

## FINAL AGENCY DECISION

### STATEWIDE BROADBAND AVAILABILITY MAP VERSION 4 APPEAL

September 14, 2021

DOCKET NO. 21-1034

#### A. APPELLANT INFORMATION

Company Name	East Buchanan Telephone Cooperative
Address	214 Third Street North, PO Box 100
City	Winthrop
State	Iowa
Zip	50682

#### B. DESIGNATED CONTACT INFORMATION

Contact Name	Mike Becker
Contact Phone Number	319-935-3011
Contact Email	<a href="mailto:mike.becker@eastbuchanan.com">mike.becker@eastbuchanan.com</a>

#### C. APPEAL TYPE

- ☐ Resident Challenge  
☐ First-Party Provider Challenge  
☒ Third-Party Provider Challenge

#### D. EVIDENCE CONSIDERED

With respect to the Census Blocks forming the basis of this Appeal, the Office has reviewed the evidence and information submitted by Appellant related thereto (see Appendix B for original submission), in conjunction with the maps and data sources originally utilized in determining the TSA designation of these Census Blocks, and made a determination as to the Census Block TSA Tier designations as set forth in Appendix A.

- ☒ If checked, Appellant submitted a Certification as part of its Appeal, affirming under penalty of perjury whether or not Broadband service was Facilitated, and at which tier level, in Census Blocks as of July 1, 2021.
- ☐ If checked, Appellant submitted additional information in support of its Appeal. This information has been considered by the Office in making its Final Decision.
- ☒ If checked, challenged Census Blocks within this Appeal overlap with other Appeals containing one or more of the same Blocks. The Office considered evidence submitted in connection with any overlapping Appeal in making its final decision for any overlapping Census Block.
- ☒ If checked, the Office sent requests for additional information to Third-Party Provider(s) concerning whether reported broadband service was Facilitated in one or more blocks of this Appeal as reflected on Map V4 as of July 1, 2021. The Office may have received Affirmation(s) and/or other evidence from Third-Party Provider(s) in response to such requests. Refer to Appendix C for a record of these efforts.

Go to <https://ocio.iowa.gov/broadband-availability-map-version-4-challenge-process> for more information regarding how the Office evaluates evidence and decides tier designations for appealed blocks.

#### E. TO APPEAL FURTHER

The Office will post its Final Decisions on its website at [ocio.iowa.gov/broadband](https://ocio.iowa.gov/broadband). If an Appellant wishes to appeal the Decision further Appellant must notify the Office in writing within thirty (30) days of the posting of the Decision. Iowa Admin. Code r. 129–20.5(5). A request for a contested case must be filed by mailing a written request to:

Office of the Chief Information Officer

c/o Matt Behrens

200 E. Grand Avenue

Des Moines, Iowa 50309

In so doing, the reason for further appealing this Decision must be stated, specifically identifying the particular aspects of the Decision with which Appellant disagrees 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, the 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, an ALJ will schedule a hearing. If Appellant does not exercise its appeal right within thirty (30) days of the posting of this Decision, this Decision shall become final and no longer subject to challenge. Iowa Admin. Code r. 129–20.5(5).

SIGNED

DATE

Matt Behrens  
Deputy Chief Information Officer  
State of Iowa

## APPENDIX A - FINAL DECISION

### DEFINITIONS

<b>Targeted Service Area</b>	A Targeted Service Area (TSA) is a census block within which no communications service provider offers or facilitates broadband service at or above the tier 1, tier 2, or tier 3 download and upload speeds, as applicable.					
<b>Tier 1</b>	A maximum download speed of less than 25 megabits per second (Mbps) and a maximum upload speed of less than 3 Mbps.					
<b>Tier 2</b>	A minimum download speed of greater than or equal to 25 Mbps but less than 50 Mbps. No minimum upload speed is applicable for Tier 2.					
<b>Tier 3</b>	A minimum download speed of greater than or equal to 50 Mbps but less than 80 Mbps. No minimum upload speed is applicable for Tier 3.					
<b>Non-TSA</b>	A non-TSA is a census block in which speeds are Facilitated at greater than or equal to 80 Mbps.					
<b>Facilitate</b>	A communication service provider's ability to provide broadband service at or above the download and upload speeds defined above to a home, farm, school, or business within a commercially reasonable time and at a commercially reasonable price upon request by a consumer. This does <i>not</i> pertain to the Broadband Infrastructure used to facilitate said service; Broadband Infrastructure is <i>not</i> a basis for appeal.					
<b>Map V4 Designation</b>	The speed tier reflected on the Map as of July 1, 2021.					
<b>Decision Basis</b>	The Decision Basis number reflected in this column corresponds to a general explanation for why this Office made its decision regarding the Block. The Decision Bases are posted on the website at <a href="https://ocio.iowa.gov/broadband-availability-map-version-4-challenge-process">https://ocio.iowa.gov/broadband-availability-map-version-4-challenge-process</a> .					
<b>Overlapping Appeal</b>	Indicates the Docket Number in which the Census Block has been challenged in another Appeal. The Final Agency Decision may be impacted by additional or alternate information or affirmations received in conjunction with another Appeal for the same Block.					
<b>Prior Reporting</b>	The Prior Reporting column reflects information provided by Appellant on the Appeal. The Prior Reporting to FCC or Connected Nation may reflect one of the following:					
	In Error: Data was reported incorrectly to FCC or Connected Nation	Correct: Data was reported correctly to FCC or Connected Nation	No Response: Data was not reported to FCC or Connected Nation	Unknown: Data is incorrect for unknown reasons		

Docket No.	Census Block ID	Prior Reporting	Map V4 Designation	Appellant's Request	Final Agency Decision	Decision Basis	Overlapping Appeal
21-1034	190199506002110	Unknown	Non-TSA	Tier 1	Non-TSA	3	
21-1034	190199506002106	Unknown	Non-TSA	Tier 1	Non-TSA	3	
21-1034	190199506002094	Unknown	Non-TSA	Tier 1	Non-TSA	3	21-1043
21-1034	190199506002095	Unknown	Non-TSA	Tier 1	Non-TSA	3	21-1043
21-1034	190199506002060	Unknown	Non-TSA	Tier 1	Non-TSA	3	
21-1034	190199506002056	Unknown	Non-TSA	Tier 1	Non-TSA	3	21-1043
21-1034	190199506002057	Unknown	Non-TSA	Tier 1	Non-TSA	3	21-1043
21-1034	190199506002041	Unknown	Non-TSA	Tier 1	Tier 1	1	

[illegible]

**APPENDIX B**  
**CERTIFICATION AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION**



Grants, OCIO &lt;ociogrants@iowa.gov&gt;

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## Five Challenge Forms

1 message

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**Mike Becker** <mike.becker@eastbuchanan.com>  
To: "Grants, OCIO" <ociogrants@iowa.gov>  
Cc: Dave Lunemann <dlunemann@networkbetter.com>

Tue, Jul 20, 2021 at 4:28 PM

Please find attached five different challenge forms which will match our expected grant applications when filed. We do have many statements from residents in these locations that will be included with the grant applications. Some of these are noted in the attached challenge forms.

Also of note are eleven (11) census blocks which are listed in both the Walker City Challenge and the Walker Rural Challenge forms. These are noted in columns to the right of the comments.

Because of the Connected Nation mapping issues, there seem to be hundreds of census blocks that remain to be analyzed – none of which are included in the attached spreadsheets. The attached spreadsheets *only* match the areas for which we will be submitting grant applications.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks

Mike Becker

General Manager

East Buchanan Telephone Cooperative

Winthrop IA

[www.eastbuchanan.com](http://www.eastbuchanan.com)

Ph 319-935-3011

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### 5 attachments

**WALKER CITY CHALLENGE 7.16.2021.xlsx**  
147K

**WALKER ROUTE CHALLENGE 7.16.2021.xlsx**  
148K

**COUNTY LINE CHALLENGE 7.16.2021.xlsx**  
147K

**QUASQUETON CHALLENGE 7.16.2021.xlsx**

7/20/2021

State of Iowa Mail - Five Challenge Forms

146K



**WINTHROP CHALLENGE 7.16.2021.xlsx**

148K



A. APPELLANT INFORMATION	
Company Name	East Buchanan Telephone Cooperative
Address	214 Third Street North, PO Box 100
City	Winthrop
State	IA
Zip	50682
B. DESIGNATED CONTACT INFORMATION	
Contact Name	Mike Becker
Contact Phone Number	319-935-3011
Contact Email	<a href="mailto:mike.becker@eastbuchanan.com">mike.becker@eastbuchanan.com</a>
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: Choose one option that describes company/affiliation status.	
Company, consistent with the representations made in this form, and regardless of whether your company's prior reporting to to the FCC or State of Iowa was correct or in error as of July 1, 2021, either: (a.) Facilitated material Broadband service according to the designated Tier speed indicated on the Map; or (b.) Did NOT Facilitate Broadband according to the designated Tier speed in the identified census blocks.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	
Another unaffiliated company, as of July 1, 2021, consistent with the representations made in this form, either: (a.) Facilitated material Broadband service according to the designated Tier speed indicated on the Map; or (b.) Did NOT Facilitate Broadband according to the designated Tier speed in the identified census blocks.	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
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/attestation/affirmation. To the extent necessary, please feel free to upload additional explanations/supporting documentation.	
We intend to expand our service area east to the Delaware/Buchanan County Line to serve more school families in the East Buchanan School District which borders the county line. We have visited with homeowners in this area and have over 20 homeowner signatures saying that they want our fiber Internet service. Many homeowners say that they cannot get the speeds indicated on the map, and several also state that they are down in a valley and can't receive any wireless signals, also contrary to the broadband mapping. Also, there are several census blocks which indicate that Maqueketa Valley REC provides fiber, yet MV-REC does not serve Buchanan County with electrical service - they stop at the county line. So mapping seems to be incorrect in that regard also.	
E. SIGNATURE* By typing your full name you are affixing your signature to this form and attesting to the accuracy of the information submitted herein.	
Authorized Signature:	Mike Becker
Title:	General Manager
Date:	7/20/2021

\*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 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, 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 V4 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 Iowa 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 out.

Please familiarize yourself with the following terms prior to determining whether a broadband block may be appealed.	
<b>Targeted Service Area</b>	A Targeted Service Area (TSA) is a census block within which no communications service provider offers or facilitates broadband service at or above the tier 1, tier 2, or tier 3 download and upload speeds.
<b>Existing Broadband Speed Tiers</b>	The speed tiers used to determine whether a broadband block qualifies as a Targeted Service Area on the Statewide Broadband Availability Map.
<b>Tier 1</b>	A maximum download speed of less than 25 megabits per second (Mbps) and a maximum upload speed of less than 3 Mbps.
<b>Tier 2</b>	A minimum download speed of greater than or equal to 25 Mbps but less than 50 Mbps. No minimum upload speed is applicable for Tier 2.
<b>Tier 3</b>	A minimum download speed of greater than or equal to 50 Mbps but less than 80 Mbps. No minimum upload speed is applicable for Tier 3.
<b>Non-TSA</b>	A non-TSA is a census block in which speeds are Facilitated at greater than equal to 80 Mbps
<b>Facilitate</b>	A communication service provider's ability to provide broadband service at or above the download and upload speeds defined above to a home, farm, school, or business within a commercially reasonable time and at a commercially reasonable price upon request by a consumer. This does <i>not</i> pertain to the Broadband Infrastructure used to facilitate said service; Broadband Infrastructure is <i>not</i> a basis for appeal.

CENSUS BLOCK ID	Prior Reporting to FCC or Connected Nation Definitions 1. <u>In Error</u> means data was reported incorrectly to FCC or Connected Nation. 2. <u>Correct</u> means data was reported correctly to FCC or Connected Nation. 3. <u>No Response</u> means data was not reported to FCC or Connected Nation. 4. <u>Unknown</u> means data is incorrect for unknown reasons	Speed Tier that is reflected on Map v.4	What do you believe the Map should reflect for Facilitated service as of July1, 2021?	CN Error Correction Notes
190199506002110	Unknown	Non-TSA	Tier 1	Maquoketa Valley REC does not serve Buchanan County; Windstream speeds overstated
190199506002106	Unknown	Non-TSA	Tier 1	Maquoketa Valley REC does not serve Buchanan County; Windstream speeds overstated
190199506002094	Unknown	Non-TSA	Tier 1	EBTC does not serve this area.
190199506002095	Unknown	Non-TSA	Tier 1	EBTC does not serve this area.
190199506002060	Unknown	Non-TSA	Tier 1	Maquoketa Valley REC does not serve Buchanan County; wireless speeds overstated
190199506002056	Unknown	Non-TSA	Tier 1	Maquoketa Valley REC does not serve Buchanan County; wireless speeds overstated; 1 HSB served by EBTC fiber
190199506002057	Unknown	Non-TSA	Tier 1	Maquoketa Valley REC does not serve Buchanan County; wireless speeds overstated; 1 HSB served by EBTC fiber
190199506002041	Unknown	Non-TSA	Tier 1	Maquoketa Valley REC does not serve Buchanan County; wireless speeds overstated; 1 HSB not shown on map
190199506002040	Unknown	Non-TSA	Tier 1	Comelec doesn't reach that far; Maquoketa Valley Elec doesn't enter Buchanan County.
190199506002017	Unknown	Non-TSA	Tier 1	Maquoketa Valley REC does not serve Buchanan County; wireless speeds overstated; 0 HSB served by EBTC fiber
190199506002019	Unknown	Non-TSA	Tier 1	EBTC serves 1 HSB. Wireless speeds overstated.
190199501001150	Unknown	Non-TSA	Tier 1	EBTC serves 1 HSB with fiber. Wireless speeds overstated.
190199506002018	In Error	Tier 3	Tier 1	Wireless speeds overstated.

**APPENDIX C**  
**THIRD-PARTY AFFIRMATIONS AND SUPPLEMENTAL EVIDENCE**

July 28, 2021

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

Comelec Services, Inc.  
Tim Burbach  
timburbach@yousq.net

To whom it may concern:

This is a letter of inquiry concerning your firm's prior reporting to the State of Iowa Office of the Chief Information Officer ("OCIO" or "Office") regarding the availability of Broadband service in certain United States Census Block(s) within Iowa. Our Office received a formal notice of appeal challenging information reported on the Broadband Availability Map Version 4 ("V4") of the Statewide Broadband Availability Map ("Map"). The data reflected on V4 of the Map was either (1) provided by you to the Office's contractor ("Connected Nation") during the data collection window of April 15 through April 30, 2021, (2) gathered from other sources (such as FCC) that collected data from you, or (3) carried forward from prior reporting made to this Office by you under a previous Map version. Map V4 categorizes census blocks according to the facilitated speed offered within the block. The publication of V4 triggered a formal appeal window, as explained in more detail below, during which time we received this appeal. The appeal we received claims that the data reflected on V4 of the Map is inaccurate. This appeal can be found at <https://ocio.iowa.gov/broadband-availability-map-version-4-challenge-process> (see Docket Numbers 21-1034). **To resolve this matter, the Office requests that your firm provide information concerning your service in the affected Census Blocks as further identified and described below by August 11, 2021.**

On July 1, 2021, the Office officially published the final version of V4 of the Map, which identifies where Broadband service was offered or Facilitated at a tier 1, tier 2, or tier 3 speed as of July 1, 2021.<sup>1</sup> V4 of the Map is based primarily on data submitted to Connected Nation and/or FCC by Communication Service Providers concerning their service capabilities in the State of Iowa<sup>2</sup> and on informal comments/feedback supplied by interested parties as part of the informal comment/feedback process described above and in which your firm may have participated. V4 of the Map, and a detailed background of the same, can be found at: <https://ocio.iowa.gov/broadband-availability-map-version-4>. Overall, the new map reflects Targeted Service Areas defined as a census block within which no communications service provider offers or facilitates broadband service at or above the tier 1, tier 2, or tier 3 download and upload speeds. The tier speeds are defined as follows:

**"Tier 1"** means a maximum download speed of less than 25 Mbps and a maximum upload speed of less

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<sup>1</sup>See Iowa Code §§ 8B.1(12), 8B.10. *See also* Iowa Admin. Code r. 129—20.1, 20.3, 20.4.

<sup>2</sup>See Iowa Admin. Code r. 129—20.3.

than three Mbps.

“**Tier 2**” means a minimum download speed of greater than or equal to 25 Mbps but less than 50 Mbps. No minimum upload speed is applicable for Tier 2.

“**Tier 3**” means a minimum download speed of greater than or equal to 50 Mbps but less than 80 Mbps. No minimum upload speed is applicable for Tier 3.

“**Non-TSA**” means a census block in which speeds are facilitated at greater than or equal to 80 Mbps.

Through the official publication of V4 of the Map, the Office triggered the challenge process it is required by law to administer.<sup>3</sup> Pursuant to applicable administrative rules, within 20 days after the Office’s official publication of V4 of the Map, “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” along with all evidence or information supporting their appeal. Iowa Admin. Code r. 129—20.5(1). Specifically, interested parties were permitted to provide the Office with evidence and information of the following: broadband is unavailable from a provider listed for the area (census block); or, that broadband speed is not as advertised.

V4 of the Map currently shows that service is Facilitated at either a tier 1, tier 2, or tier 3 speed per designated census block. As part of the above-outlined process, OCIO received a formal notice of appeal and supporting evidence or information from one or more Iowa residents or Communications Service Provider, claiming that Broadband service is not offered or Facilitated at that speed tier.

At this time, the Office requests your assistance in making an accurate determination as to whether your firm facilitates broadband service at the designated speed tier for 10% or more of the geographic area of each challenged census block as of July 1, 2021 to the Census Blocks identified in Exhibit A. To that end, the Office requests that you:

- 1) Complete and return the attached Affirmation of Service or Lack of Service in Census Blocks Broadband Grants Program Broadband Availability Map Challenge Process Form (see Exhibit A, Affirmation tab), by **August 11, 2021**. Pursuant to this form, OCIO requests that a representative with legal authority to bind your firm:
  - a) Confirm that your firm Facilitated Broadband service to the Census Blocks identified in Exhibit A as of July 1, 2021, and indicate the speeds at which your firm facilitated broadband service in those blocks. For purposes of this representation, “‘Facilitate’ means a communication service provider’s ability to provide broadband service at or above the download and upload speeds specified in the definition of targeted service area in this section to a home, farm, school, or business **within a commercially reasonable time and at a commercially reasonable price upon request by a consumer.**” Iowa Code § 8B.1(5) (emphasis added).
  - b) Fully complete all other aspects of the Form.
- 2) In addition to the form, please also submit any other evidence or information in your possession to the Office that supports your prior representations to the Office regarding the Census Blocks identified in Exhibit A. Examples of evidence and information the Office would consider particularly probative include “Bills or invoices provided to or received by customers in the

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<sup>3</sup>See Iowa Code § 8B.10(2); Iowa Admin. Code r. 129—20.5.

applicable census block(s) which identify the specific download and upload speeds provided or received as of [July 1, 2021].” Iowa Admin. Code r. 129—20.5(8).

Please return the completed form and any supporting evidence or information to [ociogrants@iowa.gov](mailto:ociogrants@iowa.gov).

Please note that you are under no legal obligation to respond to this request for information. Generally, pursuant to applicable administrative rules, any affected person or party is free to submit evidence or information to the Office in support of or in opposition to an appeal within 20 days after the appeal has been posted to [ocio.iowa.gov/broadband](https://ocio.iowa.gov/broadband). Iowa Admin. Code r. 129—20.5(3). However, this Office is affirmatively reaching out to notify you of the appeal, of the circumstances surrounding the appeal, and to solicit your feedback and position. If this Office does not receive your response via Exhibit A of the Form by **August 11, 2021** (10 business days from the date of this letter), the Office will make a final decision based on the evidence and information currently available to it. Iowa Admin. Code r. 129—20.5(4), (5).

OCIO strives at all times to produce and disseminate accurate information. We appreciate your assistance in helping us achieve our statutory mandate.

Sincerely,

Office of the Chief Information Officer,  
State of Iowa



**EXHIBIT A**

**Affirmation of Service or Lack of Service in Census Blocks  
Broadband Grants Program Broadband Availability Map Challenge Process**

**A. RESPONDENT INFORMATION**

Company Name	Comelec Services, Inc.
Address	4190 Pennsylvania Ave.
City	Dubuque
State	IA
Zip	52002

**B. DESIGNATED CONTACT INFORMATION**

Contact Name	Josh Althaus
Contact Phone Number	563-557-8442
Contact Email	<a href="mailto:josh.althaus@yousq.net">josh.althaus@yousq.net</a>

**C. AFFIRMATION**

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

Company, consistent with the representations made in this form, and regardless of whether your company's prior reporting to the FCC or State of Iowa was correct or in error, meets one of the following criteria in each of the identified census blocks as of July 1, 2021:

1. Company Facilitated service at the indicated speeds on the Affirmation tab as of July 1, 2021 to more than 10% of the census block; or
2. Company did NOT offer or Facilitate material Broadband service.

Please indicate the speeds offered for each census block on the Affirmation tab.

**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 affirmation. To the extent necessary, please feel free to upload additional explanations/supporting documentation.)

**E. SIGNATURE\* By typing your full name you are affixing your signature to this form and attesting to the accuracy of the information submitted herein.**

Authorized Signature:	Joshua R. Althaus
Title:	Network Engineer
Date:	8/3/2021

\*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 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, 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 V4 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 Iowa 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 out.

**Please familiarize yourself with the following terms prior to determining whether broadband service is being Facilitated to the census block.**

**Facilitate**

A communication service provider's ability to provide broadband service at or above the download and upload speeds defined above to a home, farm, school, or business within a commercially reasonable time and at a commercially reasonable price upon request by a consumer. This does *not* pertain to the Broadband Infrastructure used to facilitate said service; Broadband Infrastructure is *not* a basis for appeal.

CENSUS BLOCK ID	Do you Facilitate service to more than 10% of the geographic area of the Census Block?	Download Speed	Upload Speed
190199501001150	Yes	40	15
190199506002017	Yes	40	15
190199506002018	Yes	40	15
190199506002019	Yes	40	15
190199506002040	Yes	40	15
190199506002041	No	40	15
190199506002056	Yes	40	15
190199506002057	Yes	40	15
190199506002060	Yes	40	15
190199506002110	Yes	40	15

July 28, 2021

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

East Buchanan Telephone Cooperative  
Roger Olsen  
57roger.olsen@gmail.com

To whom it may concern:

This is a letter of inquiry concerning your firm's prior reporting to the State of Iowa Office of the Chief Information Officer ("OCIO" or "Office") regarding the availability of Broadband service in certain United States Census Block(s) within Iowa. Our Office received a formal notice of appeal challenging information reported on the Broadband Availability Map Version 4 ("V4") of the Statewide Broadband Availability Map ("Map"). The data reflected on V4 of the Map was either (1) provided by you to the Office's contractor ("Connected Nation") during the data collection window of April 15 through April 30, 2021, (2) gathered from other sources (such as FCC) that collected data from you, or (3) carried forward from prior reporting made to this Office by you under a previous Map version. Map V4 categorizes census blocks according to the facilitated speed offered within the block. The publication of V4 triggered a formal appeal window, as explained in more detail below, during which time we received this appeal. The appeal we received claims that the data reflected on V4 of the Map is inaccurate. This appeal can be found at <https://ocio.iowa.gov/broadband-availability-map-version-4-challenge-process> (see Docket Numbers 21-1034, 21-1035, 21-1036). **To resolve this matter, the Office requests that your firm provide information concerning your service in the affected Census Blocks as further identified and described below by August 11, 2021.**

On July 1, 2021, the Office officially published the final version of V4 of the Map, which identifies where Broadband service was offered or Facilitated at a tier 1, tier 2, or tier 3 speed as of July 1, 2021.<sup>1</sup> V4 of the Map is based primarily on data submitted to Connected Nation and/or FCC by Communication Service Providers concerning their service capabilities in the State of Iowa<sup>2</sup> and on informal comments/feedback supplied by interested parties as part of the informal comment/feedback process described above and in which your firm may have participated. V4 of the Map, and a detailed background of the same, can be found at: <https://ocio.iowa.gov/broadband-availability-map-version-4>. Overall, the new map reflects Targeted Service Areas defined as a census block within which no communications service provider offers or facilitates broadband service at or above the tier 1, tier 2, or tier 3 download and upload speeds. The tier speeds are defined as follows:

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<sup>1</sup>See Iowa Code §§ 8B.1(12), 8B.10. *See also* Iowa Admin. Code r. 129—20.1, 20.3, 20.4.

<sup>2</sup>See Iowa Admin. Code r. 129—20.3.

“**Tier 1**” means a maximum download speed of less than 25 Mbps and a maximum upload speed of less than three Mbps.

“**Tier 2**” means a minimum download speed of greater than or equal to 25 Mbps but less than 50 Mbps. No minimum upload speed is applicable for Tier 2.

“**Tier 3**” means a minimum download speed of greater than or equal to 50 Mbps but less than 80 Mbps. No minimum upload speed is applicable for Tier 3.

“**Non-TSA**” means a census block in which speeds are facilitated at greater than or equal to 80 Mbps.

Through the official publication of V4 of the Map, the Office triggered the challenge process it is required by law to administer.<sup>3</sup> Pursuant to applicable administrative rules, within 20 days after the Office’s official publication of V4 of the Map, “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” along with all evidence or information supporting their appeal. Iowa Admin. Code r. 129—20.5(1). Specifically, interested parties were permitted to provide the Office with evidence and information of the following: broadband is unavailable from a provider listed for the area (census block); or, that broadband speed is not as advertised.

V4 of the Map currently shows that service is Facilitated at either a tier 1, tier 2, or tier 3 speed per designated census block. As part of the above-outlined process, OCIO received a formal notice of appeal and supporting evidence or information from one or more Iowa residents or Communications Service Provider, claiming that Broadband service is not offered or Facilitated at that speed tier.

At this time, the Office requests your assistance in making an accurate determination as to whether your firm facilitates broadband service at the designated speed tier for 10% or more of the geographic area of each challenged census block as of July 1, 2021 to the Census Blocks identified in Exhibit A. To that end, the Office requests that you:

- 1) Complete and return the attached Affirmation of Service or Lack of Service in Census Blocks Broadband Grants Program Broadband Availability Map Challenge Process Form (see Exhibit A, Affirmation tab), by **August 11, 2021**. Pursuant to this form, OCIO requests that a representative with legal authority to bind your firm:
  - a) Confirm that your firm Facilitated Broadband service to the Census Blocks identified in Exhibit A as of July 1, 2021, and indicate the speeds at which your firm facilitated broadband service in those blocks. For purposes of this representation, “‘Facilitate’ means a communication service provider’s ability to provide broadband service at or above the download and upload speeds specified in the definition of targeted service area in this section to a home, farm, school, or business **within a commercially reasonable time and at a commercially reasonable price upon request by a consumer.**” Iowa Code § 8B.1(5) (emphasis added).
  - b) Fully complete all other aspects of the Form.
- 2) In addition to the form, please also submit any other evidence or information in your possession to the Office that supports your prior representations to the Office regarding the Census Blocks identified in Exhibit A. Examples of evidence and information the Office would consider particularly probative include “Bills or invoices provided to or received by customers in the

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<sup>3</sup>See Iowa Code § 8B.10(2); Iowa Admin. Code r. 129—20.5.

applicable census block(s) which identify the specific download and upload speeds provided or received as of [July 1, 2021].” Iowa Admin. Code r. 129—20.5(8).

Please return the completed form and any supporting evidence or information to [ociogrants@iowa.gov](mailto:ociogrants@iowa.gov).

Please note that you are under no legal obligation to respond to this request for information. Generally, pursuant to applicable administrative rules, any affected person or party is free to submit evidence or information to the Office in support of or in opposition to an appeal within 20 days after the appeal has been posted to [ocio.iowa.gov/broadband](https://ocio.iowa.gov/broadband). Iowa Admin. Code r. 129—20.5(3). However, this Office is affirmatively reaching out to notify you of the appeal, of the circumstances surrounding the appeal, and to solicit your feedback and position. If this Office does not receive your response via Exhibit A of the Form by **August 11, 2021** (10 business days from the date of this letter), the Office will make a final decision based on the evidence and information currently available to it. Iowa Admin. Code r. 129—20.5(4), (5).

OCIO strives at all times to produce and disseminate accurate information. We appreciate your assistance in helping us achieve our statutory mandate.

Sincerely,

Office of the Chief Information Officer,  
State of Iowa



Grants, OCIO &lt;ociogrants@iowa.gov&gt;

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## Response to V4 Challenge

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**Mike Becker** <mike.becker@eastbuchanan.com>  
To: "Grants, OCIO" <ociogrants@iowa.gov>

Fri, Jul 30, 2021 at 11:25 AM

Awna,

Roger Olsen forwarded your email requesting a response to challenged census blocks. This is our official response, but please let me know if further confirmation is needed.

1. Please see the attached documents (PDF has signature).
2. Also below are summaries of two wireless customer bills for the lower speed census blocks served by our wireless Internet service. Please note that our spectrum license for Buchanan County expires in June 2022, so it is very likely that the EBTC wireless Internet service will be discontinued.
3. Finally, attached are two KMZ files detailing the available speeds in the towns of Winthrop and Quasqueton – both of which have several census blocks on the list for which you'd requested responses. These KMZ files are the very same that we had sent to Connected Nation for those geographic areas. For both maps, the yellow polygon areas indicate where the highest service speed is between 25 Mbps to 49 Mbps, while the red polygon areas indicate the highest available speeds of 50 Mbps to 79 Mbps. Any areas not enclosed by a polygon can currently receive 80+ Mbps speeds.
4. I would also note that one of the census blocks on the list was actually the Wapsipinicon River – the actual flow of the water – the middle of the river with no land within the census block. Our wireless coverage envelopes that census block.

Please let me know if you have any further questions.

Thank you.

Mike

[REDACTED]  
2777 YORK AVE  
MASONVILLE IA 50654-9211

Account Number: 0308002197  
Bill Date: July 01, 2021  
Due Date: 20TH OF MONTH  
Internet: 0060060022

**Current Internet Service****Internet ID 0060060022**  
[REDACTED]**Monthly Charges**

Service	Qty	Amount	Total
<i>Charges for 07/01/21-07/31/21 - 1 MONTH</i>			
WI - OUT OF AREA - ALVARION ANTENNA	1	6.50	6.50
UNLIMITED OUT OF AREA W/I - 3MB/2MB	1	34.95	34.95
<b>Subtotal Monthly Charges</b>			<b>\$41.45</b>

[REDACTED]  
2647 BUCHANAN DELAWARE AVE  
MASONVILLE IA 50654-9217

Account Number: 0308001203  
Bill Date: July 01, 2021  
Due Date: 20TH OF MONTH  
Internet: 0060063058

**Current Internet Service****Internet ID 0060063058**  
[REDACTED]**Monthly Charges**

Service	Qty	Amount	Total
<i>Charges for 07/01/21-07/31/21 - 1 MONTH</i>			
UNLIMITED OUTAREA W/I - 6MB/3MB	1	44.95	44.95
<b>Subtotal Monthly Charges</b>			<b>\$44.95</b>

Mike Becker

General Manager

East Buchanan Telephone Cooperative

Winthrop IA

[www.eastbuchanan.com](http://www.eastbuchanan.com)

Ph 319-935-3011

**4 attachments** **East Buchanan - V4 Appeal Notice to Respondent.xlsx**  
231K **V4 Challenge Response 7-30-21.pdf**  
493K **Winthrop.kmz**  
2K **Quasky.kmz**

3K



EXHIBIT A

**Affirmation of Service or Lack of Service in Census Blocks  
Broadband Grants Program Broadband Availability Map Challenge Process**

**A. RESPONDENT INFORMATION**

Company Name	East Buchanan Telephone Company
Address	214 Third Street North, PO Box 100
City	Winthrop
State	IA
Zip	50682

**B. DESIGNATED CONTACT INFORMATION**

Contact Name	Mike Becker
Contact Phone Number	319-935-3011
Contact Email	<a href="mailto:mike.becker@eastbuchanan.com">mike.becker@eastbuchanan.com</a>

**C. AFFIRMATION**

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

Company, consistent with the representations made in this form, and regardless of whether your company's prior reporting to the FCC or State of Iowa was correct or in error, meets one of the following criteria in each of the identified census blocks as of July 1, 2021:

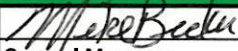
1. Company Facilitated service at the indicated speeds on the Affirmation tab as of July 1, 2021 to more than 10% of the census block; or
2. Company did NOT offer or Facilitate material Broadband service.

Please indicate the speeds offered for each census block on the Affirmation tab.

**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 affirmation. To the extent necessary, please feel free to upload additional explanations/supporting documentation.

Some census blocks are fed via fiber, some are DSL, and some are our wireless service with only 6 Mbps download speed available. We've marked some CBs with two separate speeds because different locations within the same census block can obtain faster/slower speeds based on their precise location within the census block in relation to different defined speed Tiers. IE. Different locations within the same census block may fall into different speed Tiers as defined by the State of Iowa. I believe that we have submitted on this form the same speeds indicated as our KMZ file submission to Connected Nation.

**E. SIGNATURE\*** By typing your full name you are affixing your signature to this form and attesting to the accuracy of the information submitted herein.

Authorized Signature:	
Title:	General Manager
Date:	7/30/2021

\*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 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, 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 V4 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 Iowa 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 out.

Please familiarize yourself with the following terms prior to determining whether broadband service is being Facilitated to the census block.

**Facilitate**

A communication service provider's ability to provide broadband service at or above the download and upload speeds defined above to a home, farm, school, or business within a commercially reasonable time and at a commercially reasonable price upon request by a consumer. This does not pertain to the Broadband Infrastructure used to facilitate said service; Broadband Infrastructure is *not* a basis for appeal.

CENSUS BLOCK ID	Do you Facilitate service to more than 10% of the geographic area of the Census Block?	Download Speed	Upload Speed
190199506002019	Yes	1 Gbps	500 Mbps
190199506002056	Yes	6 Mbps	1 Mbps
190199506002094	Yes	6 Mbps	1 Mbps
190199506002095	Yes	3 Mbps	1 Mbps
190199506001109	Yes	6 Mbps	1 Mbps
190199506001110	Yes	1 Gbps	500 Mbps
190199506001119	Yes	25 Mbps	10 Mbps
190199506001123	Yes	1/2=25 Mbps; 1/2=60 Mbps	10 Mbps
190199506001124	Yes	1/2=25 Mbps; 1/2=60 Mbps	10 Mbps
190199506001131	Yes	1/2=60 Mbps; 1/2=80 Mbps	10 Mbps
190199506001137	Yes	50 Mbps	10 Mbps
190199506001170	Yes	35 Mbps	10 Mbps
190199506001171	Yes	35 Mbps	10 Mbps
190199506001178	Yes	35 Mbps	10 Mbps
190199501003086	Yes	1/2=60 Mbps; 1/2=80 Mbps	10 Mbps
190199501003089	Yes	35 Mbps	10 Mbps
190199501003098	Yes	35 Mbps	10 Mbps
190199501003108	Yes	3/4=80 Mbps; 1/4=60 Mbps	10 Mbps
190199501003111	Yes	1/4=80 Mbps; 3/4=60 Mbps	10 Mbps
190199501003143	Yes	60 Mbps	10 Mbps
190199501003144	Yes	80 Mbps	10 Mbps
190199501003148	Yes	35 Mbps	10 Mbps
190199501003155	Yes	65 Mbps	10 Mbps
190199506001004	Yes	35 Mbps	10 Mbps
190199506001007	Yes	35 Mbps	10 Mbps

July 28, 2021

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

LTD Broadband LLC  
Corey Hauer  
coreyhauer@gmail.com

To whom it may concern:

This is a letter of inquiry concerning your firm's prior reporting to the State of Iowa Office of the Chief Information Officer ("OCIO" or "Office") regarding the availability of Broadband service in certain United States Census Block(s) within Iowa. Our Office received a formal notice of appeal challenging information reported on the Broadband Availability Map Version 4 ("V4") of the Statewide Broadband Availability Map ("Map"). The data reflected on V4 of the Map was either (1) provided by you to the Office's contractor ("Connected Nation") during the data collection window of April 15 through April 30, 2021, (2) gathered from other sources (such as FCC) that collected data from you, or (3) carried forward from prior reporting made to this Office by you under a previous Map version. Map V4 categorizes census blocks according to the facilitated speed offered within the block. The publication of V4 triggered a formal appeal window, as explained in more detail below, during which time we received this appeal. The appeal we received claims that the data reflected on V4 of the Map is inaccurate. This appeal can be found at <https://ocio.iowa.gov/broadband-availability-map-version-4-challenge-process> (see Docket Numbers 21-1011, 21-1031, 21-1032, 21-1033). **To resolve this matter, the Office requests that your firm provide information concerning your service in the affected Census Blocks as further identified and described below by August 11, 2021.**

On July 1, 2021, the Office officially published the final version of V4 of the Map, which identifies where Broadband service was offered or Facilitated at a tier 1, tier 2, or tier 3 speed as of July 1, 2021.<sup>1</sup> V4 of the Map is based primarily on data submitted to Connected Nation and/or FCC by Communication Service Providers concerning their service capabilities in the State of Iowa<sup>2</sup> and on informal comments/feedback supplied by interested parties as part of the informal comment/feedback process described above and in which your firm may have participated. V4 of the Map, and a detailed background of the same, can be found at: <https://ocio.iowa.gov/broadband-availability-map-version-4>. Overall, the new map reflects Targeted Service Areas defined as a census block within which no communications service provider offers or facilitates broadband service at or above the tier 1, tier 2, or tier 3 download and upload speeds. The tier speeds are defined as follows:

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<sup>1</sup>See Iowa Code §§ 8B.1(12), 8B.10. *See also* Iowa Admin. Code r. 129—20.1, 20.3, 20.4.

<sup>2</sup>See Iowa Admin. Code r. 129—20.3.

“**Tier 1**” means a maximum download speed of less than 25 Mbps and a maximum upload speed of less than three Mbps.

“**Tier 2**” means a minimum download speed of greater than or equal to 25 Mbps but less than 50 Mbps. No minimum upload speed is applicable for Tier 2.

“**Tier 3**” means a minimum download speed of greater than or equal to 50 Mbps but less than 80 Mbps. No minimum upload speed is applicable for Tier 3.

“**Non-TSA**” means a census block in which speeds are facilitated at greater than or equal to 80 Mbps.

Through the official publication of V4 of the Map, the Office triggered the challenge process it is required by law to administer.<sup>3</sup> Pursuant to applicable administrative rules, within 20 days after the Office’s official publication of V4 of the Map, “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” along with all evidence or information supporting their appeal. Iowa Admin. Code r. 129—20.5(1). Specifically, interested parties were permitted to provide the Office with evidence and information of the following: broadband is unavailable from a provider listed for the area (census block); or, that broadband speed is not as advertised.

V4 of the Map currently shows that service is Facilitated at either a tier 1, tier 2, or tier 3 speed per designated census block. As part of the above-outlined process, OCIO received a formal notice of appeal and supporting evidence or information from one or more Iowa residents or Communications Service Provider, claiming that Broadband service is not offered or Facilitated at that speed tier.

At this time, the Office requests your assistance in making an accurate determination as to whether your firm facilitates broadband service at the designated speed tier for 10% or more of the geographic area of each challenged census block as of July 1, 2021 to the Census Blocks identified in Exhibit A. To that end, the Office requests that you:

- 1) Complete and return the attached Affirmation of Service or Lack of Service in Census Blocks Broadband Grants Program Broadband Availability Map Challenge Process Form (see Exhibit A, Affirmation tab), by **August 11, 2021**. Pursuant to this form, OCIO requests that a representative with legal authority to bind your firm:
  - a) Confirm that your firm Facilitated Broadband service to the Census Blocks identified in Exhibit A as of July 1, 2021, and indicate the speeds at which your firm facilitated broadband service in those blocks. For purposes of this representation, “‘Facilitate’ means a communication service provider’s ability to provide broadband service at or above the download and upload speeds specified in the definition of targeted service area in this section to a home, farm, school, or business **within a commercially reasonable time and at a commercially reasonable price upon request by a consumer.**” Iowa Code § 8B.1(5) (emphasis added).
  - b) Fully complete all other aspects of the Form.
- 2) In addition to the form, please also submit any other evidence or information in your possession to the Office that supports your prior representations to the Office regarding the Census Blocks identified in Exhibit A. Examples of evidence and information the Office would consider particularly probative include “Bills or invoices provided to or received by customers in the

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<sup>3</sup>See Iowa Code § 8B.10(2); Iowa Admin. Code r. 129—20.5.

applicable census block(s) which identify the specific download and upload speeds provided or received as of [July 1, 2021].” Iowa Admin. Code r. 129—20.5(8).

Please return the completed form and any supporting evidence or information to [ociogrants@iowa.gov](mailto:ociogrants@iowa.gov).

Please note that you are under no legal obligation to respond to this request for information. Generally, pursuant to applicable administrative rules, any affected person or party is free to submit evidence or information to the Office in support of or in opposition to an appeal within 20 days after the appeal has been posted to [ocio.iowa.gov/broadband](https://ocio.iowa.gov/broadband). Iowa Admin. Code r. 129—20.5(3). However, this Office is affirmatively reaching out to notify you of the appeal, of the circumstances surrounding the appeal, and to solicit your feedback and position. If this Office does not receive your response via Exhibit A of the Form by **August 11, 2021** (10 business days from the date of this letter), the Office will make a final decision based on the evidence and information currently available to it. Iowa Admin. Code r. 129—20.5(4), (5).

OCIO strives at all times to produce and disseminate accurate information. We appreciate your assistance in helping us achieve our statutory mandate.

Sincerely,

Office of the Chief Information Officer,  
State of Iowa

**EXHIBIT A****Affirmation of Service or Lack of Service in Census Blocks  
Broadband Grants Program Broadband Availability Map Challenge Process****A. RESPONDENT INFORMATION**

Company Name	LTD Broadband LLC
Address	69 Teahouse Street
City	Las Vegas
State	NV
Zip	89138

**B. DESIGNATED CONTACT INFORMATION**

Contact Name	Corey Hauer
Contact Phone Number	(507) 318-0143
Contact Email	<a href="mailto:coreyhauer@ltdbroadband.com">coreyhauer@ltdbroadband.com</a>

**C. AFFIRMATION**

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

Company, consistent with the representations made in this form, and regardless of whether your company's prior reporting to the FCC or State of Iowa was correct or in error, meets one of the following criteria in each of the identified census blocks as of July 1, 2021:

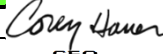
1. Company Facilitated service at the indicated speeds on the Affirmation tab as of July 1, 2021 to more than 10% of the census block; or
2. Company did NOT offer or Facilitate material Broadband service.

Please indicate the speeds offered for each census block on the Affirmation tab.

**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 affirmation. To the extent necessary, please feel free to upload additional explanations/supporting documentation.)

LTD Broadband is capable of more than 250/250 in most of our network. This is for dedicated commercial plans. Speeds of 1000/1000 are available to most locations but it is not uniformly available. Our 250/250 plans are uniformly available to at least 10% of every census block we report.

**E. SIGNATURE\* By typing your full name you are affixing your signature to this form and attesting to the accuracy of the information submitted herein.**

Authorized Signature:	
Title:	CEO
Date:	8/1/2021

\*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 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, 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 V4 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 Iowa 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 out.

**Please familiarize yourself with the following terms prior to determining whether broadband service is being Facilitated to the census block.**

**Facilitate**

A communication service provider's ability to provide broadband service at or above the download and upload speeds defined above to a home, farm, school, or business within a commercially reasonable time and at a commercially reasonable price upon request by a consumer. This does *not* pertain to the Broadband Infrastructure used to facilitate said service; Broadband Infrastructure is *not* a basis for appeal.

CENSUS BLOCK ID	Do you Facilitate service to more than 10% of the geographic area of the Census Block?	Download Speed	Upload Speed
190693601001144	Yes	250 Mbps	250 Mbps
190693601001145	Yes	250 Mbps	250 Mbps
190693601001168	Yes	250 Mbps	250 Mbps
190693601001169	Yes	250 Mbps	250 Mbps
190693601001171	Yes	250 Mbps	250 Mbps
190693601001172	Yes	250 Mbps	250 Mbps
190693601001174	Yes	250 Mbps	250 Mbps
190693601002002	Yes	250 Mbps	250 Mbps
190693601002007	Yes	250 Mbps	250 Mbps
190693601002009	Yes	250 Mbps	250 Mbps
190693601002010	Yes	250 Mbps	250 Mbps
190693601002013	Yes	250 Mbps	250 Mbps
190693601002014	Yes	250 Mbps	250 Mbps

190693601002016	Yes	250 Mbps	250 Mbps
190693601002017	Yes	250 Mbps	250 Mbps
190693601002022	Yes	250 Mbps	250 Mbps
190693601002025	Yes	250 Mbps	250 Mbps
190693601002031	Yes	250 Mbps	250 Mbps
190693601002034	Yes	250 Mbps	250 Mbps
190693601002036	Yes	250 Mbps	250 Mbps
190693601002038	Yes	250 Mbps	250 Mbps
190693601002039	Yes	250 Mbps	250 Mbps
190693601002053	Yes	250 Mbps	250 Mbps
190693601002054	Yes	250 Mbps	250 Mbps
190693601002068	Yes	250 Mbps	250 Mbps
190693601002071	Yes	250 Mbps	250 Mbps
190693601002072	Yes	250 Mbps	250 Mbps
190693601002073	Yes	250 Mbps	250 Mbps
190693601002074	Yes	250 Mbps	250 Mbps
190693601002076	Yes	250 Mbps	250 Mbps
190693601002079	Yes	250 Mbps	250 Mbps
190693601002080	Yes	250 Mbps	250 Mbps
190693601002082	Yes	250 Mbps	250 Mbps
190693601002084	Yes	250 Mbps	250 Mbps
190693601002088	Yes	250 Mbps	250 Mbps
190693601002096	Yes	250 Mbps	250 Mbps
190693601002097	Yes	250 Mbps	250 Mbps
190693601002098	Yes	250 Mbps	250 Mbps
190693601002099	Yes	250 Mbps	250 Mbps
190693601002110	Yes	250 Mbps	250 Mbps
190693601002112	Yes	250 Mbps	250 Mbps
190693601002116	Yes	250 Mbps	250 Mbps
190693601002118	Yes	250 Mbps	250 Mbps
190693601002119	Yes	250 Mbps	250 Mbps
190693601002122	Yes	250 Mbps	250 Mbps
190693601002124	Yes	250 Mbps	250 Mbps
190693601002127	Yes	250 Mbps	250 Mbps
190693601002128	Yes	250 Mbps	250 Mbps
190693601002131	Yes	250 Mbps	250 Mbps

190693601002138	Yes	250 Mbps	250 Mbps
190693601002139	Yes	250 Mbps	250 Mbps
190693601002140	Yes	250 Mbps	250 Mbps
190693601002142	Yes	250 Mbps	250 Mbps
190693601002144	Yes	250 Mbps	250 Mbps
190693601002151	Yes	250 Mbps	250 Mbps
190693601002153	Yes	250 Mbps	250 Mbps
190693601002159	Yes	250 Mbps	250 Mbps
190693601003017	Yes	250 Mbps	250 Mbps
190693601003018	Yes	250 Mbps	250 Mbps
190693601003019	Yes	250 Mbps	250 Mbps
190693601003020	Yes	250 Mbps	250 Mbps
190693601003024	Yes	250 Mbps	250 Mbps
190693601003026	Yes	250 Mbps	250 Mbps
190693601003028	Yes	250 Mbps	250 Mbps
190693601003030	Yes	250 Mbps	250 Mbps
190693601003033	Yes	250 Mbps	250 Mbps
190693601003292	Yes	250 Mbps	250 Mbps
190693601003293	Yes	250 Mbps	250 Mbps
190693602001086	Yes	250 Mbps	250 Mbps
190693602001092	Yes	250 Mbps	250 Mbps
190119606002006	Yes	250 Mbps	250 Mbps
190119606002007	Yes	250 Mbps	250 Mbps
190119606002008	Yes	250 Mbps	250 Mbps
190119606002009	Yes	250 Mbps	250 Mbps
190119606002012	Yes	250 Mbps	250 Mbps
190119606002014	Yes	250 Mbps	250 Mbps
190119606002015	Yes	250 Mbps	250 Mbps
190119606002016	Yes	250 Mbps	250 Mbps
190119606002017	Yes	250 Mbps	250 Mbps
190119606002018	Yes	250 Mbps	250 Mbps
190119606002020	Yes	250 Mbps	250 Mbps
190119606002029	Yes	250 Mbps	250 Mbps
190119606002032	Yes	250 Mbps	250 Mbps
190119606002039	Yes	250 Mbps	250 Mbps
190119606002084	Yes	250 Mbps	250 Mbps

190119606002085	Yes	250 Mbps	250 Mbps
190119606003105	Yes	250 Mbps	250 Mbps
190119606003106	Yes	250 Mbps	250 Mbps
190119606003110	Yes	250 Mbps	250 Mbps
190119606003111	Yes	250 Mbps	250 Mbps
190119606003112	Yes	250 Mbps	250 Mbps
190119606003114	Yes	250 Mbps	250 Mbps
190119606003115	Yes	250 Mbps	250 Mbps
190119606003117	Yes	250 Mbps	250 Mbps
190119606003118	Yes	250 Mbps	250 Mbps
190119606003120	Yes	250 Mbps	250 Mbps
190119607001000	Yes	250 Mbps	250 Mbps
190119607001001	Yes	250 Mbps	250 Mbps
190119607001002	Yes	250 Mbps	250 Mbps
190119607001003	Yes	250 Mbps	250 Mbps
190119607002000	Yes	250 Mbps	250 Mbps
190119607002001	Yes	250 Mbps	250 Mbps
190119607002002	Yes	250 Mbps	250 Mbps
190119607002006	Yes	250 Mbps	250 Mbps
190119607002007	Yes	250 Mbps	250 Mbps
190119607002009	Yes	250 Mbps	250 Mbps
191712906003001	Yes	250 Mbps	250 Mbps
191712906003002	Yes	250 Mbps	250 Mbps
191712906003011	Yes	250 Mbps	250 Mbps
191712906003013	Yes	250 Mbps	250 Mbps
191712906003018	Yes	250 Mbps	250 Mbps
191712906003020	Yes	250 Mbps	250 Mbps
191712906003021	Yes	250 Mbps	250 Mbps
191712906003031	Yes	250 Mbps	250 Mbps
191712906003067	Yes	250 Mbps	250 Mbps
191712906003071	Yes	250 Mbps	250 Mbps
191712906003072	Yes	250 Mbps	250 Mbps
191712906003085	Yes	250 Mbps	250 Mbps
191712906003086	Yes	250 Mbps	250 Mbps
191712906003088	Yes	250 Mbps	250 Mbps
191712906003089	Yes	250 Mbps	250 Mbps

191712906003090	Yes	250 Mbps	250 Mbps
191712906004080	Yes	250 Mbps	250 Mbps
191712906004081	Yes	250 Mbps	250 Mbps
191712906004142	Yes	250 Mbps	250 Mbps
191130102001014	Yes	250 Mbps	250 Mbps
191130102001026	Yes	250 Mbps	250 Mbps
191130102001027	Yes	250 Mbps	250 Mbps
191130102001040	Yes	250 Mbps	250 Mbps
190199506002169	Yes	250 Mbps	250 Mbps
190199506002172	Yes	250 Mbps	250 Mbps
190199506002173	Yes	250 Mbps	250 Mbps
190199506002174	Yes	250 Mbps	250 Mbps
190199506002175	Yes	250 Mbps	250 Mbps
190199506002203	Yes	250 Mbps	250 Mbps
191130102001001	Yes	250 Mbps	250 Mbps
191130102001002	Yes	250 Mbps	250 Mbps
191130102001006	Yes	250 Mbps	250 Mbps
191130102001007	Yes	250 Mbps	250 Mbps
191130102001008	Yes	250 Mbps	250 Mbps
191130102001010	Yes	250 Mbps	250 Mbps
191130102001012	Yes	250 Mbps	250 Mbps
191130102001041	Yes	250 Mbps	250 Mbps
191130102001044	Yes	250 Mbps	250 Mbps
191130102001046	Yes	250 Mbps	250 Mbps
191130102001048	Yes	250 Mbps	250 Mbps
191130102001049	Yes	250 Mbps	250 Mbps
191130102001050	Yes	250 Mbps	250 Mbps
191130102001051	Yes	250 Mbps	250 Mbps
191130102001052	Yes	250 Mbps	250 Mbps
191130102001058	Yes	250 Mbps	250 Mbps
191130102001062	Yes	250 Mbps	250 Mbps
191130102001063	Yes	250 Mbps	250 Mbps
191130102001071	Yes	250 Mbps	250 Mbps
191130102001072	Yes	250 Mbps	250 Mbps
191130102001075	Yes	250 Mbps	250 Mbps
191130102001080	Yes	250 Mbps	250 Mbps

191130102001088	<b>Yes</b>	250 Mbps	250 Mbps
190199506002019	<b>Yes</b>	250 Mbps	250 Mbps
190199506002056	<b>Yes</b>	250 Mbps	250 Mbps
190199506002060	<b>Yes</b>	250 Mbps	250 Mbps
190199506002094	<b>Yes</b>	250 Mbps	250 Mbps
190199506002095	<b>Yes</b>	250 Mbps	250 Mbps
190199506002106	<b>Yes</b>	250 Mbps	250 Mbps
190199506002110	<b>Yes</b>	250 Mbps	250 Mbps

July 28, 2021

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

OCIO did not receive a response from this provider.

Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative  
Patty Manuel  
pmanuel@mvec.com

To whom it may concern:

This is a letter of inquiry concerning your firm's prior reporting to the State of Iowa Office of the Chief Information Officer ("OCIO" or "Office") regarding the availability of Broadband service in certain United States Census Block(s) within Iowa. Our Office received a formal notice of appeal challenging information reported on the Broadband Availability Map Version 4 ("V4") of the Statewide Broadband Availability Map ("Map"). The data reflected on V4 of the Map was either (1) provided by you to the Office's contractor ("Connected Nation") during the data collection window of April 15 through April 30, 2021, (2) gathered from other sources (such as FCC) that collected data from you, or (3) carried forward from prior reporting made to this Office by you under a previous Map version. Map V4 categorizes census blocks according to the facilitated speed offered within the block. The publication of V4 triggered a formal appeal window, as explained in more detail below, during which time we received this appeal. The appeal we received claims that the data reflected on V4 of the Map is inaccurate. This appeal can be found at <https://ocio.iowa.gov/broadband-availability-map-version-4-challenge-process> (see Docket Numbers 21-1034). **To resolve this matter, the Office requests that your firm provide information concerning your service in the affected Census Blocks as further identified and described below by August 11, 2021.**

On July 1, 2021, the Office officially published the final version of V4 of the Map, which identifies where Broadband service was offered or Facilitated at a tier 1, tier 2, or tier 3 speed as of July 1, 2021.<sup>1</sup> V4 of the Map is based primarily on data submitted to Connected Nation and/or FCC by Communication Service Providers concerning their service capabilities in the State of Iowa<sup>2</sup> and on informal comments/feedback supplied by interested parties as part of the informal comment/feedback process described above and in which your firm may have participated. V4 of the Map, and a detailed background of the same, can be found at: <https://ocio.iowa.gov/broadband-availability-map-version-4>. Overall, the new map reflects Targeted Service Areas defined as a census block within which no communications service provider offers or facilitates broadband service at or above the tier 1, tier 2, or tier 3 download and upload speeds. The tier speeds are defined as follows:

**"Tier 1"** means a maximum download speed of less than 25 Mbps and a maximum upload speed of less

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<sup>1</sup>See Iowa Code §§ 8B.1(12), 8B.10. *See also* Iowa Admin. Code r. 129—20.1, 20.3, 20.4.

<sup>2</sup>See Iowa Admin. Code r. 129—20.3.

than three Mbps.

“**Tier 2**” means a minimum download speed of greater than or equal to 25 Mbps but less than 50 Mbps. No minimum upload speed is applicable for Tier 2.

“**Tier 3**” means a minimum download speed of greater than or equal to 50 Mbps but less than 80 Mbps. No minimum upload speed is applicable for Tier 3.

“**Non-TSA**” means a census block in which speeds are facilitated at greater than or equal to 80 Mbps.

Through the official publication of V4 of the Map, the Office triggered the challenge process it is required by law to administer.<sup>3</sup> Pursuant to applicable administrative rules, within 20 days after the Office’s official publication of V4 of the Map, “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” along with all evidence or information supporting their appeal. Iowa Admin. Code r. 129—20.5(1). Specifically, interested parties were permitted to provide the Office with evidence and information of the following: broadband is unavailable from a provider listed for the area (census block); or, that broadband speed is not as advertised.

V4 of the Map currently shows that service is Facilitated at either a tier 1, tier 2, or tier 3 speed per designated census block. As part of the above-outlined process, OCIO received a formal notice of appeal and supporting evidence or information from one or more Iowa residents or Communications Service Provider, claiming that Broadband service is not offered or Facilitated at that speed tier.

At this time, the Office requests your assistance in making an accurate determination as to whether your firm facilitates broadband service at the designated speed tier for 10% or more of the geographic area of each challenged census block as of July 1, 2021 to the Census Blocks identified in Exhibit A. To that end, the Office requests that you:

- 1) Complete and return the attached Affirmation of Service or Lack of Service in Census Blocks Broadband Grants Program Broadband Availability Map Challenge Process Form (see Exhibit A, Affirmation tab), by **August 11, 2021**. Pursuant to this form, OCIO requests that a representative with legal authority to bind your firm:
  - a) Confirm that your firm Facilitated Broadband service to the Census Blocks identified in Exhibit A as of July 1, 2021, and indicate the speeds at which your firm facilitated broadband service in those blocks. For purposes of this representation, “‘Facilitate’ means a communication service provider’s ability to provide broadband service at or above the download and upload speeds specified in the definition of targeted service area in this section to a home, farm, school, or business **within a commercially reasonable time and at a commercially reasonable price upon request by a consumer.**” Iowa Code § 8B.1(5) (emphasis added).
  - b) Fully complete all other aspects of the Form.
- 2) In addition to the form, please also submit any other evidence or information in your possession to the Office that supports your prior representations to the Office regarding the Census Blocks identified in Exhibit A. Examples of evidence and information the Office would consider particularly probative include “Bills or invoices provided to or received by customers in the

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<sup>3</sup>See Iowa Code § 8B.10(2); Iowa Admin. Code r. 129—20.5.

applicable census block(s) which identify the specific download and upload speeds provided or received as of [July 1, 2021].” Iowa Admin. Code r. 129—20.5(8).

Please return the completed form and any supporting evidence or information to [ociogrants@iowa.gov](mailto:ociogrants@iowa.gov).

Please note that you are under no legal obligation to respond to this request for information. Generally, pursuant to applicable administrative rules, any affected person or party is free to submit evidence or information to the Office in support of or in opposition to an appeal within 20 days after the appeal has been posted to [ocio.iowa.gov/broadband](https://ocio.iowa.gov/broadband). Iowa Admin. Code r. 129—20.5(3). However, this Office is affirmatively reaching out to notify you of the appeal, of the circumstances surrounding the appeal, and to solicit your feedback and position. If this Office does not receive your response via Exhibit A of the Form by **August 11, 2021** (10 business days from the date of this letter), the Office will make a final decision based on the evidence and information currently available to it. Iowa Admin. Code r. 129—20.5(4), (5).

OCIO strives at all times to produce and disseminate accurate information. We appreciate your assistance in helping us achieve our statutory mandate.

Sincerely,

Office of the Chief Information Officer,  
State of Iowa

July 28, 2021

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

United States Cellular Corporation  
Kathy Hust  
kathy.hust@uscellular.com

To whom it may concern:

This is a letter of inquiry concerning your firm's prior reporting to the State of Iowa Office of the Chief Information Officer ("OCIO" or "Office") regarding the availability of Broadband service in certain United States Census Block(s) within Iowa. Our Office received a formal notice of appeal challenging information reported on the Broadband Availability Map Version 4 ("V4") of the Statewide Broadband Availability Map ("Map"). The data reflected on V4 of the Map was either (1) provided by you to the Office's contractor ("Connected Nation") during the data collection window of April 15 through April 30, 2021, (2) gathered from other sources (such as FCC) that collected data from you, or (3) carried forward from prior reporting made to this Office by you under a previous Map version. Map V4 categorizes census blocks according to the facilitated speed offered within the block. The publication of V4 triggered a formal appeal window, as explained in more detail below, during which time we received this appeal. The appeal we received claims that the data reflected on V4 of the Map is inaccurate. This appeal can be found at <https://ocio.iowa.gov/broadband-availability-map-version-4-challenge-process> (see Docket Numbers 21-1021, 21-1030, 21-1031, 21-1032, 21-1033, 21-1034, 21-1037, 21-1038). **To resolve this matter, the Office requests that your firm provide information concerning your service in the affected Census Blocks as further identified and described below by August 11, 2021.**

On July 1, 2021, the Office officially published the final version of V4 of the Map, which identifies where Broadband service was offered or Facilitated at a tier 1, tier 2, or tier 3 speed as of July 1, 2021.<sup>1</sup> V4 of the Map is based primarily on data submitted to Connected Nation and/or FCC by Communication Service Providers concerning their service capabilities in the State of Iowa<sup>2</sup> and on informal comments/feedback supplied by interested parties as part of the informal comment/feedback process described above and in which your firm may have participated. V4 of the Map, and a detailed background of the same, can be found at: <https://ocio.iowa.gov/broadband-availability-map-version-4>. Overall, the new map reflects Targeted Service Areas defined as a census block within which no communications service provider offers or facilitates broadband service at or above the tier 1, tier 2, or tier 3 download and upload speeds. The tier speeds are defined as follows:

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<sup>1</sup>See Iowa Code §§ 8B.1(12), 8B.10. See also Iowa Admin. Code r. 129—20.1, 20.3, 20.4.

<sup>2</sup>See Iowa Admin. Code r. 129—20.3.

“**Tier 1**” means a maximum download speed of less than 25 Mbps and a maximum upload speed of less than three Mbps.

“**Tier 2**” means a minimum download speed of greater than or equal to 25 Mbps but less than 50 Mbps. No minimum upload speed is applicable for Tier 2.

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Through the official publication of V4 of the Map, the Office triggered the challenge process it is required by law to administer.<sup>3</sup> Pursuant to applicable administrative rules, within 20 days after the Office’s official publication of V4 of the Map, “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” along with all evidence or information supporting their appeal. Iowa Admin. Code r. 129—20.5(1). Specifically, interested parties were permitted to provide the Office with evidence and information of the following: broadband is unavailable from a provider listed for the area (census block); or, that broadband speed is not as advertised.

V4 of the Map currently shows that service is Facilitated at either a tier 1, tier 2, or tier 3 speed per designated census block. As part of the above-outlined process, OCIO received a formal notice of appeal and supporting evidence or information from one or more Iowa residents or Communications Service Provider, claiming that Broadband service is not offered or Facilitated at that speed tier.

At this time, the Office requests your assistance in making an accurate determination as to whether your firm facilitates broadband service at the designated speed tier for 10% or more of the geographic area of each challenged census block as of July 1, 2021 to the Census Blocks identified in Exhibit A. To that end, the Office requests that you:

- 1) Complete and return the attached Affirmation of Service or Lack of Service in Census Blocks Broadband Grants Program Broadband Availability Map Challenge Process Form (see Exhibit A, Affirmation tab), by **August 11, 2021**. Pursuant to this form, OCIO requests that a representative with legal authority to bind your firm:
  - a) Confirm that your firm Facilitated Broadband service to the Census Blocks identified in Exhibit A as of July 1, 2021, and indicate the speeds at which your firm facilitated broadband service in those blocks. For purposes of this representation, “‘Facilitate’ means a communication service provider’s ability to provide broadband service at or above the download and upload speeds specified in the definition of targeted service area in this section to a home, farm, school, or business **within a commercially reasonable time and at a commercially reasonable price upon request by a consumer.**” Iowa Code § 8B.1(5) (emphasis added).
  - b) Fully complete all other aspects of the Form.
- 2) In addition to the form, please also submit any other evidence or information in your possession to the Office that supports your prior representations to the Office regarding the Census Blocks identified in Exhibit A. Examples of evidence and information the Office would consider particularly probative include “Bills or invoices provided to or received by customers in the

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<sup>3</sup>See Iowa Code § 8B.10(2); Iowa Admin. Code r. 129—20.5.

applicable census block(s) which identify the specific download and upload speeds provided or received as of [July 1, 2021].” Iowa Admin. Code r. 129—20.5(8).

Please return the completed form and any supporting evidence or information to [ociogrants@iowa.gov](mailto:ociogrants@iowa.gov).

Please note that you are under no legal obligation to respond to this request for information. Generally, pursuant to applicable administrative rules, any affected person or party is free to submit evidence or information to the Office in support of or in opposition to an appeal within 20 days after the appeal has been posted to [ocio.iowa.gov/broadband](https://ocio.iowa.gov/broadband). Iowa Admin. Code r. 129—20.5(3). However, this Office is affirmatively reaching out to notify you of the appeal, of the circumstances surrounding the appeal, and to solicit your feedback and position. If this Office does not receive your response via Exhibit A of the Form by **August 11, 2021** (10 business days from the date of this letter), the Office will make a final decision based on the evidence and information currently available to it. Iowa Admin. Code r. 129—20.5(4), (5).

OCIO strives at all times to produce and disseminate accurate information. We appreciate your assistance in helping us achieve our statutory mandate.

Sincerely,

Office of the Chief Information Officer,  
State of Iowa



**EXHIBIT A**

**Affirmation of Service or Lack of Service in Census Blocks  
Broadband Grants Program Broadband Availability Map Challenge Process**

**A. RESPONDENT INFORMATION**

Company Name	United States Cellular Corporation
Address	8410 W. Bryn Mawr
City	Chicago
State	Illinois
Zip	60631

**B. DESIGNATED CONTACT INFORMATION**

Contact Name	Thomas Hulings
Contact Phone Number	773-355-3625
Contact Email	<a href="mailto:thomas.hulings@uscellular.com">thomas.hulings@uscellular.com</a>

**C. AFFIRMATION**

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

Company, consistent with the representations made in this form, and regardless of whether your company's prior reporting to the FCC or State of Iowa was correct or in error, meets one of the following criteria in each of the identified census blocks as of July 1, 2021:

1. Company Facilitated service at the indicated speeds on the Affirmation tab as of July 1, 2021 to more than 10% of the census block; or
2. Company did NOT offer or Facilitate material Broadband service.

Please indicate the speeds offered for each census block on the Affirmation tab.

**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 affirmation. To the extent necessary, please feel free to upload additional explanations/supporting documentation.)

UScellular attests to facilitating service at a minimum of 25/3 Mbps in 31 of the census blocks identified in the OCIO's July 28 letter. These blocks were upgraded to 25/3 Mbps Broadband as part of USCC's NOFA #003 submission and were in service on July 1, 2021. The challengers to these census blocks appear to be unfamiliar with UScellular's service offerings, which is understandable given the recency of these deployments. Some challengers, while not mentioning UScellular, appear to have conflated existing WISP offerings with UScellular's 3GPP 5G FWA product. Such offerings are not comparable in performance, reliability, or scalability.

**E. SIGNATURE\* By typing your full name you are affixing your signature to this form and attesting to the accuracy of the information submitted herein.**

Authorized Signature:	Thomas C. Hulings
Title:	Dir. Business Development & Partnerships
Date:	8/11/2021

\*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 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, 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 V4 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 Iowa 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 out.

**Please familiarize yourself with the following terms prior to determining whether broadband service is being Facilitated to the census block.**

**Facilitate**

A communication service provider's ability to provide broadband service at or above the download and upload speeds defined above to a home, farm, school, or business within a commercially reasonable time and at a commercially reasonable price upon request by a consumer. This does *not* pertain to the Broadband Infrastructure used to facilitate said service; Broadband Infrastructure is *not* a basis for appeal.

CENSUS BLOCK ID	Do you Facilitate service to more than 10% of the geographic area of the Census Block?	Download Speed	Upload Speed
190019602002020	Yes	25	3
190019602002021	Yes	25	3
190019602002022	Yes	25	3
190019602002027	Yes	25	3
190019602002028	Yes	25	3
190019602002029	Yes	25	3
190019602002030	Yes	25	3
190019602002032	Yes	25	3
190019602002035	Yes	25	3
190019602002049	No		
190019602002054	Yes	25	3
190019602002060	Yes	25	3
190019602002067	Yes	25	3

190019602002077	Yes	25	3
190019602002079	Yes	25	3
190019602002083	No		
190019602002109	No		
190019602002210	Yes	25	3
190019602002305	Yes	25	3
190019603004000	No		
190019603004003	No		
190019603004004	Yes	25	3
190019603004005	No		
190019603004007	No		
190019603004014	Yes	25	3
190019603004016	Yes	25	3
190019603004017	No		
190019603004019	No		
190019603004053	No		
190019603004073	No		
190019603004074	No		
190019603004080	No		
190019603004083	No		
190019603004085	Yes	25	3
190019603004087	No		
190019603004089	No		
190019603004110	Yes	25	3
190019603004114	Yes	25	3
190019603004138	Yes	25	3
190019603004164	No		
190019603004174	Yes	25	3
190019603004175	No		
190693601001144	No		
190693601001145	No		
190693601001168	No		
190693601001169	No		
190693601001172	No		
190693601001174	No		
190693601002118	No		

190693601002119	No		
190693601002122	No		
190693601002138	No		
190693601002142	No		
190693601002144	No		
190693601002151	No		
190693601002153	No		
190693601002159	No		
190693601003017	No		
190693601003018	No		
190693601003019	No		
190693601003020	No		
190693601003024	No		
190693601003026	No		
190693601003028	No		
190693601003030	No		
190693601003033	No		
190693601003292	No		
190693601003293	No		
190693602001086	No		
190693602001092	No		
190119606002006	No		
190119606002007	No		
190119606002008	No		
190119606002009	No		
190119606002012	No		
190119606002013	No		
190119606002014	No		
190119606002015	No		
190119606002016	No		
190119606002017	No		
190119606002018	No		
190119606002020	No		
190119606002029	No		
190119606002032	No		
190119606002039	No		

190119606002083	No		
190119606002084	No		
190119606002085	No		
190119606002087	No		
190119606003105	No		
190119606003106	No		
190119606003109	No		
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190490505002120	No
190490505002128	No
190490507001003	No



Grants, OCIO &lt;ociogrants@iowa.gov&gt;

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## UScellular response - V4 Map Challenges

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**Hulings, Thomas C** <Thomas.Hulings@uscellular.com>

Wed, Aug 11, 2021 at 7:22 PM

To: "ociogrants@iowa.gov" &lt;ociogrants@iowa.gov&gt;

Cc: "Frakes, Justin C" &lt;Justin.Frakes@uscellular.com&gt;

Hello,

Attached please find UScellular's response to The OCIO's Letter of Inquiry dated July 28, 2021. We will be responding to the August 11 letter very shortly.

Regards

UScellular attests to facilitating service at a minimum of 25/3 Mbps in 31 of the census blocks identified in the OCIO's July 28 letter.

These blocks were upgraded to 25/3 Mbps Broadband as part of USCC's NOFA #003 submission and were in service on July 1, 2021.

The challengers to these census blocks appear to be unfamiliar with UScellular's service offerings, which is understandable given the recency of these deployments. Some challengers, while not mentioning UScellular, appear to have conflated existing WISP offerings with UScellular's 3GPP 5G FWA product. Such offerings are not comparable in performance, reliability, or scalability.

**Thomas Hulings**  
**Director of Business Development & Partnerships**

**UScellular****Desk: 773-355-3265****Mobile: (773) 450-6045****US Cellular Response - V4 Appeal Notice to Respondent 8-11-2021.xlsx**

232K

July 28, 2021

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

Windstream Communications  
Trent Fellers  
trent.fellers@windstream.com

To whom it may concern:

This is a letter of inquiry concerning your firm's prior reporting to the State of Iowa Office of the Chief Information Officer ("OCIO" or "Office") regarding the availability of Broadband service in certain United States Census Block(s) within Iowa. Our Office received a formal notice of appeal challenging information reported on the Broadband Availability Map Version 4 ("V4") of the Statewide Broadband Availability Map ("Map"). The data reflected on V4 of the Map was either (1) provided by you to the Office's contractor ("Connected Nation") during the data collection window of April 15 through April 30, 2021, (2) gathered from other sources (such as FCC) that collected data from you, or (3) carried forward from prior reporting made to this Office by you under a previous Map version. Map V4 categorizes census blocks according to the facilitated speed offered within the block. The publication of V4 triggered a formal appeal window, as explained in more detail below, during which time we received this appeal. The appeal we received claims that the data reflected on V4 of the Map is inaccurate. This appeal can be found at <https://ocio.iowa.gov/broadband-availability-map-version-4-challenge-process> (see Docket Numbers 21-1011, 21-1013, 21-1014, 21-1017, 21-1018, 21-1019, 21-1021, 21-1031, 21-1032, 21-1033, 21-1034, 21-1037, 21-1038, 21-1044). **To resolve this matter, the Office requests that your firm provide information concerning your service in the affected Census Blocks as further identified and described below by August 11, 2021.**

On July 1, 2021, the Office officially published the final version of V4 of the Map, which identifies where Broadband service was offered or Facilitated at a tier 1, tier 2, or tier 3 speed as of July 1, 2021.<sup>1</sup> V4 of the Map is based primarily on data submitted to Connected Nation and/or FCC by Communication Service Providers concerning their service capabilities in the State of Iowa<sup>2</sup> and on informal comments/feedback supplied by interested parties as part of the informal comment/feedback process described above and in which your firm may have participated. V4 of the Map, and a detailed background of the same, can be found at: <https://ocio.iowa.gov/broadband-availability-map-version-4>. Overall, the new map reflects Targeted Service Areas

<sup>1</sup>See Iowa Code §§ 8B.1(12), 8B.10. *See also* Iowa Admin. Code r. 129—20.1, 20.3, 20.4.

<sup>2</sup>See Iowa Admin. Code r. 129—20.3.

defined as a census block within which no communications service provider offers or facilitates broadband service at or above the tier 1, tier 2, or tier 3 download and upload speeds. The tier speeds are defined as follows:

“**Tier 1**” means a maximum download speed of less than 25 Mbps and a maximum upload speed of less than three Mbps.

“**Tier 2**” means a minimum download speed of greater than or equal to 25 Mbps but less than 50 Mbps. No minimum upload speed is applicable for Tier 2.

“**Tier 3**” means a minimum download speed of greater than or equal to 50 Mbps but less than 80 Mbps. No minimum upload speed is applicable for Tier 3.

“**Non-TSA**” means a census block in which speeds are facilitated at greater than or equal to 80 Mbps.

Through the official publication of V4 of the Map, the Office triggered the challenge process it is required by law to administer.<sup>3</sup> Pursuant to applicable administrative rules, within 20 days after the Office’s official publication of V4 of the Map, “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” along with all evidence or information supporting their appeal. Iowa Admin. Code r. 129—20.5(1). Specifically, interested parties were permitted to provide the Office with evidence and information of the following: broadband is unavailable from a provider listed for the area (census block); or, that broadband speed is not as advertised.

V4 of the Map currently shows that service is Facilitated at either a tier 1, tier 2, or tier 3 speed per designated census block. As part of the above-outlined process, OCIO received a formal notice of appeal and supporting evidence or information from one or more Iowa residents or Communications Service Provider, claiming that Broadband service is not offered or Facilitated at that speed tier.

At this time, the Office requests your assistance in making an accurate determination as to whether your firm facilitates broadband service at the designated speed tier for 10% or more of the geographic area of each challenged census block as of July 1, 2021 to the Census Blocks identified in Exhibit A. To that end, the Office requests that you:

- 1) Complete and return the attached Affirmation of Service or Lack of Service in Census Blocks Broadband Grants Program Broadband Availability Map Challenge Process Form (see Exhibit A, Affirmation tab), by **August 11, 2021**. Pursuant to this form, OCIO requests that a representative with legal authority to bind your firm:
  - a) Confirm that your firm Facilitated Broadband service to the Census Blocks identified in Exhibit A as of July 1, 2021, and indicate the speeds at which your firm facilitated broadband service in those blocks. For purposes of this representation, “‘Facilitate’ means a communication service provider’s ability to provide broadband service at or above the download and upload speeds specified in the definition of targeted service area in this section to a home, farm, school, or business **within a commercially reasonable time and at a commercially reasonable price upon request by a consumer.**” Iowa Code § 8B.1(5) (emphasis added).
  - b) Fully complete all other aspects of the Form.
- 2) In addition to the form, please also submit any other evidence or information in your possession to the Office that supports your prior representations to the Office regarding the Census Blocks

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<sup>3</sup>See Iowa Code § 8B.10(2); Iowa Admin. Code r. 129—20.5.

identified in Exhibit A. Examples of evidence and information the Office would consider particularly probative include “Bills or invoices provided to or received by customers in the applicable census block(s) which identify the specific download and upload speeds provided or received as of [July 1, 2021].” Iowa Admin. Code r. 129—20.5(8).

Please return the completed form and any supporting evidence or information to [ociogrants@iowa.gov](mailto:ociogrants@iowa.gov).

Please note that you are under no legal obligation to respond to this request for information. Generally, pursuant to applicable administrative rules, any affected person or party is free to submit evidence or information to the Office in support of or in opposition to an appeal within 20 days after the appeal has been posted to [ocio.iowa.gov/broadband](https://ocio.iowa.gov/broadband). Iowa Admin. Code r. 129—20.5(3). However, this Office is affirmatively reaching out to notify you of the appeal, of the circumstances surrounding the appeal, and to solicit your feedback and position. If this Office does not receive your response via Exhibit A of the Form by **August 11, 2021** (10 business days from the date of this letter), the Office will make a final decision based on the evidence and information currently available to it. Iowa Admin. Code r. 129—20.5(4), (5).

OCIO strives at all times to produce and disseminate accurate information. We appreciate your assistance in helping us achieve our statutory mandate.

Sincerely,

Office of the Chief Information Officer,  
State of Iowa



**EXHIBIT A**

**Affirmation of Service or Lack of Service in Census Blocks  
Broadband Grants Program Broadband Availability Map Challenge Process**

**A. RESPONDENT INFORMATION**

Company Name	Windstream Corporation
Address	115 S. 2nd Ave W
City	Newton
State	Iowa
Zip	50208

**B. DESIGNATED CONTACT INFORMATION**

Contact Name	Logan Shine
Contact Phone Number	515-321-0194
Contact Email	<a href="mailto:logan.shine@windstream.com">logan.shine@windstream.com</a>

**C. AFFIRMATION**

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

Company, consistent with the representations made in this form, and regardless of whether your company's prior reporting to the FCC or State of Iowa was correct or in error, meets one of the following criteria in each of the identified census blocks as of July 1, 2021:

1. Company Facilitated service at the indicated speeds on the Affirmation tab as of July 1, 2021 to more than 10% of the census block; or
2. Company did NOT offer or Facilitate material Broadband service.

Please indicate the speeds offered for each census block on the Affirmation tab.

**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 affirmation. To the extent necessary, please feel free to upload additional explanations/supporting documentation.)

**E. SIGNATURE\*** By typing your full name you are affixing your signature to this form and attesting to the accuracy of the information submitted herein.

Authorized Signature:	Logan Shine
Title:	Vice President Government Affairs
Date:	8/16/2021

\*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 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, 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 V4 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 Iowa 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 out.



























191839605001169	<b>Yes</b>	183.501	51.773	Windstream is capable of providing 25/3 service to >=10% of the locations in this census block
191839605001170	<b>Yes</b>	183.501	51.773	Windstream is capable of providing 25/3 service to >=10% of the locations in this census block
191839605001174	<b>Yes</b>	183.501	51.773	Windstream is capable of providing 25/3 service to >=10% of the locations in this census block
191839605001180	<b>Yes</b>	111.28	31.982	Windstream is capable of providing 25/3 service to >=10% of the locations in this census block
191839605001181	<b>Yes</b>	111.28	31.982	Windstream is capable of providing 25/3 service to >=10% of the locations in this census block
191839605001182	<b>Yes</b>	123.208	51.773	Windstream is capable of providing 25/3 service to >=10% of the locations in this census block
191839605002017	<b>Yes</b>	183.501	51.773	Windstream is capable of providing 25/3 service to >=10% of the locations in this census block
191839605002018	<b>Yes</b>	183.501	128	Windstream is capable of providing 25/3 service to >=10% of the locations in this census block
191839605002023	<b>Yes</b>	85.721	17.039	Windstream is capable of providing 25/3 service to >=10% of the locations in this census block
191839605002024	<b>Yes</b>	85.721	17.039	Windstream is capable of providing 25/3 service to >=10% of the locations in this census block
191839605002029	<b>Yes</b>	183.501	51.773	Windstream is capable of providing 25/3 service to >=10% of the locations in this census block