



**IOWA COUNTY BOARD
OF SUPERVISORS**

Kevin Heitshusen, Chairman
Abigail Maas, Vice-Chairman
Jonathan Degen, Member
Christopher Montross, Member
Alan Schumacher, Member

Board of Supervisors
Iowa County
970 Court Ave
Marengo, IA 5231

March 23, 2023

To the Office of the Chief Information Officer of the State of Iowa:

The Iowa County Board of Supervisors is submitting this application in response to the OCIO Invitation to Qualify for a Broadband Intervention Zone.

Multiple communities in Iowa County as specific in the application which represent local businesses and residents, has identified as a specific area of geographic concern with regards to existing broadband availability.

As such, we are proposing that a Broadband Intervention Zone be established for the area in and around communities in Iowa County. Pursuant to the Iowa Broadband Map v.5, this area is currently served by a single broadband provider and with speeds that do not facilitate the required 100/20 minimum threshold for robust connectivity.

It is our hope that the ITQ application and review of same by OCIO will designate Iowa County as a geographic area of concern / Intervention Zone for consideration in the next broadband grant program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kevin Heitshusen', written over a horizontal line.

The Iowa County Board of Supervisors



EAST CENTRAL IOWA
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
YOUR REGIONAL PLANNING AGENCY

Karen Kurt, Executive Director
East Central Iowa Council of Governments
700 16th Street NE, Suite 301
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52401

March 27, 2023

To the Office of the Chief Information Officer of the State of Iowa:

Envision East Central Iowa (EECI) is the comprehensive economic development strategy for Benton, Johnson, Jones, Iowa, Linn and Washington counties. Following a robust regional stakeholder engagement process, expanding access to affordable, fast broadband was identified as a key action step towards achieving one of the EECI's seven strategic objectives: *Creating and Expanding Pathways for Shared Prosperity*.

Iowa County Community Development's application to Qualify (ITQ) for a Broadband Intervention Zone is an important step towards closing the broadband gap as outlined in Envision East Central Iowa. Iowa County Community Development, through collaboration with the Wellman Cooperative Telephone Association, and representing local businesses and residents, has identified a specific area of geographic concern with regards to existing broadband availability. The East Central Iowa Council of Governments (ECICOG) supports this application because this area is currently served by a single broadband provider and with speeds that do not facilitate the required 100/20 minimum threshold for robust connectivity. It is our hope that the ITQ application and review of the same by OCIO will designate the area identified as a geographic area of concern / Intervention Zone for consideration in the next broadband grant program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Karen Kurt', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Karen Kurt
Executive Director



WILLIAMSBURG COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Dr. Chad Garber, Superintendent
319-668-1059

Lynell O'Connor - Jr/Sr High Principal
319-668-1050

Brent Zirkel - Elementary Principal
319-668-2301

810 West Walnut, Box 120
Williamsburg, IA 52361
319-668-1050
Fax: 319-668-9311
www.williamsburg.k12.ia.us

March 28, 2023

Office of the Chief Information Officer of the State of Iowa
200 E Grand Ave.
Des Moines, IA 50309
Phone: (515) 281-5503

RE: Invitation to Qualify #001 – Broadband Intervention Zones

Dear Chief Information Officer and Review Committee:

As the superintendent of the Williamsburg Community School District, I know the importance of expanding access to state-of-the-art broadband services. I would like to express my full support of the Invitation to Qualify #001 – Broadband Intervention Zones application being submitted by Iowa County in partnership with the East Central Iowa Council of Governments (ECICOG) and Wellman Cooperative Telephone Association (WCTA).

The Williamsburg Community School District utilizes broadband service every day, and that resource greatly enhances learning opportunities for our students in the classroom. Education will continue to evolve and the recent Pandemic sped that evolution to some extent. Prior to and during the Pandemic, it was very evident that digital learning played a crucial role in the learning experience of our students and the ability of our staff to provide quality 21st Century instruction. With that in mind, it is critical for all students and staff in our school district to have access to reliable, high speed Internet. Without advanced broadband, the learning opportunities for a number of our students will be greatly limited.

The lack of reliable broadband in underserved communities is a great challenge to our families and to our district's instructional staff, and has a direct impact on today's educational experience as well as the future success of our students. Due to the rural nature of the area, some students in our district do not have access to equitable broadband resources. With this grant, WCTA's expansion of fiber broadband will help some of our rural students overcome this obstacle and provide opportunities for research, peer collaboration, distance learning, video and advanced tools. As a 1:1 district, and as a jr./sr. high school that sends a device home with kids every day,

in order for our students to reap the benefit of these powerful tools, they need connectivity that is equally as robust and reliable. Our virtual academy, approved by the Iowa Department of Education, allows us to meet the needs of families who have found online learning to best suit their educational needs and personal values. Teachers across all grade levels and content areas utilize playlists to support students who are absent from class for short or extended periods of time, but in order to reap the full benefits of that tool, reliable internet connection is necessary. In short, the importance of broadband internet will only continue to grow for families and our communities as we look to provide outstanding experiences for our students in a variety of ways.

Not to be forgotten is the potential economic impact that broadband connection has on schools as well. As we look to attract families to our communities, and more and more of the workforce transitions to "working from home", and more and more small business is operated through the internet, if our rural areas are left behind in the area of connectivity, it has the potential to require families to leave or for other families to choose to relocate elsewhere simply because they're unable to work productively without a reliable connection to the internet. Broadband is an instructional necessity, and an economic necessity for our district and communities.

WCTA has a long and successful history of providing state-of-the-art broadband service at advanced speeds to other rural communities and has a strong reputation for community commitment and customer service. I am confident in their capabilities of enhancing broadband service to Parnell, Iowa and surrounding rural areas.

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chad Garber", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Chad Garber



Ackerman Plumbing Services Inc.
2964 225th St.
Williamsburg, IA 52361
319.530.0788

March 27, 2023

Office of the Chief Information Officer of the State of Iowa
200 E Grand Ave.
Des Moines, IA 50309
515-281-5503

Dear Chief Information Officer and Review Committee:

I am writing this letter to express my full support of the Invitation to Qualify #001 – Broadband Intervention Zones application being submitted by Iowa County in partnership with the East Central Iowa Council of Governments (ECICOG) and Wellman Cooperative Telephone Association (WCTA).

As a homeowner and owner of Ackerman Plumbing in this Broadband Intervention Zone we would like to express the need for upgraded broadband services in our area. We fully support this process as they are vital to our way of life as we rely and depend on broadband services daily for our children's school work and to operate our business.

WCTA has a long and successful history of providing state-of-art broadband service at advanced speeds to the City of Wellman and surrounding area. WCTA has a strong reputation for community commitment and customer service, we are confident in their capabilities of enhancing broadband service to our rural area.

Sincerely,

Corey Ackerman
President

Immanuel Lutheran Church

2978 225th Street
Williamsburg, Iowa 52361

March 24, 2023

Office of the Chief Information Officer of the State of Iowa
200 E Grand Ave.
Des Moines, IA 50309
Phone: (515) 281-5503

RE: Invitation to Qualify #001 – Broadband Intervention Zones

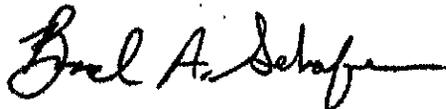
Dear Chief Information Officer and Review Committee:

I am writing this letter to express my full support of the Invitation to Qualify #001 – Broadband Intervention Zones application being submitted by Iowa County in partnership with the East Central Iowa Council of Governments (ECICOG) and Wellman Cooperative Telephone Association (WCTA).

As a religious organization in this Broadband Intervention Zones we would like to express the need for upgraded broadband services in our area. As many Churches are offering to livestream service we have not been able to do this due to a lack of internet speeds in our area. With this being said we fully support this process as we would like to expand and modernize our offering to our congregation.

WCTA has a long and successful history of providing state-of-art broadband service at advanced speeds to the City of Wellman and surrounding area. WCTA has a strong reputation for community commitment and customer service, we are confident in their capabilities of enhancing broadband service to our rural area.

Sincerely,



Brad Schaefer, Elder

WADES GOLF AND MOW, INC
3005 225TH ST.
WILLIAMSBURG, IA. 52361

March 29, 2023

Office of the Chief Information Officer of the State of Iowa
200 E Grand Ave.
Des Moines, IA 50309
Phone: (515) 281-5503

RE: Invitation to Qualify #001 – Broadband Intervention Zones

Dear Chief Information Officer and Review Committee:

I am writing this letter to express my full support of the Invitation to Qualify #001 – Broadband Intervention Zones application being submitted by Iowa County in partnership with the East Central Iowa Council of Governments (ECICOG) and Wellman Cooperative Telephone Association (WCTA).

As a business owner in this Broadband Intervention Zone we would like to express the need for upgraded broadband services in our area. We fully support this process as we rely and depend on broadband service daily to operate our business.

WCTA has a long and successful history of providing state-of-art broadband service at advanced speeds to the City of Wellman and surrounding area. WCTA has a strong reputation for community commitment and customer service, we are confident in their capabilities of enhancing broadband service to our rural area.

Sincerely,
RANDY WADE
WADES GOLF AND MOW, INC
3005 225TH ST
WILLIAMSBURG, IA. 52361

