

503964 - Frenchtown

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 2:43 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*: Approved

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*: 563-382-6171

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*: Karen Cooper

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*: Signed frenchtown 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 Frenchtown.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 of concern is within rural Clayton County, IA, bordering the Mississippi River covering 1 mile with 33 ineligible and 47 eligible locations.

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 *:**

25083 Mississippi Road, Garnavillo, IA 52049

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

Garnavillo

Address of the circle - State*:

IA

Address of the circle - zip code*: 52049

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 ACS5-Year Estimates show there is a total of 17,173 persons living within Clayton County. More specifically there is 2,217 persons living with the proposed zone which is a 8.8% decrease or 213 persons. Working from home allows residents to live where they would like to live and work on a level that is appropriate for their skill set. With Clayton County's outdoor recreational amenities, many families want to live within the area and work outside of the region. Within the proposed zone, there is 49.2% of those persons 25 years and older that have no higher than a high school education. This could be a great solution to our workforce issue by upskilling these residents to a higher level educational attainment. Broadband investments could assist with skillups and an increase in population base from working from home by bringing broadband to this zone. This region being so close to Dubuque sees a large population of online healthcare employees, which again need fiber to complete their work while providing for their families.

With business development, both from attraction to entrepreneurialism, Clayton County wants to promote fiber to potential and existing businesses.

Small rural business markets need fiber in order to maintain and increase their sales and scalability.

Online sales is become a popular way to shop. Purchasing items from businesses in rural areas is one way to assist existing rural businesses. Additionally, the capacity and safety for appropriate business data storage and other online services is needed.

Iowa rural counties are generally losing their population. Clayton County saw a decrease of 1,009 persons or 5.7% loss from 2010 to 2020 census. In order to combat the decrease, fiber is a driving force to maintain and increase residents, so residents can live where they want but enjoy the career of their choosing.

Broadband can assist the proposed zone with many avenues related to work. Population growth, upskill current residents and offer additional career opportunities for residents will all factor into the decrease in poverty, increase median incomes, increase business development and increase the tax base.

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:

With the ever increasing demand from educational institutions on all levels, school systems are offering online forms of learning and communication. The schools also utilized web-based platform for the students to turn their work into. Students of all ages are required to complete homework on-line with a variety of platforms. Currently, many students utilize libraries and other public sources of internet to complete such assignments. The students are often seen sitting in a vehicle outside of the library to gain internet access. Furthermore, the schools are utilizing platforms for parents as well, to keep connected where parents would need internet access to their child's grades, behavior, and assignments. The Clayton Ridge high school within the zone is working with their local community college to offer dual-credits for high school students to benefit from college courses and high school courses at the same time. Clayton Ridge currently offers 27 college courses. This option saves the students and their families money while giving the student a leg up within the workforce.

There is becoming a high demand for children who are doing online schooling while leaving traditional school environment. Clayton Ridge utilizes online learning for sick day and when the weather impedes bus transportation. Furthermore, homeschooling has increased during COVID-19. Studies are showing there is a direct link between the type of home broadband access that impacts school participation, performance outcomes for workforce, and digital literacy. Fiber would certainly benefit school-aged children as well as adult learning.

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 10.7% of persons within this zone that are below poverty within the last 12 months. Within this specific zone populations of persons over 65 years of age is over 19% of the total populations. More specifically, this zone is showing persons with disabilities of over 17.9%. These indicators are relevant because poverty creates barriers to access including health services, healthy food, and other necessities that contribute to poor health status. As a whole, Clayton County (14.9%) poverty levels are higher than the state of Iowa average of 11.01%. A lack of access to care presents another barrier to good health. Within proposed intervention zone there is one hospital located within 10 minutes away in Guttenberg. Although specialty and behavioral health services are over 50 miles away in Dubuque. With limited behavioral health providers the wait time for an appointment is upward of six months. There are no emergency rooms available for mental illness long stays. The distance from specialty care is over 50 miles. 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. 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 :

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):

Optional Forms and Submissions - Community Broadband Capital

Item Description		Supporting Category Documentation	
1	Clayton County has minimal costs associated with their permits - N/A		
2			
3			
4			
5			

Barriers to Broadband

Barriers to Broadband

Installation:

I am proud to live in Iowa and to be a part of the Governor's Empower Rural Iowa Broadband Grant Program. While the past OCIO applications have certainly assisted Clayton County with over 1,000 miles of fiber built, there are many barriers to why specific homeowners and businesses do not have services yet today. This proposed zone is located parallel to the third most visited attraction in the U.S. This zone is promoting their outdoor recreational activities and seeing over \$30 million annually associated with economic impacts to the county. Keeping the barriers and positives for the region's topography can be sensitive.

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. Northeast Iowa boasts of rivers, valleys, certain sedimentary rocks such as limestone, sandstone, shale and over 30-45 different tree species, many rivers including Turkey, Yellow, and Mississippi. This region is known as the National Fish and Wildlife Refuge, Driftless Region, and Iowa Great Place. With all of these factors involved, one can see how topography is a key deterrent for fiber growth due to expensive options while towers do not allow for appropriate signals as well.

Rurality

Such topography and low population density only increases the costs to our rural areas with factoring in the aesthetics and the landscape. Within this 1-mile ITQ area, there are 47 unserved and eligible locations. The one school districts (Clayton Ridge) serves 567 students with over 27 college classes offered.

Demographics

Within the county, there are 17,173 residents, within the proposed invention zone there are 2,217 persons. Within the proposed zone, there would be 33 eligible locations. In Clayton County there is a 12.2% poverty level found in the 2021 ACS five-year estimates. Within the proposed intervention zone that poverty level is at 10.7%. In order to include this rural and sensitive area of unserved and/or underserved it will take financial assistance.

Optional Supporting Materials

for Barriers to Broadband

Installation Narrative:

Minority Impact Statement

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