

505560 - Marion County, Iowa ITQ Application

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 30, 2023 2:52 PM

Initially Submitted By: Carla Eysink

Last Submit Date:

Last Submitted By:

Contact Information

Primary Contact Information

Active User*: Yes

Type: External User

First Name*: Carla Middle Name Eysink
First Name Last Name

Title: Executive Director

Email*: ceysink@marioncountyiowa.gov

Address*: 506 East 13th Street

Pella Iowa 50219
City State/Province Postal Code/Zip

Phone*: (641) 218-6146 Ext.
Phone
###-###-####

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

Agency:

Organization Information

Status*: Approved

Name*: Marion County Development Commission

Organization Type*: County Government

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

Tax Id:

Unique Entity Identifier (UEI):

Organization Website: <http://www.redrockarea.com>

Address*: 214 East Main Street

Phone*: Knoxville Iowa 50138
City State/Province Postal Code/Zip
(641) 828-2257 Ext.
###-###-####

Fax: (641) 842-3593
###-###-####

Benefactor:

Vendor Number / ID:

Cover Sheet-General Information

Cover Sheet-General Information

Authorized Official

Name*: Kisha Jahner

Title*: Chair-Marion County Board of Supervisors

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

Address*: 214 East Main Street

City/State/Zip*: Knoxville Iowa 50138
City State Zip

Telephone Number*: 641-828-2231

E-Mail*: kjahner@marioncountyiowa.gov

Fiscal Officer/Agent

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

Name*: Jake Grandia

Title: **Marin County Auditor**

Organization: **Marion County**

Address: **214 East Main Street**

City/State/Zip: **Knoxville Iowa 50138**
City State Zip

Telephone Number: **641-828-2217**

E-Mail: **jgrandia@marioncountyiowa.gov**

**County(ies) Participating,
Involved, or Affected by this
Proposal*:** **Marion 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*:** **11,19**
Iowa Senate Map

**Iowa House District(s) Involved
or Affected by this Proposal*:** **21,37**
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. :**

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*: **MCDC and Marion Co BOS 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 Marion County.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*:**

Northwestern corner of Marion County, Iowa. The 8-mile zone extends west of Pleasantville, north to just south of Monroe (Jasper County), east of Otley and Flagler, and south of Knoxville.

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 *:**

1080 CR G40

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

Knoxville

Address of the circle - State*:

IA

Address of the circle - zip code*: 50138

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:

Marion County ranks 3rd out of all Iowa counties for laborforce growth from 2016 to 2021. This includes the addition of 1,000 new manufacturing jobs. Marion County is one of only 12 counties in Iowa with positive laborforce growth over this period of time. As a county with nearly 8,000 manufacturing sector jobs ranking the county in the top 1% of US counties for percentage of jobs in manufacturing, internet access is critical to rural economic growth as employees continue to work in hybrid or remote situations from rural areas. There are a total of 18,251 jobs in Marion County which makes the area an employment center which is thriving and needs the infrastructure to continue this growth pattern.

Investment in expanded infrastructure in growing corridors is the focus of the selection of the zone in northwestern Marion County. A zone was selected that include primary transportation corridors for four lane highway 5 and 163 as well as primary transportation corridors for highway 92 and 14. These corridors when enhanced with elevated broadband access with grow industry, commercial and residential opportunities in Central Iowa. It is critical for Iowa to grow by investing in the zones which have the greatest potential for growth.

Although the zone today has a moderate amount of eligible residential addresses, the zone is also built around Iowa's largest lake: Lake Red Rock. Having the largest body of water in Iowa makes it challenging to achieve redundant loops for broadband, however the lake area is a desirable residential location.

This area continues to see elevated levels of housing growth as resident choose to live in a rural lake area setting with recreation assets. Permits for single family housing in the rural area of the county has drastically increased as job opportunities have increased. People are choosing where to live first and the lake area provides the amenities that lure the next generation of workforce to the region. Marion County's

\$20 million investment in housing developments in Pella, Knoxville and Pleasantville will yield over 1,000 new housing units which are currently being planned or constructed.

Marion County has a healthy entrepreneurial culture with many rural resident choosing to start businesses that compete via the internet to sell merchandise. Quality internet in rural areas will encourage additional small business growth both for online businesses and rural agricultural sector companies.

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 2020, many rural families with students in virtual learning situations in Marion County had to rely on hotspots which burned through cellular data charges. In addition, many college, trade and university schools have converted course work to virtual. The lack of quality internet access in rural areas of Marion County has hindered learning and hampered students of all ages. If Iowa and Marion County are to achieve goals set out by Future Ready Iowa, rural broadband access for education is critical.

Marion County has 5,944 students age 5 to 17 which comprises 17.8% of our population in comparison to 16.6% in Iowa. Marion County has 3,439 college age residents age 18 to 24 which comprises 10.2% of the population as compared to only 9.2% in Iowa.

There are 1,658 residents employed within the education sector which also illustrates a need for access when educators are at their residence. Rural educators need access to the internet to plan education curriculum and communicate with students working on projects when away from the school buildings. Employees need access to broadband at their residence to further trainings and education needed by their employer.

Anchor Institutions Education: Pleasantville Community Schools, Knoxville Community Schools, Pella Community Schools, Prairie City-Monroe Community Schools.

Anchor Institutions Work: LDJ Manufacturing, Slideways, Red Rock Marina, Adkins Trucking, Coffee Station (startup), Weiler, Hormel, 3M, Knoxville Municipal Airport, and several small businesses.

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:

Marion County has 5,939 residents over the age of 65 which makes up 17.8% of the total population. In comparison, Iowa has 16% of the population over age 65 for 2021 according to the US Census. The median age in Marion County is 39.6 which is higher than Iowa at 38.4.

There are 2,165 health care and social services jobs in Marion County which also provides a need for these professionals to have access at their homes as well as work in order to provide services.

While Marion County has two hospitals located within the county, many residents rely on accessing health care via Facetime, portals and other online resources to connect with specialists and providers from outside the local community. For rural residents, especially the elderly and home-bound citizens, without adequate provision to broadband access, this impacts basic health care due to limitations to transportation. Mobile or cellular services are available for some residents, but this results in increased

costs for those on limited incomes.

Anchor Institutions: Knoxville Hospital & Clinics, Pleasantville Clinic, rural health services through various agencies, Pella Regional Health Center nearby, Marion County Law Enforcement Center.

Community Support Letters

Testimonial : Marion County Testimonials.pdf

Community Support Letter : Marion County 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

| Item | Description | Category | Supporting Documentation |
|------|--|-----------------------------|---|
| 1 | Marion County is open to public-private partnerships on a project by project basis | Public-Private Partnerships | ITQ Support Letter Board of Supervisors.pdf |
| 2 | | | |
| 3 | | | |
| 4 | | | |
| 5 | | | |

Barriers to Broadband

Barriers to Broadband

Installation:

Lake Red Rock, Iowa's largest lake, creates a barrier for redundant loops to serve communities such as Knoxville and Pella. In addition, with 15,000 acres of water Lake Red Rock makes it difficult to serve housing developments and campground areas around the lake due to the many creeks and streams which make the terrain challenging. Residents enjoy lake living, but have to sacrifice broadband access.

There are over 600 campsites included in the zone which all utilize online reservations. These campsites are full most of the season from April until the end of October which makes a need for over 1,500 people who may wish to camp and work remotely or digital nomads looking for a location for a longer stay. This density of campsites is unique in Iowa as they are not accounted for in the broadband map and not understood by providers. Roberts Creek campgrounds have full hook-ups (water, sewer and electric) except for broadband to the sites. Visitors provide new money into the local and state economy.

Because of high levels of salary in Pella, Marion County is often seen as an affluent location. Many of the rural areas in the opportunity zone have low income older residents. The Pleasantville retail trade area in ESRI indicates the median age is 40.6 which is higher than Iowa. The poverty rate in Pleasantville for 2019 was 15.8% and 14.9% in Knoxville which is higher than the state of Iowa.

Optional Supporting Materials MarionCounty_DownloadSpeeds_20210610 2 aug 3.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

Executive Director Carla Eysink
Title First Name Last Name