
March 27, 2023

Matt Behrens
Chief Information Officer
State of Iowa
200 East Grand Ave
Des Moines, IA 50309

Dear Mr. Behrens,

I am writing to nominate Fremont County for broadband funding. Offering Fremont county funding to gain broadband access would mean that its residents, including myself and my neighbors, would be able to contribute to its economic and social development.

As part of my position as Professor of Information Systems, I teach remotely via zoom. Not having reliable fiber connections makes it very difficult for me to do my job. In addition to teaching, I need to access software on the cloud that requires both bandwidth and data storage capabilities. In order to access and use the software through cloud services, I have to travel to Omaha. I am one of many who do so who live in Fremont County.

The lack of broadband in Fremont County has also meant that our children have moved to the cities leaving this county with a shortage of expertise. In particular, having fiber at 1980 380 Avenue Farragut, would mean that my son would locate his data center at our home.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Sajda Qureshi, PhD
Professor Information Systems University of Nebraska Omaha
Editor-in-Chief Journal of Information Technology for Development
Email: sajdasqureshi@gmail.com, Cell: 4022034763

1980 380 Avenue, Farragut Iowa, 51639

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

COURTHOUSE

SIDNEY, IOWA 51652

TELEPHONE (712) 374-2415

Chris Clark
Fremont County Supervisor
506 Filmore St
Sidney, IA 51652

March 28, 2023

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

Fremont County is submitting this application in response to the OCIO Invitation to Qualify for Broadband Intervention Zone. As identified in the Geographic Area of Selection Tool, Fremont County has many areas that are underserved and eligible for the ITQ. Fremont County has identified a 4-mile radius circle centered on 3705 150th St., Randolph, IA 51649. This includes the rural eastern portion of Fremont County. This is 13 unserved locations and 11 underserved locations. These are necessary areas for the Broadband Intervention Zone. These areas are served by only two providers CenturyLink, Inc. which is DSL, and Midwest Data Center which is cable. These speeds are not the necessary 100/20 minimum for healthy connectivity. This ITQ application is a chance for these to be considered as areas of concern for an Intervention Zone. We would like to be considered in this round of the broadband application program so that we can provide adequate internet access and connectivity to our citizens. The Fremont County Board of Supervisors commits to supporting broadband expansion throughout the county within its powers, including such in-kind assistance as allowing space within the County right of way for new fiber optic installations.

Sincerely,

Chris Clark
Fremont County Supervisor
(712) 374-2031



March 30, 2023

To: Office of the Chief Information Officer
From: John McCurdy, Executive Director Southwest Iowa Planning Council
RE: Fremont County Broadband

To whom it may concern,

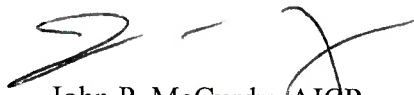
I am writing in full throated support for increased investment in broadband infrastructure throughout all of Fremont County. Based on the OCIO mapping tool we have identified three distinct areas of need and this makes sense within the scope of this request for areas of interest—though in reality the need in Fremont County is fairly countywide and therefore this letter of support is meant to cover all the underserved areas. (The bright spot in the county of course is Farragut area which has put in fiber, and hopefully can act as a springboard for future investment.)

SWIPCO is charged with writing a comprehensive economic development strategy plan every five years for a six county region in southwest Iowa, including Fremont County. Because of the Floods of 2019 and the Covid-19 Pandemic we have done an update to that plan mid-cycle. Connectivity to modern broadband speeds is absolutely critical to business retention and recruitment. Many businesses in Fremont County are family owned and connected to the land—such as cattle operations or multi-generational brick and mortar firms. These businesses and residents do not want to move. But, as the testimonials that are included (and the many unwritten testimonials) attest without broadband connectivity people and businesses are leaving for places where they can do business with the outside world. No one can blame them.

Since the Floods of 2019 SWIPCO has helped facilitate more than \$75 million in grant investment in Fremont County. This includes demolishing flood ravaged homes, building new levees, wells, and now new homes. These investments of vital state and federal funds will be **wasted** if the broadband infrastructure in the county is not similarly improved.

Please select Fremont County for future broadband investment, soon!

Sincerely,



John P. McCurdy, AICP
Executive Director