

Wapello County Board of Supervisors
215 North Court Street
Ottumwa, IA 52501



Prepared by Wapello County Supervisor, Bryan Ziegler

The target area for the grant application includes several characteristics that help justify the need for this system.

Towns - The area includes the towns of Chillicothe and Kirkville. The population is 76 for Chillicothe and 154 for Kirkville. The area can serve Eddyville and the Ottumwa Airport. The airport includes three industrial businesses of over 100 employees each and several small businesses. It also has a job corps facility, Iowa Work Force Development office and a branch of Indian Hills Community College.

Industry - The area is the home of the Alliant Energy coal plant. In the future this plant could be converted to alternative fuel source as the investment in the physical plant is significant. Highway 34 west of Ottumwa has several businesses that have been underserved with internet access. These include Thomas Veterinary Clinic, Dixson's Floors and More, Rocket Fuel, Christner Contracting, and a fuel terminal facility that loads semi trucks with fuel from a pipe line.

Future Development - The area has just seen new construction projects of a new bridge over the Des Moines River at Chillicothe and a paved road from Chillicothe to Ottumwa. Now under consideration is a new over pass over the train track which will result in new housing development in the area. The old highway 34 from Ottumwa to the County line to the west is scheduled to be repaved. This will serve the highway 34 west of Ottumwa which in the future could become more industrial or experience commercial development.

Home based business- There are several home based businesses in the area that will benefit from this service. The county will be aggressively promoting home based businesses. The area is agricultural but is not traditional in that the land is rolling and not suitable for just corn and beans. It is very good for alternative crops and livestock which all needs internet connections.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bryan Ziegler".

Bryan Ziegler
Wapello County Supervisor
Wapello County Board of Supervisors
bziegler@wapellocounty.org

Johnathon Tuvera

From: Bryan Ziegler <bryan.ziegler71@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 30, 2023 2:18 PM
To: Johnathon Tuvera
Subject: Fwd: John Burger requesting Fiber Optic

CAUTION: This email originated outside the organization. Do not click any links or attachments unless you have verified the sender.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **John Burger** <johnandvalerie1999@gmail.com>
Date: Thu, Mar 30, 2023 at 11:16 AM
Subject: John Burger requesting Fiber Optic
To: <bryan.ziegler71@gmail.com>

To our fiber optic friends,

My wife and I operate the You Unveiled fitness studio in the lower level of our home residence located at 16023 Blackhawk Road in Ottumwa Iowa. The business charges a monthly membership for urban people to come out and exercise in the experience of our rural community, at the morning and the end of the work day. Many of the exercise routines require streaming video and stable internet service to be effective.

This has been a challenge at times with our wireless internet service, for example anytime there is a storm or excessively high usage we seem to have slow service or interruptions. It has been challenging at times to retain membership due to this issue, and I feel it has limited our ability to grow the business.

It is my hope that our community would be a candidate for a fiber optic internet provider. I feel it would improve our own business as well as open the possibility for other small rural businesses to prosper.

Please call if you have questions,

John Burger
Co-Owner/Operator
You Unveiled
16023 Blackhawk Rd,
Ottumwa, IA 52501
Call/txt: 641-799-1733



March 30, 2023

Office of the Chief Information Officer of the State of Iowa
200 E Grand Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50309

RE: Empower Rural Iowa Broadband Grant Program – Invitation to Qualify #001 – Broadband Intervention Zones

Dear Chief Information Officer and Review Committee:

Please consider this letter as support of the Empower Rural Iowa Broadband Invitation to Qualify application for Wapello County, as it would address the lack of adequate broadband internet access and connectivity in the area. By designating these areas as intervention zones for future investment in broadband, this would create a significant opportunity to reach many citizens who currently lack access to reliable broadband services.

As an unserved/underserved area with limited modern Internet services, residents of rural NW Wapello County are faced with many challenges, such as limited medical resources and distance barriers between patients, physicians, and facilities. Because of the rural nature of the area, students do not receive equitable broadband resources as compared to those in more urban areas. Rural students may lack the opportunity for research, distance learning, video, and other tools that advanced broadband can deliver.

With assistance from the Empower Rural Iowa Broadband Invitation to Quality program, residents of rural NW Wapello County would be positioned to overcome geographical distances, empower them through information, and bring the world to their fingertips. Additionally, I feel strongly that these intervention designations will enable greater collaboration and teamwork between community service centers, public safety offices, county offices, and municipal offices.

I respectfully ask you to consider the designation of intervention zones in rural NW Wapello County. It is extremely important that state broadband grant funding be obtained to provide much needed broadband service to this area.

Sincerely,
CARGILL, INCORPORATED

A blue ink signature of Jonathan Razink, consisting of a stylized "J" followed by a long horizontal line.

Jonathan Razink
Facility Manager