



Grants, OCIO &lt;ociogrants@iowa.gov&gt;

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**Re: Request for Clarification - Broadband Grant Program (NOFA #003) - Application #367737**

1 message

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**Jeff Leerhoff** <jeff@btwi.net>

Thu, Aug 20, 2020 at 9:16 PM

To: "Grants, OCIO" &lt;ociogrants@iowa.gov&gt;

Per your request, I am confirming the number of UNSERVED (under 25/3 service) broadband units in our project is 353, of which 286 are households and 67 are businesses.

As mentioned in the application, our plan for the use of the funds is not only to bring 50/15 service to the unserved areas, but also be able to continue to provide above 25/3 broadband service to the existing areas that we cover with our fixed wireless internet. With the advent of Covid-19 and the move to telework, distance learning, and telehealth throughout our state, the amount of broadband usage across our network infrastructure has reached full capacity and we are struggling (and many times failing) to maintain the 25/3 level. And the number of new customers that we've brought on that hadn't required home internet before has only compounded the problem. Where we once thought we had ample capacity for years to come have now become bottlenecks due to the increased broadband usage brought on by the pandemic.

By adding connections to fiber optics at the new tower location (and other strategic locations in our network) and adding licensed-frequency wireless backhaul links between towers, we will be able to substantially increase available bandwidth throughout our network. This will also free up our other frequencies so that we can reprogram our access points and customer equipment and we will actually be able to offer 50/15 service to all our customers instead of fighting to maintain the 25/3.

I also need to note that while I was going through the census block and TSA information to make the unserved broadband unit calculation, I found errors from when I originally used the polygon tool and tried at that time to omit the areas that we were not able to cover. I have spent many hours reviewing and making corrections, and am resubmitting the revised Core Application with this email. Please see the attachment. I apologize for my previous errors.

Thank you for your patience and understanding as you sift through all these applications.

Jeff Leerhoff  
BTWI  
1020 26th St  
Perry, IA 50220  
515-465-3043

On 8/18/2020 5:55 PM, Grants, OCIO wrote:

Dear Applicant,

Thank you for submitting a grant application to the State of Iowa Broadband Grants Program - Empower Rural Iowa Initiative (NOFA #003). The Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) requests the following clarification concerning the contents of your application.

[Notice of Funding Availability #003](#) (Section 2.2.6.1.1.3.) requires Applicants to certify "that each of the unserved Broadband Units in the form of Homes, Businesses, and Schools located within Census Blocks forming the basis of the Project that will be Facilitated with 25/3 Broadband or 100/20 Broadband, as applicable, as a result of the Project **DO NOT currently have 25/3 Broadband service available, meaning no**

**other known Communications Services Provider currently Facilitates 25/3 Broadband or greater to the Broadband Unit."**

Accordingly, your Application identified the total number of broadband units (homes, schools, and businesses) to which new service will be available in Exhibit B (See "Total Units" column identified under Total Number of HSB's (i.e. Broadband Units) New Service Will Be Available To as highlighted in yellow in the table below). As part of your Application you also certified that all broadband units that will be Facilitated with 25/3 Broadband or 100/20 Broadband, as applicable, as a result of your Project DO NOT currently have 25/3 Broadband service available, meaning no other known Communications Services Provider currently Facilitates 25/3 Broadband or greater to the Broadband Unit.

Project Area				Total Number of HSB's (i.e., Broadband Units) in Project Area				Total Number of HSB's (i.e., Broadband Units) New Service Will Be Available To			
Census Block #	TSA Status	County	Sq. Miles	H	S	B	Total Units	H	S	B	Total Units
##	Yes: ##   No: ##	##	##	##	##	##	##	##	##	##	##

As part of its evaluation of Applications, the Office is issuing this request for clarification to confirm one of the following pieces of information: (**PLEASE CHOOSE ONE**)

1. PLEASE CONFIRM that **ALL** broadband units identified in Exhibit B of your Core Application as broadband units to which "New Service Will Be Available To" are not currently served by 25/3 Broadband service currently, meaning that no other known Communication Service Provider currently facilitates 25/3 Broadband or faster service to those broadband units

**OR**

2. PLEASE CONFIRM the number of broadband units in your project area that **ARE UNSERVED** by 25/3 Broadband service, meaning that no other known Communication Service Provider currently facilitates 25/3 Broadband or faster service to those broadband units

You are asked to confirm this information by responding to this e-mail and identifying the total number of broadband units in your project that **ARE CURRENTLY UNSERVED** by 25/3 Broadband Service, meaning that no other known Communication Service Provider currently Facilitates 25/3 Broadband or faster service by responding to this e-mail and identifying the total number of broadband units that meet this criteria.

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Your response may include additional information or justifications to support your clarification if needed. 367737

Please provide the above-requested clarification(s) by **Thursday, August 20, 2020 at 11:59 PM CST**. Please email your response to [ociogrants@iowa.gov](mailto:ociogrants@iowa.gov). Pursuant to [Notice of Funding Availability #003](#) (section 1.16.11.) an application may be disqualified or rejected when an Applicant fails to respond to the Office's request for information, documents, or references.

Please let us know if you have any questions about this request for clarification.

Sincerely,  
Office of the Chief Information Officer

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 **Broadband\_Grants\_Core\_Application\_NOFA003 - Revised 8-20-2020.xlsm**  
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