

February 23, 2021

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

RE: Empower Rural Iowa, Emergency Broadband Expansion Grant Program – NOFA #005

Dear Chief Information Officer and Review Committee:

I am writing this letter on behalf of USA Communications. As a resident of Center Point, Iowa, we would like to express our full support of the Empower Rural Iowa, Emergency Broadband Expansion Grant application for USA Communications. They have a long and successful history of providing state-of-art communications services within the State of Iowa. USA Communications has a strong reputation for community commitment and strong customer service. We are confident in USA Communication's capabilities for enhancing broadband service for those residing in Iowa.

With the assistance from the broadband grant, USA Communications will be able to enhance our broadband connectivity with a fiber network design. This fiber build will enable us to overcome some geographical distances, empower us through information, and bring the world to us through a few simple strokes of a keyboard. As an unserved rural area with limited access to 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. We lack the ability to engage in distance learning, video and other tools that advanced broadband can bring to our students. Therefore, it is extremely important that broadband grant funding be obtained to provide for much needed broadband service to our area.

Our rural housing development was fortunate to be able to work with USA Communications to bring broadband to our development. It could not have happened at more opportune time, with the pandemic forcing people and students to work from home. The community in which I live still has many rural areas in which they have insufficient connectivity. As a retired school superintendent I still get contacted from patrons asking for help in bringing better internet for their areas.

We strongly urge the Chief Information Officer and Review Committee to fund this Empower Rural Iowa, Emergency Broadband Expansion Grant application, not only will this help with sustaining the future of advanced broadband services in USA Communication's proposed funded service area, but also promoting the future economic stability of our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alan Marshall". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Alan Marshall