

From: [City of Stout](#)
To: [Isaiah Corbin](#)
Subject: Fwd: internet service
Date: Monday, March 13, 2023 3:14:53 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **DAWSON ACKERMAN** <dawsonackerman@yahoo.com>
Date: Mon, Mar 13, 2023 at 3:03 PM
Subject: internet service
To: cityofstout@gmail.com <cityofstout@gmail.com>

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is in regards to possible new internet service coming to Stout. As Pastor of the Reformed Church of Stout and also as a citizen of the city, high quality and reliable internet is very important to myself and my wife. I use the internet daily here at the church and also in our home. Seeing that our current internet service is not reliable, we would definitely sign up for any new service that would be provided to us.

Sincerely,
Dawson Ackerman, Pastor

RESOLUTION NUMBER 2023-003

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF STOUT, IOWA APPROVING A INVITATION TO QUALIFY APPLICATION; DESIGNATING THE MAYOR AS THE OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE CITY AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO AFFIX HIS SIGNATURE TO SAID APPLICATION AND CERTAIN ASSURANCES IN CONJUNCTION WITH SAME.

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the City Council of the City of Stout, Iowa, to avail itself to the Invitation to Qualify application as administered by the Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO);

WHEREAS, the City is seeking assistance qualifying for future funding to support broadband development;

WHEREAS, the ITQ process allows the City of Stout the opportunity to self-identify their need for broadband development;

WHEREAS, the City Council of Stout recognizes the important need for increasing broadband capacity within its community and supports future broadband development;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Stout, Iowa, as follows:

1. The Invitation to Qualify application is hereby approved.
2. The Mayor is hereby designated as the official representative of the City and is further hereby directed and authorized to affix his signature to said application and certain assurances in conjunction with same.

Passed and adopted this 6th day of March, 2023.



Mayor

ATTEST:



City Clerk

03.17.22

To Whom it may concern:

I am a local farmer and business owner who lives a couple miles outside of Stout at 13096 Q Avenue , but I own and operate the elevator located in Stout.

We need internet in most of our daily tasks. We have had to check out a hot spot from our local library to ensure that we have back up to the internet that we have at our grain elevator in Stout and at our home. Our home/shop internet feeds from Stout as well.

These days internet is imperative to daily operations. We have service technicians that can fix our equipment from miles away, but we have to have reliable internet at our shop and elevator for them to do so. We have alarms at our grain elevator that are for safety and proper drying, but they also run off of an internet connection. We have missed alerts on moisture settings due to the internet going in and out multiple times.

My grain elevator at 410 Front Street in Stout serves as the "internet antenna" for the city of stout. My home and my business are currently receiving internet from Stout. My hope is that Our operations will be able to be included in these efforts to bring reliable internet to our area.

Thank You

Byron Beninga

Beninga Farms

C and B Metals

13096 Q Avenue

Parkersburg IA 50665



506 Pine St, PO Box 349, Dumont, IA 50625
dumontel@dumonttelephone.com
www.dumonttelephone.com
641-857-3211

March 9, 2023

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

This letter is to show our support for the City of Stout, IA when submitting an application in response to the OCIO Invitation to Qualify for a Broadband Intervention Zone. This project is clearly needed if the residents of Stout are to have any option for Broadband service.

The community of Stout has been identified as a specific area of geographic concern with regards to existing broadband availability. This area is currently not served by any landline provider and the only option for broadband is a single wireless cell provider with speeds that do not facilitate the required 100/20 minimum threshold for robust connectivity.

Dumont Telephone Company was established in 1902 and operates a 100% buried fiber optic network. We are currently building fiber to rural areas in Butler County just North of Stout. We have considered extending our fiber network but cost is the main reason it has not been approved. Stout is six (6) miles from our closet splice point and the \$35K per mile is a substantial investment just to reach the area let alone construct to every location. Programs to supplement these costs would significantly improve any providers business plan.

All parents, students, business owners, and employees need an affordable, reliable Broadband service in today's environment. Stout is no different and should not be left behind. Dumont Telephone Company considers this project another building block to local success and a valuable key to improving the experience for all residents. We have provided some in-kind engineering expertise and other support with maps towards this project.

It is our hope that this ITQ application and review by OCIO will designate Stout as a geographic area of concern / Intervention Zone for consideration in the next broadband grant program.

Thank you for allowing us to show our support and for your consideration of this application.

Sincerely,

Roger Kregel
General Manager



Dike-New Hartford Community School District

330 Main Street- P.O. Box D - Dike, IA 50624-0633

Central Office
319-989-2552
FAX 319-989-2735

Dike Elementary Office
319-989-2487
FAX 319-989-2723

**New Hartford
Elementary/Junior High Office**
319-983-2206
FAX 319-983-2207

High School Office
319-989-2485
FAX 319-989-2735

3/7/23

To Whom It May Concern

I am currently employed as the Superintendent of Dike-New Hartford Community Schools located in rural, Grundy County, Iowa. The rural communities making up our district include the communities of Dike, New Hartford and Stout.

Our school communities are fantastic when it comes to supporting our school district, and that support was no more evident than when the Covid-19 Pandemic hit us. People rallied around remote learning and in our district many students have regained any learning loss that may have occurred. That's a result of a strong partnership between home and school.

With any event it's important that we continue to grow and strengthen our educational service model when we can. One of those areas that was exposed during the pandemic was the access to Broadband internet specifically in and around the community of Stout.

We owe it to our students and families to advocate for universal internet accessibility that's speed allows for educational engagement when remote learning is required. The district will stand behind any initiative that could improve the current access to Broadband internet in any of our communities which would allow virtual learning to occur seamlessly without the roadblocks the lack of access can create.

Please let us know how we can support any plans to improve internet access with our district and surrounding communities. It simply needs to be a priority for all of us.

Justin Stockdale
Superintendent
Dike-New Hartford Community Schools
330 Main Street
Dike, Iowa 50624
justin.stockdale@dnhcsd.org
319-415-0627

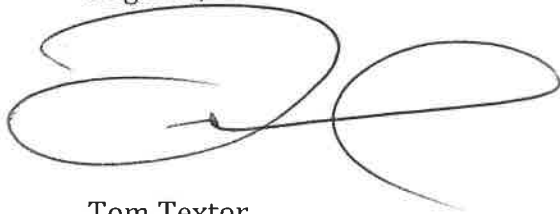
To Whom it May Concern:

I am currently employed as a principal at Dike Elementary. One of the most significant challenges we face is providing internet access to our students, especially when working from their homes. Virtual learning & homework interactions continues to be commonplace even a couple years after the pandemic. Students without online access OR poor access... struggle with their academic success. We owe our students the ability to engage, learn, and succeed... and better internet services in our area is imperative. Our building is located in Dike, but we do have a large number of students in Stout. They deserve quality internet services in order to have success.

I am also resident of Stout, and I can say confidently that our current WI-FI service is sub-par. We often have issues with bandwidth and service cutting out. It is incredibly frustrating for my wife and children as they all work from home. My kids are DNH students, and my wife as a marketing director who often works from home. We greatly appreciate the consideration for helping to improve upon our internet access for the benefit of our students and community members.

Again, thank you for your consideration!!

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'T' followed by a horizontal line that loops back under the 'T'.

Tom Textor

DNH Administrator

tom.textor@dnhcsd.org

03.29.23

To Whom it may concern:

I live outside of Stout a few miles at 13633 R Avenue. My internet is fed from the elevator in Stout. I also work with the farmer who owns the elevator In Stout on Front street.

I need to have reliable internet to be connected to the programs and alarms that are required to efficiently run the farming operation. My internet is constantly lagging or completely dropping out. We are always told to restart our router whenever there is an issue- I can't leave my combine or sprayer to restart a router at our elevator.

I appreciate you taking the time to read this and hope that you consider us for this opportunity.

Thank You

Dale Bruns

13633 R Avenue

Dike IA 50624

03.15.23

To Whom it may Concern:

I currently live in Stout at 419 2nd Street. I have 4 children. Two of them are school age and two of them will soon be school age. We often find that trying to do the educational work that the teachers recommend is challenging. Our internet often is buffering or does not have the speed the website needs to be utilized. One of my children has autism and there is often communication needed between us, the teachers and his team of doctors in Iowa City. All of this communication requires internet for video visits or e-mails.

I work as a nurse Manager for the 3rd medical floor at Allen Hospital. I have days where I work from home. I need reliable internet so that I can be at my team's fingertips. I often need to check orders, do discharges and have video meetings with team leads. I have experienced times where I have had to log out of meetings and get back in due to the internet speed and quality.

I appreciate you taking the time to read this and taking the time to considerate our great community for this opportunity.

Morgan Corwin

419 2nd St

Stout IA 50673

From: [City of Stout](#)
To: [Isaiah Corbin](#)
Subject: Fwd: internet access
Date: Friday, March 10, 2023 1:54:18 PM

To Whom it May Concern,

As retirees living in Stout, Broadband Internet access is essential for us. With most services going paperless now being able to do these transactions online is necessary. To do this without signal loss or buffering would be a huge help.

Also being grandparents, internet access for our grandchildren and kids of all ages to be able to learn and have success is critical for their future.

Michael and Patricia Freese
[411 1st Street](#)
[Stout, IA](#) 50973

03.15.23

To Whom it may Concern:

My Husband, myself and our children used to live at 609 2nd street in Stout. We loved the community of Stout. We lived within blocks of both of my sisters.

Unfortunately, we had to move from Stout in October of 2022 because I work from home and the internet could not reliably support the programs I needed for work. There were times I had to use vacation pay because I could not complete my work due to the internet going down in town.

I hope this opportunity is able to make its way to Stout so that families can continue to make their homes there.

Thank You

McKaila Gorby

324 U Lane

Dike IA 50624

Formerly 609 Second Street in Stout IA

To Whom it May Concern

I am currently working from home for Grainger. My work has been impaired on many occasions by the lack of quality internet. This has caused hardships such as loss in pay, unneeded use of PTO, or having to load up my equipment to go into the office. In addition to my employment I have a side job of selling items on either eBay or Mercari to make some additional income. Not having access to quality internet has hindered both of those opportunities as well. In fact most times I have to resort to using my phone as it is slower but at least more reliable. I also have two teenage children in the house who depend on the internet for their schoolwork. Without access to quality internet I have had to drive them to libraries to do their schoolwork which is very inconvenient. My wife is required to do her time card from UNI at home on the internet. There have been times the internet has been out and she has needed to drive into Cedar Falls to do a simple two minute task. Our household would greatly appreciate the chance to have high speed reliable internet. It would enhance the way we currently live and allow us to new opportunities.

Matthew Gray
graym1982@gmail.com
(319) 610-7080
607 2nd Street
Stout, IA 50673

To whom it may concern

I am currently working as a remote employee working solely from home. My employer is out of state so going into the office to work is not an option. We have two internet providers so that I can have a backup to ensure that I have access for work. While my back up has proven quite useful for my job it is not fast enough to support all my family's internet needs at the same time. This is why we have to have both internet providers. Additionally, we have a student in high school that needs internet access for homework and with our internet reliability she occasionally uses the backup internet as well. Furthermore, our internet connection seems to get slower in the evenings which makes it difficult to stream anything.

Aubrey Ledtje

Aledtje24@gmail.com

(319) 610-6224

310 Main Street

Stout, Iowa 50673

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a resident and city council member for the City of Stout. I am currently employed in a nearby town as a Salon Manager/Hairstylist. I feel one of the biggest concerns by other residents in Stout is the internet. We currently have a provider that has low speeds and very unreliable signal, which makes it difficult and at times impossible for residents to work from home, for their children to do school work remotely, but also for anyone using the internet for recreational purposes. It is very important to me as a member of council to have this resolved so that our residents can use the internet as they need, and also for myself personally so that my husband and I can use it without hassle.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter today.

Stevi McDivitt

Stevi.ehmen0101@gmail.com

319-823-0567

402 3rd Street

Stout, Iowa 50673

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing to express my concern about lack of reliable internet in Stout, IA. I am currently working as an Office Director at a childcare center. While most of my work is done in office, I now have the ability to do some work from home when needed. This is especially important to me as a mother of two since typically it is so I can stay home with sick kids, no school days, etc. In order to do this, I need reliable internet it is very important to me as a working mother that I can take care of my family and still work from home.

My two children are in elementary school. They are starting to get homework that requires internet access. My youngest also has websites such as Learning Eggs and Math Seeds he can log into to do activities that his teacher can track at school. It's very hard to do with unreliable internet or when the speeds are slow. We would also like better internet for entertainment purposes. I should be able to have one child working on computer on homework while they other can stream TV, it's 2023.

As member of our City Council in Stout I would love to be able to help bring reliable internet to our citizens. It is the biggest complaint we get in town. It is frustrating, we should be able to provide people who choose to live in rural areas with reliable internet.

Thank you,

Sara Nefzger

Sara Nefzger
sari0315@hotmail.com
563-212-5392
418 3rd St
Stout, Ia 50673

March 22, 2023

To Whom it may concern:

I am the City Clerk and a resident in Stout. My husband, daughter and I feel very lucky to be able to call Stout home. I grew up here and can remember when then Qwest internet was brought to town for us to have a dial up connection to AOL. I eventually moved out of town to Cedar Falls, but after my husband and I had our daughter, we knew we wanted to be back in this area for the school district. We found a house in Stout, and we were ecstatic! We moved to town 9 years ago. We called for internet service, which was the exact same internet service that had provided my dial up when I was in my teens, it was just under the name Centurylink. They hooked us up to the service and it was horrible. We could not even use their internet service to get on their website to pay the bill they sent us every month. Through many phone calls, they finally admitted that they did not have adequate space on the service they hooked us up to. They knew their company could not provide us with quality internet, but they also knew there was no other internet in town so they could do what they wanted. They have not made any upgrades to the system since I lived here as a kid 30 years ago. Most of the boxes in town are open or broken.

After knowing they hooked me up to services, they knew they couldn't provide, I went to work in search for an internet provider that would come to town. Everyone turned me down. I finally pleaded a case to Unggoy and got them permission to use the elevator site in town to provide internet to the city. We knew this equipment would not be super-fast or perfect, but it was something. Over time, more people were added to the service, that to my understanding is much like cell service, it has become more and more congested with more traffic and no upgrades to the system. I have reached out to Unggoy, and they have stated that we have the most up to date equipment and software that is available to this type of service. We have many families in Stout. We have many kids in town that have to use the internet for homework. For the size of this community, we have several households that have an individual that works from home. If this is the best equipment that this type of internet service can provide to the City, it isn't enough unfortunately. It gets overloaded and people can't do what they need to do. We live in a world that is very much run by having almost constant access to reliable internet. Stout is very far behind in that movement. Working and learning remotely during the pandemic was an incredible challenge for every household in town. We continue to face this challenge daily.

As the City Clerk, my internet access is imperative for my daily work. I have to be connected to the State of Iowa websites for reports and the budget. If it's rainy, windy, or snowy, our internet signal is compromised. If a tree has grown too much, our internet signal is compromised. It is a very foggy day such as today as I am writing this, my internet is buffering.

Our city has a post office that houses boxes for just under 200 people. The internet is important for their daily scans of packages and important mail.

Our City also houses a fire department. We are very proud of the years and years of experience that we have at our fingertips when tragedy occurs. They need reliable internet for calls, weather alerts and trainings.

Our daughter needs reliable internet almost daily for school. Part of her daily homework is a spelling list. One of the things she can pick is to e-mail her spelling words to her teacher. She sometimes hits send and it just keeps spinning. We just hope it arrives to her teacher. She needs to do research for projects and there are so many times that the internet is "too busy" for anyone else to be on it.

I have reached out to CFU multiple times in the last several years. They have fiber at an acreage a few miles out of town. They had said "keep checking back" every time I would call for quite some time. On my last call, they said that they would not be willing to bring internet out here.

Internet is so important to keep people connected to their livelihood and their education. Stout is an amazing community. Bank statements, doctor's notes, office visits, tax forms, grocery shopping, school and activity registration, important weather announcements, our jobs have all partially or completely moved online.

You could not pick a better place to raise a family. Choosing to live in rural community is the best choice we made as parents. It was the best choice my parents made, but in today's world, our little piece of perfection still needs to have access and we do not have that. The residents in Stout deserve to be afforded the opportunity to have a reliable connection to all of the things necessary in day-to-day life.

As a resident and as the Clerk, I care very much about Stout and its future. I appreciate your time and all efforts that are being put in to trying to help our community.

Thank you for considering us.

Brooke Spencer

Brooke Spencer
City Clerk and Resident
411 4th Street
Stout IA 50673

February 27,2023

To Whom it May Concern:

I love my small rural Iowa town of Stout, Iowa. However, one of the most significant challenges we are faced with is our lack of access to high-speed, fiber optic internet. Currently, I work a hybrid schedule of three days in the Iowa Corn offices in Johnston, Iowa and two days remotely from my home office in Stout. Our satellite internet is spotty at best and doesn't work on days with wind, snow, or if many people are at home during the day or weekend.

I am the mom of two high school age kids that are frustrated every time they have homework to do and our internet doesn't work and it impacts their ability to work ahead or get things done at home. This impacts their ability to be successful and get work done outside of the school. My oldest is enrolled in college classes and isn't able to be online when I'm working at home because the internet won't work even though we have the best package available that is supposed to allow multiple users.

Here is Iowa, we should be proud of our state and rural America. We want our small towns to thrive, however without access to technology we will not be able to attract or keep families in rural areas.

I hope that you will help our small town thrive and provide access to the best technology available for those of us that work from home and for our students.

Sincerely,
Shannon Textor
402 South Street, Stout, IA 50673

To Whom it May Concern:

I am currently employed at John Deere, and work from home. I work with internal and external suppliers within the Supply Management department for Waterloo. One of the most significant challenges I face is consistent, daily, uninterrupted internet service at home, in our community of Stout. In today's world, it is imperative that our residents are afforded the ability to utilize the internet for work and schooling.

Today, a lot more children and young adults are doing their schooling online, and even high school students are doing homework on their laptops. The need is present, for the community of Stout, to have the ability to receive fiber into our town and be connected as well as the larger communities are across the State of Iowa.

Brian Varney

Brian Varney

brivarney@hotmail.com

319-429-0939

400 South Street

Stout, IA, 50673