



Barriers to broadband availability:

The broadband intervention zone described as part of this ITQ, is located in the rural community of Bagley in Guthrie County, Iowa. The average household income in Bagley is \$47,158 and the poverty rate is at 24%. Cost is one of the largest barriers to investment in broadband networks in rural areas, such as this. New broadband companies are reluctant to serve communities with a high rate of poverty. In particular there is a lack of middle-mile infrastructure to connect broadband services to remote, rural communities. Finally, the costs to bury fiber optic cable is high in rural areas because of the lower population densities. Consequently, without financial incentives it would be difficult to build these networks.