



# Howard-Winneshiek Community School District

## Crestwood Secondary School

Control Number 367282

*Opportunity · Challenge · Success*

1000 Schroder Drive · Cresco, Iowa 52136 · (563) 547-2764

August 3, 2020

Office of the Chief Information Officer of the State of Iowa  
200 E. Grand Ave.  
Des Moines, IA 50309  
515-281-5503

RE: Empower Rural Iowa, Emergency Broadband Expansion Grant Program – NOFA #003  
Dear Chief Information Officer and Review Committee:

I am writing this letter on behalf of Harmony Telephone Company. We would like to express our full support of the Empower Rural Iowa, Emergency Broadband Expansion grant application. They have a successful history of providing state-of-art broadband service at advanced speeds to other rural communities, as well as a strong reputation for excellent customer service and community commitment. We are confident in their capabilities of enhancing broadband service for our school district and patrons. With the assistance of this grant, Harmony Telephone's expanded broadband network will enable us to overcome geographical distances, empower us through information, and bring the world to us through the touch of a keyboard. As an unserved rural area with limited availability to advanced Internet services, we face many challenges including limited medical resources and distance between patients, physicians, specialists and facilities. Because of the rural nature of our area, our students do not receive equitable broadband resources as other students in more urban learning centers. Our community currently lacks the research; distance learning, video and other tools that advanced broadband can bring to a rural school. Especially with the current COVID-19 pandemic, our community has seen the direct impact of limited broadband access. Therefore, it is extremely important that broadband grant funding be obtained to provide much needed broadband service to our area.

Expanded broadband in our area means students will have equitable access to broadband that is needed to continue learning if it is determined that schools need to be closed again. It would also allow business and industry to expand and create job opportunities for the area.

Harmony Telephone Company has a successful history of providing state-of-art broadband service at advanced speeds to other rural communities and has a strong reputation for community commitment and customer service, we are confident in their capabilities of enhancing broadband service for the Howard-Winneshiek Community School District and surrounding areas.

Sincerely,

Chris Rogne  
Howard-Winneshiek Schools  
Cresco, IA 52136  
563-547-2764

Our **vision** is to discover, develop and expand passions, creativity, and strengths.

Our **mission** is to prepare and empower our students to think creatively, serve, contribute and succeed locally and globally.