

# 504986 - Winneshiek County Northeast Rural

## 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 29, 2023 5:06 PM  
**Initially Submitted By:** Benjamin Steines  
**Last Submit Date:**  
**Last Submitted By:**

## Contact Information

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### Primary Contact Information

**Active User\*:** Yes  
**Type:** External User  
**First Name\*:** Benjamin D Steines  
First Name Middle Name Last Name  
**Title:**  
**Email\*:** bsteines@co.winneshiek.ia.us  
**Address\*:** 201 W Main St  
  
Decorah Iowa 52101  
City State/Province Postal Code/Zip  
**Phone\*:** (563) 382-5085 Ext.  
Phone  
###-###-####  
**Fax:** (563) 387-4083  
###-###-####  
**Agency:**

### Organization Information

**Status\*:** Approved

**Name\*:** Winneshiek County

**Organization Type\*:** County Government

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

**Tax Id:**

**Unique Entity Identifier (UEI):**

**Organization Website:**

**Address\*:** 201 W Main

Decorah Iowa 52101  
City State/Province Postal Code/Zip

**Phone\*:** (563) 382-2951 Ext.

###-###-####

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

**Benefactor:**

**Vendor Number / ID:**

## Cover Sheet-General Information

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### *Cover Sheet-General Information*

#### Authorized Official

**Name\*:** Ben Steines

**Title\*:** Winneshiek County Auditor

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

**Address\*:** 201 West Main Street

**City/State/Zip\*:** Decorah Iowa 52101  
City State Zip

**Telephone Number\*:** 563-382-2370

**E-Mail\*:** bsteines@co.winneshiek.ia.us

#### Fiscal Officer/Agent

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

**Name\*:** Ben Steines

**Title:** Winneshiek County Auditor

**Organization:** Winneshiek County

**Address:** 201 West Main Street

**City/State/Zip:** Decorah Iowa 52101  
City State Zip

**Telephone Number:** 563-382-2370

**E-Mail:** bsteines@co.winneshiek.ia.us

**County(ies) Participating,  
Involved, or Affected by this  
Proposal\*:** Winneshiek 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\*:** 2nd - Rep Ashley Hinson  
Congressional Map

**Iowa Senate District(s) Involved  
or Affected by this Proposal\*:** 32  
Iowa Senate Map

**Iowa House District(s) Involved  
or Affected by this Proposal\*:** 63  
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\*:** County

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

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 Letters.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 Winneshiek Co 2670 QH Road.csv

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 NE Winneshiek 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 \*:**

2670 Quarry Hill Road

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

Decorah

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

IA

**Address of the circle - zip code\*:** 52101

***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:**

**During the COVID-19 pandemic, many businesses sent employees to work from home. Since then, some employers have either kept that model to reduce overhead, or let employees utilize a hybrid schedule. This requires a reliable and strong broadband connection. The job search for both employees and employers are done via the internet and often times a first interview is done virtually saving time and money for both the business and potential employee. This requires a stable connection. Also, a county-wide broadband connection is enticing to people as they are looking to move to the area adding value to their homes and providing the ability to work for any business worldwide, eliminating barriers to job opportunities.**

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:**

**During the pandemic, schools switched from in-person to virtual learning. This has progressed to now schools have issued devices to each student and they can learn from home during days with adverse weather conditions. This requires a robust and reliable broadband connection. Many students and adults can attend college classes online. This is also nearly impossible without a reliable connection.**

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:**

While there is a local hospital in Winneshiek County with specialized healthcare, some specialty services are a considerable distance away. Virtual appointments and tele-health appointments are on the rise and will continue to expand. This is an important aspect for mental health appointments. Patients can be treated in the comfort of their own homes. It is important for the rural residents in our area to be able to access all kinds of specialized care. A stable, reliable, robust broadband network will help our residents access these services.

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

Testimonial :

Community Support Letter : Winneshiek County Letters of Support2.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***

Item	Description	Category	Supporting Documentation
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			

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

Barriers to Broadband

Installation:

Barriers to Broadband

### **Rurality**

Winneshiek County is an agriculture-based county in northeast Iowa and extremely rural. Broadband networks are difficult to build as the distance between locations can be several miles resulting in few consumers per mile. This can be costly to build for providers. Also in rural areas, the drops are long (for example - long driveways to farmsteads) as opposed to urban builds with short drops. This should not impede a customer getting service.

### **Topography**

Winneshiek County is in the Driftless Region of northeast Iowa. Although the rivers and bluffs are picturesque, it does not bode well for an easy fiber build. The Upper Iowa River winds through Winneshiek County and there are many limestone bluffs. The terrain often requires boring through rock, running fiber through conduit, multiple river crossings, and many other additional expenses that make the total project cost higher than average.

### **Demographics**

It is imperative that consumer education and awareness is at the forefront while providing the best broadband to Winneshiek County. We can teach consumers how to utilize and maximize their connection and get the best experience possible. There are options for low-income residents so they can have this essential service available to them.

**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? \*:** **Yes**

**Describe the positive impact expected from this project.:**

**The positive impacts will include, but not be limited to - online learning, telehealth, work from home opportunities, online bill pay, and also the entertainment factor of the internet.**

**Detail the rationale for the existence of the proposed program or policy.:**

**Those listed as minority persons who have not had the ability to subscribe to high-speed broadband service will now have the ability to do so if this area is qualified as a broadband intervention zone.**

**Indicate the group(s) positively impacted.:**

**African Americans,Alaskan Native Americans,American Indians,Asians or Pacific Islanders,Latinos,Persons with a Disability,Women**

**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

Winneshiek County Auditor	Ben	Steines
Title	First Name	Last Name