



Jones County Economic Development

YOUR success is OUR point!

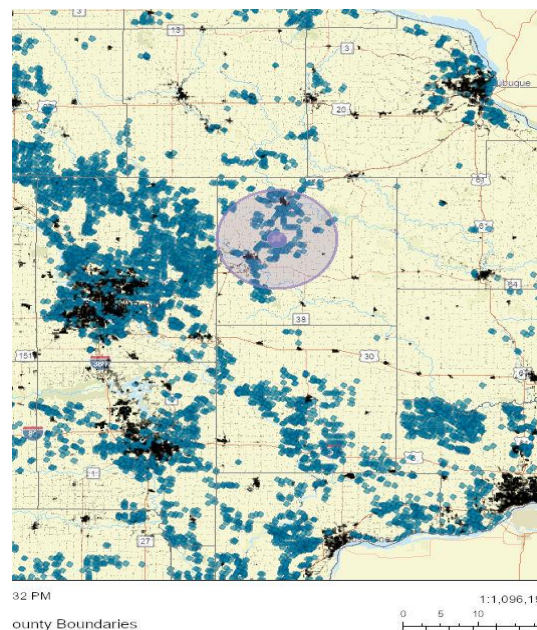
3/23/2023

To the Iowa Office of the Chief Information Officer:

Jones County Economic Development is a public-private partnership dedicated to strengthening the economic base in Jones County by assisting existing businesses, attracting new investments and jobs, and fostering a business climate favorable for economic growth. Reliable and high speed broadband internet is one of the many facets needed for us to follow through on fulfilling our mission statement to the communities.

Jones County Economic Development is submitting this Broadband Intervention Zone application in coordination with other county-wide entities, such as Jones County Tourism and the Jones County Board of Supervisors. All three entities understand the need for our rural areas to be served by quality internet. Not only do we need it from a production standpoint for businesses and employees, including those that work from home, but we need it to help keep our agricultural sector producing through advanced automation, access to data, etc. Finally, we understand that tourism is a huge boon for the state and our region and we need to make sure that not only our local attractions, but visitors as well, have access to strong internet to keep our region vibrant.

Our primary areas of need are on the Highway 151 corridor between Anamosa and Monticello. Large companies like Mediacom service the cities themselves, but don't extend beyond the city limits and most small telecoms have not moved that close to the larger cities due to the competition. This means that the roughly 450+ households in our proposed Intervention Zone have no access or are heavily underserved regarding broadband internet, as can be seen in the image below:



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Since the entire county cannot be listed inside the Intervention Zone, the goal was to highlight those areas that had the most underserved or unserved clientele, which his circle does. Additionally, it also touches on three service areas of local telecoms that have expressed interest in reaching those without service, but needed the financial incentives and capacity to do so. We know that this map is not ideal as it leaves out a number of homes, but by drawing it as we have, it also touches on those three telecom service areas and we are hopeful any future projects would incorporate these homes as well, even if a little further into the future or after this Intervention Zone project has been completed.

Jones County is at a threshold of change. We can choose to sit back and watch as our population declines and ages; or we can step up to the needs of the times. We can work hard to retain and recruit youthful families and businesses. We can work to set up and enhance quality amenities like trails, camping, sports, museums, etc. We can also work to keep our area connected to the region and the outside world through the distribution of goods and services that is ONLY possible through a strong broadband internet presence.

Jones County Economic Development has chosen to step up. While there is nothing wrong with being a bedroom community to other regional hotspots, Jones County is convinced that we ARE one of those regional hotspots and that interest is ready to increase. We can do this in partnerships locally and with the assistance of the state and the local telecoms. Jones County needs this Broadband Intervention Zone designation, and high priority placement on the list, to help secure funding and access to our rural region.

Thank you for your time and consideration. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach me via email at director@jonescountydevelopment.com or by phone at 319-480-7446.

Sincerely,

Derek Lumsden, Executive Director
Jones County Economic Development