

506791 - 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 2:01 PM
Initially Submitted By:	Max Harlan
Last Submit Date:	
Last Submitted By:	

Contact Information

Primary Contact Information

Active User*:	Yes
Type:	External User
First Name*:	Max Wayne Harlan First Name Middle Name Last Name
Title:	Director of Information Technology
Email*:	mharlan@vanburencounty.iowa.gov
Address*:	406 Dodge Street P.O. Box 475 Keosauqua Iowa 52565 City State/Province Postal Code/Zip
Phone*:	641-919-1381 Ext. Phone ###-###-####
Fax:	###-###-####
Agency:	

Organization Information

Status*: Approved

Name*: Van Buren County Iowa

Organization Type*: County Government

DUNS: 05-081-4672
##-###-####

Tax Id: 42-6004834

Unique Entity Identifier (UEI): C6MGPHAUZZ89

Organization Website: <https://www.vanburencounty.iowa.gov/>

Address*: 406 Dodge Street
P.O. Box 475

Phone*: Keosauqua Iowa 52565-
City State/Province Postal Code/Zip
641-919-1381 Ext.
###-###-####

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

Benefactor:

Vendor Number / ID:

Cover Sheet-General Information

Cover Sheet-General Information

Authorized Official

Name*: Max Harlan

Title*: Director of Information Technology

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

Address*: 406 Dodge Street

City/State/Zip*: Keosauqua Iowa 52565
City State Zip

Telephone Number*: 641-919-1381

E-Mail*: mharlan@vanburencounty.iowa.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 Plecker

Title: Auditor

Organization: Van Buren County

Address: 406

City/State/Zip: Keosauqua Iowa 52565
City State Zip

Telephone Number: 319-293-3129

E-Mail: lplecker@vanburencounty.iowa.gov

**County(ies) Participating,
Involved, or Affected by this
Proposal*:** Van Buren 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*:** 1
Iowa Senate Map

**Iowa House District(s) Involved
or Affected by this Proposal*:** 1
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*: Cover Letter Van Buren County.docx

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*:**

Rural Areas in and around Douds Iowa, Van Buren County

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 *:**

13718 Eagle Drive

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

Douds

Address of the circle - State*:

Iowa

Address of the circle - zip code*: 52551

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:

Van Buren County is fortunate to have so many large employers in our area. The county is home to the Van Buren County Hospital, Mid-States Manufacturing & Engineering, a Hill Phoenix manufacturing plant, the Barker Wire Products company, and many more. These companies employ many of our residents and contribute greatly to our local economy as a whole. As employment and production increase, many of these employers are moving to a hybrid work model to help facilitate the growth as well as attract talented workers to our area. With this increase in virtual and hybrid working environments, it has become even more apparent that many of the potential workers in our area lack the broadband coverage necessary to participate in these environments. This limits their ability to work and creates a divide between connected and non-connected employees for positions within a company. It is vital to have internet that can meet the needs of the employers of our community as well as the employees who use the internet for both work and personal use.

Alongside this virtual migration for work, many of our residents are utilizing virtual services for their consumer needs. Most of our residents rely heavily on goods ordered online from online retail stores, like Amazon, as well as many residents are taking advantage of some virtual services provided from our local stores.

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:

Like many school systems around the country, Van Buren County Community Schools implemented a virtual learning environment during the COVID-19 pandemic. While this was meant to be a temporary migration to help keep teachers and students safe, we have taken concepts from that model and continue

to explore more ways to utilize the internet and virtual classrooms to further the education of our students. This process, however, highlighted just how dire the need for quality broadband was for our students. Many students in our rural areas of the county found this migration challenging and had to find alternative ways to stay connected for class (public wi-fi's, local libraries, cellular hot-spots). While these methods saw some small success, it is nothing compared to a reliable connection at home.

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:

Van Buren County is proud to be the home of a premier healthcare facility, Van Buren County Hospital. This amazing health center offers a plethora of services, including emergency medical services, infusion services, medical/surgical, physical therapy, respiratory therapy, laboratory services, radiological services, and so much more. While residents in the city of Keosauqua have easy access to this great facility, the rural residents of Van Buren County have to travel almost 20 miles to visit their healthcare professional.

The residents in the proposed Intervention Zone do not have any medical facilities nearby to use for their general medical needs. As such, they rely heavily on Van Buren County Hospital to take care of them. While some can make the drive to the facility, many find it difficult, whether due to inclement weather, poor driving conditions, old age, etc. As such, Van Buren County Hospital has made their medical services available online to their patients. In order to take advantage of these, however, a reliable internet connection is required. Many in the Intervention Zone lack this coverage, which in turn, requires them to travel to receive basic medical services.

This area is over two hours from the larger hospital systems in Des Moines and over one and a half hours from the University of Iowa hospital in Iowa City. Remote access to health care specialists is essential for our aging population and an adequate broadband network is critical to having access to the required health care specialists.

The needs for medical services for our residents is also never been more important. According to the US Census, almost 40% of the county residents suffer from obesity, almost 25% have some form of arthritis, and almost 15% of residents report poor mental/physical health. Van Buren County has a mortality event per capita for circulatory system issues of almost 0.4%, higher than those reported in surrounding counties of Wapello, Lee, Adair, and Washington. Van Buren County ranks higher in prescribed Oxycodone, Hydrocodone, Codeine, and Morphine per capita than the state of Iowa as a whole. With virtual pharmacies, such as Express Scripts, becoming more popular, a proper internet service is vital to receive their medications. Residents in Van Buren County rely on medical treatment from various sources, and as these sources become more accessible online, we want to make sure the infrastructure is there to help support their participation.

Community Support Letters

Testimonial :

Community Support Letter : **Davis County Letter of 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 Todd Newcomb Support Letter.pdf
letterhead or mailing address):

Optional Forms and Submissions - Community Broadband Capital

Item	Description	Category	Supporting Documentation
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			

Barriers to Broadband

Barriers to Broadband

Installation:

This factor takes into consideration special barriers identified by the Community Applicant that complicate the installation of Broadband infrastructure within the Geographic Area of Concern and serve to further justify the OCIO's determination that the Geographic Area of Concern should be prioritized for funding. Responses to this factor may include statements addressing low population density, unique geographic features such as topography or soil composition, higher proportion of low income households, and other factors that make the Geographic Area of Concern unlikely to receive Broadband service without the contribution of government funds. Generally speaking, Applicants that identify greater Barriers to Broadband Infrastructure Installation will receive higher points in this category.

The NW region of Van Buren County is the area we have designated as a proposed Broadband Intervention Zone. With this designation, there are a number of geographic barriers that make this area a difficult region to install and maintain a proper fiber optic network. The obvious barrier is the rurality of this region. Without access to a major highway infrastructure, the area is somewhat isolated from the rest of the county. To reach some of the more populated areas, one must utilize gravel roads (and even some dirt roads) to go to and from the area.

This zone also has several Amish families residing in the area. This group of individuals have a strong belief system that honors traditional lifestyles and is resistant to some of the more modern ways of life, including electricity, gas-powered vehicles, and internet. They are more resistant to the upgrade to a fiber optic network, as copper lines are preferred as they do not require an electrical connection with it like fiber does. This creates a barrier for a provider who would like to bring fiber to the area, knowing there is a demographic in the area that can be blatantly against the project to begin with and will not take the service, reducing any sort of revenue to help offset building costs.

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**

Director of IT Max Harlan
Title First Name Last Name