

506336 - Grinnell-Newburg CSD Broadband Project

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 2:11 PM

Initially Submitted By: Lisa Briggs

Last Submit Date:

Last Submitted By:

Contact Information

Primary Contact Information

Active User*: Yes

Type: External User

First Name*: Lisa Middle Name Briggs
First Name Last Name

Title: Chief Financial Officer

Email*: lisa.briggs@grinnell-k12.org

Address*: 925 Broad St

Grinnell Iowa 50112
City State/Province Postal Code/Zip

Phone*: 641-236-2700 Ext.
Phone
###-###-####

Fax: 641-236-2699
###-###-####

Agency:

Organization Information

Status*: Approved

Name*: Grinnell-Newburg Community School District

Organization Type*: K-12 Education

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

Tax Id:

Unique Entity Identifier (UEI):

Organization Website: <http://www.grinnell-k12.org>

Address*: 1333 Sunset Street

Grinnell Iowa 50112
City State/Province Postal Code/Zip

Phone*: (641) 236-2700 Ext.
###-###-####

Fax: (641) 236-2699
###-###-####

Benefactor:

Vendor Number / ID:

Cover Sheet-General Information

Cover Sheet-General Information

Authorized Official

Name*: Janet Stutz

Title*: Superintendent

Organization*: Grinnell-Newburg Schools
If you are an individual, please provide your First and Last Name.

Address*: 925 Broad Street

City/State/Zip*: Grinnell Iowa 50112
City State Zip

Telephone Number*: 641-236-2700

E-Mail*: Janet.Stutz@grinnell-k12.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*: Lisa Briggs

Title: Chief Financial Officer

Organization: Grinnell-Newburg Schools

Address: 925 Broad St

City/State/Zip: Grinnell Iowa 50112
City State Zip

Telephone Number: 641-236-2700

E-Mail: lisa.briggs@grinnell-k12.org

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

Iowa Senate District(s) Involved or Affected by this Proposal*: 19, 27
Iowa Senate Map

Iowa House District(s) Involved or Affected by this Proposal*: 38, 52, 53
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*: Community School District

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 Letter IA OCIO ITQ Application.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.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*:**

This area covers a majority of the Grinnell-Newburg Community School District, excluding a rural southern area.

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 *:**

3659 40th St

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

Grinnell

Address of the circle - State*:

IA

Address of the circle - zip code*: 50112

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:

Partners in our community cite lack of broadband access as driving work related impediments and barriers in the geographic area as follows:

Bayer Crop Science cites dependable internet as an issue for their business site as well as their employees across the geographic area of concern. Bayer notes they have activated a business continuity plan seven times in the last three years due to internet outages. Some employees have significant others in a hybrid working model and children/students needing reliable internet access. All of whom are frustrated by lack of reliable broadband access.

Grinnell College, among the area's largest employers, cites the new remote-centric workforce environment (post-pandemic) and the importance to recruitment, retention, and development efforts as well as a new apprentice-style employment program to grow their technology workforce that is dependent on access to robust broadband.

The Grinnell Chamber of Commerce cites the Empower Rural Iowa Connect task force and their focus on secure access to broadband for positive impacts to businesses, organization, and individuals in the geographic area of concern.

The National Campaign for Grade-Level Reading emphasizes equitable internet access being critically important for education to support students through graduation and stepping successfully into the workforce.

The Greater Poweshiek Community Foundation notes the same area of the community reporting lower numbers of broadband access also received the Opportunity Zone Federal designation and families in these pockets of poverty cannot afford service and this is impacting their quality of life in all areas by creating social and economic barriers due to lack of sufficient internet access.

The Claude W. & Dolly Ahrens Foundation stresses that internet access will help attract and retain individuals and families to help grow the local community with industry, education, arts, culture and history at its very core.

In addition, modern agriculture is based on robust broadband access, meaning current and future economic security for the many rural residents in the geographic area is internet dependent.

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:

Partners in our community cite lack of equitable access to broadband is causing impediments and barriers for education in the geographic area as follows:

The Greater Poweshiek Community Foundation notes the same area of the community reporting lower numbers of broadband access also received the Opportunity Zone Federal designation and families in these pockets of poverty cannot afford service, impacting their quality of life in all areas including education.

Iowa Council on Foundations notes the that national Campaign for Grade-Level Reading, active in the geographic area with support from multiple partners, is helping ensure children reach crucial literacy milestones by the end of third grade and the dependency on internet access is essential while positively bolstering the initiative.

The National Campaign for Grade-Level Reading emphasizes equitable internet access being critically important for education to support students through graduation and stepping successfully into the workforce.

In addition, rural geography and inequitable access to internet disrupted learning for many K-12 students during the pandemic, including a concern for the Class of 2020 being able to graduate.

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:

Partners in our community note internet access is causing impediments and barriers for health monitoring and healthcare support in the geographic area as follows:

Poweshiek County Board of Health notes the increasing difficulty of retaining qualified healthcare workers and potential employees do not choose to relocate to areas without access to reliable internet; and the positive impact access to robust broadband will have on health monitoring in the geographic area of concern.

UnityPoint Health Grinnell Regional Medical Center cites evolving health care with more telehealth services becoming available and the need for adequate internet connection making a big difference in the health of the community.

Mayflower Homes, a senior living community, cites access to reliable and affordable internet as crucial to their business and robust broadband being a requirement, not a luxury.

Community Support Letters

Testimonial : Testimonials.pdf

Community Support Letter : 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): Community letters-no address.pdf

Optional Forms and Submissions - Community Broadband Capital

Item Description		Category	Supporting Documentation
1	Community Partnerships	Public-Private Partnerships	Cover Letter IA OCIO ITQ Application.pdf
2			
3			
4			
5			

Barriers to Broadband**Barriers to Broadband****Installation:****Low Population Density**

Poweshiek County is rural and lower density of housing is a barrier. The largest city in the county is Grinnell with a population of 9,913. Of the 99 counties in Iowa, Poweshiek is 37th in terms of population with 18,628 residents across 585 square miles of land. In this 200 square mile geographic area of concern there are 189 unserved and underserved residences. For wireless providers, there are ultimately fewer customers given the lower density of housing against high costs to build and maintain broadband technologies.

Demographics and Customer Base Income

Income of the customer base in rural areas is a barrier. Our rural area has pockets of poverty ranging from 7.7 percent of households in poverty to 23.9 percent in poverty (the poverty threshold being a family of four with \$23,000 annual income or less). The free and reduced lunch population is 34 percent in the Grinnell-Newburg Community School District. For a broadband provider this presents issues with the ability to sell broadband products.

Topography and Open Countryside

Poweshiek County includes six rivers, 20 creeks, wetland areas, hills, valleys, woods, and 292,572 acres of cropland out of 335,296 total acres. With 87 percent acres of cropland, it is challenging for broadband providers to build infrastructure to support the farms and households in the area. A broadband provider must cover more area before reaching customers and this significantly increases expenses for the provider. As a result, there divisions within the community driven by lack of equal access to robust broadband due to barriers for providers regarding open countryside and topography.

Rural Agriculture and Low Customer Density

About 87 percent of Poweshiek County is cropland with 292,572 acres of cropland out of 335,296 total acres. This rural area includes farms that need broadband access for modern agriculture precision farming techniques reliant on data collection and analysis for maximizing yield. Examples of such use include application of fertilizer, herbicides or pesticides. But a broadband provider must cover large areas (in comparison to cities) between customers which translates into significantly higher costs to install and maintain broadband service. As a result, lack of broadband access due to low customer density results in unfavorable economic impacts for the agricultural businesses rural families.

**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? *: **Yes**

Describe the positive impact expected from this project.:

Recent experience underscored robust broadband as a critical need for equal access learning, we also recognize the needs of our aging population and their access to the internet for telemedicine and/or virtual medical visits. The ability to engage virtually for a workplace is an increasing need that contributes to economic growth. In addition, modern agriculture is based on robust broadband access. Today and going forward, robust broadband is a basic need for quality of life for all people.

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

This project would provide the needed robust broadband services for all people that are critical for education, business and health care in the proposed area.

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

Chief Financial Officer	Lisa	Briggs
Title	First Name	Last Name