

505814 - Bremer County - NE

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 8:03 AM

Initially Submitted By: Isaiah Corbin

Last Submit Date:

Last Submitted By:

Contact Information

Primary Contact Information

Active User*: Yes

Type: External User

First Name*: Isaiah Middle Name Corbin
First Name Last Name

Title:

Email*: icorbin@inrcog.org

Address*: 229 E Park Avenue

Waterloo Iowa 50703
City State/Province Postal Code/Zip

Phone*: (319) 235-0311 127
Phone Ext.
###-###-####

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

Agency:

Organization Information

Status*: Approved

Name*: Iowa Northland Regional Council of Governments

Organization Type*: Councils of Government

DUNS: 05-796-2243
##-###-####

Tax Id:

Unique Entity Identifier (UEI):

Organization Website:

Address*: 229 E. Park Ave

Phone*: Waterloo Iowa 50703
City State/Province Postal Code/Zip
(319) 235-0311 Ext.
###-###-####

Fax: (319) 235-2891
###-###-####

Benefactor:

Vendor Number / ID:

Cover Sheet-General Information

Cover Sheet-General Information

Authorized Official

Name*: Ken Kammeyer

Title*: Chairperson

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

Address*: 415 E. Bremer Avenue

City/State/Zip*: Waverly Iowa 50677
City State Zip

Telephone Number*: 319-352-0130

E-Mail*: kkammeyer@co.bremer.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*: Shelley Wolf

Title: Bremer County Auditor & Commissioner of Elections

Organization: Bremer County Board of Supervisors

Address: 415 E. Bremer Avenue

City/State/Zip: Waverly Iowa 50677
City State Zip

Telephone Number: 319-352-0130

E-Mail: swolf@co.bremer.ia.us

**County(ies) Participating,
Involved, or Affected by this
Proposal*:** Bremer 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*:** 29
Iowa Senate Map

**Iowa House District(s) Involved
or Affected by this Proposal*:** 58
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*: Bremer County NE 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*:** Bremer County NE.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*:**

The area covers is located in the northeast corner of Bremer County around Sumner, Iowa.

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*: 6

**Address at the center of the
circle - Street Address *:**

3040 150th Street

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

Sumner

Address of the circle - State*:

IA

Address of the circle - zip code*: 50674

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:

Bremer County is primarily an agriculturally driven economy and serves as a rural bedroom community for those looking to live within close proximity to the Waterloo/Cedar Falls and Waverly metros. Given the rural geography, cost of living, and ease of Highway 218 and 63, many workers prefer living outside of the metro and commuting to work within the metro. As such, many of these workers have also come to benefit from the work-from-home model and hybrid working environments. However, reliable and affordable internet connectivity is critical in order to take advantage. Unfortunately, those who live outside of Waverly, Denver, Janesville, Sumner, Tripoli, and Readlyn (the six largest Bremer County cities), lack quality internet services. As stated by the CEO of Butler-Bremer Communications, Andrea Hansen, they are "frequently contacted by individuals just outside of our service area who need the same reliable service our customers benefit from today" for various reasons including work, school, and telemedicine. Reliable internet in many instances can be a deciding factor for those looking to relocate.

This accounts for a significant number of individuals who are currently unable to meet the demands of the present working environment and remain productive within the global economy. Moreover, the importance of agriculture in the regions outside of the population centers in Bremer County is critical to the County. Farmers need and require quality internet services as their needs expand and equipment becomes increasingly dependent on being connected to the internet.

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, the education model shifted from in-person instruction to virtual learning. The needs of students in rural areas became apparent. In Bremer County, all the students outside of Waverly, attend small, rural schools. Many of those school district students did not have sufficient infrastructure to support online learning. Moreover, many of these students are also served by the local community college, Hawkeye Community College. The College provides high-quality education within close reach of Bremer County. Many of those classes require online learning and engagement. Other students attend Wartburg College. These types of educational opportunities are crucial for those individuals looking to grow their skills to meet the evolving demands of the economy. Without quality internet, these types of opportunities become out of reach.

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:

Bremer County is served by two regional health systems: Waverly Health Center and Community Memorial Hospital. The two hospitals are located in the corners of Bremer County and much of the rural areas identified in the ITQ are over 20 minutes away from access to the hospital and available clinics. As healthcare has evolved to utilize remote/virtual care via telehealth services, these residents are often unable to take advantage of the poor internet services. As indicated in the CFO of Community Memorial Hospital, Dawn Everding's letter of support, as the different types of telehealth services expand, it is becoming increasingly important for those individuals to have internet services so they can effectively and efficiently access these services. Moreover, as it becomes increasingly difficult to find healthcare workers in rural areas such as Bremer County, access to these services becomes even more critical to the health of these residents and will be key to ensuring continued high-quality healthcare in rural Bremer County. For example, Community Memorial Hospital has recently hired a physician that intends to do remote work on days away from the hospital to provide care to his patients.

Community Support Letters**Testimonial :**

Community Support Letter : **1B. Letters of Community Support.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 | Financial Assurances \$25,000 | Cash | Resolution of Financial Commitment.pdf |
| 2 | | | |
| 3 | | | |
| 4 | | | |
| 5 | | | |

Barriers to Broadband

Barriers to Broadband

Installation:

Bremer County is rural and dominated by primarily agricultural farms outside of its cities. Broadband networks are often difficult to build and expand in these rural areas, especially in areas that lack large population centers. Several providers currently exist and provide quality service within Bremer County, but it is difficult to justify investing significantly in these areas that lack large population centers. These areas are separated far enough from population centers that they do not create enough incentives for these providers to invest. Finally, many of these areas are located off any roads, further complicating improvements in connectivity. Outreach efforts have often fallen on deaf ears, but the rural residents of Bremer County want and need internet connectivity for both business and personal reasons.

Bremer County has a population of 24,988. Five towns in the County have a population center great than 1,000 (16,568 Total). The remaining 8,420 (33.7%) of the County fall outside a population center of 1,000 people or more. This rurality of Bremer County further complicates the situation for those remaining underserved. With such a significant population in rural areas within a rural county, the need becomes even greater and harder to address for providers who need to invest significant resources to serve them.

Optional Supporting Materials
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

| | | |
|-------------|------------|-----------|
| Chairperson | Ken | Kammeyer |
| Title | First Name | Last Name |