

503980 - Clayton/Fayette Counties

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 14, 2023 2:53 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, Fayette 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*:** 32,34
Iowa Senate Map

**Iowa House District(s) Involved
or Affected by this Proposal*:** 64,68
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*: cover letter claytonfayette signed.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 - Clayton-Fayette counties.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*:**

Geographic area of concern is comprised of a portions of Clayton and Fayette Counties in the southern portion of each county, covering the rural areas from Wadena, Volga, and Arlington, Strawberry Point. This area covers 45 elig. and 36 underserved.

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 *:**

32795 Acre Road, Arlington, IA 50606

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

Arlington

Address of the circle - State*:

Iowa

Address of the circle - zip code*: 50606

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, this zone is struggling with labor participation, worker training and childcare. In addition, Iowa rural counties are generally losing population. Fayette County saw a decrease of 6.7% from the 2010 to 2020 Census while Clayton County saw a loss of 5.7% for that time frame. More specifically the census tracts included in the proposed zone saw a loss of 10.5% significantly higher than the county and state average. 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. Fayette County and Clayton County are both seeing a higher than state average poverty within the counties, Fayette, 14.7% and Clayton, 14.9%. And both counties noted from the 2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates, under 38.2% of the population within the proposed zone only have 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.

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 38.2% of their populations having no higher educations than high school level. Therefore in a positive side, these residents could then be up-skilled to increase workforce numbers. In order to skill up, these residents would need fiber to their homes. COVID-19 increased the demand for online course work whether credited or non certified degrees as well as the laborforce working from their homes. Online learning is a great way to skill up the workforce.

School-aged children within this zone similar to all of Iowa, need adequate fiber for their learning efforts as the school districts utilize platforms for assignments and a platform for parents to track their child's learning. Within the zone there are 24.9% of Clayton County and 21.7% of children under the age of 19 year of age found. 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. NICC also offers trainings to upskill the existing workforce. Broadband investments will facilitate educational attainments as well as social and emotional developments. School systems are noting maturation of the brain influences learning readiness. Broadband would not only assist learning efforts for our children, the existing workforce, but enticing a population increase to work and live within the zone.

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 17.3% of persons within this zone that are below poverty within the last 12 months. There is 23.4% of this zone's population determined to be poverty. Childhood poverty and adults living in poverty are at a higher risk of adverse health effects from obesity, smoking, substance. These are the top health needs found within the MercyOne Health Assessment. 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, both Fayette County (14.7%) and 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 16-22 miles away. Behavioral health services are over 42 miles away. 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 65 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.

Within the zone, there are over 27.3% of the population is over 70 years of age. If you couple age, poverty levels and distance to healthcare facilities, it is possible that there will be some deficiencies in preventative care. A lack of resources could lead to delaying medical treatment, which also impacts the expediency of the diagnosis and treatment options. This could exacerbate a chronic condition, or cause complications later.

Community Support Letters

Testimonial : 12517-322nd Street - Testimonial.pdf

Community Support Letter : Claytonfayette community support letters.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):

Optional Forms and Submissions - Community Broadband Capital

Item	Description	Category	Supporting Documentation
1	There are min. costs with fees within the counties		
2			
3			
4			
5			

Barriers to Broadband

Barriers to Broadband

Installation:

As Kim Reynolds stated, her commitment to high-speed, reliable broadband for all Iowans continues to make great progress. We have received an overwhelming number of applications for funding requests, which highlights the considerable need to expand broadband to all corners of the state. 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 the Clayton and Fayette counties, there are many reasons why residents within this proposed zone area still labeled unserved and underserved. Being one of the most pristine regions of Iowa, beauty comes at a cost for infrastructure related builds. The counties boasts of rivers, valleys, certain sedimentary rocks such as limestone, sandstone, shale and chert, over 30-45 different tree species, and three main rivers including Maquoketa, Volga, and Turkey Rivers with several smaller tributaries. Many of those rivers and tributaries are listed on the impaired waters with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. Agricultural lands need to factor into infrastructural growth for fiber as well. With all of these factors involved, one can see how topography is a key deterrent for fiber growth due to expensive options such as towers and boring. Such topography and low population density only increase the costs of broadband builds to our rural areas. Within the ITQ area, there are 36 underserved, 9 unserved with a total of 45 eligible locations. We feel there are more locations underserved that the updated map is not showing that could be served as well. Demographics within the proposed zone also inhibit the completion of fiber to date. There are 6,195 residents, with a 10.5% decrease from the 2010 census making it an even more remote living situation. According to the 2021 ACS five-year estimates, within the proposed intervention zone the poverty level is 11.7% with a high poverty level in Fayette's census of 16.1%. Specifically within the area, the children within poverty is at 8.7%. The providers have done a great job thus far of servicing the rural residents and being aggressive with their footprints to serve all rural residents. In order to include this remaining unserved and/or underserved, it will take financial assistance due to topographical barriers.

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