



# PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY

## SUSTAINABILITY

**JOSH BUSARD**  
AICP, LEED-AP, CFM  
DIRECTOR

**NATHAN MUELLER, CFM**  
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

**BECKY SOGLIN**  
CC-P, LEED GREEN ASSOCIATE  
SUSTAINABILITY COORDINATOR

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

As described in the Cover Letter for this application to Qualify for Broadband Intervention Zone designation for the **Rural Area Between Iowa City and West Branch**, Johnson County directly inquired about broadband adequacy at the specific addresses in this proposed zone:

- The addresses to which testimonials were sent were limited to those supplied by the OCIO's downloaded address list of unserved and underserved premises. A cover page lists those addresses for which responses were received.
- Respondents were specifically asked to complete the address of their residence in the response.
- Individual testimonials are compiled in the order of the cover page list.
- The vast majority of the validated residents' testimonial responses contained in this attachment report deficiencies. Many detail the impact specific work, education, and remote health constraints in these testimonials.

In the event a submitted response is not found to meet the OCIO's definition of a testimonial, Johnson County hereby requests it be accepted as demonstrating a geographic nexus between the response received and this Geographic Area of Concern being applied for.

OBJECTID	IA_LocationID	itq_eligibility	FullStreetAddrUnit	City
1219632	380789	eligible	3263 UTAH AVENUE NORTHEAST	IOWA CITY
1208842	1301779	eligible	5094 LOWER WEST BRANCH ROAD SOUTHEAST	IOWA CITY
1219618	1404383	eligible	5162 340TH STREET NORTHEAST	IOWA CITY
1208859	744485	eligible	4988 LOWER WEST BRANCH ROAD SOUTHEAST	IOWA CITY
1208848	728763	eligible	5236 LOWER WEST BRANCH ROAD SOUTHEAST	WEST BRANCH
1219626	1394789	eligible	3187 WAPSI AVENUE NORTHEAST	IOWA CITY
1208860	1281401	eligible	4994 LOWER WEST BRANCH ROAD SOUTHEAST	IOWA CITY
1219620	1399240	eligible	3213 WAPSI AVENUE NORTHEAST	IOWA CITY
1219630	549667	eligible	3242 UTAH AVENUE NORTHEAST	IOWA CITY

## Thank you for supporting quality broadband for all!

In 2022, Johnson County undertook a broadband study to better understand our county's current and future needs. The State of Iowa has recently requested that communities identify the areas most in need of broadband development. Johnson County requests your input to ensure that everyone in Johnson County has access to fast, reliable internet service.

### RESPONSES MUST BE RECEIVED BY MARCH 24, 2023.

Johnson County has contracted with CBAN Solutions to collect responses on our behalf. The form should take less than five minutes to complete, and we thank you in advance for your assistance.

Email \*

sobracken66@gmail.com

Name (first and last) \*

Sean Bracken

Physical street address where you reside (number and street) \*

3263 Utah Avenue NE

Zip code \*

52240

Daytime phone

3196436310

Signature (We can accept your named typed out) \*

I attest that the address above is my primary personal residence:

Sean Bracken

1. Is internet access **available** at your current home address? (If no, skip to question 5) \*

☒ Yes

☐ No

2. If yes, who is your internet provider? Leave blank if you're not sure.

Liberty Communications

3. How fast is your internet speed?

☒ Not sure

☐ Slower than 100 Mbps

☐ 100 - 500 Mbps

☐ 501 - less than 1 GB

☐ Gigabit speed or better

4. Does your current internet service meet your needs?

- ☐ Yes
- ☒ No
- ☐ Not sure

5. Does poor broadband quality limit the access of anyone in your household to the following?  
(Check all that apply)

- ☒ Work/career opportunities
- ☐ Learning/educational opportunities
- ☐ Access to healthcare
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

6. Your personal story will help us understand the big picture in Johnson County. Optionally, please tell us about your experience with your internet service or attempts to get connected at this address - negative, positive, or neutral.

Our internet is extremely slow and we are unable to upgrade due to where we live. My wife works at home and usually has to go somewhere else to work 2-3 days a week due to the slowness of the internet. We do not have any other choice and the cost is ridiculous for what we have.

This form was created inside of Community Broadband Action Network.

Google Forms

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Email \*

mama2girls@gmail.com

Name (first and last) \*

Jennifer Olson

Physical street address where you reside (number and street) \*

5094 Lower West Branch Rd SE

Zip code \*

52240

Daytime phone

3193307414

Signature (We can accept your named typed out) \*

I attest that the address above is my primary personal residence:

JH Olson

1. Is internet access **available** at your current home address? (If no, skip to question 5) \*

☒ Yes

☐ No

2. If yes, who is your internet provider? Leave blank if you're not sure.

CenturyLink

3. How fast is your internet speed?

☐ Not sure

☒ Slower than 100 Mbps

☐ 100 - 500 Mbps

☐ 501 - less than 1 GB

☐ Gigabit speed or better

4. Does your current internet service meet your needs?

- ☐ Yes
- ☒ No
- ☐ Not sure

5. Does poor broadband quality limit the access of anyone in your household to the following?  
(Check all that apply)

- ☒ Work/career opportunities
- ☒ Learning/educational opportunities
- ☐ Access to healthcare
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

6. Your personal story will help us understand the big picture in Johnson County. Optionally, please tell us about your experience with your internet service or attempts to get connected at this address - negative, positive, or neutral.

This is our "upgraded" speed. Our portion of the road was updated to fiber in January 2019. Prior to that it was DSL. During the pandemic when we had four people trying to work/school from home it was impossible. We had to go to several different locations.

The signal cuts out constantly, and we can barely use devices that are on our Wi-Fi. It's actually faster to use a phone as a hot spot. Pretty pathetic when you consider that we are less than a mile outside of Iowa City limits.

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Google Forms



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Email \*

Jeffdavis5162@gmail.com

Name (first and last) \*

Jeff Davis

Physical street address where you reside (number and street) \*

5162 340th St NE

Zip code \*

52240

Daytime phone

3193310246

Signature (We can accept your named typed out) \*

I attest that the address above is my primary personal residence:

Jeff Davis

1. Is internet access **available** at your current home address? (If no, skip to question 5) \*

☒ Yes

☐ No

2. If yes, who is your internet provider? Leave blank if you're not sure.

Liberty Communications

3. How fast is your internet speed?

☐ Not sure

☒ Slower than 100 Mbps

☐ 100 - 500 Mbps

☐ 501 - less than 1 GB

☐ Gigabit speed or better

4. Does your current internet service meet your needs?

- ☐ Yes
- ☒ No
- ☐ Not sure

5. Does poor broadband quality limit the access of anyone in your household to the following?  
(Check all that apply)

☒ Work/career opportunities

☐ Learning/educational opportunities

☐ Access to healthcare

☒ Other:

Not able to work from home and stream movies or play video games at same time at same time

6. Your personal story will help us understand the big picture in Johnson County. Optionally, please tell us about your experience with your internet service or attempts to get connected at this address - negative, positive, or neutral.

We are supposed to be getting fiber optics this year but don't have date or time frame yet

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Email \*

tbower@q.com

Name (first and last) \*

Tammy Bower

Physical street address where you reside (number and street) \*

4988 Lower West Branch Rd SE

Zip code \*

52240

Daytime phone

3196314841

Signature (We can accept your named typed out) \*

I attest that the address above is my primary personal residence:

Tammy Bower

1. Is internet access **available** at your current home address? (If no, skip to question 5) \*

☒ Yes

☐ No

2. If yes, who is your internet provider? Leave blank if you're not sure.

Quest

3. How fast is your internet speed?

☐ Not sure

☐ Slower than 100 Mbps

☒ 100 - 500 Mbps

☐ 501 - less than 1 GB

☐ Gigabit speed or better

4. Does your current internet service meet your needs?

- ☐ Yes
- ☒ No
- ☐ Not sure

5. Does poor broadband quality limit the access of anyone in your household to the following?  
(Check all that apply)

- ☒ Work/career opportunities
- ☒ Learning/educational opportunities
- ☐ Access to healthcare
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

6. Your personal story will help us understand the big picture in Johnson County. Optionally, please tell us about your experience with your internet service or attempts to get connected at this address - negative, positive, or neutral.

We have terrible internet connectivity. We have Qwest that is very sporadic in coverage, not fast and does not work when the weather is bad. During Covid I was expected to teach from my home and had to constantly apologize to parents when my internet would go down. We also have portable hot spots from US Cellular that work fairly well, but cannot get our whole family of users through a month of internet needs. We are located only a mile from the Iowa City city limits which makes it incredibly frustrating to not have access to high speed internet.

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53



Dear Johnson County Neighbor,

In 2022, Johnson County undertook a broadband study to better understand our county's current and future needs. The State of Iowa has recently requested that communities identify the areas most in need of broadband development. Johnson County requests your input to ensure that everyone in Johnson County has access to fast, reliable internet service.

**RESPONSES MUST BE MAILED OR SUBMITTED ONLINE BY MARCH 24, 2023.**

Johnson County has contracted with CBAN Solutions to collect responses on our behalf. The form should take less than five minutes to complete, and we thank you in advance for your assistance.

Choose how you respond:

- Fill out the paper form below and mail it back in the enclosed self-addressed, stamped envelope. **OR,**
- Scan the QR code with your mobile phone or go visit [tinyurl.com/johnsoncobbresponse](https://tinyurl.com/johnsoncobbresponse) to fill out and submit the form online.



First and last name (PLEASE PRINT): Robert Arns

Physical address: 5236 Lower West Branch Rd. West Branch IA

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime phone: 319-321-0266

Signature: Robert Arns

- Do you have internet access available at the address above? (If no, skip to question 5)
  - Yes
  - No

- If yes, who is your internet provider?

Liberty Telephone

- Does your current service meet your needs?
  - Yes
  - No
  - Not sure

- How fast is your current internet speed?

- Not sure
- Slower than 100 Mbps
- 100 - 500 Mbps
- 501 - 999 Mbps
- Gigabit (1,000 Mbps) or better

- Does poor broadband impact your access to any of the following? (Circle all that apply)

- Work/career opportunities
- b Learning/education opportunities
- c Access to healthcare

- Your personal story will help us understand the big picture in Johnson County. Optionally, please tell us about your experience with your internet service or attempts to get connected at this address - negative, positive, or neutral. Feel free to write on the back of this page.

Fiber just installed  
Not completed yet



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First and last name (PLEASE PRINT): Diana Pence

Physical address: 3187 Wapsi Ave NE Iowa City

Email address: dpence@Lcom.net

Daytime phone: (319) 430-2900

Signature: Diana Pence

1. Do you have internet access available at the address above? (If no, skip to question 5)

- ☒ a. Yes  
☐ b. No

2. If yes, who is your internet provider?

Liberty Communication

3. Does your current service meet your needs?

- ☐ a. Yes  
☐ b. No  
☒ c. Not sure

Streaming not great

4. How fast is your current internet speed?

- ☒ a. Not sure  
☐ b. Slower than 100 Mbps  
☐ c. 100 - 500 Mbps  
☐ d. 501 - 999 Mbps  
☐ e. Gigabit (1,000 Mbps) or better

5. Does poor broadband impact your access to any of the following? (Circle all that apply)

- ☒ a. Work/career opportunities  
☐ b. Learning/education opportunities  
☐ c. Access to healthcare

6. Your personal story will help us understand the big picture in Johnson County. Optionally, please tell us about your experience with your internet service or attempts to get connected at this address - negative, positive, or neutral. Feel free to write on the back of this page.



58



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First and last name (PLEASE PRINT): Victor Van Rees

Physical address: 4994 Lower West Branch Road

Email address: vicvan1050@gmail.com

Daytime phone: 703-447-8950

Signature: Victor Van Rees

Don't cross

1. Do you have internet access available at the address above? (If no, skip to question 5)

- ☒ a. Yes  
☐ b. No

4. How fast is your current internet speed?

- ☒ a. Not sure  
☐ b. Slower than 100 Mbps  
☐ c. 100 - 500 Mbps  
☐ d. 501 - 999 Mbps  
☐ e. Gigabit (1,000 Mbps) or better

2. If yes, who is your internet provider?

Hughes Satellite

3. Does your current service meet your needs?

- ☒ a. Yes  
☐ b. No  
☐ c. Not sure

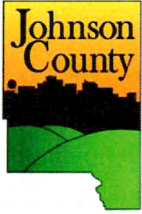
5. Does poor broadband impact your access to any of the following? (Circle all that apply)

- ☒ a. Work/career opportunities  
☒ b. Learning/education opportunities  
☒ c. Access to healthcare

6. Your personal story will help us understand the big picture in Johnson County. Optionally, please tell us about your experience with your internet service or attempts to get connected at this address - negative, positive, or neutral. Feel free to write on the back of this page.

I work at home. Employer requires high speed internet. I only can get Hughes Satellite which is not reliable.

65



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First and last name (PLEASE PRINT): Samantha Davis

Physical address: 3213 Wapsi Ave NE, Iowa City, IA 52240

Email address: davis.samantha10@gmail.com

Daytime phone: (319) 331-2146

Signature: Samantha Davis

1. Do you have internet access available at the address above? (If no, skip to question 5)

- ☒ a. Yes  
b. No

2. If yes, who is your internet provider?

Liberty Communications

3. Does your current service meet your needs?

- ☒ a. Yes  
☒ b. No  
c. Not sure

4. How fast is your current internet speed?

- a. Not sure  
☒ b. Slower than 100 Mbps  
c. 100 - 500 Mbps  
d. 501 - 999 Mbps  
e. Gigabit (1,000 Mbps) or better

5. Does poor broadband impact your access to any of the following? (Circle all that apply)

- ☒ a. Work/career opportunities  
☒ b. Learning/education opportunities  
c. Access to healthcare

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First and last name (PLEASE PRINT): John Ernst

Physical address: 3242 Utah Ave, NE Iowa City, Iowa 52240

Email address: None

Daytime phone: 319-643-5450

Signature: John Ernst

- Do you have internet access available at the address above? (If no, skip to question 5)
  - Yes
  - No not that I know of
- If yes, who is your internet provider?
 

\_\_\_\_\_
- Does your current service meet your needs?
  - Yes
  - No
  - Not sure
- How fast is your current internet speed?
  - Not sure
  - Slower than 100 Mbps
  - 100 - 500 Mbps
  - 501 - 999 Mbps
  - Gigabit (1,000 Mbps) or better
- Does poor broadband impact your access to any of the following? (Circle all that apply)
  - Work/career opportunities
  - Learning/education opportunities
  - Access to healthcare
- Your personal story will help us understand the big picture in Johnson County. Optionally, please tell us about your experience with your internet service or attempts to get connected at this address - negative, positive, or neutral. Feel free to write on the back of this page.



# PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY

## SUSTAINABILITY

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DIRECTOR

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ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

**BECKY SOGLIN**  
CC-P, LEED GREEN ASSOCIATE  
SUSTAINABILITY COORDINATOR

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

As described in the Cover Letter for this application to Qualify for Broadband Intervention Zone designation for the **Rural Area Between Iowa City and West Branch**, Johnson County has received letters of support from community-based organizations and businesses operating within in this proposed Geographic Area of Concern:

1. Johnson County Planning, Development, and Sustainability Introduction
2. Johnson County Board of Supervisors Resolution of Support
3. Hills Bank
4. Iowa City Community School District – IT Dept.
5. Housing Trust Fund of Johnson County
6. Better Together 2030
7. Eastern Iowa Council of Governments
8. Think Iowa City CVB
9. Iowa City Area Rural Development Office
10. University of Iowa CIO
11. President of the Board, Solon Community School District
12. Liberty Communications

In the event a submitted response is not found to meet the OCIO's definition of a community or business letter of support, Johnson County hereby requests it be accepted as demonstrating a geographic nexus between the response received and this Geographic Area of Concern being applied for.



# PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY

## SUSTAINABILITY

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DIRECTOR

**NATHAN MUELLER, CFM**  
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

**BECKY SOGLIN**  
CC-P, LEED GREEN ASSOCIATE  
SUSTAINABILITY COORDINATOR

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March 24, 2023

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

Johnson County, Iowa, is applying for three rural geographic areas in response to the OCIO Invitation to Qualify for Broadband Intervention Zone designations, and are referred to as:

- SW Kansas Avenue Community
- Rural Hills and Lone Tree Areas
- Rural Area Between Iowa City and West Branch

The attached **RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR BROADBAND INTERVENTION ZONE STATUS FOR CERTAIN COMMUNITIES IN JOHNSON COUNTY, IOWA**, adopted on March 23, 2023, on a unanimous vote of the Board of Supervisors, is an expression of the full support of the Board for each area's ITQ application. And as the Board of Supervisors are direct representatives of the residents and locations contained in this proposed Broadband Intervention Zone area, this resolution is hereby being filed as a Community Support Letter in this application.

There are also several findings by the Board of Supervisors in this resolution that fulfill various requirements and optional responses for each application, including that:

- Conclusions regarding broadband deficiencies and their impacts referred to in the recently received Johnson County Broadband Study, particularly for the topics of emphasis (work, education, and remote health) are pertinent to the ITQ responses for the geographic areas being applied for;
- Population density and topography inhibit new broadband investments where providers, as reported to the Board in that study, have communicated a need for public investment for it to be financially viable; and
- Johnson County is actively facilitating increased communication about broadband deficiencies and new investment opportunities with providers in the county, so that they can viably extend services to the areas being applied for, as public funding becomes available.

Thank you for your consideration of the Johnson County ITQ applications. Please contact me at 319-356-6083 or [jbusard@johnsoncountyiowa.gov](mailto:jbusard@johnsoncountyiowa.gov) with questions or concerns about the Board of Supervisors' Resolution of Support or other matters related to this application.

Sincerely,

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Josh Busard, Director



**RESOLUTION NO. 03-23-23-02****RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR BROADBAND INTERVENTION ZONE  
STATUS FOR CERTAIN COMMUNITIES IN JOHNSON COUNTY, IOWA**

**WHEREAS** the term “Broadband” is minimally defined as “the transmission of wide bandwidth data to a particular address location at 100 megabits per second download and 20 megabits per second upload service or faster”; and

**WHEREAS** Johnson County has a goal for each premise in the county to have access to 100 megabits per second upload and download service; and

**WHEREAS** Johnson County, Iowa (“Johnson County”) has identified addressing Broadband deficiencies as a matter of public interest as evidenced by commissioning and receiving a countywide Broadband Study (“JC Broadband Study”) to determine current Broadband access gaps, areas where providers are likely to extend services, and where gaps will persist due to barriers limiting future Broadband investments; and

**WHEREAS** the JC Broadband Study contained analysis of a Market Assessment of provider-reported Broadband services and speeds, responses by key stakeholders at meetings, FCC mapping data, State of Iowa Broadband grant eligibility maps, and provider input to verify the existence of Underserved Locations and Unserved Locations (“Locations”), as defined by the State of Iowa Office of the Chief Information Officer (“OCIO”) in its Invitation to Qualify for Broadband Intervention Zoned application (“ITQ Application”);

**WHEREAS** the ITQ Application defines “Communities” as “a gathering of individuals representing households, schools, and/or businesses in a particular area in the State of Iowa with a shared interest in eliminating Unserved or Underserved Locations within a Geographic Area of Concern”, with increased priority given to Communities demonstrating support from its leaders; and

**WHEREAS** Johnson County has identified three separate Communities of Underserved and Unserved Locations within Johnson County that are resulting in economic, education, and health access disparities described in the JC Broadband Study for consideration by the OCIO for designation as a Geographic Area of Concern; and

**WHEREAS** these Communities have unique degrees of historically disadvantaged populations for which special emphasis should be afforded under relevant federal programs; and

**WHEREAS** these Communities are served by or have locations of Johnson County schools, hospitals, and correctional institutions.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Johnson County Board of Supervisors (“Board”) that:

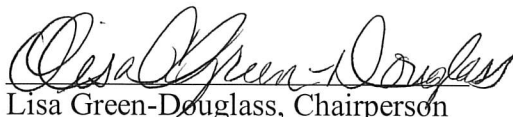
1. The Board supports submitting Invitation to Qualify applications to qualify the following Communities to each be designated as a Geographic Area of Concern by the State of Iowa OCIO, as a matter of public interest:
  - a. SW Kansas Avenue Community
  - b. Rural Hills and Lone Tree Areas
  - c. Rural Area Between Iowa City and West Branch; and
2. Conclusions detailed in the JC Broadband Study prescribe that Broadband-related impediments exist within these Communities to directly engage in work, education, and health care that resulted from or were made apparent or exacerbated by the COVID-19 public health emergency due to lack of broadband access, as evidenced by provider-reported service and speed availability at their Location, and also in Location maps provided by the OCIO; and
3. The JC Broadband Study reports that the lack of Broadband investments in Johnson County to serve these Communities is primarily due to lack of adequate population density per square mile and challenging topography, which together increase the cost per subscriber to construct and operate Broadband service beyond any subscription revenue that could be collected; and
4. These Communities’ members’ engagement in employment, search for employment, and/or development of the requisite skills and knowledge to become employed are impeded by lack of Broadband investments in these areas of Johnson County, as identified by key stakeholders and reported in the JC Broadband Study; and
5. Broadband investments in these Communities, once designated as Geographic Areas of Concern, will help facilitate educational activities at Underserved and Unserved Locations as part of a person’s participation in school, academic programs, or social-emotional development programs for students or youths, improve internship opportunities, increase professional development program participation, and provide other educational experiences not otherwise afforded to the people at these Locations; and
6. Broadband investments in these Communities, once designated as a 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; and
7. The Board, as being direct representatives of those at Underserved and Unserved Locations within Johnson County, hereby supports these Johnson County



- Communities, as geographically defined in ITQ Applications to be filed, for future Broadband investment as proposed Geographic Areas of Concern; and
8. Johnson County endeavors in a non-binding, streamlined manner and in good faith to provide or coordinate efforts to directly support construction of Broadband infrastructure projects that accelerate Broadband investment, and which may include but are not limited to:
    - a. Use of public Rights of Way ("ROW") where applicable.
    - b. Streamlined ROW permitting for Broadband investments serving groups of Locations.
    - c. Increased County staff time and support to coordinate with providers on grant and other funding opportunities.
    - d. Fostering private economic development investments and partnerships, including in-kind use of multiple Community members' facilities (such as putting communication infrastructure on private property).

It was moved by Fixmer-Oraiz and seconded by Porter the Resolution be adopted this 23rd day of March, 2023.

**Roll Call:** Fixmer-Oraiz Aye Green Aye Green-Douglass Aye Porter Aye Sullivan Aye



Lisa Green-Douglass, Chairperson  
Board of Supervisors

03/23/23  
Date

**ATTEST:**



Travis Weipert, Auditor  
Johnson County, Iowa



March 27, 2023

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

Johnson County, Iowa is submitting applications for areas in which our organization operates in response to the OCIO Invitation to Qualify for Broadband Intervention Zone designation:

- Kansas Avenue Southwest Community, rural areas generally west of Iowa City.
- Rural Hills and Lone Tree Areas, primarily for premises located outside city limits.
- Rural areas between Iowa City and West Branch.

Pursuant to the Iowa Broadband Map v.5, these areas are currently underserved in terms of broadband availability and/or with speeds that do not facilitate the required 100/20 minimum threshold for robust connectivity.

The purpose of this letter is to demonstrate support of Broadband Intervention Zone designation by Hills Bank and Trust Company, which is being impacted by its operating areas having deficient broadband.

Specifically, improved broadband in these areas will facilitate advances in opportunities for:

- Employment
- Education
- Health Monitoring

Hills Bank employs almost 200 people in its Hills operations center located in the town of Hills. We hope to be able to hire and recruit locally for these positions from the three areas listed above, and we believe that broadband access provides more benefits for those either living in or wishing to live in these rural areas. In addition, our operations positions have work-from-home options, and broadband access will significantly improve the ability for those employees to work remotely.

It is our hope that this ITQ application and review of the same by OCIO will designate the applicable areas we operate in as a geographic area of concern / Intervention Zone, and for consideration in upcoming broadband grant programs.

Sincerely,

Lisa A. Shileny  
President and Chief Operating Officer, Hills Bank

March 20, 2023

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

Johnson County, Iowa is submitting applications for areas in which our organization operates in response to the OCIO Invitation to Qualify for Broadband Intervention Zone designation:

- ✓ Kansas Avenue Southwest Community, rural areas generally west of Iowa City
- ✓ Rural Hills and Lone Tree Areas, primarily for premises located outside city limits
- ✓ Rural areas between Iowa City and West Branch

Pursuant to the Iowa Broadband Map v.5, these areas are currently underserved in terms of broadband availability and/or with speeds that do not facilitate the required 100/20 minimum threshold for robust connectivity.

The purpose of this letter is to demonstrate support of Broadband Intervention Zone designation by Iowa City Community School District, who is being impacted by its operating areas having deficient broadband.

Specifically, improved broadband in these areas will facilitate advances in opportunities for:

- ✓ Employment
- ✓ Education

by facilitating our students abilities to engage with online resources and services, including those provided for student use outside of the school day such as virtualized applications, adaptive learning platforms, course materials, and learning management system resources. Further, the district – as with most employers – increasingly leverages opportunities to engage remotely with employees in areas such as professional development and during inclement weather days, extending the ability of the district to effectively utilize employee time.

It is our hope that this ITQ application and review of the same by OCIO will designate the applicable areas we operate in as a geographic area of concern / Intervention Zone, and for consideration in upcoming broadband grant programs.

Sincerely,



Adam Kurth  
Director of Technology & Innovation

Iowa City Community School District

319.688.1289

[kurth.adam@iowacityschools.org](mailto:kurth.adam@iowacityschools.org)



Housing Trust Fund of Johnson County  
 26 E. Market Street #123  
 Iowa City, IA 52245  
 Mailing Address: PO Box 2446, Iowa City, IA 52244  
 Email: [emccabe@htfjc.org](mailto:emccabe@htfjc.org) Website: [www.htfjc.org](http://www.htfjc.org)  
 Office: 319.358.0212

### **Board of Directors**

Ellen Habel, *President, City of Coralville*

Crissy Canganelli, *Vice-President, Shelter House*

John Warren, *Treasurer The Brems Group, CPAs*

Rod Sullivan, *Secretary Johnson County Board of Supervisors*

~~~~~  
 Jessica Andino, *University of Iowa*

Simon Andrew, *The Housing Fellowship*

Jerry Anthony, *University of Iowa, Urban & Regional Planning*

Kirsten Frey, *Shuttleworth & Ingersoll*

Steve Gordon, *AM Management*

Andy Hodge, *Hodge Construction*

Hai Huynh, *Coralville Community Food Pantry*

Rachel Kilburg, *City of Iowa City*

Molly Miller, *Hills Bank and Trust Company*

Tracey Mulcahey, *City of North Liberty*

Phil O'Brien, *Urban Acres Real Estate*

Mikekena Richardson, *ECO Disaster Recovery LLC*

Zach Wahls, *Iowa Senate and GreenState Credit Union*

### **Staff**

Ellen McCabe,  
 Executive Director

Maryann Dennis,  
 Development Specialist

March 20, 2023

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

Johnson County, Iowa is submitting applications for areas in which our organization operates in response to the OCIO Invitation to Qualify for Broadband Intervention designation: Kansas Avenue Southwest community, rural areas generally west of Iowa City, rural Hills and Lone Tree areas and rural areas between Iowa City and west Branch.

Pursuant to the Iowa Broadband Map v.5, these areas are currently **underserved in terms of broadband availability** and /or with speeds that do not facilitate the required 100/20 minimum threshold for robust connectivity.

This letter is to support the Broadband Intervention Zone designation by The Housing Trust Fund of Johnson County. The Mission of The Housing Trust Fund of Johnson County is to impact community development through the promotion and support of affordable housing in Johnson County. As such, we recognize that **affordable internet connectivity is fundamental for economic activity**. High speed internet acts as a catalyst for rural prosperity enabling efficient modern communication between rural households, schools, health care centers and other essential services and employment.

The establishment of a Broadband Intervention Zone designation will enhance the lives of rural Johnson County residents currently living in affordable housing and future residents as the selected areas are developed to include affordable homes. It is our hope the this ITQ application and review of the same by OCIO will designate the applicable areas we operate in as a geographic area of concern/ Intervention Zone, and for consideration in upcoming broadband grant programs.

Sincerely,

Ellen McCabe  
 Executive Director



March 27, 2023

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

Better Together 2030 is our Project Better Together (PBT) was the region's leadership response to COVID-19. PBT proved that regional cooperation is possible and necessary to achieving success. Better Together 2030 builds on that momentum and broadens it into an actionable plan. A well-connected mobile region is one of the critical pillars of our community-wide strategic plan and priorities, especially for rural residents and communities that are currently underserved. Johnson County, Iowa is submitting applications for areas in our region in response to the OCIO Invitation to Qualify for Broadband Intervention Zone designation:

- Kansas Avenue Southwest Community, rural areas generally west of Iowa City
- Rural Hills and Lone Tree Areas, primarily for premises located outside city limits
- Rural areas between Iowa City and West Branch

Pursuant to the Iowa Broadband Map v.5, these areas are currently underserved in terms of broadband availability and/or with speeds that do not facilitate the required 100/20 minimum threshold for robust connectivity. The purpose of this letter is to demonstrate support of Broadband Intervention Zone designation by Better Together 2030 and our community members who are being impacted by its operating areas having deficient broadband.

Specifically, improved broadband in these areas will facilitate advances in opportunities for these areas in employment, education, and health monitoring and access. These areas will be improved by employment, education, and health monitoring. Johnson County residents, especially those in these targeted areas, need reliable high-speed internet access. This is a critical lesson learned from the pandemic. It enables students to learn from home, elders and others receive telemedical services, and employees to work from home. It also enables our highly skilled workforce to work for any company in the world, increasing our region's prosperity, especially in rural communities into a thriving economic ecosystem.

It is our hope that this ITQ application and review of the same by OCIO will designate the applicable areas we operate in as a geographic area of concern / Intervention Zone, and for consideration in upcoming broadband grant programs, making a world of difference for rural residents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Cady Gerlach', is written over a faint, larger version of the same signature.

Cady Gerlach, Executive Director  
Better Together 2030

136 S. Dubuque Street, Iowa City, IA  
319-325-5631 / cady@bt2030.org





Karen Kurt, Executive Director  
East Central Iowa Council of Governments  
700 16<sup>th</sup> 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*.

Johnson County'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. Johnson County, 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,



Karen Kurt  
Executive Director





March 21, 2023

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

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

Johnson County, Iowa, is submitting applications for the following areas in response to the OCIO Invitation to Qualify for Broadband Intervention Zone designation:

- Kansas Avenue Southwest Community, rural areas generally west of Iowa City
- Rural Hills and Lone Tree Areas, primarily for premises located outside city limits
- Rural areas between Iowa City and West Branch

Pursuant to the Iowa Broadband Map v.5, these areas are currently underserved in terms of broadband availability and/or with speeds that do not facilitate the required 100/20 minimum threshold for robust connectivity.

Think Iowa City, the Iowa City/Coralville Area Convention & Visitors Bureau, supports the Broadband Intervention Zone. Improved broadband in these areas will facilitate advances in opportunities for:

- Employment
- Education
- Placemaking

It is our hope that this ITQ application and review of the same by OCIO will designate the applicable areas we operate in as a geographic area of concern, and for consideration in upcoming broadband grant programs.

Sincerely,

Josh Schamberger, President  
Think Iowa City – The Iowa City/Coralville Area Convention & Visitors Bureau



March 22, 2023

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

Johnson County, Iowa is submitting applications for areas in which our organization operates in response to the OCIO Invitation to Qualify for Broadband Intervention Zone designation:

- X Kansas Avenue Southwest Community, rural areas generally west of Iowa City
- X Rural Hills and Lone Tree Areas, primarily for premises located outside city limits
- X Rural areas between Iowa City and West Branch

Pursuant to the Iowa Broadband Map v.5, these areas are currently underserved in terms of broadband availability and/or with speeds that do not facilitate the required 100/20 minimum threshold for robust connectivity.

The purpose of this letter is to demonstrate support of Broadband Intervention Zone designation by Iowa City Area Development Group (ICAD) who is being impacted by its operating areas having deficient broadband.

Specifically, improved broadband in these areas will facilitate advances in opportunities for:

Employment and Entrepreneurship

I am the Director of Rural Development for ICAD and Johnson County. We are working on a culture of entrepreneurship in Johnson County. We hope to retain residents and kids who might normally leave the area after college to stay and create businesses in our rural areas and communities. To do this they need access to the internet for websites, email, online meetings, and social media marketing, just to name a few.

It is our hope that this ITQ application and review of the same by OCIO will designate the applicable areas we operate in as a geographic area of concern / Intervention Zone, and for consideration in upcoming broadband grant programs.

Sincerely,

Sarah Thompson  
Director of Rural Development  
319-519-6206  
[sthompson@icadgroup.com](mailto:sthompson@icadgroup.com)





Note: E-mailed digital signature, received 03/23/2023

Here is my letter of support for the broadband intervention zone application. Feel free to make changes or let me know if you need anything else. Thanks! Have a great week.

Sarah Thompson  
Director of Rural Development  
[sthompson@icadgroup.com](mailto:sthompson@icadgroup.com)  
<https://calendly.com/sthompson-88/60min>  
Work- 319-519-6206  
Cell- 515-520-7370

**Information Technology  
Services**

Office of the CIO

University of Iowa

2800 UCC

Iowa City, Iowa 52242

[uiowa.edu](http://uiowa.edu)

March 27, 2023

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

Johnson County, Iowa is submitting applications for areas in which our organization operates in response to the OCIO Invitation to Qualify for Broadband Intervention Zone designation:

- ✓ Kansas Avenue Southwest Community, rural areas generally west of Iowa City
- ✓ Rural Hills and Lone Tree Areas, primarily for premises located outside city limits.
- ✓ Rural areas between Iowa City and West Branch

Pursuant to the Iowa Broadband Map v.5, these areas are currently underserved in terms of broadband availability and/or with speeds that do not facilitate the required 100/20 minimum threshold for robust connectivity.

The purpose of this letter is to demonstrate support of Broadband Intervention Zone designation by the University of Iowa, who is being impacted by its operating area(s) having deficient broadband. Specifically, improved broadband in these areas will facilitate advances in opportunities for:

- ✓ Employment
- ✓ Education
- ✓ Health Monitoring

by giving opportunities for residents of these designated areas to efficiently engage in remote work opportunities for the University of Iowa, access online courses offered by the university and complete degrees online and participate in remote online health monitoring and telemedicine services offered by UI Healthcare.

It is our hope that this ITQ application and review of the same by OCIO will designate the applicable areas we operate in as a geographic area of concern / Intervention Zone, and for consideration in upcoming broadband grant programs.

Sincerely,

Steve Fleagle  
Associate Vice-President and Chief Information Officer  
University of Iowa

[steve-fleagle@uiowa.edu](mailto:steve-fleagle@uiowa.edu)



27 March 2023

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

Johnson County, Iowa is submitting applications for areas in which our organization operates schools in response to the OCIO Invitation to Qualify for Broadband Intervention Zone designation for Rural areas between Iowa City and West Branch.

Pursuant to the Iowa Broadband Map v.5, these areas are currently underserved in terms of broadband availability and/or with speeds that do not facilitate the required 100/20 minimum threshold for robust connectivity.

The purpose of this letter is to demonstrate support of Broadband Intervention Zone designation by the Solon Community School District, who is being impacted by its operating area having deficient broadband.

Specifically, improved broadband in these areas will facilitate advances in opportunities for attracting school district employees (i.e. employment opportunities) and general online access to instructional materials (education) for students.

It is our hope that this ITQ application and review of the same by OCIO will designate the applicable areas we operate in as a geographic area of concern / Intervention Zone, and for consideration in upcoming broadband grant programs.

Sincerely,

Timothy Brown  
President, Board of Directors

Solon Community School District

319.499.0510

[director-brown@solon.k12.ia.us](mailto:director-brown@solon.k12.ia.us)

March 28, 2023

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

Johnson County, Iowa is submitting applications for areas in which our organization operates (check those that apply) in response to the OCIO Invitation to Qualify for Broadband Intervention Zone designation:

- ✓ Rural areas between Iowa City and West Branch

Pursuant to the Iowa Broadband Map v.5, these areas are currently underserved in terms of broadband availability and/or with speeds that do not facilitate the required 100/20 minimum threshold for robust connectivity.

The purpose of this letter is to demonstrate support of Broadband Intervention Zone designation by Liberty Communications, who is being impacted by its operating area(s) having deficient broadband.

Specifically, improved broadband in these areas will facilitate advances in opportunities for:

- ✓ Employment
- ✓ Education
- ✓ Health Monitoring

By providing a reliable and redundant fiber optic network designed to offer speeds of 1 gig + and the ability to scale as the area continues to see additional economic development.

It is our hope that this ITQ application and review of the same by OCIO will designate the applicable areas we operate in as a geographic area of concern / Intervention Zone, and for consideration in upcoming broadband grant programs.

Sincerely,



**Justin Stinson**

CEO

—

**Liberty Communications**

**Natel**, A Liberty Communications Company

[Stinson@corp.Lcom.net](mailto:Stinson@corp.Lcom.net) | [319.627.0218](tel:319.627.0218) (P)