

504721 - Wapello County ITQ

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 31, 2023 9:38 AM
Initially Submitted By:	Bryan Ziegler
Last Submit Date:	
Last Submitted By:	

Contact Information

Primary Contact Information

Active User*:	Yes
Type:	External User
First Name*:	Bryan Middle Name Ziegler First Name Last Name
Title:	Wapello County Supervisor
Email*:	bryan.ziegler71@gmail.com
Address*:	215 North Court Street Ottumwa Iowa 52501 City State/Province Postal Code/Zip
Phone*:	641-777-4329 Ext. Phone ###-###-####
Fax:	###-###-####
Agency:	

Organization Information

Status*: Approved

Name*: Wapello County Board of Supervisors

Organization Type*: County Government

DUNS: 08-998-1732
##-###-####

Tax Id:

Unique Entity Identifier (UEI):

Organization Website: wapellocosup@pcsia.net

Address*: 215 N. Court

Phone*: Ottumwa Iowa 52501
City State/Province Postal Code/Zip
(641) 683-4630 Ext.
###-###-####

Fax: (641) 683-6390
###-###-####

Benefactor:

Vendor Number / ID:

Cover Sheet-General Information

Cover Sheet-General Information

Authorized Official

Name*: Bryan Ziegler

Title*: Wapello County Supervisor

Organization*: Wapello County Board of Supervisors
If you are an individual, please provide your First and Last Name.

Address*: 215 North Court Street

City/State/Zip*: Ottumwa Iowa 52501
City State Zip

Telephone Number*: 641-683-4630

E-Mail*: bziegler@wapellocounty.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*: Bryan Ziegler

Title: Wapello County Supervisor

Organization: Wapello County Board of Supervisors

Address: 215 North Court Street

City/State/Zip: Ottumwa Iowa 52501
City State Zip

Telephone Number: 641-683-4630

E-Mail: bziegler@wapellocounty.org

**County(ies) Participating,
Involved, or Affected by this
Proposal*:** Wapello 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*:** 3rd - Rep Zach Nunn
Congressional Map

**Iowa Senate District(s) Involved
or Affected by this Proposal*:** 13
Iowa Senate Map

**Iowa House District(s) Involved
or Affected by this Proposal*:** 26
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*: County

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

N/A

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 Wapello County Supervisors.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**ITQ Eligible Locations Wapello County NW Corner.csv****Spreadsheet*:**

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*:**

Rural NW Wapello County

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 *:**

20303 132nd Street

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

Ottumwa

Address of the circle - State*:

IA

Address of the circle - zip code*: 52501

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:

Wapello County is fortunate to have so many large employers in our area. The county is home to a John Deere manufacturing plant, a Cargill chemical plant, a JBS meat packing plant, and many more. These companies employ hundreds of our residents and contribute greatly to our local economy as a whole. As employment and production increase, many of these employers are moving to a hybrid work model to help facilitate the growth as well as attract talented workers to our area. With this increase in virtual and hybrid working environments, it has become even more apparent that many of the potential workers in our area lack the broadband coverage necessary to participate in these environments. This limits their ability to work and creates a divide between connected and non-connected employees for positions within a company. It is vital to have internet that can meet the needs of the employers of our community as well as the employees who use the internet for both work and personal use.

Alongside this virtual migration for work, many of our residents are utilizing virtual services for their consumer needs. Most of our residents rely heavily on goods ordered online from online retail stores, like Amazon, as well as many residents are taking advantage of some virtual services provided from our local stores. Many of our grocery stores, like Walmart and Aldi's, offer online grocery ordering that can be done from the comfort of your own home.

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:

Like many school systems around the country, Ottumwa Schools implemented a virtual learning environment during the COVID-19 pandemic. While this was meant to be a temporary migration to help keep teachers and students safe, we have taken concepts from that model and continue to explore more ways to utilize the internet and virtual classrooms to further the education of our students. This process, however, highlighted just how dire the need for quality broadband was for our students. Many students in our rural areas of the county found this migration challenging and had to find alternative ways to stay connected for class (public wi-fi's, local libraries, cellular hot-spots). While these methods saw some small success, it is nothing compared to a reliable connection at home.

Wapello County is also home to our local community college, Indian Hills Community College (IHCC), and is a satellite campus for Buena Vista University (BVU). Both of these educational facilities have offered online and hybrid learning models for many years. We are proud to have a college education system in our community where anyone can earn their Associate and Bachelors degree locally and virtually. With more of our rural students desiring and pursuing online education to meet their work/life schedule, it is more important than ever to ensure proper broadband coverage is available to all of our residents.

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:

Wapello County is proud to be the home of a premier healthcare facility, Ottumwa Regional Health Center. This amazing health center offers a plethora of services, including emergency medical services, critical care services, medical/surgical, acute rehabilitation, obstetrics, pediatrics, radiological service, and so much more. While residents in the city of Ottumwa have easy access to this great facility, the rural residents of Wapello County have to travel almost 20 miles to visit their healthcare professional. For any medical needs to require specialist services, this would require these residents to travel over 2 hours to visit either the Des Moines or Iowa City facilities. This creates quite a challenge for these residents to get the quality healthcare coverage they need.

The residents in the proposed Intervention Zone do not have any medical facilities nearby to use for their general medical needs. As such, they rely heavily on Ottumwa Regional to take care of them. While some can make the drive to the facility, many find it difficult, whether due to inclement weather, poor driving conditions, old age, etc. As such, Ottumwa Regional has made their medical services available online to their patients. In order to take advantage of these, however, a reliable internet connection is required. Many in the Intervention Zone lack this coverage, which in turn, requires them to travel to receive basic medical services.

Ottumwa is also home to a Veteran Affairs (VA) clinic in Ottumwa. Much like Ottumwa Regional, the VA has taken steps to provide their services through an online platform. With a large population of veterans in our county, we want to ensure these folks have as much access to their earned VA services as they can.

The needs for medical services for our residents is also never been more important. According to the US Census, over 36% of the county residents suffer from obesity, almost 25% have some form of arthritis, and almost 15% of residents report poor mental/physical health. Wapello County ranks higher in prescribed Hydrocodone, Codeine, and Morphine per capita than the state of Iowa as a whole. With virtual pharmacies, such as Express Scripts, becoming more popular, a proper internet service is vital to receive their medications. Residents in Wapello County rely on medical treatment from various sources, and as these sources become more accessible online, we want to make sure the infrastructure is there to help support their participation.

Community Support Letters**Testimonial :****Testimonial Wapello County Supervisor.pdf**

Community Support Letter : Support Letter Cargill.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): Support Letter John Burger.pdf***Optional Forms and Submissions - Community Broadband Capital***

Item	Description	Category	Supporting Documentation
1	Wapello County Engineers Reducing the Burdens and Cost of Construction by Allowing Road-Edge Builds	Simplified permitting processes	Simplified Permitting Processes.pdf
2	Anchor Business/Users: City of Chillicothe	Anchor businesses or users	
3	Anchor Business/Users: City of Kirksville	Anchor businesses or users	
4	Anchor Business/Users: Alliant Energy Coal Plant	Anchor businesses or users	
5	Anchor Business/Users: Cargill Chemical Plant	Anchor businesses or users	Anchor Institution Letter Cargill.pdf

Barriers to Broadband**Barriers to Broadband****Installation:**

The NW region of Wapello County is the area we have designated as a proposed Broadband Intervention Zone. With this designation, there are a number of geographic barriers that make this area a difficult region to install and maintain a proper fiber optic network. The obvious barrier is the rurality of this region. Without access to a major highway infrastructure, the area is somewhat isolated from the rest of the county. To reach some of the more populated areas, one must utilize gravel roads (and even some dirt roads) to go to and from the area.

This zone also has railroad systems that run through them in various areas. Railroads, while vital for our core infrastructure, create a major barrier for any service provider looking to cross their network over the rails. With the historically high costs associated with railroad crossings and the difficulty of the work itself, these railroads create a major difficulty for anyone looking to install a proper fiber infrastructure. The final barrier for this region, and possibly the largest barrier to combat, is its proximity to the Des Moines River. The Des Moines River runs right down the middle of this Intervention Zone. While this river provides added benefit to our area, it is a huge barrier for anyone looking to install fiber optics around and across. With the difficulty of just getting the fiber across the river (finding a bridge to run across, the cost of permitting, etc.), it is difficult to install in this area in a cost-effective way. The river also creates the obvious difficulty with wash-out and flooding of the area. This area of the Des Moines River sits north of a hydroelectric dam in the City of Ottumwa, which added with constant rains can leave many areas along this river to flood and suffer wash-out damage. The river, while another great asset to our economy and infrastructure, creates a major barrier for any broadband provider to make a business case to build fiber in our area.

Optional Supporting Materials Iowa DOT Railroad Map.pdf
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

Wapello County Supervisor Bryan Ziegler
Title First Name Last Name