

To whom it may concern,

As an educator in the Tipton Community Schools, access to broadband internet is critical to student achievement. One significant challenge that school districts continue to face is the lack of reliable internet access for our students when they are working at home. Through our time of virtual learning during the pandemic, the lack of internet access and ability to connect to our families was overwhelming. Many families are without access to broadband at their homes, or have very poor access. Our students need better. They need to be able to do their work outside of the school building in order to achieve all of their goals. In the year 2023, lack of access to technology and broadband should not be an obstacle for them, yet it continues to be the largest obstacle.

Also on a personal level, as a mother, my own children and household do not have access to broadband internet. My primary residence on Hayes Road does not have access to quality broadband and therefore will make it difficult for my children to engage in learning from home as well as I am not able to work with my students from my home if needed.

Bailey Anderson

bailey.anderson@tipton.k12.ia.us
Reading Specialist K-4
Tipton Community School
Cedar County Resident
739 Hayes Rd.
Tipton, IA 52772
319-269-0734

To Whom it May Concern,

As a deputy sheriff, I am writing to express the importance of broadband internet access for the successful performance of my duties. In today's digital age, technology plays a significant role in law enforcement, and having a reliable broadband connection is essential for my work.

One of the most significant challenges I face is providing support to other deputies with computer problems. Having a broadband connection would enable me to troubleshoot issues, provide remote support, and quickly access important databases and resources, improving our ability to serve and protect our community.

Additionally, with the ongoing pandemic, we have seen an increase in virtual meetings and remote work, making reliable internet access a crucial part of our daily work. The ability to work from home when necessary is essential for the successful completion of our duties and allows us to remain connected with our colleagues, especially during emergency situations.

I urge you to consider the importance of reliable broadband internet access for law enforcement professionals like myself. It is an investment in the safety and well-being of our community and the effectiveness of our work.

I would also like to take this opportunity to highlight the importance of broadband internet access for my wife, who is a pharmacist. With the increasing reliance on electronic medical records, online communication with patients, and telemedicine, a reliable broadband connection is essential for the efficient and effective delivery of patient care.

The ability to access online resources, communicate with patients remotely, and stay up to date with the latest research and developments in the field is critical for my wife's work. Better internet services would not only benefit her personally but also improve the quality of healthcare services available in our community.

Thank you for considering the importance of broadband internet access for law enforcement professionals and healthcare providers alike.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.
Sincerely,

Bode Koranda
2123 Spicer Ave
Wilton, IA 52778
mpd4970@hotmail.com

To Whom it may concern

My wife and I live on 740 Cedar Valley Rd
Tipton, IA. We currently have no
internet. We have a painting business
and rely on the internet for bidding
projects and sending invoices to
customers. We have to go to the
library for access to the internet.

Please consider this area for the internet.
It is critical for our biz needs.

Brad Gill Gaul



1288 - 307th Street | Moscow, IA 52760 | (563) 946-2112

March 27, 2023

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Gary Kelting, President of Cove Equipment. My company has been doing business in rural Cedar County, Iowa for over 50 years. A major hindrance to our business is the community's inability to provide reliable internet services. Our business software, which we rely on every minute of the day, is hosted through Charter Software Solutions in Centennial, Colorado. Every manufacturer which we represent and sell equipment for also has internet based websites which we must interact with daily. If our rural internet services are not upgraded for speed and reliability in the near future, we may be forced to relocate our business to a more urban area.

Sincerely,

COVE EQUIPMENT

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gary Kelting".

Gary Kelting, President

To Whom It May Concern:

I wanted to lend my whole-hearted support to the Broadband Grant Program for Cedar County. It would be a very welcome and helpful tool to our citizens, students, educators, and businesses.

We have some areas of significant need in Cedar County. I am a professor at Muscatine Community College. During Covid I was forced to sit in the college parking lot to teach my classes via Zoom and create educational lessons due to the lack of broadband in my Cedar County home. Many Cedar County students also had adverse effect on their education due to the lack of broadband.

This is definitely an area where resources will make a difference. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Jeffrey A. Kaufmann. Ph.D.
Cedar County Supervisor



*Cedar County Emergency Management
exists to advance the preservation of life and
protection of property in the face of any hazard.*

23 March 2023

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

As the Emergency Manager and 911 Coordinator for Cedar County, I can provide solid reasoning as to why Cedar County should be considered as a prime candidate to qualify for a Broadband Intervention Zone.

Cedar County is a largely rural county of 18,505 individuals, bordered by three of the most populous counties in our state. As a rural county, we face certain communications challenges, especially when we consider the need to share emergency preparedness and disaster information with our residents. Many of our communities, especially those unincorporated areas that would be served by a Broadband Intervention Zone, rely on a weekly newspaper as Cedar County is not home to a daily newspaper. Further, there are no television or radio stations operating specifically for Cedar County. The absence of these traditional media sources does make the sharing of emergency preparedness messaging and disaster information difficult; these are messages that need to be shared for the safety and wellbeing of our residents. As part of our response to some of these challenges, Cedar County Emergency Management has implemented a robust and extensive social media presence through many different social media platforms. This social media presence allows us to share information quickly, however, we realize that due to the lack of broadband in some of our communities, this information may not get through to those residents that truly need this information. Having the ability to access broadband ensures that more Cedar County residents have the opportunity and the ability to access critical information during those times where information is key. Without broadband access, our residents can easily miss information and data that may help keep them safe during times of disaster.

Broadband access is also important to many of our agency's missions during disaster response. As an example, our agency has made extensive use of social media mining for damage assessment requirements related to natural disasters. After the Derecho of 2020, social media mining helped us extrapolate the areas in our county with the most significant damages. This analysis then allowed us to focus our response on the areas of Cedar County that needed the most help; without broadband access, it can be difficult (if not impossible) for residents to share information, pictures and damage reports with response agencies.

As the 911 Coordinator for Cedar County, I can assure you that broadband also plays a significant role in telephonic communication within the area. Over the past few years, we've seen a significant number of residents switch from traditional POTS (plain old telephone service, i.e., twisted pair/ copper lines) telephone lines to VoIP service for communication needs. Having a consistent and reliable means of electronic transmission for VoIP calling is not only important, but absolutely critical for communications when a resident needs to dial 911. Quality broadband access provides that strong, consistent and reliable means of support for VoIP communication. On a somewhat related note, as the landscape of medical technology changes, I anticipate that we will see more Cedar County residents using Internet based diagnostic technology in their homes. Remote medical devices (such as cardiac monitoring systems,

blood sugar monitoring devices, fetal monitors, etc.) are largely Internet based, and would benefit from expanded broadband access.

The current and future possibilities of expanded broadband access are truly mindboggling. As we look at those areas of Cedar County that would benefit from being established as a Broadband Intervention Zone, we know that this designation would bring about a positive, significant impact on the lives of those residents. I urge that this application be strongly considered for inclusion in the next broadband grant program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jodi Freet", with a stylized, flowing script.

Jodi Freet, Director
Cedar County Emergency Management
ema@cedarcounty.iowa.gov

To whom it may concern,

My family resides at 1541 Red Star Rd., Tipton, Iowa in Cedar County. We are currently getting our internet through Windstream. It is an antenna that bounces a signal off a pole on 240th Street. If the wind blows, foliage is on the trees, or a storm passes by, we have it interrupted. The speeds are slow and even slower in the evening when there are more people using it. Because I have multiple jobs, some of which I do from home in the evening, the lack of good internet is quite disruptive.

Please consider this area for improvements to our internet as it is crucial for our livelihood.

Sincerely,

Jon & Harriette Bell

From: [Nate Orvis](#)
To: [Jon Bell](#)
Subject: ITQ Iowa Broadband
Date: Friday, March 10, 2023 12:25:32 PM

To Whom it May Concern:

We reside in Cedar County at 1465 265th St. Since purchasing this property nearly three years ago (it was formerly a commercial business [18 hole golf course and club house] but is now our residence), we have found that obtaining reliable internet coverage is nearly impossible. We have pursued multiple avenues, and have yet to find a viable solution. Our neighbors have found the same to be true. One local provider used by those closest to us is WindStream, but they are unwilling to install at our home due to poor line of sight to their tower located north of us on 240th St (we even installed a 30 foot pole to help with this but to no avail... we also offered our property [which sits as one of the highest elevations in the area] as a spot to host an additional internet tower). Additionally, multiple cellular companies show our address as "unavailable" due to a lack of broadband coverage in the area (Verizon, US Cellular, T-Mobile). We even looked at Starlink, but the waiting list and start up costs were prohibitive. We run our consulting business from our home, and the inability to have internet has made this an additional challenge. Currently we rely on cellular data for limited internet.

We strongly encourage the leadership of Cedar County to pursue any and all opportunities to improve upon and offer better internet coverage for their rural residents.

Sincerely,

Nate Orvis

Sent from my mobile device - please excuse autocorrect and/or my thumbs.

**Public Health**
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

400 Cedar Street
Tipton, Iowa 52772

March 22, 2023

To Whom It May Concern:

I am currently the Director of Cedar County Public Health. We provide care to our patients and the community not only through public health services, but also by means of home health services. Over the years and especially when COVID hit, telehealth visits have become a safe, effective way to care for patients when they are unable or recommended against leaving their home. Providers have learned by delivering care virtually, it increases patient's accessibility, allows for comfort and convenience, limits their exposure to infectious diseases, and much more. According to the American Hospital Association, "by increasing access to physicians and specialists, telehealth helps ensure patients receive to right care, at the right time."

Patients with poor or limited access to internet, poses an increased risk to their health. This goes against CCPH's mission and vision, as well as it does not allow for an equal opportunity for access to healthcare. Without this access, comorbidities, diseases, and even death could rise throughout the county. Due to this risk, broadband in Cedar County is needed and would be appreciated by all.

Vision: Healthy Citizens, Nurturing Families, and Safe Communities

Mission: To prevent illness and injury, maintain and promote health, and preserve a healthy environment for all residents of Cedar County.

Sincerely,

Stefanie Wagaman MSN, RN, OCN Director
Cedar County Public Health
400 Cedar Street
Tipton, Iowa 52772
563-886-2226

To: Office of Chief Information Officer

Iowa Department of Management, March 28, 2023

Several years ago, I asked my, then, land line telephone provider, Iowa Telecom (Windsteam), when fiber optics cable would finally be routed to my residence at 1050 Red Oak Park Road, Tipton, Iowa in Cedar County; I was told "never."

Today, even small phone providers cannot afford to install internet service to rural residential sites when customers are less than five per mile. I have lived at my present location 51 years. For the last 20 of those years, having access to broadband internet would have greatly enhanced my work life as a writer who must submit copy by internet.

I am not as fortunate as those who accidentally live where fiber optic lines were considered economical. My home is surrounded by tall trees. Therefore, I have resorted over the years to US Cellular Hot Spots, a Verizon Jet Pack, and an invasive cell phone signal booster on my roof with cable line into my home through the exterior wall of my dwelling—all of this, just to achieve minimal service that others take for granted.

Electricity managed to reach every household in decades past when it was new to rural properties. Surely the same effort is now warranted for the equally essential internet service.

Sincerely,

Sue Hall