

Appanoose County Board of Supervisors
Appanoose County Courthouse
Centerville, Iowa 52544

March 23, 2023

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

Appanoose County, Iowa is submitting this application in response to the OCIO Invitation to Qualify for a Broadband Intervention Zone. Appanoose County, representing local businesses and residents, has identified 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 8-mile perimeter in and around the community of Mystic in Appanoose County, Iowa. Pursuant to the Iowa Broadband Map v.5, this area is currently being served by 10 broadband providers but 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 Mystic and rural Appanoose County as a geographic area concern/ Intervention Zone for consideration in the next broadband grant program.

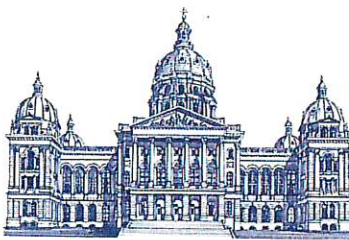
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mark Miller".

Appanoose County BOS

AMY SINCLAIR
STATE SENATOR
Twelfth District
Statehouse: (515) 281-3371

—
HOME ADDRESS
1255 King Rd
Allerton, IA 50008
C: (641) 870-0199
amy.sinclair@legis.iowa.gov



The Senate
The Senate
State of Iowa
Ninetieth General Assembly
STATEHOUSE
Des Moines, IA 50319

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

COMMITTEES

Education
Government Oversight, *Chair*
Rules and Administration, *Vice Chair*

March 28, 2023

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

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

On behalf of the 12th Senate District of the state of Iowa, I am writing to express my support for Chariton Valley Planning and Development Council's application for Broadband expansion in the communities represented in the most rural areas in my district.

As a supporter for the Empower Rural Iowa Broadband Grant Program, I am keenly aware of the disadvantages to rural Iowa due to the lack of access to reliable, high-speed Internet. An investment from this grant opportunity will improve services and the quality of life to the citizens of our communities.

As a member of this community and a policymaker for them, my interests and objectives are continued support of quality rural healthcare. As rural healthcare options become more scarce, improved technology will become more important. Doctor specialists are few and far between in rural communities. The ability for rural providers to have radiology results sent and returned quickly depends on access to broadband Internet. Transportation for some patients is limited, due to the travel distances to providers. A reliable broadband Internet allows for telemedicine visits to allow for flexibility in doctor's visits and removing the transportation barrier to care. Medical billing and patient access to records would improve with electronic means via broadband access. My support for this grant and universally available broadband Internet, is an extension of my efforts to support access to quality healthcare for my community.

This initiative will clearly improve the healthcare outcomes in rural Iowa. For this reason, and the many other advantages, I hope you agree that this project is a wise investment of these grant dollars.

I urge you to support the Chariton Valley Planning and Development Council of Government's project approval and grant request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Amy Sinclair".

The Honorable Amy Sinclair
President of the Iowa Senate
Iowa Senate - District 12



19 BENTON AVE. E
P.O. BOX 698
ALBIA, IOWA 52531

MEMBER FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

641-932-2144

March 24, 2023

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

My name is Joseph P. Crall and I am employed by First Iowa State Bank of Albia, Iowa. My company employs approximately 50 people and we have been part of the local community for 93 years. Internet speed can have a direct impact on the efficiency of our business and products. It is a critical component of communication, shipping/delivery, orders and production.

Maintaining a complete workforce can also be impacted by broadband services. Attracting and retaining qualified employees is increasingly difficult. One of the major impediments to this is our community's inability to provide affordable, reliable internet services. Potential employees do not want to relocate to areas that do not have good access to the internet. Similarly, we have lost several employees who have moved to more urban areas where internet is more readily available.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Joseph P. Crall'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Joseph P. Crall,
Executive Vice President

JPC/cb



March 27, 2023

To Whom it May Concern,

As President of Indian Hills Community College, I am always concerned about quality, high-speed internet access for our students who often live at home in rural Appanoose County while attending our College. Virtual learning during the pandemic was (and still is) a challenge for our students who need access to quality and affordable internet access. Students without online access or have poor access, struggle with their academic success. We owe our students the ability to engage, learn and succeed and better internet services in our area is required to do so.

When comparing urban peers to rural students, it is evident that rural students face more challenges in accessing the technology and connectivity needed for remote learning and telehealth. Inadequate broadband infrastructure is a critical barrier to the provision of telehealth services and remote learning in rural areas. Efforts to improve policies and advance technology must consider geographical disparities to ensure health and education equity for youth and all residents.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Matt Thompson', is written over a horizontal line.

Matt Thompson, Ph.D.

President

Indian Hills Community College

Life. Changing.

www.indianhills.edu

Ottumwa Campus (Remittance)

Indian Hills Community College
525 Grandview Avenue
Ottumwa, Iowa 52501
641.683.5111 800.726.2585

Centerville Campus

Indian Hills Community College
721 North 1st Street
Centerville, Iowa 52544
641.856.2143 800.670.3641

North Campus

Indian Hills Community College
14383 College Avenue
Ottumwa, Iowa 52501
641.683.5111 800.726.2585



HALL ENGINEERING COMPANY

Consulting Engineers
Since 1903

PO Box 825
Alliant Building · Suite 101
300 Sheridan Avenue
Centerville, IA 52544
641.437.4477 · Fax 641-437-4479

March 27, 2023

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

I am writing this letter in support of the Chariton Valley Planning & Development (CVP&D) Council of Governments' response to the Invitation to Qualify for a Broadband Intervention Zone.

As a business owner, located in Centerville, I can attest to the need for reliable internet service. A dependable internet connection is critical to business operations. It allows my employees to communicate and work seamlessly when on job sites and enables quick retrieval of data so they can work efficiently.

Recruiting and retaining employees is challenging in our rural community. Providing essential amenities, like affordable and reliable broadband services, is indispensable for growing and expanding business.

I also have two children in the Centerville Community School District. Online education has become a standard in learning and teaching. Unreliable, slow, and limited internet access results in a significant disadvantage to the students in our rural community. We must ensure that our children have the same access to internet services as do students in urban areas.

I strongly encourage you to favorably consider CVP&D's response and am confident that improving broadband options and efficiency in Appanoose County will aid in attracting and maintaining employment and provide necessary learning opportunities for our youth.

Respectfully submitted,
HALL ENGINEERING COMPANY

Nancy Buss, P.E.
President



208 SOUTH MAIN STREET
MOULTON, IA 52572
TELEPHONE: 641-642-3249
FAX: 641-642-3966

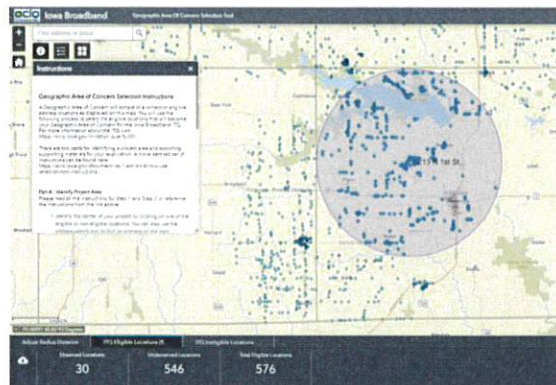
March 24, 2023

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

Chariton Valley Planning & Development Council of Governments is applying on behalf of rural Appanoose County, Iowa and the City of Mystic in response to the OCIO Invitation to Qualify for a Broadband Intervention Zone. Appanoose County, in association with local organizations within the represented geography, has identified a specific area of geographic concern with regards to existing broadband availability.

As such, we are supporting the proposal that a Broadband Intervention Zone be established for the 8-mile radius around the community of Mystic, Iowa in Appanoose County. Pursuant to the Iowa Broadband Map v.5, this area is currently not being served by broadband providers that can support consistent broadband speeds of 100Mb/20Mb deemed necessary for robust connectivity.

The prospective Broadband Intervention Zone would bring much needed broadband connectivity to approximately 576 currently underserved or unserved homes and businesses in the area as further represented by the diagram below:



Robust broadband is critical to this area's continued economic growth, and to ensure local citizens have access to essential infrastructure required for health, safety, and education of current and future generations.

Sincerely,

Tammy S. Wheeler
CEO/General Manager

~~ Telephone ~~ Fiber Internet ~~ Cable Television ~~

~~This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer~~



APPANOOSE COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH
PROVIDING HEALTH SERVICE TO APPANOOSE COUNTY since 1960

209 East Jackson St.
Centerville, IA 52544

Phone: 641.437.4332
Fax: 641.856.5575

March 24, 2023

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

My name is Kristopher L. Laurson, and I am employed at Appanoose County Public Health. My company employs roughly 75 people and we have been part of the local community for many years. Internet speed can have a direct impact on the efficiency of our business and products. It is a critical component of communication, shipping/delivery, orders, and production.

Maintaining a complete workforce can also be impacted by broadband services. Attracting and retaining qualified employees is increasingly difficult. One of the major impediments to this our community's inability to provide affordable, reliable internet services. Potential employees do not want to relocate to areas that do not have good access to the internet. Similarly, we have lost several employees who have moved to more urban areas where internet is more readily available.

Sincerely,

Kristopher L. Laurson
Administrator, Appanoose County Public Health



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
KANSAS CITY DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
RATHBUN PROJECT OFFICE, 20112 HWY J5T
CENTERVILLE, IOWA 52544-8308**

March 24, 2023

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

Operations Project Manager

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

My name is Phil Brown, and I am the Operations Project Manager for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at Rathbun Lake. My office employs eleven (11) full time, up to three (3) seasonal workers, and as many as twenty-four (24) volunteers that reside in our campgrounds providing essential services for the visiting public for six (6) months every year. Additionally, we have approximately 650,000 visitors annually to Rathbun Lake.

Our workers and visiting public are a vital part of the local community and reliable internet services is critical to our mission success. We support Chariton Valley P&D council and their application on behalf of rural Appanoose County.

Sincerely,

BROWN.PHILLIP, Digitally signed by
.H.1230395965 / BROWN.PHILLIP.H.1230395965
Date: 2023.03.24 09:12:41 -0500

PHILLIP H. BROWN
Operations Project Manager
Rathbun Lake

CHARITON COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Brad Baker
Superintendent

Tracy Hall, High School Principal
Tim Milledge, Assistant HS Principal & A.D.
Jill Mathes, Middle School Principal
Joshua Morgan, Elementary Principal
Jayme Braida, Elementary Principal

Administration Office
140 E. Albia Road
P.O. Box 738
Chariton, Iowa 50049
(641) 774-5967
FAX (641) 774-8511

March 23, 2023

To Whom it May Concern,

I am the Superintendent of the Chariton Community School District. One of the most significant challenges we face is providing internet access to our students, especially when working from their homes. Virtual learning during the pandemic was (and still is) a nightmare. Students without online access or have poor access, struggle with their academic success. We owe our students the ability to engage, learn and succeed, and better internet services in our area is required to do so.

When comparing urban peers to rural youth, it is evident that rural youth face more challenges in accessing the technology and connectivity needed for remote learning and telehealth. Inadequate broadband infrastructure is a critical barrier to the provision of telehealth services and remote learning in rural areas. Efforts to improve policies and advance technology must consider geographical disparities to ensure health and education equity for youth and all residents.

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

Sincerely,



Superintendent of Schools

Successful Learning For All Students

MIDWEST HERITAGE

A Hy-Vee Company

Banking • Investments • Insurance

3580 EP True Parkway • West Des Moines, IA 50265

Ph 515-278-6541 • Tollfree 800-782-0521

March 24, 2023

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

Chariton Valley Planning & Development Council of Governments is applying on behalf of rural Appanoose County, Iowa and the City of Mystic in response to the OCIO Invitation to Qualify for a Broadband Intervention Zone. Appanoose County, in association with local organizations within our represented geography, has identified 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 8-mile radius around the community of Mystic, Iowa in Appanoose County. Pursuant to the Iowa Broadband Map v.5, this area is currently being served by different broadband providers and with speeds that do not facilitate the required 100/20 minimum threshold for robust connectivity.

The prospective Intervention Zone would bring needed broadband connectivity to many currently underserved homes and businesses in the area.

Robust broadband is critical to this community's continued economic growth, and to ensure local citizens have access to essential infrastructure required for health, safety, and education of current and future generations.

Sincerely,

