



March 30, 2023

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

The Madison County Board of Supervisors approved Resolution SPV-RESOLUTION 3-28-23-B, attached to this introduction, that includes authorizations to provide Community Broadband Capital to each of the areas it is applying for Broadband Intervention Zone status. In parallel, the MCDG Board of Directors also adopted a resolution to work with and on behalf Madison County to implement the same Community Capital strategies.

Section 8 of these resolutions refers to:

- Use of subsidized easements and Rights of Way ("ROW) where applicable.
- Streamlined ROW permitting for broadband investments serving groups of locations.
- Increased Economic Development and Madison County staff time and support to coordinate with providers on grant and other funding opportunities.
- Fostering private economic investments and partnerships, including in-kind use of multiple Community members' facilities (such as putting communication infrastructure on private property) and connection fees.

For the category of Public/Private Partnerships within the four strategies above, MCDG has ongoing engagement program with area broadband providers and property developers. Activities demonstrating these staff initiative include:

1. Bringing awareness of likely housing and commercial development to the attention of broadband providers early in the community development planning process through an ongoing email notification process. Contact information and pertinent public filings are contained in the engagement process to foster initial engagement.
2. Facilitate with stakeholders for a more coordinated approach to infrastructure construction in Rights of Way (ROW) during the time broadband installation is more cost-effective.
3. Communicate sources of customer base growth for broadband providers, that may also extend services to unserved and underserved areas of the county.
4. Evaluate how MCDG and Madison County can help broadband providers attain grant and other outside funding, where applicable. This may be working with economic development and community development agencies funded in part by Madison County.



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For the category of Community Engagement/Broadband Adoption within the four strategies above, as per recommended next steps by in the Greater Des Moines Broadband Study able to be implemented by MCDG and its staff, include:

- Evaluate how to best facilitate the engagement of pertinent schools, libraries, human services, and health services organizations to promote broadband use, digital skill development, and participation in broadband affordability programs to grow broadband customer adoption for new providers.
- Monitor new broadband investments and periodically request updates to broadband provider coverage maps, generated during the study, to evaluate access and adoption growth.
- Communicate sources of customer base growth for broadband providers through economic growth opportunities, that may also extend services to unserved and underserved areas of the county.

Make your move to Madison County



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For the category of Public/Private Partnerships within the four strategies above, Madison County will evaluate:

- Increasing engagement and participation with broadband providers on roadway capital improvement planning processes.
- Reducing ROW permitting and use impediments, particularly for projects making broadband investments for housing developments or extending service to unserved and underserved areas.

Make your move to Madison County

SPV-RESOLUTION-3-28-23-B

Support for Broadband Intervention Zone Status For Certain Communities in Madison 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 Madison County, Iowa (“Madison County”) and Madison County Development Group (“MCDG”) have identified addressing Broadband deficiencies as a matter of public interest as evidenced by participating in funding the 2021 Greater Des Moines Partnership Central Iowa Broadband Internet Study (“GDMP Study”); and

WHEREAS MCDG is a non-profit organization with an economic development mission; and

WHEREAS Madison County residents, businesses, taxpayers, public entities, and other entities (“Study Respondants”) self-reported to those conducting the GDMP Study to be 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”; and

WHEREAS Madison County is participating in funding costs for MCDG to identify up to three separate Communities of Underserved and Unserved Locations within Madison County for consideration by the OCIO for designation as a Geographic Area of Concern; and

WHEREAS MCDG has determined three Communities where OCIO maps and GDMP Study Respondents report lack of Broadband access and speed tests not meeting the thresholds set as the definition of Broadband, resulting in economic, education, health disparities described in the GDMP Study; 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 Madison County schools, hospitals, and correctional institutions; and

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

1. Madison County Development Group is hereby declared to represent the interests of specific areas (“Communities”) of Madison County residents, businesses, taxpayers, public entities, and other entities for the matter submitting Invitation to Qualify applications within Madison County to qualify to be designated as a Geographic Area of Concern by the State of Iowa Office of the Chief Information Officer; and

2. The results of the GDMP Study demonstrate Broadband-related impediments exist within these Communities to directly engage in work, education, and health 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 self-reported speed tests at their Location, and also in Location maps provided by the OCIO; and
3. The GDMP Study demonstrated that the lack of Broadband investments in Madison 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 the affordable subscription revenue able to be collected within those Communities; 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 Madison County; and
5. Broadband investments in these Communities, once designated as a Geographic Area of Concern, will help facilitate educational activities at Underserved and Unserved Locations as part of a person's participation in school, academic programs, 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 behavior health; and
7. The Board, as being direct representatives of those at Underserved and Unserved Locations within Madison County, hereby supports these Madison County Communities, as geographically defined in ITQ Applications to be filed by MCDG, for future Broadband investment as proposed Geographic Areas of Concern; and
8. Both MCDG and the Board endeavor, in a non-binding manner, to negotiate in good faith to provide or coordinate in-kind or financial contributions, in a streamlined manner, to directly support construction of Broadband infrastructures projects that accelerate Broadband investment, and which may include but are not limited to:
 - a. Use of subsidized easements and streamlined public Rights of Way ("ROW") where applicable.
 - b. Reductions of ROW permitting time and total project fees for Broadband investments serving groups of Locations.
 - c. Foster private economic development investments and partnerships, including in-kind use of Community members' facilities, and increased staff time to support or coordinate with providers on grant and other funding opportunities.
 - d. Where applicable, coordinate processes to incentivize investments through voluntary connection fees for Broadband service to specific Locations.

Approved this 28th day of March, 2023.



Chair, Madison County Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:

