

Clayton County Board of Supervisors

Steve Doepke, Ray Peterson, and Doug Reimer

Address: 600 Gunder Rd NE - Suite 3, Elkader, IA 52043 | Phone: (563) 245-2166
Send Mail C/O Clayton County Auditor, 111 High St NE - Suite 102, Elkader, IA 52043

March 14, 2023

Office of the Chief Information Officer
200 E. Grand Ave.
Des Moines, IA 50309

To the Office of the Chief Information Officer of the State of Iowa,

I am writing this letter to you on behalf of the Clayton County Board of Supervisors. As the Chairperson for the Clayton County Board of Supervisors, I would like to extend our support for the Intent to Quality for Broadband Intervention Zones for the areas of 1. Frenchtown area; 2. Clayton/Fayette; 3. Southeastern Clayton. Clayton County, Iowa has a population of 17,043 people and is a unique rural county located in the Northeast corner of Iowa. The meandering trout streams, rugged sandstone bluffs, and springs appeal to the nature lover in all of us. The county is a place to enjoy plentiful wildlife and scenic rivers with sandy islands, panoramic valleys, historic towns, and timbered hills. This unique landscape and amenities come with higher build out costs and concerns due to the topography and endangered species and rivers. Currently, the Iowa Broadband Map v.5 is comprised of areas where speeds of our only provider do not meet the requirements of 100/20 connectivity and several residents are unserved. We feel there are many more unserved residents that are not included within the map currently as well as many more underserved.

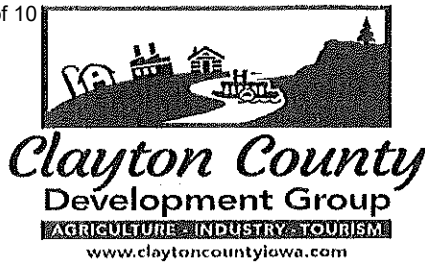
Within our County, we see the struggle and limitations that exist due to the lack of reliable communication services. Local businesses, library patrons, residents, rural residents, students, and emergency services continue to see the limitations to conduct business and participate in remote learning opportunities, meetings, and trainings. Additionally, these areas are considered to be in poor cellular reception areas. As a result, many residents have been recommended to use wi-fi calling to have adequate cell service, increasing the necessity to upgrade speeds and service to improve reliable communication connectivity. For the economic stability of our county, with workforce, education, and health, Clayton County sees the impact that fiber can bring to our school-aged residents, workforce, and businesses.

Clayton County supports the establishment of a Broadband Intervention Zone in and around the areas of Frenchtown, Southeastern Clayton, and Clayton/Fayette, in Clayton. We thank you for your consideration of the ITQ applications. It is our hope that review by the Office of the Chief Information Officer will designate the proposed area as a geographic area of concern/intervention zone for consideration in the next broadband grant program.

Respectfully,

Ray Peterson
Chairperson
Clayton County Board of Supervisors

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ray Peterson", written over a horizontal line.



200 East Bridge St., PO Box 778
Elkader, IA 52043
Phone 563-245-2201
ccdgd@alpinecom.net
www.claytoncountyiowa.com
www.visitiowa.org

March 7, 2023

To the Office of the Chief Information Officer of the State of Iowa,

On behalf of Clayton County Development Group; we are in support for the Intent to Quality for a Broadband Intervention Zone for the area. Clayton County, Iowa has a population of 17,043 people and is an unique rural county located in Northeast Iowa.

With rolling hills, trout streams, rugged limestone bluffs and valleys, brings nature lovers to the area. The county is a place to enjoy plentiful wildlife and scenic rivers with sandy islands, panoramic valleys, historic towns and timbered hills and limestone bluffs. With this landscape and amenities as such it comes with higher building costs and concerns to the topography and endangered species and rivers. At this time, the Iowa Broadband Map v.5 is comprised of areas, where speeds of our only provider do not meet the requirements of 100/20 connectivity and several residents are totally unserved.

Clayton County struggles with the limitations that exist due to the lack reliable communication services. Local businesses, library patrons, rural residents, students, and emergency services continue to see the limitations to conduct business and participate in online education, telehealth, meetings, and trainings.

The county is in a poor cellular reception area with many residents are unable to access cellular service at all. As a result, residents have been recommended to use wi-fi calling to have adequate cell service, this increases the necessity to upgrade speeds and broadband service to improve reliable communication connectivity that currently cannot meet those needs.

For the economic stability of Clayton County, for workforce, education, and health, Clayton County sees the impact that fiber can bring to our school-aged residents, workforce, and businesses.

The Clayton County Development Group supports the establishment of a Broadband Intervention Zone in and around the areas in Clayton County. We thank you for your time and consideration of the ITQ proposal to assist rural areas with broadband.

Respectfully,

Darla Kelchen
CCDG Executive Director
563-245-2201

Edgewood-Colesburg

Community School District

Dawn Voss, Principal
Jr. Sr. High School
dvoss@edge-cole.k12.ia.us
403 W. Union Street - P.O. Box 316
Edgewood, Iowa 52042
563.928.6412 - FAX 563.928.6414

Rob Busch, Superintendent
District Office
rbusch@edge-cole.k12.ia.us
403 W. Union Street - P.O. Box 316
Edgewood, Iowa 52042
563.928.6411 - FAX 563.928.6414

Patricia Briggs, Principal
Elementary School
pbriggs@edge-cole.k12.ia.us
409 East Street, Colesburg, Iowa
563.856.2415 - FAX 563.856.2113
Mailing address: P.O. Box 315
Edgewood, IA 52042

March 10, 2023

To Whom It May Concern:

My name Rob Busch, Superintendent of the Edgewood-Colesburg School District, in Edgewood, Iowa. Our district employs over 100 people and are part of a very progressive community. Attracting and retaining quality employees is more and more of a challenge. This year we even recruited a business teacher from Jamacia. One of our major hurdles to this is our community's inability to provide affordable, reliable internet services. Potential employees do not want to relocate to areas that do not have good access to the internet.

Because education is becoming more and more technical based, internet access is increasing important for day-to-day learning. Learning doesn't just take place during the day, so families also need a reliable and affordable internet provider option. Students without online access, or have poor access, struggle with their academic success. We owe our future generation the ability to engage, learn and succeed; and better internet services in our area is required to do so.

Please make improving internet access in our area a priority.

Sincerely,



Rob Busch

NOTICE OF NONDISCRIMINATION

Code No. 102.11

Students, parents, employees and others doing business with or performing services for the Edgewood-Colesburg Community School District are hereby notified that this school does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, age (except students), religion, national origin, sex, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender, creed, socioeconomic status, or disability in admission or access to, or treatment in, its programs and activities. The school district does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, age (except students), religion, national origin, sex, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender, creed, socioeconomic status, or disability in admission or access to, or treatment in its hiring and employment practices. Any person having inquiries concerning the school district's compliance with the regulations implementing Title VI, Title VII, Title IX, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), § 504 or Iowa Code § 280.3 is directed to contact: Karla Trenekamp, District Equity Coordinator • 109 East Street, P.O. Box 125, Colesburg, IA 52035 • 563-856-2415 kirenekamp@edge-cole.k12.ia.us

BOARD MEMBERS

Dan Ventelcher
President

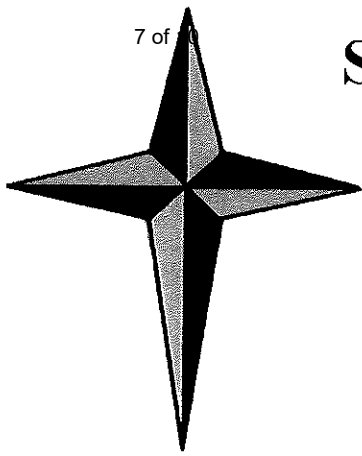
Matt Elliot

Jeff Hoeger

Tammy Kirby

Robert Schilling

Melissa Conner
Board Secretary



Starmont Community School District

Control Number 503262

STrawberry Point • ARlington • LaMONT
3202 40th Street • Arlington, Iowa 50606-8199

Superintendent
(563) 933-4598

Middle/High School
(563) 933-2218

Elementary School
(563) 933-2238

District Fax
(563) 933-2134

To: OCIE

From: Gary D. Benda, Superintendent of Schools, Starmont Community School District

Date: February 27, 2023

RE: Internet Capability

Dear OCIE---

My name is Gary Benda and I am the Shared-Superintendent for Starmont (Strawberry Point, Arlington and Lamont Iowa) and West Central (Maynard, Westgate and Hawkeye Iowa) Community School Districts. My districts support 600 and 325 students PreK-12 respectively in Fayette, Delaware, Clayton and Buchanan Counties. They support another 200 educators and people who support education as well. We also encompass large number of communities. In our current global educational environment, our students need access to high quality, high speed internet. Our students, staff and community need access to the internet for all manner of activities. They need to be able to research information, take virtual field trips and collaborate virtually with other students, staff and communities. In addition, we also want to retain our students staff and community members. Their access to high speed internet does impact where they choose to live, gain an education and access life. Finally, our ability to compete with other urban public and private school districts will be directly impacted by our ability to provide the same services they provide, except we will need to use the internet.

I want to urge you to provide the necessary support to bring high speed, reliable internet to our rural areas so that our students, staff and communities may have the same access as do their peers in more urban areas. If you have any questions, I can be contacted using the information below. Thank you for your time and attention.

Gary D. Benda, Superintendent

gbenda@starmont.k12.ia.us

c: 319-621-0170

It is the policy of the Starmont Community School District not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, religion, creed, age (for employment), marital status (for programs), sexual orientation, gender identity and socioeconomic status (for programs) in its educational programs and its employment practices. There is a grievance procedure for processing complaints of discrimination. If you have questions or a grievance related to this policy please contact the district's Superintendent at 3202 40th St, Arlington, IA 50606 or (563)933-4598.

The Starmont Community School District offers career and technical programs in the following service areas: Agriculture, Business, Family Consumer Science and Industrial Technology.

"IN PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION"



An Affiliate of **MERCYONE**

March 13, 2023

Office of the Chief Information Officer of the State of Iowa

Re: Intent to Qualify - Southeastern Clayton
- Clayton / Fayette Counties
- Frenchtown

To Whom it May Concern:

Please accept this letter on behalf of Guttenberg Municipal Hospital & Clinics (GMHC), expressing support for Allamakee-Clayton Electric Cooperative's desire to expand its fiber network services to Southeastern Clayton, Clayton / Fayette Counties and Frenchtown.

It has been brought to our attention that the three ITQ areas including various communities and rural areas are unserved and under-served. Within the proposed intervention zone, the area is seeing higher levels of poverty. Of note, Clayton County's rate is 12.2%. It is also seeing high levels of children in poverty at 16.3% with 30% of the population being children or young adults under the age of 19. To attract businesses, these people could obtain skills to assist the much-needed workforce. This could benefit both existing and future business growth. To attract families, fiber is needed for residents to work and live where they wish. Fiber will be the key for economic growth, educational improvement, increasing incomes, and improving health. Brain health has become a major concern in Clayton County as well as the State of Iowa. Suicide is on the rise which makes access to tele-health so critical for access so we can reach, assist and help more people. Broadband is the answer to better brain health and wellbeing.

The fiber builds within the county will save our rural areas from depressed economic times, reduction in populations, closures of businesses, closures of school districts, and declining health issues. Clayton County and the southeastern area is like no other area in topography in the state. We need to preserve the landscape and wildlife but cannot sustain our communities on existing businesses and tourism alone.

Internet connectivity has increased dramatically and become even more important in many households since COVID-19 as people continue to work remotely from home; some schools are also utilizing remote learning when there is no school due to bad weather.

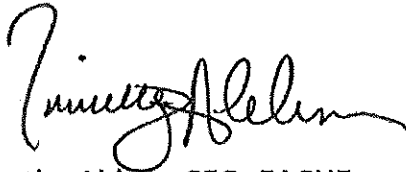
With technological advancements, students are also requiring more resources for school work which may not be available due to their internet connection where they live.

GMHC strongly supports all efforts to move this project forward with our support for Allamakee-Clayton Electric Cooperative wanting to expand its fiber network services in:

- ◆ Southeastern Clayton
- ◆ Clayton / Fayette Counties
- ◆ Frenchtown

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important technological progression in our immediate area.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Timothy Ahlers". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "T" and "A".

Timothy Ahlers, CEO, FACHE

TA/sla