

503312 - City of Stout

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 29, 2023 11:52 AM

Initially Submitted By: Isaiah Corbin

Last Submit Date:

Last Submitted By:

Contact Information

Primary Contact Information

Active User*: Yes

Type: External User

First Name*: Isaiah Middle Name Corbin
First Name Last Name

Title:

Email*: icorbin@inrcog.org

Address*: 229 E Park Avenue

Waterloo Iowa 50703
City State/Province Postal Code/Zip

Phone*: (319) 235-0311 127
Phone Ext.
###-###-####

Fax: ###-###-####

Agency:

Organization Information

Status*: Approved

Name*: Iowa Northland Regional Council of Governments

Organization Type*: Councils of Government

DUNS: 05-796-2243
##-###-####

Tax Id:

Unique Entity Identifier (UEI):

Organization Website:

Address*: 229 E. Park Ave

Waterloo Iowa 50703
City State/Province Postal Code/Zip

Phone*: (319) 235-0311 Ext.
###-###-####

Fax: (319) 235-2891
###-###-####

Benefactor:

Vendor Number / ID:

Cover Sheet-General Information

Cover Sheet-General Information

Authorized Official

Name*: Jim Folkerts

Title*: Mayor

Organization*: City of Stout
If you are an individual, please provide your First and Last Name.

Address*: 204 Main Street

City/State/Zip*: Stout Iowa 50673
City State Zip

Telephone Number*: 319-346-2763

E-Mail*: jfolk0804@gmail.com

Fiscal Officer/Agent

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

Name*: Brooke Spencer

Title: City Clerk

Organization: City of Stout

Address: 204 Main Street

City/State/Zip: Stout Iowa 50673
City State Zip

Telephone Number: 319-346-2763

E-Mail: brookes_atcityofstout@outlook.com

**County(ies) Participating,
Involved, or Affected by this
Proposal*:** Grundy 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*:** 27
Iowa Senate Map

**Iowa House District(s) Involved
or Affected by this Proposal*:** 54
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*: City

**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*: City of Stout 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 Eligible Locations - Stout.csv

Generally describe the area identified with the Geographic Area of Concern Selection Tool. Example: Rural Adams County, Poweshiek County Highway 6 Corridor, etc.

**General Description of the
geographic area of the circle*:**

The geographic area is directly focused on the City of Stout. Stout is located in rural northwest Grundy County south of Highway 57 and east of Highway 14.

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*: 1

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

419 2nd Street

**Address of the center of the
circle - City*:**

Stout

Address of the circle - State*:

IA

Address of the circle - zip code*: 50673

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:

The City of Stout is located within close proximity to the Waterloo/Cedar Falls metro. Given the rural geography and cost of living, many workers prefer living outside of the metro and commuting to work within the metro. As so, workers also have the benefit of working from home but require reliable and affordable internet connectivity to do so. As stated in the letter of support from resident Brian Varney, one of the largest challenges in Stout is having consistent, daily, and uninterrupted internet service in order to perform his job requirements at John Deere. Furthermore, concerns from Shannon Textor also point to the frustrations of working in a hybrid environment. In Matthew Gray's letter of support, he pointed out that he sometimes needs to drive out of town to find internet to complete a 2-minute work task. It has been documented through McKaila Gorby's testimony that she had to leave the City of Stout because of their inability to have quality internet access for work. Local farming operations have also suffered. Beninga Farms just outside of Stout has documented the need for quality internet in the operations of their farm as well as the grain elevator they operate. The elevator has missed alerts on moisture settings due to the internet failing. They have also attempted to serve as the internet antenna, but these efforts have fallen short.

The connectivity in the City of Stout is not currently available to meet the demands of the present working environment in today's world. Individuals within Stout have greatly documented how the lack of quality internet has limited their ability to complete their work, and the burden it has put on them. Finally, the city has lost residents due to their inability to have reliable internet for work. The need for internet is great, and the citizens of Stout have taken great efforts to voice their frustrations and how the current conditions have personally impacted their ability to engage in the changing work environments of today.

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:

During the pandemic, the education model shifted from in-person instruction to virtual learning. It became apparent that students from the City of Stout who are part of the Dike-New Hartford School District did not have sufficient infrastructure to support online learning. As Justin Stockdale, Dike-New Hartford Superintendent has pointed out, quality internet is crucial for strong partnerships between home and school learning, and it cannot be achieved with poor internet service. Tom Textor, Stout resident, and Dike Principal, also points out that those with poor access struggle with their academic success.

Students from Stout are unable to fully engage in online learning because of the lack of internet access and availability. In Stout, there is no access to the internet from an in-town Library or other public sources, and they often have to travel to nearby towns for internet access. The neighboring Library has a librarian that lives in Stout. She has attempted to bring in hot spots in order to serve those in need. Unfortunately, those efforts have fallen short of providing reliable internet and left students with no other option than traveling outside of their town to complete their schoolwork.

In Shannon Textor's letter of support, she describes her two high school students who continue to struggle with their ability to complete their homework, including one student who is enrolled in college classes. Residents of Stout struggle accessing the ability to take advantage of many higher education and vocational programs because of the lack of service available. This creates a barrier and prevents them from furthering their educational opportunities including attending nearby Hawkeye Community College. For many students, the lack of quality internet has left them frustrated and unable to fully immerse themselves within the current educational system that is dependent on the internet.

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:

The City of Stout does not have a local hospital or healthcare clinic. To access healthcare, many residents must drive 20-40 minutes to regional medical facilities for care. Moreover, the ability to take advantage of remote/virtual care via telehealth services is impossible with poor internet service. As the different types of telehealth services expand, it is becoming increasingly important for citizens of Stout to be able to access these services effectively and efficiently. Morgan Corwin is currently the nurse manager at Allen Hospital. In her testimony, she describes her inability to complete simple tasks and respond to patients because of the internet speed and quality. In today's healthcare settings, both patients and providers rely greatly on quality internet to improve the health of their community. Without the internet, many of those individuals are left behind and won't receive the quality of care they need and require.

Community Support Letters

Testimonial : **1A. City of Stout Combined Testimonial.pdf**

Community Support Letter : **1B. City of Stout Community Support.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.

Community Support Letter (no letterhead or mailing address): **1C. City of Stout Community Support No Letterhead.pdf**

Optional Forms and Submissions - Community Broadband Capital

Item	Description	Category	Supporting Documentation
1	Financial Assurances for \$15,000	Cash	Financial Assurances Resolution.pdf
2			
3			
4			
5			

Barriers to Broadband**Barriers to Broadband****Installation:**

The northwest corner of Grundy County is extremely rural and dominated by primarily agricultural farms. Stout is significantly separated by distance from many of the larger communities that currently have broadband services. In conversations with service providers, including Cedar Falls Utilities, it is difficult to justify spending a lot of money to reach a low population density. Furthermore, Cedar Falls Utilities has expressed to the community that they are not interested in expanding their services. Efforts to overcome these barriers have thus fallen on deaf ears, but the rural residents of Stout want and need internet connectivity both for business and personal reasons.

Additionally, the City of Stout has zero cell coverage. They were on the edge of cell coverage when carriers upgraded to 5G which shrunk the coverage areas. Now, they lack cell coverage. Fiber is expensive and with Stout being miles off any main roads or from adjacent towns, there has been no investment given their low population.

According to the recent 2020 U.S. Census, the City of Stout has 239 residents. The lack of a large population center does not create the economic justification for many providers to invest significantly in broadband technology for the community. Moreover, it is impossible for such a small town to invest in its own broadband infrastructure. 48.5% of the community falls into the working age of 35 to 64 years old with 20.1% over the age of 60. These populations have a great need for internet service for work and health reasons.

Optional Supporting Materials A. Spencer Brooke.pdf

for Barriers to Broadband

Installation Narrative:

Minority Impact Statement**Minority Impact Statement**

Does the proposed grant No
program or policy have a
disproportionate or unique
positive impact on minority
persons? *:

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**

Mayor, City of Stout Jim Folkerts
Title First Name Last Name