

503262 - Southeastern Clayton County

Application Details

Funding Opportunity: 498157-Invitation to Qualify (ITQ) Broadband Intervention Zones
Funding Opportunity Due Date: Mar 31, 2023 5:00 PM
Program Area: ITQ - Broadband Intervention Zones
Status: Submitted
Stage: Final Application

Initial Submit Date: Mar 15, 2023 2:44 PM
Initially Submitted By: Rachelle Howe
Last Submit Date:
Last Submitted By:

Contact Information

Primary Contact Information

Active User*: Yes
Type: External Reviewer
First Name*: Rachelle Elizabeth Howe
First Name Middle Name Last Name
Title: Executive Director
Email*: rhowe@uerpc.org
Address*: 325 Washington Street, Suite A

Decorah Iowa 52101
City State/Province Postal Code/Zip

Phone*: (563) 382-6171 Ext.
Phone
###-###-####

Fax: (563) 382-6311
###-###-####

Agency:

Organization Information

Status*7 Approved Control Number 503262
Name*: Upper Explorerland Regional Planning Commission
Organization Type*: Councils of Government
DUNS: 04-222-8887-0000
##-###-####
Tax Id:
Unique Entity Identifier (UEI):
Organization Website: http://www.uerpc.org
Address*: 325 Washington Street

Decorah Iowa 52101
City State/Province Postal Code/Zip
Phone*: (563) 382-6171 Ext.
###-###-####
Fax: (563) 382-6311
###-###-####

Benefactor:

Vendor Number / ID:

Cover Sheet-General Information

Cover Sheet-General Information

Authorized Official

Name*: Rachelle Howe
Title*: Executive Director
Organization*: Upper Explorerland Regional Planning Commission
If you are an individual, please provide your First and Last Name.
Address*: 325 Washington Street

City/State/Zip*: Decorah Iowa 52101
City State Zip
Telephone Number*: 563-794-1505
E-Mail*: rhowe@uerpc.org

Fiscal Officer/Agent

Please enter the "Fiscal Officer" for your Organization.
If you are an individual, please provide your First and Last Name.

Name*:
3 of 7

Karen Cooper

Control Number 503262

Title:

Finance Department Head

Organization:

Upper Explorerland Regional Planning Commission

Address:

325 Washington Street

City/State/Zip:

Decorah Iowa 52101

City State Zip

Telephone Number:

563-382-6171

E-Mail:

kcooper@uerpc.org

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

Clayton County

To find your district, click on the "Congressional Map" link. On the left hand side of the page, click on the drop-down list and click on "State of Iowa". Then, enter an address for the county/ies you serve in the Search bar. Click "Enter." This will provide you with your Congressional District, Iowa Senate District and Iowa House District.

Congressional District(s)
Involved or Affected by this
Proposal*:

2nd - Rep Ashley Hinson

Congressional Map

Iowa Senate District(s) Involved
or Affected by this Proposal*:

32

Iowa Senate Map

Iowa House District(s) Involved
or Affected by this Proposal*:

64

Iowa House Map

Invitation To Qualify Application Exhibits

Required Forms and Submissions

Please indicate the community applicant type that best fits from this list.

Community Applicant Type*:

Council of Government

If Community Applicant Type is
"Other", please add additional
information here. :

This section of the Iowa Grants system requires the Applicant to upload a cover letter as a Word doc or pdf on the Applicant's letterhead to provide a high-level overview of the Application describing your community's Broadband need in the area and the community's interest in obtaining programmatic funding in the Geographic Area of Concern. The Cover Letter is not scored.

Cover Letter*:

Southeastern Clayton- signed cover letter.pdf

The Applicant must upload a spreadsheet of locations obtained from the Broadband Availability Map. The system will allow you to download the locations as a CSV formatted spreadsheet. The Eligible Service Locations Spreadsheet must then be uploaded by the Community Applicant to the Iowa Grants system.

Note: Reference the "Geographic Area of Concern and Data Export/Import Instructions," labeled "Exhibit D," for instructions regarding how to properly complete this aspect of the Application.

Eligible Service Locations
Spreadsheet*:

ITQ Southeastern Clayton.csv

General Description of the geographic area of the circle*:

The geographic area of concern is covering an 8 mile diameter on the southeastern portion of Clayton County, IA encompassing rural areas of Elkport, Osterdock, and Guttenberg.

Write down the radius distance used to create your circle. The instructions for how to identify the radius can be found in Exhibit D Geographic Area of Concern Selection Tool and Data Export/Import Instructions ("Selection Tool").

Radius of the circle*: 8

Address at the center of the circle - Street Address *:

36730 Graham Road, Colesburg, IA 52035

Address of the center of the circle - City*:

Colesburg

Address of the circle - State*:

Iowa

Address of the circle - zip code*: 52035

Optional Forms and Submissions - Work, Education, and Health Monitoring

This sub-factor takes into consideration whether Broadband investments in the proposed Geographic Area of Concern will help to facilitate community members engagement in employment, search for employment, and/or develop the requisite skills and knowledge to become employed (e.g., participate in career counseling programs, workforce training programs, as well as gain access to internet websites to search for and apply to jobs).

Work:

Workforce is a real concern for industries within Iowa and the proposed zone. From an already low unemployment rate of 4.0%, this zone is struggling with labor participation, worker trainings and childcare needs. Within the 2020 Census, Clayton County saw a loss of 5.7% for from 2010 to 2020. More specifically the census tracts included in the proposed zone saw a loss of 2.8%. In order to combat the decrease of persons and workforce needs, broadband is a driving force. There is an increasing demand from employees to work from home and to live and work where they wish, 62% of Americans worked remotely as of March 2020. Clayton County is seeing a higher than state average poverty,14.9%. the zone is seeing an even higher poverty level of 16.3% of those in poverty within the last 12 months. Additionally, of those persons living within the zone, 51.7% have only a high school education. These statistics showcase that workers could skill up with the adequate fiber to their homes while aiding the workforce efforts. Furthermore, fiber to the rural businesses within this zone is important to the overall business sectors of both counties economy. Fiber is important for businesses for scalability, security and transfer of data. In order to grow business developments either with existing and/or prospective industrial growth broadband is the key.

This subfactor takes into consideration whether Broadband investments in the proposed Geographic Area of Concern will help facilitate educational activities. Such education activities may be to acquire knowledge and/or skills, undertaken as part of a person's participation in school, an academic program, extracurricular program, social-emotional development program for students or youths, internship, or professional development program, or in another educational environment.

Education:

As far as educational attainment, this zone is showing only 51.7% of its population having no higher education than high school level. Therefore on a positive note, these residents could then be up-skilled to further the zones workforce issues. In order to skill up, these residents would need adequate and reliable fiber to their homes. COVID-19 increased the demand for online course work whether credited or non certified degrees. Online learning is a great way to skill up the workforce with convenient and less expensive learning costs.

School-aged children within this zone similar to all of Iowa, need adequate fiber for their learning efforts as school districts utilize platforms for assignments and a platform for parents to track their child's learning. Within this zone over 30.1% of the population is under the age of 19 years of age. Clayton Ridge CSD is serving this zone with 567 students. Furthermore, Northeast Iowa Community College offers dual-credits to high school students which can financially assist the student as well as fast track those students toward the workforce. Clayton Ridge CSD offers over 27 college courses with NICC. Brain health plays a factor in the learning process. Access to tele-medicine is linked to the learning process. The educational system is teaching brain health within their curriculum as they now know maturation of the brain influences learning readiness.

Broadband investments will facilitate increased learning readiness, educational attainments as well as social and emotional developments.

This subfactor takes into consideration whether Broadband investments in the proposed Geographic Area of Concern will help facilitate health monitoring services to monitor an individual's health, including with respect to either physical or behavioral health.

Health Monitoring:

Poverty is considered a key driver of health status. There are over 16.3% of persons within this zone that are below poverty within the last 12 months. As a whole, Clayton County (14.9%) poverty levels are higher than the state of Iowa average of 11.01%.

Within this specific zone populations of persons over 70 years of age is over 20%, the higher population levels are coming from children under the age of 19, 30.1%. This zone is showing persons with disabilities of over 25.5% within the 65 years and older and within the 75 years and older, persons with disabilities are over 68%. These indicators are relevant because poverty creates barriers to access including health services, healthy food, and other necessities that contribute to poor health status. Within the proposed intervention zone there is one hospital located 16-22 miles away, MercyOne Guttenberg Municipal Hospital and Clinics. Found in the the hospital's health assessment for 2022, the unmet needs for healthcare are mental health treatments, drug/substance abuse, poverty, obesity and the need for doctors. A lack of access to healthcare presents another barrier to good health. Behavioral health services are over 42 miles away in Dubuque, IA. With limited behavioral health providers in all areas of Iowa, the wait time for an appointment is upward of six months. There are no emergency rooms available for mental illness long stays. With suicide being the second killer in the nation and with suicide rates on the increase, access to mental health providers is essential. The hospital does offer tele-medicine for behavioral health services for those who have robust internet connectivity but due to poor internet with the unserved and underserved this is not a current option for many. Brain health needs social connections and within the broadband investments those connections cannot happen. Supply of facilities and physicians, the rate of uninsurance, financial hardship, transportation barriers, and cultural competency all affect health.

Community Support Letters

Testimonial :

Community Support Letter : Support letters for Southeast Clayton.pdf

This Community Support upload does not have to be on letterhead or have a mailing address within the Geographic Area of Concern. The author must demonstrate that there is a community tie-in or relationship to the Geographic Area of Concern.

Optional Forms and Submissions - Community Broadband Capital

Item	Description	Category	Supporting Documentation
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			

Barriers to Broadband

Barriers to Broadband

Installation:

A local provider in Clayton County has already completed over 1,000 miles of fiber builds within the county. Barriers to the remaining underserved and unserved is the reasons these homes and businesses have not be built. There are many barriers to why specific homeowners and businesses do not have services yet today. This area is known as the Driftless Region. Running close to the Mississippi River which is the third most visited site in the U.S. Portions of this area are designated as Iowa's Great Places, Main Street Communities, all along the Great River Road. This zone is an ideal place to live, work and play.

Topography

While the Northeast Iowa region is one of the most pristine regions of Iowa, that beauty comes at a cost for infrastructure related builds. Clayton County and census tract 705 is covered with eroded Pre-Illinoian till with moderate loess formation, frequently in the form of paha ridges, muted relief except for steep rolling hills near deep rivers valleys. Certain sedimentary rocks such as limestone, sandstone and shale, over 30-45 different tree species, many rivers including Volga, Turkey and the Mississippi. Landscape features abundant sinkholes, cold water springs, disappearing streams, and caves. This region is known as the Driftless Region. Cost increase for fiber builds when such topographical assets are included.

Rurality

Such topography and low population density only increases the costs to our rural areas. Of course materials and skilled workers area also a factor. Within the ITQ area, there are 76 unserved, 8 underserved, with a total 84 eligible locations. This region is served by two school districts (Clayton Ridge) serves 567 students with over 27 college classes offered and Edgewood/Colesburg CSD serving over 600 students. During COVID over 52 families within the Edgewood/Colesburg CSD used hotspots for their needed school work.

Demographics

Within the county, there are 17,173 residents, within the proposed invention zone there are 2,202 persons. There is a high concentration of children under the age of 19 years within this zone, 30%. In Clayton County, found in the 2021 ACS five-year estimates, of poverty found in the last 12 months is found to be 16.3%. Educational attachment is lower within this zone as well at 51.7% only having a high school degree.

In order to include this remaining unserved and/or underserved it will take financial assistance.

Optional Supporting Materials

for Barriers to Broadband

Installation Narrative:

Minority Impact Statement

Does the proposed grant program or policy have a disproportionate or unique positive impact on minority persons? *:

No

Describe the positive impact expected from this project.:

Detail the rationale for the existence of the proposed program or policy.:

Indicate the group(s) positively impacted.:

Could the proposed grant program or policy have a disproportionate or unique negative impact on minority persons? *:

No

Describe the negative impact expected from this project.:

Detail the rationale for the existence of the proposed program or policy. :

Indicate the group(s) negatively impacted.:

Explain how you provided consultation with representatives of the minority groups impacted.:

I hereby certify the information above is complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge.*:

Yes

Executive Director Rachelle Howe

Title

First Name Last Name