

506675 - Story County

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 2:09 PM

Initially Submitted By: Leanne Harter

Last Submit Date:

Last Submitted By:

Contact Information

Primary Contact Information

Active User*: Yes

Type: External User

First Name*: Leanne Middle Name Harter
First Name Last Name

Title: County Outreach and Special Projects Manager

Email*: lharter@storycountyiowa.gov

Address*: 900 6th Street

Nevada Iowa 50201
City State/Province Postal Code/Zip

Phone*: 515-382-7247 Ext.
Phone
###-###-####

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

Agency:

Organization Information

Status*: Approved

Name*: Story County, Iowa

Organization Type*: County Government

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

Tax Id:

Unique Entity Identifier (UEI):

Organization Website:

Address*: 900 6th Street

Phone*: Nevada Iowa 50201-
City State/Province Postal Code/Zip
515-382-7200 Ext.
###-###-####

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

Benefactor:

Vendor Number / ID:

Cover Sheet-General Information

Cover Sheet-General Information

Authorized Official

Name*: Linda Murken

Title*: Vice-Chair

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

Address*: 900 6th Street

City/State/Zip*: Nevada Iowa 50201
City State Zip

Telephone Number*: 515-382-7202

E-Mail*: lmurken@storycountyiowa.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*: Lisa Markley

Title: Assistant Auditor

Organization: Story County Auditor's Office

Address: 900 6th Street

City/State/Zip: Nevada Iowa 50201
City State Zip

Telephone Number:

E-Mail:

County(ies) Participating, Story County
Involved, or Affected by this
Proposal*:

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) 4th - Rep Randy Feenstra
Involved or Affected by this Congressional Map
Proposal*:

Iowa Senate District(s) Involved 24,25,26,28
or Affected by this Proposal*: Iowa Senate Map

Iowa House District(s) Involved 48,49,50,51,55
or Affected by this Proposal*: 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*: STORY COUNTY ITQ 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 Story County.csv
Spreadsheet*:

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*:**

For the eastern part of Story County that covers the townships of Howard, Grant, Nevada, Milford, Richland and Warren.

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 *:**

18359 620th Avenue

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

Nevada

Address of the circle - State*:

IA

Address of the circle - zip code*: 50201

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:

Since 2020 many residents of Richland, Milford, Warren, Grant, Howard, Richland, and Nevada townships in Story County, Iowa have shifted to a hybrid or fully remote work lifestyle. Due to this shift in how our residents now ?commute? to work, they are ever more reliant on consistent and adequate access to the internet. For them to adequately perform their duties for work, they now more than ever need quality internet that is not capped by data usage.

As consumers we see a trend shifting our shopping/spending habits, also relying on proper internet access. The majority of the sales come from online shopping. Even grocery shopping is done online now, for convenience. Rurality also factors into this shift in shopping habits. In our smaller communities of Richland, Milford, Warren, Grant, Howard, and Nevada townships, goods and services are not readily available because of the rural nature of the communities and townships. Online shopping provides this access to residents.

For businesses within these six townships, consumers demanding online shopping and communication dictates the need for quality internet for the business to survive and grow. In order to maintain operational status, businesses rely on access to find products and services to meet the demands of their business model. Furthermore, consistent, and adequate internet access is crucial to our businesses as they fulfill orders to customers. There are over 30 businesses within the unincorporated areas of these townships in Story County. The nature of these businesses ranges from smaller home businesses to larger ones with global distribution needs.

We have witnessed a considerable shift since 2020 in the reliance on quality internet access. The pandemic required a technological leap that we did not anticipate for another few years. In Story County,

we have also been working on the shortcomings in our broadband since 2021 when we join in with the Central Iowa Broadband Study group. Prior to that, dating back, Story County was recognized as a Connect Iowa community by Governor Branstad, identifying areas where challenges existed. We recognize that we must do our part to ensure that residents in Story County do not continue to fall behind when it comes to our broadband.

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:

After the 2020 spring break, students in the Roland-Story, Nevada, Gilbert, Ames, and Colo-NESCO school districts did not return to the school environment to which they were accustomed. Instead, more than 9000 students in these districts throughout Story County stayed at home switching from in-person learning to virtual learning. The immediacy of this change of learning resulted in a drastic shift for which students and families throughout our most rural school districts were not prepared. They made do, using hotspots, which burned through their cellular data. Schools looked to find resources that could be deployed to help students and limit learning loss as a result of this impactful change.

This shift in learning was not confined only to our youngest students, the community colleges, trade schools, private universities, and state universities all had to change course. Here again, our most rural residents in this portion of the county were left behind and struggled to keep up with their coursework due to the requirement to have internet access. For many students, internet access was through coffee shops or local libraries, trying to ways to access the internet within the communities. With these services unavailable, such individuals simply failed to achieve.

The lack of quality internet access has hampered our students of all ages in this region of Story County. We need to do everything we can to ensure that they get the best education possible, and that will not happen without investment in our rural internet infrastructure.

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:

Prior to the pandemic, the idea of telehealth was not novel, however, it was not commonly practiced. As 2020 continued, communicating to and with your healthcare team using Facetime or other online resources became not only normalized but for many, a lifeline to ensure access to timely and quality healthcare. Again, for our Richland, Milford, Warren, Grant, Howard, and Nevada townships residents without adequate provision to broadband access, this proposed challenges to be able to continue to receive the basic health care that was needed.

For our senior residents in these rural townships, many of whom are faced with transportation limitations or are home-bound, telehealth services provided a means to continue to access needed healthcare services. For those fortunate to already have internet access, speeds and plans were not always adequate, resulting in increased monthly rates. There is also a segment without internet access who could either only access these services on a cellular or mobile device, again resulting in increased costs. For some, access was not there at all in any format, and these are those most vulnerable we need to continually address.

Community Support Letters

Testimonial :

STORY COUNTY ITQ Testimonials LOS.pdf

Community Support Letter : STORY COUNTY ITQ Community Support LOS.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	Written Narrative	Cash	Cash - Community Broadband Capital.jpg
2	Written Narrative	Economic development tools, such as TIF and SSMID	Economic Development Tools - Community Broadband Capital.jpg
3	Written Narrative	Rights of way made available for Broadband buildout	ROW - Community Broadband Capital.jpg
4	Written Narrative	Simplified permitting processes	ROW - Community Broadband Capital.jpg
5			

Barriers to Broadband**Barriers to Broadband****Installation:**

The biggest barrier to broadband for the rural townships in the Eastern portion of Story County is our density. This brings us to the next issue since we have such low density the cost of installing and expanding. The cost become much too high for our providers. The providers would be more than happy to provide services to these areas, however, the dollars don't add up. This is not dissimilar to other portions of rural Iowa. However, what sets rural Story County apart, is we are growing. We are a safe/logical bet for business, industrial, and residential growth. However, that will never reach our full potential without overcoming the financial component of rural broadband.

**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**

County Outreach and Special Pr Leanne Harter

Title

First Name Last Name