



# VIRGINIA GAY HOSPITAL

502 North Ninth Avenue | Vinton, Iowa 52349 | 319-472-6200

July 22, 2021

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

RE: Vinton Municipal Communications Utility Empower Rural Iowa Broadband Grant

Dear Deputy-Chief Behrens,

As a medical facility operating in Vinton, Iowa, it is important that hospitals, clinics and other medical providers have access to high quality broadband service is reliable, provided at an affordable rate and supported by a local broadband services entity. This is especially critical as the COVID pandemic continues to impact how we provide care to the community and access to high-speed broadband service will allow employees to work from home, limit COVID virus spread among medical staff and patients and offer Vinton area citizens access to telemedicine services. Elderly Vinton residents would also have the option of at-home health care services with the deployment of high-speed broadband service.

Rural Iowa Broadband Grant applications from communications service providers should reduce or eliminate unserved and underserve areas through the installation of 25/3 broadband or 100/20 broadband facilities. The Vinton Municipal Communications Utility (VMCU) will use its Iowa broadband grant funds to provide much needed 1 Gigabit downstream and 1 Gigabit upstream broadband service to the Vinton business community and area covered under this application.

Vinton is a growing community with an increasing number of residents and business. Broadband coverage may be non-existent or limited in some areas, making it difficult for emergency services to respond effectively. The health and safety of Vinton citizens is enhanced with the deployment of Gigabit broadband service to the community.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my support for the VMCU Empower Rural Iowa Broadband Grant application.

Sincerely,

Michele Schoonover, CEO  
Virginia Gay Hospital

**Vinton Family  
Medical Clinic**

504 North Ninth Avenue  
Vinton, Iowa 52349  
319-427-6300

**Van Horne Family  
Medical Clinic**

205 Main Street  
Van Horne, Iowa 52346  
319-228-8000

**Urbana Family  
Medical Clinic**

1002 West Main  
Urbana, Iowa 52345  
319-433-5000

**Atkins Family  
Medical Clinic**

401 Cardial Avenue  
Atkins, Iowa 52206  
319-446-7800

**VGH  
Home Health**

502 North Ninth Avenue  
Vinton, Iowa 52349  
319-427-6360

**VGH Nursing  
& Rehab**

502 North Ninth Avenue  
Vinton, IA 52349  
319-472-6280