disputed; and, where the requester is represented by a lawyer, identify the provisions of law or precedent requiring or authorizing the holding of a contested case proceeding in the particular circumstances involved, and include a short and plain statement of the issues of material fact in dispute. Iowa Admin. Code r. 129—6.4.

Upon receipt, your appeal will be forwarded to the Department of Inspections and Appeals where an Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ") will perform an independent review. Iowa Admin. Code r. 129—20.6(1); Iowa Admin. Code r. 129—6.6. At that time, you will have an opportunity to make a presentation, in person or over the telephone, to an ALJ regarding the nature of your concerns. If you do not exercise your appeal right within thirty (30) days of the posting of this Decision at ocio.iowa.gov/broadband, this Decision shall become final and no longer subject to challenge. Iowa Admin. Code r. 129—20.5(5).

Sincerely,	
Matt Behrens	
Deputy Chief Information Officer	
State of Iowa	

# Appendix A



# STATE OF IOW

KIM REYNOLDS, GOVERNOR ADAM GREGG, LT. GOVERNOR ANNETTE DUNN

CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER

Affirmation, Attestation, and Certification of Service or Lack of Service in Census Blocks
Broadband Grants Program Broadband Availability Map Challenge Process

A. COMPANY IN	IFORMATION (if submitted on behalf of a	n entity)			
Company Name:	River Valley Telecommunications Coop				
Address:	106 East Robins St.				
City:	Graettinger	State:	lowa	Zip:	51342

B. DESIGNATED CONTACT INFORMATION					
Contact Name Ivan Da	ellen Pho	one # (712) 859	- 3300 Email:id en@rvt co		

#### C. CERTIFICATION/ATTESTATION/AFFIRMATION

In signing and submitting this form, the above-identified company, and its duly authorized representative signing on behalf thereof, hereby affirms, attests, and certifies under penalty of perjury that, as represented in its submission:

- 1. Company, consistent with the representations made in this form, and regardless of whether your company's prior reporting to the FCC and/or Connected Nation was correct or in error, either:
  - Offered or Facilitated material Broadband service at or above twenty-five (25) megabits per second of download speed and three (3) megabits per second of upload speed ("25/3 Broadband") in the identified census blocks as of July 31, 2020: or
  - b. Did NOT offer or Facilitate 25/3 Broadband in the identified census blocks as of July 31, 2020;

OR

- 2. Another unaffiliated company, consistent with the representations made in this form, either:
  - Offered or Facilitated material Broadband service at or above twenty-five (25) megabits per second of download speed
    and three (3) megabits per second of upload speed ("25/3 Broadband") in the identified census blocks as of July 31,
    2020; or
  - b. Did NOT offer or Facilitate 25/3 Broadband in the identified census blocks as of July 31, 2020;

Choose One
[x] Response Concerns Your Company or An Affiliated Company (#1 above)
OR
[] Response Concerns An Unaffiliated Company (#2 above)

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515.281.5503 1

CENSUS BLOCK ID IN WHICH 25/3 BROADBAND OFFERED OR FACILITATED (OR NOT) (please attach excel spreadsheet listing additional census blocks and making corresponding representations in columns to the right if necessary)	PRIOR REPORTING to FCC or Connected Nation  In Error means data was reported incorrectly to FCC or Connected Nation Correct means data was reported correctly to FCC or Connected Nation No Response means data was not reported to FCC or Connected Nation Unknown means data is incorrect for unknown reasons				25/3 Broadband materially FACILITATED AS OF July 31, 2020  Yes means 25/3 broadband was available as of July 31, 2020 No means 25/3 broadband was not available as of July 31, 2020	
191479602001020	[ ] In Error	[x] Correct	[ ] No Response	[ ] Unknown	[x] Yes [ ] No	
191479602001025	[ ] In Error	[x] Correct	[ ] No Response	[ ] Unknown	[x] Yes [ ] No	
191479602001029	[ ] In Error	[x] Correct	[ ] No Response	[ ] Unknown	[x] Yes [ ] No	
191479602001030	[ ] In Error	[x] Correct	[ ] No Response	[ ] Unknown	[x] Yes [ ] No	
191479602001043	[ ] In Error	[x] Correct	[ ] No Response	[] Unknown	[x] Yes [ ] No	
191479602001042	[ ] In Error	[x] Correct	[ ] No Response	[] Unknown	[x] Yes [ ] No	
191479602001041	[ ] In Error	[x] Correct	[ ] No Response	[] Unknown	[x] Yes [ ] No	
191479602001022	[ ] In Error	[x] Correct	[ ] No Response	[] Unknown	[x] Yes [ ] No	
191479602001024	[ ] In Error	[x] Correct	[ ] No Response	[] Unknown	[x] Yes [ ] No	
191479602001027	[ ] In Error	[x] Correct	[ ] No Response	[] Unknown	[x] Yes [ ] No	
191479602001028	[ ] In Error	[x] Correct	[ ] No Response	[] Unknown	[x] Yes [ ] No	
191479602001031	[ ] In Error	[x] Correct	[ ] No Response	[] Unknown	[x] Yes [ ] No	
191479602001039	[ ] In Error	[x] Correct	[ ] No Response	[] Unknown	[x] Yes [ ] No	
191479602001034	[ ] In Error	[x] Correct	[ ] No Response	[ ] Unknown	[x] Yes [ ] No	
191479602001038	[ ] In Error	[x] Correct	[ ] No Response	[] Unknown	[x] Yes [ ] No	
191479602001035	[ ] In Error	[x] Correct	[ ] No Response	[] Unknown	[x] Yes [ ] No	
191479602001023	[ ] In Error	[x] Correct	[ ] No Response	[] Unknown	[x] Yes [ ] No	
191479602001052	[ ] In Error	[x] Correct	[ ] No Response	[ ] Unknown	[x] Yes [ ] No	
191479602001053	[ ] In Error	[x] Correct	[ ] No Response	[] Unknown	[x] Yes [ ] No	
191479602001051	[ ] In Error	[x] Correct	[ ] No Response	[]Unknown	[x] Yes [ ] No	
191479602001050	[ ] In Error	[x] Correct	[ ] No Response	[] Unknown	[x] Yes [ ] No	

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191479602001049	[ ] In Error	[x] Correct	[ ] No Response	[ ] Unknown	[x] Yes [ ] No
191479602001057	[ ] In Error	[x] Correct	[ ] No Response	[ ] Unknown	[x] Yes [ ] No
191479602001056	[ ] In Error	[x] Correct	[ ] No Response	[ ] Unknown	[x] Yes [ ] No
191479602001055	[ ] In Error	[x] Correct	[ ] No Response	[ ] Unknown	[x] Yes [ ] No
191479602001066	[] In Error	[x] Correct	[ ] No Response	[ ] Unknown	[x] Yes [ ] No
191479602001054	[ ] In Error	[x] Correct	[ ] No Response	[ ] Unknown	[x] Yes [ ] No
191479602001067	[ ] In Error	[x] Correct	[ ] No Response	[ ] Unknown	[x] Yes [ ] No
191479602001069	[ ] In Error	[x] Correct	[ ] No Response	[ ] Unknown	[x] Yes [ ] No
191479602001068	[ ] In Error	[x] Correct	[ ] No Response	[ ] Unknown	[x] Yes [ ] No
191479602001037	[ ] In Error	[x] Correct	[ ] No Response	[ ] Unknown	[x] Yes [ ] No
191479602001094	[ ] In Error	[x] Correct	[ ] No Response	[ ] Unknown	[x] Yes [ ] No
191479602001036	[ ] In Error	[x] Correct	[ ] No Response	[ ] Unknown	[x] Yes [ ] No
191479602001072	[ ] In Error	[x] Correct	[ ] No Response	[ ] Unknown	[x] Yes [ ] No
191479602001065	[ ] In Error	[x] Correct	[ ] No Response	[ ] Unknown	[x] Yes [ ] No
191479602001063	[ ] In Error	[x] Correct	[ ] No Response	[ ] Unknown	[x] Yes [ ] No
191479602001062	[ ] In Error	[x] Correct	[ ] No Response	[ ] Unknown	[x] Yes [ ] No
191479602001061	[ ] In Error	[x] Correct	[ ] No Response	[ ] Unknown	[x] Yes [ ] No
191479602001079	[ ] In Error	[x] Correct	[ ] No Response	[ ] Unknown	[x] Yes [ ] No
191479602001078	[ ] In Error	[x] Correct	[ ] No Response	[ ] Unknown	[x] Yes [ ] No
191479602001076	[ ] In Error	[x] Correct	[ ] No Response	[ ] Unknown	[x] Yes [ ] No
191479602001085	[ ] In Error	[x] Correct	[ ] No Response	[ ] Unknown	[x] Yes [ ] No
191479602001070	[ ] In Error	[x] Correct	[ ] No Response	[ ] Unknown	[x] Yes [ ] No
191479602001084	[ ] In Error	[x] Correct	[ ] No Response	[ ] Unknown	[x] Yes [ ] No
191479602001087	[ ] In Error	[x] Correct	[ ] No Response	[ ] Unknown	[x] Yes [ ] No
191479602001088	[ ] In Error	[x] Correct	[ ] No Response	[ ] Unknown	[x] Yes [ ] No
191479602001082	[ ] in Error	[x] Correct	[ ] No Response	[ ] Unknown	[x] Yes [ ] No

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191479602001098	[ ] in Error	[x] Correct	[ ] No Response	[ ] Unknown	[x] Yes [ ] No
191479602001091	[ ] In Error	[x] Correct	[ ] No Response	[ ] Unknown	[x] Yes [ ] No
191479602001092	[ ] In Error	[x] Correct	[ ] No Response	[ ] Unknown	[x] Yes [ ] No
191479602001090	[ ] In Error	[x] Correct	[ ] No Response	[] Unknown	[x] Yes [ ] No
191479602001089	[ ] In Error	[x] Correct	[ ] No Response	[ ] Unknown	[x] Yes [ ] No
191479602001097	[ ] In Error	[x] Correct	[ ] No Response	[ ] Unknown	[x] Yes [ ] No
191479602002034	[ ] In Error	[x] Correct	[ ] No Response	[ ] Unknown	[x] Yes [ ] No
191479602002031	[ ] In Error	[x] Correct	[ ] No Response	[ ] Unknown	[x] Yes [ ] No
191479602002040	[ ] In Error	[] In Error	[ ] No Response	[ ] Unknown	[x] Yes [ ] No
190630702001170	[ ] In Error	[ ] In Error	[ ] No Response	[ ] Unknown	[x] Yes [ ] No
190630702001187	[ ] In Error	[] In Error	[ ] No Response	[ ] Unknown	[x] Yes [ ] No

D. ADDITIONAL EXPLANATION (To the extent you believe additional explanation is required to ensure that you are communicating full and accurate information, please use the below space to further explain, qualify, or substantiate your above certification/affirmation. To the extent necessary, please feel free to unload additional explanations/supporting documentation. If you are a Communications Service Provider and Indicated "In Error" or "No Response" in the "Prior Reporting to FCC" column for any census blocks above, please elaborate.)

Census blocks on this map were approved for our OCIO (00#3) grant award. Also, we are also approved for ACAM II on the federal side for funding to complete these Census Blocks in our service territory that a lot of the fiber has been constructed already. Construction of the entire census blocks listed the remainder construction will be completed next spring. We have been providing 25/3 in all the map census blocks listed for more than a year now and even higher speeds. I see no reason to fund any of the census blocks listed above when it has been budgeted, designed, engineered, and started already. The mapping is still incorrect and getting mapping correct is crucial going forward for any such Broadband Funds either State or Federal side.

E. SIGNATURE*	M	000				1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	27/2
Authorized Signature:	Allen A	Melac	an	Date:	11/1	1/20	
	Work !	A STATE OF THE STA			/	1	

200 E. GRAND AVE, DES MOINES, IOWA 50309

515.281.5503 4

Printed Name: Ivan Dalen

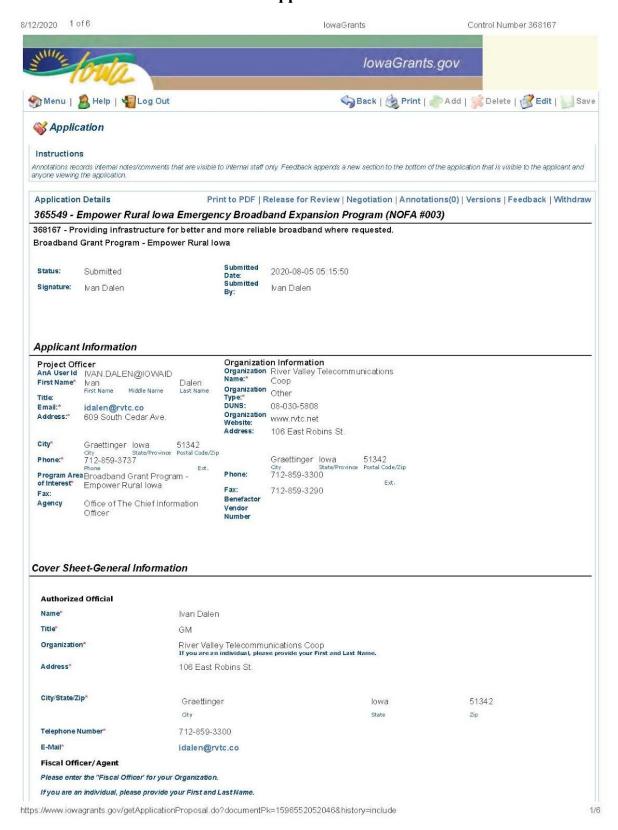
Title: General Manager

\*PLEASE READ BEFORE SIGNING: By signing and submitting this form, I, on my own behalf or as a representative of the company identified above, as applicable, expressly represent that I am authorized to make the above factual representation on behalf of said company and/or myself, as applicable, and under penalty of perjury as authorized by Iowa Code section 622.1 and pursuant to the laws of the state of Iowa, certify the following with respect to this form submitted on behalf of said company and/or myself: any statements, representations, warranties, certifications, or attestations made in this form, including any attachments or enclosures associated therewith, are true and accurate; I, on behalf of said company and/or myself, have not knowingly made any false statements or representations in this form. In addition to any criminal penalties authorized by lowa Code section 720.2 that may result from any false statements of material fact made herein or any other remedies available at law, equity, or otherwise, if it is subsequently determined that I have made a statement, representation, warranty, certification, or attestation in this form, or any attachments or enclosures associated herewith, that is later proven untrue in any material respect, the company on which I submitted this form on behalf of may be disqualified from current incentive programs administered by the Office or may be ordered to repay the Office the entire amount of any funds previously distributed by the Office to said company in connection with any current incentive programs administered by the Office. OCIO makes no guarantees as to whether the information supplied by you will result in any change to the Broadband Availability Map V3 or the way any incentive decisions are reviewed, scored, or decided. This form, as completed, any attachments hereto, and any other information or materials submitted to the Office in connection with this form or related inquiry, shall be considered public records and shall be made available for public examination and/or disseminated upon request by third parties as required by lowa Code chapter 22. The Office reserves the right to reject this form and relatedly consider any information communicated through this form as neither credible nor probative if this form is not fully and properly filled

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515.281.5503 5

# Appendix B



8/12/2020 IowaGrants

2 of 6 Control Number 368167

Title

Organization

Address

City/State/Zip lowa

City State Zip

Telephone Number

E-Mail

County(ies) Participating, Involved, or Affected by this Proposal\*

Emmet County, Palo Alto County

Congressional District(s) Involved or

4th - Rep Steve King (R)

Affected by this Proposal\*

Affected by this Proposal\*

Congressional Map

Iowa Senate District(s) Involved or Affected by this Proposal\* Iowa House District(s) Involved or 1, 4 District Map 2, 7 District Map

Business Organization - NOFA #003

Business Legal Name\* River Valley Telecommunications Coop

Mailing Address

Street \* 106 East Robins St.

 City\*
 Graettinger

 State\*
 IA

 Zio\*
 51342

Alternate Mailing Address (used for warrants and/or payments)

Alternate Street
Alternate City
Alternate State

Alternate Zip

Additional Information

River Valley Telecommunications Coop is a Cooperative with nearly 900 members strong.docx

Is the Applicant a Communications Service Provider as defined by lowa Code chapter 8B, including but not limited to private sector carriers, local governments, utilities, and other entities that provide or intend to provide Broadband service.

Communication Service Provider\* Ye

Executive Project Summary NOFA #003

This section requires an Applicant to summarize, at a high level, its proposed Project, including but not limited to the geographic area in which the Project will occur, the primary deployment model (e.g., wireline versus wireless), and a general overview of how Applicant has/will comply with the terms, conditions, and requirements of this NOFA #3. Please explain why CARES Act funds are necessary for the Project to proceed and how the Project will or will not proceed if the requested funds are not ultimately Awarded. Finally, please explain the current status of the Project, including the phase it is in, such as pre-planning, planning, or that building has commenced.

Executive Project Summary for River Valley Telecommunications Coop.docx

The section requires Applicant to affirm whether or not CARES Act funds are necessary for the Project to proceed.

Are CARES Act Funds necessary for the Project to proceed?\*

Yes

This section requires an Applicant to describe how the Project will or will not proceed if CARES Act funds requested are not ultimately awarded.

Describe how the Project will or will not

proceed if CARES Act funds requested The amount we are requesting is not that much for the benefit the business

https://www.iowagrants.gov/getApplicationProposal.do?documentPk=1596552052046&history=includes a contract of the contract of

2

8/12/2020 **IowaGrants** 

are not ultipliately awarded.\*

customers will receive and the school and their shelter for students. Regardlesentrol Number 368167 of with or without the Cares Act funds most of these projects will still go forward but may take longer if funds are solely the responsibility of our Coop and NRC potential cost to these businesses 'and they will continue to wait higher broadband services that they need and are requesting today. Most all locations we are requesting funding support is outside of our ILEC coverage.

Applicant certifies project completion dates as follows (select N/A if the Application does not include an Infrastructure component). For infrastructure projects, first 50% completion must be on or before December 30, 2020. The remaining 50% must be completed no later than July 1, 2021.

Infrastructure Completion Date Certification'

Applicant certifies project completion dates as follows (select N/A if the Application does not include an Adoption component). For adoption projects, completion date must be on or before December 1, 2020.

Adoption Project Date Certification\* Not Applicable

Infrastructure Projects must be completed as soon as possible, but by no later than the deadlines set forth in Section 1.3 (Project Period/Contract Term). Applicants must certify that no portion of the proposed Infrastructure Project has already commenced construction or build out and that no portion of the proposed Infrastructure Project is related to existing Broadband expansion commitments or expenses that have been or will be reimbursed under any federal program or been awarded funding from. If your Project contains no Infrastructure Projects as defined in NOFA Section 1.1.1, answer N/A.

Certification that Infrastructure Project conforms with the statement above."

For Projects with an adoption component, Applicant certifies that reasonable efforts will be taken to ensure Broadband subscription discounts are only made to Non-Adopters who meet the criteria set forth in NOFA #003 Section 1.4.8.1 and 1.4.8.2 concerning participation in the Lifeline Program and otherwise reasonably lack the ability to adopt 25/3 broadband without a subscription discount in connection with the COVID-19 public health disaster emergency.

Adoption Certification\* Not Applicable

#### Demonstrated Experience NOFA #003

This section requires information about Applicant's demonstrated experience in provisioning Broadband across the State of lowa. Applicant shall include relevant information about their experience that has prepared them to deploy their Project, such as, for example, community partnerships and services; number of years in business; number of years in business; number of years of experience providing the types of services sought by this NOFA #003; if the Applicant is a relatively new provider/market entrant, an explanation of the benefits, if any, of being a newer provider/market entrant; the level of technical experience in providing the types of services sought by this NOFA #003; or any other information that would aid the Office in assessing whether Applicant is a Responsible Applicant.

Demonstrated Experience\*

Experience in Provisioning Broadband across the State of Iowa.docx

#### References

John Noah Name Telephone Number 712-853-6121 Name Bill Brown Telephone Number 712-859-3219 Name Dave Ducan Telephone Number 515-867-2091

#### Minority Impact Statement

#### Question # 1

1. The proposed grant programs or policies could have a disproportionate or unique POSITIVE IMPACT on minority persons.\*

Yes

If YES, describe the positive impact

expected from this project

Helping rural lowa businesses supporting low income families and school/shelter for boys/girls with little budgets receive download and upload speeds needed for

today's business/school world

Indicate the group(s) positively impacted.

Women, Other

Question # 2

2. The proposed grant project programs No or policies could have a

https://www.iowagrants.gov/getApplicationProposal.do?documentPk=1596552052046&history=include

8/12/2020 Iowa Grants

dispropertofrate or unique NEGATIVE

If YES, describe the negative impact expected from this project.

If YES, present the rationale for the existence of the proposed program or policy.

If YES, provide evidence of consultation with representatives of the minority groups impacted.

Indicate the group(s) negatively impacted.

#### Question #3

3. The proposed grant project programs or policies are NOT EXPECTED TO HAVE A DISPROPORTIONATE OR Yes

UNIQUE IMPACT on minority persons.\*

If YES, present the rationale for determining no impact.

It's to benefit all and does not single out any group

#### Certification

I hereby certify that the information on this form is complete and accurate, to the best of my knowledge."

GM

Name of Person Submitting Certification. \*

Ivan Dalen

Title of Person Submitting

Certification\*

#### Broadband Grants Core Application CARES Version - Exhibits B, B.1,C, C.1, and D

Applicant requests that the contents of their application remain confidential in whole or in part, pursuant to Section 1,25 of the NOFA #003.

DISCLAIMER: An applicant requesting confidential treatment of portions of an application must attach a redacted public copy of the application. If the applicant fails to attach a redacted public copy pursuant to Section 1.25.1.5 of the NOFA #003, the Office shall be relieved from any responsibility for maintaining the the confidentiality of the application pursuant to 1.25.4 of the NOFA #003.

NOTE: Applicants are ONLY required to submit a Public Redacted Copy IF they are requesting confidential treatment with respect to an aspect of their Application. Further, the mere fact that an Applicant submits a Public Redacted Copy (or otherwise requests confidential treatment) does not ensure the aspects of the Application that are redacted (or for which confidential treatment is otherwise sought) will be treated as confidential; the Office will only afford confidential treatment to the extent requests comply with the terms, conditions, and requirements of the NOFA #003.

Full Unredacted Copy

Copy of Broadband\_Grants\_Core\_Application\_NOFA003 1 Part B.xlsm

Core Application Forms Exhibits B-D

(Public Redacted Copy)

Note: If you need additional space to answer any of the below questions, please upload supplemental materials to the appropriate section of the lowa Grants System ("Overflow Materials")

**Exhibit C Overflow Materials** 

**Exhibit C.1 Overflow Materials** 

In addition, in connection with any of the following factors, Applicants may provide evidence of need in support of their Project by uploading materials through the lowa Grants System, which materials demonstrate how communities, households, businesses, schools, or hospitals are hindered in their ability to respond to the challenges of COVID-19 due to a lack of at least 25/3 Broadband ("Supplemental Materials of Need"). Such evidence, by way of example only, may include letters signed and endorsed by community officials, including but not limited to the mayor, city administrator, county supervisor, superintendent, hospital administrator, etc.

Supplemental Materials of Need 3A.1.2 Support Letter from Forest Ridge.pdf

Supplemental Materials of Need 3B.1.2 Wallingford Letter of Support.pdf

### Broadband Grants Program Grant Agreement - Exhibit E

**Exceptions to Broadband Grants Program Grant Agreement** 

Exhibit E-NOFA 003.pdf

## Certification, Authorization, and Release of Information-Exhibit F

Certification/Acknowledgements & Authorization to Release Information Exhibit F-NOFA 003 .pdf

https://www.iowagrants.gov/getApplicationProposal.do?documentPk=1596552052046&history=include

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Control Number 368167

8/12/2020 lowaGrants

Letter\* 5 of 6 Control Number 368167

#### Form 22 - Exhibit G

Form 22 (Public)\* Exhibit G-NOFA 003.pdf

#### Prior Funding Statement-Exhibit L

Prior Funding Statement- Exhibit L\* exhibit \_\_\_prior\_funding\_statement\_nofa\_003 3.docx

## Project Budget

Category	Description	Total Estimated Cost \$ (Exhibit D)	Requested Grant Support % (up to 50%)	Grant Request (Est. Cost * Request %)
Conduit		\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Fiber/Copper		\$11,880.00	50.0	\$5,940.00
OSP Engineering	Staking Sheets, RFPs Material & Labor Close out	\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Design Engineering		\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Construction Mgmt.		\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Tower		\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Antenna		\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Boring		\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Trenching		\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Knifing	Approximately 3 Miles of Rural Plowing (Knifing)	\$70,329.60	50.0	\$35,164.80
Aerial Deployment/Make Ready		\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Outside Plant		\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Switching Equipment		\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Routing Equipment		\$0.00	0	\$0.00
Optical Equipment	Optical Line Terminal (OLT)	\$13,005.00	50.0	\$6,502.50
Customer Premise Equipment	Optical Network Terminal (ONT)	\$31,960.00	50.0	\$15,980.00
Other	Service Line and Location Wiring	\$43,554.00	50.0	\$21,777.00
Tota	ıls	\$170,728.60		\$85,364.30

#### **Adoption Project**

School District Number of Adopters Amount

# **Total Application Request**

Total Application Request \$85,364.30

### Request for Taxpayer Identification Number and Certification

Name (as shown on your income tax return)

River Valley Telecommunications Coop

Business name, if different from above

Check appropriate box: Individual/Sole proprietor

C Corporation Yes

S Corporation

Partnership

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8/12/2020 **IowaGrants** 

Trust/Estatef 6 Control Number 368167

Limited liability company

Enter the tax classification (C=corporation, S=S corporation, P=partnership)

See instructions provided in the link at the top of this form

Other Description

Exemptions

See instructions in the link provided at the top of this form.

Exempt payee

Exempt payee code (if any)

Exemption from FATCA reporting code

(if any)

Address (number, street, and apt. or

suite no.)

106 East Robins St.

City Graettinger 51342 lowa

> State Zip

List account number(s) here (optional)

Requester's name and address (optional)

### Part 1 - Taxpayer Identification umber (TIN)

Social Security #

Employer Identification # 420945697

#### PART 2 - Certification

Under penalties of perjury, I certify that:

1. The number shown on this form is my correct taxpayer identification number (or I am walking for a number to be issued to me), and

2. I am not subject to backup withholding because: (a) I am exempt from backup withholding, or (b) I have not been notified by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) that I am subject to backup withholding as a result of a failure to report all interest or dividends, or (c) the IRS has notified me that I am no longer subject to backup withholding, and

I am a U.S. citizen or other U.S. person (defined below), and
 The FATCA code(s) entered on this form (if any) indicating that I am exempt from FATCA reporting is correct.

Signature of U.S. person\* Ivan Dalen

You must select yes to item 2 below (backup withholding)if you have been notified by the IRS that you are currently subject to backup withholding because you have failed to report all interest and dividends on your tax return. For real estate transactions, item 2 does not apply. For mortgage interest paid, acquisition or abandonment of secured property, cancellation of debt, contributions to an individual retirement arrangement (IRA), and generally, payments other than interest and dividends, you are not required to sign the certification, but you must provide your correct TIN. See the instructions provided in the link at the top of this form.

2. Backup Withholding\* No

Date Signed\* 08/05/2020

Return to top

Iowa.gov - The Official Website of the State of Iowa.

Dulles Technology Partners Inc.



KIM REYNOLDS, GOVERNOR ADAM GREGG, LT. GOVERNOR ANNETTE DUNN
CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER

Exhibit B — Broadband Grants Program Infrastructure Worksheet ( Use For Infrastructure Projects Only )

Applicant Name: River Valley Telecommunications Coop

Applicants should identify all Delivery Platforms forming the basis of their Project by selecting all Delivery Platform types that are projected to be deployed as part of the Project. Consistent with the definition of Facilitates, Applicants must identify the upload/download speeds on an individual census block basis that their Project will Facilitate in the "Facilitated Speeds" column below; this may be based on the most favorable product offering that will be made available within each of the census blocks forming the basis of a Project and that will be made available within a commercially reasonable time and at a commercially reasonable price.

Applicant certifies that each of the unserved Broadband Units in the form of Homes, Businesses, and Schools located within Census Blocks forming the basis of the Project that will be Facilitated with 25/3 Broadband or 100/20 Broadband, as applicable, as a result of the Project DO NOT currently have 25/3 Broadband service available, meaning no other known Communications Services Provider currently Facilitates 25/3 Broadband or greater to the Broadband Unit.

Delivery Platform	Delivery Platform: (Check and/or Populate Other)				
- FTTH					
- DSL					
- Cable Modem					
- Wireless Spectrum					
- Fixed Wireless					
- Other					
Infrastructure Type	Outside Plant Only				

	TSA	Non TSA	Total
Total Broadband Units to Be Served	10	34	44
Percentage of Project Area	23%	77%	100%
Broadband Units Per Square Mile	10	8	18

Project Area			Total Number of HSB's (i.e., Broadband Units) in Project Area			Total Number of HSB's (i.e., Broadband Units) New Service Will Be Available To				Facilitated Speeds in Project Area Upon Project Completion			
Census Block #	TSA Status	County	Sq. Miles	Н	5	В	Total	н	S	В	Total	Down (Mbps)	Up (Mbps)
11	Yes: 4   No: 7	2	5.269893813	24	0	20	44	24	0	20	44		
190630702002169	NO	Emmet	0.02	0	0	2	2	0	0	2	2	100	20
190630702002174	NO	Emmet	0.48	2	0	0	2	2	0	0	2	100	20
190630702001044	NO	Emmet	1.69	4	0	1	5	4	0	1	5	100	20
190630702001046	NO	Emmet	0.04	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	20
191479602001053	YES	Palo Alto	0.001919241	2	0	0	2	2	0	0	2	100	20
191479602001051	YES	Palo Alto	0.00395317	5	0	1	6	5	0	1	6	100	20
191479602001052	YES	Palo Alto	0.0020235	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	20
190630702001152	NO	Emmet	0.001997902	0	0	13	13	0	0	13	13	100	20
190630702001158	NO	Emmet	0.05	3	0	1	4	3	0	1	4	100	20
190630702001010	NO	Emmet	2.01	6	0	2	8	6	0	2	8	100	20
191479602002103	YES	Palo Alto	0.97	2	0	0	2	2	0	0	2	100	20
					ENI	OF DAT	A						

\*Applicants must fill out and submit this form in order to comply with/supply the information/inputs requested by the Office pursuant to Section 3A.1 (Quantitative Factors) of NOFA #003. Please contact the Office's designated representative providing administrative support for the Application process, which can assist you in populating this form. See Section 1.8. of the NOFA regarding administrative support related to this Application.

Version 07.2020.01 Rev 3

200 E. Grand Ave, Des Moines, Iowa 50309 515.281.5503 <u>CIO@IOWA.GOV</u>



ANNETTE DUNN

KIM REYNOLDS, GOVERNOR

ADAM GREGG, LT. GOVERNOR

Exhibit C — Qualitative Attributes Form - Infrastructure Projects Only

Applicant Name: River Valley Telecommunications Coo

Applicant must fill out and submit this form in order to comply with/supply the information/inputs requested by the Office pursuant to Section 3A.1.2. (Qualitative Factors) of NOFA #003.

Note: If you need additional space to answer any of the below questions, please upload supplemental materials to the appropriate section of the lowa Grants System ("Overflow Materials") as further described in Exhibit J Step 41. In addition, in connection with any of the following factors, Applicants may provide evidence of need support for their Project by uploading materials through thowa Grants System as further described in Exhibit J Step 41, which materials demonstrate how communities, households, businesses, schools, or hospitals are hindered in their ability to respond to the challenges of COVID-19 due to a lack of at least 25/3 Broadband ("Supplemental Materials of Need"). Such evidence, by way of example only, may include letters signed and endorsed by community officials, including but not limited to the mayor, city administrator, county supervisor, superintendent, hospital administrator, etc.

#### 1. Impact on Distance Learning, Telehealth and Telemedicine, and Telework

These factors take into consideration the impact the Project will have on improvements in Iowa to support distance learning, telehealth, and telework in response to the COVID-19 public health emergency.

#### Please answer or supply the Office with the following to assist it in scoring this factor:

1.1. Describe how your Broadband Infrastructure Project will facilitate distance learning in the State of lowa, through Broadband improvements, in connection with school closings to enable compliance with COVID-19 precautions. Generally speaking, Applications that demonstrate that the Broadband investments forming the basis of the Project will have a greater impact on distance learning needs in their response will receive higher scores.

The Forest Ridge Youth Services and Shelter portion of this project will help provide much needed upgraded broadband service for their distance learning at both locations they continue to request for better broadband for their youth services classroom work they provide. ILCC lowa Lake Community College Farm and Aviation Classroom at the Estherville Airport will also benefit from this project to provide bradband to help thes students achieve their goals for their future career fields of choice. Students will be able to remote submit their classroom work back to the core server on Campuses in Estherville and Emmetsburg when they are required in a timely matter. With this project there will be other opportunities for VPN services that will be all on 1 network for connectivity to almost all with remote locations. The other locations as well as the ones mentioned above with this project will help them be able to offer in house training and virtual webinar training with no travel and large groups now with the Pandemic still no end is sight. Keep their groups in small numbers and social distancing with their inhouse training they need.

#### (Maximum 1200 Characters / Actual = 1148)

1.2. Describe how your Broadband Infrastructure Project will facilitate telehealth and telemedicine services in the State of lowa, through Broadband improvements, in connection with treating and responding to COVID-19. Generally speaking, Applications that demonstrate that the Broadband investments forming the basis of the Project will have a greater impact on telehealth and telemedicine will receive higher scores.

The project under review will benefit and facilitate telehealth for nearly all of them. With doctor office and visits almost impossible today to get an appointment in a timely matter, most individuals with health insurance have the opportunity through the web to refill meds or have a doctor evaluate symptoms someone may have for review. They will have great broadband with this project to stay up to date to research treatments for illness and the Governor's response to the Pandemic for lowa or their region.

#### (Maximum 1200 Characters / Actual = 513)

1.3. Describe how your Broadband Infrastructure Project will facilitate increased telework capabilities in the State of lowa, through Broadband improvements, in connection with remote work arrangements implemented by employers in response to COVID-19 public health precautions. Generally speaking, Applications that demonstrate that the Broadband investments forming the basis of the Project will have a greater impact on telework capabilities will receive higher scores.

Most all of the locations for this project infratucture are for businesses. This project will help these businesses facilitate their employees with potential IP services for remote phones and computers to take home and work from home as if they were still in the office. Once the infrastructure in constructed and turned up with this project these business have so many more options of as a business today of what they can do with their employees and opportunites of working remotely which keeps the business operational but also keeps the employee working and employed and not laid off or unemployeed.

 1200 Characters	

Version 07.2020.01 Rev 3

200 E. Grand Ave, Des Moines, Iowa 50309

515.281.5503



ANNETTE DUNN CHEEF INFORMATION OFFICER

 ${\bf Exhibit \, D-Broadband \, Grants \, Program \, Budget \, Plan-Infrastructure \, Projects \, Only}$ 

calculated fields based on ass	ociated entry.	J	Estimated: Provide Upon Grant Application			Actuals: Provide Upon Project Completion (Do NOT fill out as part of Application process)		
Category (A)	Description (8)	Per Unit (C)	Quantity (D)	Total Estimated Cost \$ (E)	Requested Grant Support % (F)	Requested Grant Support \$ (G)	Actual Cost \$ (H)	Grant Award \$ (Lessor of Estimated Cost or Actual Cost) (I)
Conduit		\$0.00 perfoot	0.00	\$0.00	0.00%	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Fiber/Copper		\$0.00 perfoot	0.00	\$0.00	0.00%	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
OSP Engineering	Staking Sheets, RFPs Material & Labor, Management, Close-out	\$0.75 per foot	15,840.00	\$11,880.00	50.00%	\$5,940.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Design Engineering		\$0.00 perhour/fixed	0.00	\$0.00	0.00%	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Construction Mgmt.		\$0.00 per hour / fixed	0.00	\$0.00	0.00%	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Tower	NA NA	\$0.00 pertower	0.00	\$0.00	0.00%	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Antenna	NA	\$0.00 perantenna	0.00	\$0.00	0.00%	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Boring		\$0.00 perfoot	0.00	\$0.00	0.00%	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Trenching		\$0.00 perfoot	0.00	\$0.00	0.00%	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Knifing	Approximately 3 miles of Rural Plowing (Krifing)	\$4.44 perfoot	15,840.00	\$70,329.60	50.00%	\$35,164.80	\$0.00	\$0.00
Switching Equipment		\$0.00 peruna	0.00	\$0.00	0.00%	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Routing Equipment		\$0.00 perunit	0.00	\$0.00	0.00%	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Optical Equipment	Optical Line Terminal (OLT)	\$765.00 perunit	17.00	\$13,005.00	50.00%	\$6,502.50	\$0.00	\$0.00
Customer Premise Equipment	Optical Network Terminal (ONT)	\$1,880.00 perunit	17.00	\$31,960.00	50.00%	\$15,980.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Other	Service Line And location wiring	\$2,562.00 perunit	17.00	\$43,554.00	50.00%	\$21,777.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Totals	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$170,728.60	N/A	\$85,364.30	\$0.00	\$0.00

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KIM REYNOLDS, GOVERNOR ADAM GREGG, LT. GOVERNOR ANNETTE DUNN
CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER

# Exhibit F - NOFA #003 ("NOFA")

#### Certification, Authorization, and Release of Information

Alterations to this document are prohibited

Date: 8/5/2020

Iowa Office of the Chief Information Officer c/o Broadband Grants Program Administrator 200 E Grand Ave Des Moines, 1A 50309

Re: NOFA Number 003—CERTIFICATIONS/ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS & AUTHORIZATION TO RELEASE INFORMATION

Dear Issuing Officer:

By affixing my signature below, I, a representative of Applicant expressly authorized to make the following certifications on behalf of Applicant, and under penalty of perjury as authorized by Iowa Code section 622.1 and pursuant to the laws of the state of Iowa, certify the following with respect to the Application submitted on behalf of River Valley Telecommunications Coop (Applicant) in response to the NOFA:

- 1. Certification of Truth and Accuracy. I certify the following on behalf of Applicant:
  - 1.1. Any statements, representations, warranties, certifications, or attestations made in the Application, including any attachments or enclosures associated therewith, are true and accurate.
  - 1.2. Applicant has not knowingly made any false statements or representations in its Application, including any attachments or enclosures associated therewith.
- 2. Certification of Independence. I certify the following on behalf of Applicant:
  - 2.1. Except as otherwise permitted by the NOFA, the Application has been developed independently, without consultation, communication, or agreement with any employee, agent, independent contractor, consultant, or other third parties acting on behalf of the Office or with any person serving as a member of any review or evaluation committee.
  - 2.2. The Application has been developed independently, without consultation, communication or agreement with any other Applicant or parties for the purpose of restricting competition.
  - 2.3. No attempt has been made or will be made by Applicant to induce any other Applicant to submit or not to submit an Application for the purpose of restricting competition.
  - 2.4. No relationship exists or will exist during the contract period between Applicant and the Office or any other State agency that interferes with fair competition or that constitutes a conflict of interest, the appearance of a conflict of interest, or that violates Iowa Code chapter 68B.
- 3. Certification Regarding Suspension/Debarment. I certify that, to the best of my knowledge, neither Applicant, any of its principals, nor any of its officers:
  - 3.1. Are presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this contract by any federal department or governmental entity of the State of Iowa.
  - 3.2. Have within a three (3) year period preceding this grant been convicted of or had a civil judgment rendered against them for commission of fraud or a criminal offense in connection with obtaining, attempting to obtain, or performing a public (federal, state or local) transaction or a contract under a public transaction; violation of federal or state antitrust statutes or commission of embezzlement, theft, forgery, bribery, falsification or destruction of records, making false statements, or receiving stolen property.

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3.3. Are presently indicted for or otherwise criminally or civilly charged by a governmental entity (federal, state or local) with the commission of any of the offenses enumerated in Section 3.2.

- 3.4. Have within a three (3) year period preceding this grant, had one or more public transactions (federal, state or local) terminated for cause or default or received a Notice of Default, Notice of Non-Compliance, or otherwise been found in non-compliance with the requirements of Iowa Code section 8B.11, Iowa Administrative Code chapter 129—22, or a grant agreement entered into by the Office and Applicant in connection with another award issued by the Office under this Broadband Grant's Program.
- 3.5. Plan to knowingly enter into any lower tier covered transaction with a person who is debarred, suspended, declared ineligible, voluntarily excluded from participation in a covered transaction, or who otherwise meets any of the circumstances identified in Sections 3.1 through 3.4, above.
- 3.6. Have had any damages or penalties assessed against or dispute resolution settlements entered into under any existing or past contracts for goods and/or services similar to those sought pursuant to the NOFA.
- 3.7. Are presently involved in any litigation or threatened litigation, administrative or regulatory proceedings, or similar matters.
- 3.8. Are the subject of any past or current litigation, findings in any past litigation, or findings of noncompliance under federal or state law that may impact in any way their ability to fulfill the requirements of or services sought pursuant to the NOFA.
- 4. Certification of Financial Condition. I certify that, to the best of my knowledge, Applicant:
  - 4.1. Is in sound financial condition and, if applicable, has received an unqualified audit opinion for the latest audit of its financial statements.
  - 4.2. Has no outstanding liabilities, including tax and judgment liens, to the Internal Revenue Service, Iowa Department of Revenue, or any other government entity.
  - 4.3. Is current in all amounts due for payments of federal and state taxes.
  - 4.4. Has not, in the last three (3) years, undergone a sale or change of control of Vendor, including its business or substantially all of its assets.
  - 4.5. Is neither presently involved in, nor anticipates being involved in the near future, any case or other proceeding seeking or involving liquidation, reorganization, or other relief with respect to itself or its debts under any bankruptcy, insolvency, or other similar law now or hereafter in effect.
- 5. Required Federal Certifications. I certify that, to the best of my knowledge, Applicant will comply with, or will be able to comply with prior to the receipt of any funds disbursed in connection with this Program, any and all of the laws, rules, regulations, policies, procedures, orders, or other requirements identified or described in Schedule A (Federal Funding Required Provisions) of the Grant Agreement that accompanies the NOFA, including but not limited to those set forth in or required by Section 9 (Required Certifications) therein, including but not limited to those which pertain to the following:
  - 5.1. Drug Free Workplace (Section 9.1);
  - 5.2. Lobbying (Section 9.2);
  - 5.3. Suspension and Debarment (Section 9.3);
  - 5.4. Environmental Tobacco Smoke (Section 9.4);
  - 5.5. Nondiscrimination in Federally Assisted Programs (Section 9.5);
  - 5.6. Americans with Disabilities Act (Section 9.6);
  - 5.7. Equal Treatment for Faith Based Organizations (Section 9.7);
  - 5.8. Immigration and Naturalization Service (Section 9.8);
  - 5.9. Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency (Section 9.9).

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Grantee acknowledges and understands that it will be required to certify its compliance with such laws, rules, regulations, policies, procedures, orders, or other requirements set forth in Schedule A (Federal Funding - Required Provisions) of the Grant Agreement, including Section 9 (Required Certifications) again as part of the Grant Agreement execution process. Grantee further acknowledges and agrees that it may be required to supply the Office with any of the information or materials required in connection with any and all such individual certifications set forth in Schedule A (Federal Funding - Required Provisions) of the Grant Agreement, including Section 9 (Required Certifications), which information or materials the Office deems necessary to verify Grantee's compliance with such requirements, as a precondition to the Office's final signature on any Grant Agreement and/or prior to receiving any funds from the Office.

- 6. Broadband Grants Certifications. I certify the following on behalf of Applicant:
  - 6.1. Applicant is authorized to provide Broadband service in the geographic areas identified in the Application/forming the basis of any Project(s), and has or will obtain any necessary permits or licenses (federal, state, or local) required to do so.
  - 6.2. Upon request by the Office, Applicant shall be available to provide further information to the Office related to any Project(s) for which grant funds may be Awarded, or other additional information as may be reasonably requested by the Office.
  - 6.3. Except as otherwise identified in Form 22 (Exhibit G) and solely to the extent permitted by the NOFA, the Application, including any attachments or enclosures associated therewith, may be treated as public, nonconfidential records, and subject to public disclosure, and Applicant waives any claims it may have against the Office, the State of Iowa, and any officers, employees, agents, independent contractors, or other personnel of either of the foregoing related to the confidential treatment of any information or materials submitted in connection with its Application.

7.	Applicant may use the space below to qualify any of the above certifications to the extent necessary. By way of example only, if an Applicant is unable to unqualifiedly certify that the Applicant has not "within a three (3) year period preceding this grant, had one or more public transactions (federal, state or local) terminated for cause or default" as required by Section 3.4, above, Applicant may provide a detailed explanation of all public transactions (federal, state, or local) terminated for cause within the prior three (3) year period. Notwithstanding, if the Applicant is not able to submit an unqualified Certification Letter, this may result in the Office determining, in its sole discretion, that
	Applicant is not a Responsible Applicant, and in the rejection of the Application/disqualification of the Applicant.

- 8. Additional Acknowledgments. I acknowledge the following on behalf of Applicant:
  - 8.1. The Office may withdraw the NOFA and/or any Award made pursuant thereto at any time prior to the execution of a Grant Agreement.
  - 8.2. Following the issuance of Awards, the Office will post all final Notices of Intent to Award/decisions online at <a href="Lowa Grants">Lowa Grants</a> and <a href="https://ocio.iowa.gov/broadband">https://ocio.iowa.gov/broadband</a>:
    - Unsuccessful Applicants are solely responsible for reviewing such websites to determine their Award status.

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8.2.2. Adversely affected Applicants will have five (5) days to appeal such decision(s) by requesting a contested case proceeding in accordance with Iowa Administrative Code rule 129—11. Failure to challenge the Office's decision within the five (5) day period shall waive any other claims an Applicant may have as it relates to the Office's administration of the process and otherwise be deemed a failure to exhaust administrative remedies.

- 8.2.3. Applicants may appeal an adverse decision only for a timely submitted Application.
- 8.3. Following an Award, a successful Applicant will be required to execute a Grant Agreement with the Office as a condition precedent to receiving grant funds. Should the Office and Applicant fail to reach an agreement, the Office may revoke any prior Award and Award the corresponding funds to other Applicants or Grantees, or open additional rounds for Applications.
- 8.4. To the extent Applicant is Awarded grant funds, the Office possesses the authority to determine whether a Grantee has complied with the terms, conditions, or requirements of any Grant Agreement, and to issue any orders necessary to effectuate compliance with the same. Any such order shall become final unless within thirty (30) days of the transmission of such order, Applicant files a request for a contested case proceeding pursuant to 129—Chapter 6. Failure request a contested case within the thirty-day (30) period shall waive any claims an Applicant may have related to the administration of an Award and any Grant Agreement, and shall otherwise be deemed a failure to exhaust administrative remedies.
- 8.5. Upon completion of any Project(s) supported, in whole or in part, by grant funds issued by and through the Office, Applicant will be required to:
  - 8.5.1. Certify that the Project(s) was completed as proposed/represented in the Application, including certifying to the Office each of the required certifications identified and described in Section 3 (Project Completion) of the Grant Agreement that accompanies the NOFA, as applicable, including the specific certifications required by Sections 3.1.1.1 (Certification) and 3.1.2.1 (Certification), as applicable.
  - 8.5.2. Supply the Office with any information required as part of any Project closeout process as required by the Grant Agreement that accompanies the NOFA, including but not limited to any GIS data required by Section 3.1.1.1.3 or information or materials described in Section 3.1.2.2 (Verification), as applicable.
  - 8.5.3. Permit the Office to conduct field tests upon request or otherwise verify compliance with any Grant Agreement, including as described in the Grant Agreement that accompanies the NOFA, including but not limited to as required or described in Sections 3.1.1.2 (Field Testing) or Sections 3.1.2.2 (Verification), as applicable.
  - 8.5.4. As it relates to expenditures for which Grantee seeks payment or reimbursement:
    - 8.5.4.1. Submit a final summary of all Allowable Expenditures or other expenditures for which Grantee seeks reimbursement or has otherwise been paid, including any prior advance payment or prepayment, on forms supplied by the Office;
    - 8.5.4.2. Certify and attest that such Allowable Expenditures or other expenditures are true, accurate, and in fact constitute Allowable Expenditures or other reimbursable expenditures under the Program;
    - 8.5.4.3. Certify and attest that such Allowable Expenditures or other expenditures were not incurred prior to any period established by the CARES Act Requirements, which period as of the issuance date of this NOFA was <u>March 1, 2020</u>, and are otherwise payable or reimbursable in accordance with CARES Act Requirements.

## 9. Authorization to Release Information.

9.1. Applicant hereby authorizes the Office, the Evaluation Committee, or other agents, independent contractors, or other third parties acting on behalf of or directed by the Office to obtain information regarding Applicant's performance on other contracts, agreements or other business arrangements, its business reputation, or any other matter pertinent to evaluation and the selection of a successful Applicant in response to the NOFA. Applicant further authorizes representatives of the Office, Evaluation Committee, or other agents,

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independent contractors, or other third parties acting on behalf of or directed by the Office to contact any and all of the persons, entities, and references which are, directly or indirectly, listed, submitted, or referenced in Applicant's Application submitted in response to the NOFA.

- 9.2. Applicant acknowledges that it may not agree with the information and opinions given by such person or entity in response to a reference request. Applicant acknowledges that the information and opinions given by such person or entity may hurt its chances to receive an Award from the Office or may otherwise hurt its reputation or operations. Applicant is willing to take that risk.
- 9.3. Applicant hereby releases, acquits and forever discharges the State of Iowa, the Office, their officers, directors, employees, agents, and members of the Evaluation Committee from any and all liability whatsoever, including all claims, demands and causes of action of every nature and kind affecting the undersigned that it may have or ever claim to have relating to information, data, opinions, and references obtained by the Office, the Evaluation Committee, or other agents, independent contractors, or other third parties acting on behalf of or directed by the Office in the evaluation and selection of successful Applicants in response to the NOFA.
- 9.4. Except where and solely to the extent a confidentiality agreement, nondisclosure agreement, or similar agreement with a person or entity precludes the disclosure of trade secrets or other proprietary or confidential technical, financial or business information, Applicant authorizes any and all persons and entities to provide information, data, and opinions with regard to Applicant's performance under any contract, agreement, or other business arrangement, Applicant's ability to perform, business reputation, and any other matter pertinent to the evaluation of Applicant's Application. To the extent of such authorization, Applicant hereby releases, acquits and forever discharges any such person or entity and their officers, directors, employees and agents from any and all liability whatsoever, including all claims, demands and causes of action of every nature and kind affecting Applicant that it may have or ever claim to have relating to information, data, opinions, and references supplied to the Office, the Evaluation Committee, or other agents, independent contractors, or other third parties acting on behalf of or directed by the Office in the evaluation and selection of a successful Applicant in response to the NOFA. The preceding authorization and release is not intended and shall not be construed to waive any rights or limit any remedies the Applicant may have pursuant to the terms of any Grant Agreement.

In addition to any criminal penalties authorized by Iowa Code section 720.2 that may result from any false statements of material fact made herein or any other remedies available at law, equity, or otherwise, an Applicant that is subsequently determined to have made a statement, representation, warranty, certification, or attestation in an Application, or any attachments or enclosures associated therewith, that is later proven untrue in any material respect shall be obligated to repay the Office the entire amount of any grant funds previously distributed by the Office to the Applicant.

Sincerely

Authorized Representative's Signature

8/5/2020

Date

Ivan Dalen Name (Printed)

GM Title

River Valley Telecommunications Coop

368167

Entity

NOFA Number



# STATE OF IOV

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KIM REYNOLDS, GOVERNOR ADAM GREGG, LT. GOVERNOR ANNETTE DUNN
CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER

## Exhibit L - NOFA #003 Prior Funding Statement

Alterations to this document are prohibited

Describe any prior sources of federal, state, local or non-profit funds contributed to the completion of broadband network expansion projects within the State of Iowa completed by the Applicant since January 1, 2015 in the form of grants, low interest loans, or other award mechanisms. These sources do not include internal Applicant resources such as eash on hand, financing from third party vendors, or other sources of funds that do not include federal, state, local, or non-profit funding sources. Add additional rows if necessary. If no prior funds have been received, indicate \$0 under Amount of Funds in the first row.

Date Funding Provided	Source of Funds (Name funding entity and indicate whether Federal, State, Local, or other)	Amount of Funds	Use of Funds (Location, technology, speed levels, etc)
Jan. 2015-Present	USF	\$3,116,890	Voice & Broadband in ILEC area however requesting grant funds applying for most of the locations are not in ILEC area for support

Authorized Representative's Signature

8/5/2020 Date

Ivan Dalen Name (Printed)

200 E. GRAND AVE., DES MOINES, IA 50309

GM Title

River Valley Telecommunications Coop

368167

Entity

NOFA Number

200 E. GRAND AVE, DES MOINES, IOWA 50309

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# **Appendix C**

8/19/2020

State of Iowa Mail - RE: Request for Clarification - Broadband Grant Program (NOFA #003) - Application #368167 Control Number 368167



Grants, OCIO <ociogrants@iowa.gov>

# RE: Request for Clarification - Broadband Grant Program (NOFA #003) - Application #368167

1 message

Ivan Dalen <idalen@rvtc.co> To: "Grants, OCIO" <ociogrants@iowa.gov> Wed, Aug 19, 2020 at 8:51 AM

There are 12 total broadband units in our project area. All 12 are businesses, schools, remote school class rooms, housing for students that are under served by current 25/3 and are requesting higher broadband speeds then the current providers can deliver. The infrastructure we are proposing will help with all these unit locations achieve broadband speeds for all their future needs. The speeds they will receive will help them achieve and improve their own internal networks for virtual classes, uploads higher then 3Mb for their upload requirements with remote location communications. Most of these locations also have or need security and cameras which also requires additional bandwidth that 25/3 is not enough to support a business or a school to keep employees and students safe. These are good projects for this program and that's why we selected them.

Thank You for the opportunity to serve lowa and their needs.

Ivan Dalen

General Manager

River Valley Telecommunications Coop

106 East Robins Street

Graettinger, IA 51342

idalen@rvtc.co

Ph. 712-859-3300



From: matt.behrens@iowa.gov <matt.behrens@iowa.gov> On Behalf Of Grants, OCIO

Sent: Tuesday, August 18, 2020 5:46 PM

To: Ivan Dalen <idalen@rvtc.co>

Subject: Request for Clarification - Broadband Grant Program (NOFA #003) - Application #368167

Dear Applicant,

https://mail.google.com/mail/b/ALGkd0yUep\_xeU8Nrr1WvbiiBIPp6RDbHvoZFMW37NAU4frasFUa/u/0?ik=2bca7458eb&view=pt&search=all&permthid... 1/3