

# 504459 - Jones County Broadband Intervention Zones

## Application Details

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**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 23, 2023 12:34 PM

**Initially Submitted By:** Derek Lumsden

**Last Submit Date:**

**Last Submitted By:**

## Contact Information

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### Primary Contact Information

**Active User\*:** Yes

**Type:** External User

**First Name\*:** Derek      Middle Name Lumsden  
First Name                      Last Name

**Title:**

**Email\*:** director@jonescountydevelopment.com

**Address\*:** 121 E. Main Street

Anamosa Iowa      52205  
City      State/Province Postal Code/Zip

**Phone\*:** (319) 480-7446 Ext.  
Phone  
###-###-####

**Fax:** ###-###-####

**Agency:**

### Organization Information

**Status\*:** Approved

**Name\*:** Jones County Economic Development

**Organization Type\*:** Non-Profit Organization

**DUNS:** ##-###-####

**Tax Id:**

**Unique Entity Identifier (UEI):**

**Organization Website:**

**Address\*:**

City Iowa Postal Code/Zip  
State/Province

**Phone\*:** (319) 480-7446 Ext.  
###-###-####

**Fax:** ###-###-####

**Benefactor:**

**Vendor Number / ID:**

## Cover Sheet-General Information

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### *Cover Sheet-General Information*

#### Authorized Official

**Name\*:** Derek Lumsden

**Title\*:** Executive Director

**Organization\*:** Jones County Economic Development  
If you are an individual, please provide your First and Last Name.

**Address\*:** 107 S. Ford St.

**City/State/Zip\*:** Anamosa Iowa 52205  
City State Zip

**Telephone Number\*:** 319-480-7446

**E-Mail\*:** director@jonescountydevelopment.com

#### Fiscal Officer/Agent

Please enter the "Fiscal Officer" for your Organization.  
If you are an individual, please provide your First and Last Name.

**Name\*:** Nels Petersen

**Title:** **Treasurer**

**Organization:** **Jones County Economic Development**

**Address:** **107 S. Ford St.**

**City/State/Zip:** **Anamosa Iowa 52205**  
City State Zip

**Telephone Number:** **319-480-7446**

**E-Mail:** **director@jonescountydevelopment.com**

**County(ies) Participating,  
Involved, or Affected by this  
Proposal\*:** **Jones 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\*:** **1st - Rep. Mariannette Miller-Meeks**  
Congressional Map

**Iowa Senate District(s) Involved  
or Affected by this Proposal\*:** **33**  
Iowa Senate Map

**Iowa House District(s) Involved  
or Affected by this Proposal\*:** **66**  
Iowa House Map

## Invitation To Qualify Application Exhibits

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### *Required Forms and Submissions*

Please indicate the community applicant type that best fits from this list.

**Community Applicant Type\*:** **Community Group or Association**

**If Community Applicant Type is  
"Other", please add additional  
information here. :**

### **Jones County Economic Development**

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\*:** **Broadband 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 Eligible Locations List.xlsx**

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\*:**

**This circle takes in the most rural households in Jones County that are underserved or unserved. It flows primarily down Highway 151 between Anamosa and Monticello, extending beyond the highway approximately two-four miles in any direction.**

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 \*:**

**17043 150th St.**

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

**Monticello**

**Address of the circle - State\*:**

**IA**

**Address of the circle - zip code\*:** 52310

***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 COVID-19 pandemic opened a lot of eyes to the benefits and possibilities of remote work. Not only does remote work allow for more flexibility in work-life balance for employees, but it also keeps them productive as studies have shown. It can also ease the burden of needing to find childcare, which has shown to be elusive in our region.**

**By spreading more broadband internet to those addresses listed in the Intervention Zone, not only can Jones County offer more services, such as telehealth opportunities to people, but they can also allow employers more flexibility to retain, recruit, and reward workers by allowing this remote or even hybrid work option.**

**Currently, the eastern section of the county has these opportunities thanks to the past work and grant funding of very localized telecom providers. However, the main swath of underserved homes in Jones County is between the two major population centers, Anamosa and Monticello. These areas are "served" by large corporations like Mediacom who have no desire to offer higher speed internet, leaving areas of our population behind.**

**When looking at the map, this may seem like ag-based production and there would need to be less broadband, but that is deceiving too. As farming because more technology-based, farmers and other ag producers need access to this high-speed internet that is not offered in this region either.**

**Additionally, as more and more services go online or have online options, our rural residents are being hamstrung by not having the ability to stay connected. From getting in touch with service providers on things from healthcare to taxes and the ability to help commercial retail businesses, broadband internet is crucial to staying connected and involved in the 21st century.**

**With the inclusion of this area as an Intervention Zone, Jones County would have at least three different telecom providers looking to secure funding and expand broadband internet into this region, each of them taking their specific sector and developing that area. This would help solve some of the workforce and childcare needs, while also propping up farming and decreasing unemployment. Finally, it could help retain younger generations as the millennial and Z generations are very tech heavy generations and are drawn to areas with amenities that can provide for them. Broadband internet is merely one of those expectations for people to consider rural regions as vibrant and worth relocating to and staying.**

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:**

**Education was severely hampered during the pandemic. From the closing of schools for the last quarter of 2020 to the hodge podge of different ways homeschooling was utilized during the crisis, students had to learn online greater than ever before. While this was a blessing to some students, it was an unfair burden to others.**

**First, many students might not have had the capability to do the work at all because they had no technology available to them at home. Second, many students did not have access to broadband internet. This led some families to have to drive them somewhere like a library after work to do homework or had some students not do the work at all. This disconnect from each other and the ability to complete work has shown that some kids are behind academically.**

**While this would have happened to some degree without broadband internet, it's important to realize that the access to broadband internet would have lessened some of those secondary impacts. Teachers would have had the ability to teach class and contact students more regularly and offer them more online resources if they were struggling.**

**Even after the highest danger phases of the pandemic, there are still students that could use extra help. But that means staying after school or getting help virtually. Staying after school is not always an option, so online resources are a student's best bet. However, if there is no reliable and quick broadband internet, how can they ever keep up?**

**As can be seen from an attached letter, a teacher in the Anamosa school district has the same concerns and they are shared by those across the education realm. If this Intervention Zone can help that many more students get access, then fewer are likely to fall behind and more are able to take advantage of those offerings online, be it at the secondary or post-secondary level.**

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:**

**With the threat of the pandemic, most people chose to stay home and isolated. This led to some great advances from a medical front, including telehealth options and reduction in climate health dangers. When people could not or would not leave their homes, medical providers had to adapt. They did this by offering telehealth options for therapy, check-ups, pharmacy refills, etc. Even though the worst of the pandemic has hopefully passed, many people are still weary of illness and they like the advantage of telehealth. They don't have to cancel appointments in bad weather, they can still be seen when they are sick, and they don't have to factor in travel time, etc.**

**Additionally, it was noted during the pandemic that our overall air quality was better because people did not drive or go places. This helped reduce those pollutants in the air and that made our air quality better. Plus, people were being more active in their neighborhoods by walking, etc. outside even at an isolated distance.**

**Broadband internet could continue this trend for both options listed above potentially. First, broadband**

internet allows for continued telehealth options. As an aging and rural county, this is crucial to the the continued health and wellness of our citizens. They might be less able to get out to go to doctors, etc. and since doctors do not make house calls anymore, this is a valid option for both. Second, with broadband internet allowing for workers to be remote, this can continue to assist in our air quality options, hopefully helping our citizens continue to help decrease emissions.

Broadband internet may seem like an odd bedfellow to health conditions, but as seen above, it has worked and continues to do so in those areas served. If we can serve another 400+ households as outlined in our plan, we can increase those taking advantage of those services and benefits.

### ***Community Support Letters***

Testimonial :                                      Testimonial Letters.pdf

Community Support Letter :                      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***

ItemDescription		Category	Supporting Documentation
1	Local outreach/Public meetings to build capacity for more broadband opportunities in Jones County	Broadband adoption initiatives / citizen engagement	
2			
3			
4			
5			

### ***Barriers to Broadband***

**Barriers to Broadband Installation:**

Broadband installation has two main barriers in Jones County.

The first barrier is cost. Telecom giants like Mediacom have a captive audience in many places, so they see no need to lay more fiber or offer a higher speed of services because there is no one else to offer. Additionally, the smaller local telecoms usually need some form of grant or state subsidy to make installation outside of population centers viable. When you combine those two factors, installing broadband in the underserved rural areas can propose a logistical and financial problem for the small, locally owned telecoms.

Based on the intervention zone outlined in the application, Jones County has three telecom providers that would be interested in going into that region and each would not be competing with the other as they have their defined territories in that region. However, without this priority listing and without a realistic cost share, these telecoms will be unable to provide the services due to cost and our region will continue to decline in its attractiveness.

The second barrier is customer base. Jones County is a rural county with an aging and plateauing population. This means that the customer base is small and shrinking in those underserved areas. Ironically, because there is no access to these services, it is speeding up that decline as people sell land

and move to areas with a greater offering of services. Timing is also an issue as people want to have those services now, but have to wait until the telecoms can get money to service their region or enough people to sign up to make the expense worthwhile. So while the timing drags out, the customer base decreases as well.

This Intervention Zone designation is the first step to overcoming these barriers, followed by access to reasonable funding and cost share to implement broadband. All three telecoms interested in Jones County have laid as far as they can, but are ready to ramp up and begin as soon as possible. By getting this priority designation and moving quickly, the State can help a small rural county stay vibrant and increase its services to residents.

Optional Supporting Materials  
for Barriers to Broadband  
Installation Narrative:

## Minority Impact Statement

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### *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**

<b>Executive Director</b>	<b>Derek</b>	<b>Lumsden</b>
Title	First Name	Last Name