



Heart of Iowa Ventures, LLC was established in 2007 and is a wholly owned subsidiary of Heart of Iowa Communications Cooperative. In 2008, Heart of Iowa Ventures, LLC, as a CLEC provider, began offering landline phone, broadband internet, and video services to customers in Marshalltown, rural Le Grand and rural Gladbrook. As of October 31, 2021, Heart of Iowa Ventures, LLC has 1,076 access lines, 598 broadband internet customers and 158 video customers.

We have constructed a 100% Fiber Optic Network to the Home (FTTH) for the majority of our territories and provide broadband internet, landline telephone, IPTV, and other technology-related services to customers within rural Iowa. Heart of Iowa thrives to provide the best possible service at an affordable rate to present cost-effective, quality broadband in a way that customers will utilize as a value to their everyday life. We are committed to providing broadband communication services that improve the quality of life of rural consumers.

The coronavirus pandemic affected the lives of millions of Americans and underscored the serious need for robust and reliable broadband communications service across the nation, particularly in rural America. Millions across the U.S. shifted from traditional ways of learning, receiving healthcare services, and working, and transitioned to e-learning, and health care via telehealth services, and remote work.

Today, Heart of Iowa Ventures, LLC proposes with confidence a project that will provide the necessary broadband communications services to align with this shift. The U.S. is in first place in its ability to offer the most reliable and fastest Internet in the world. However, in rural America, an integral part of the U.S., consumers like those in rural Iowa, still lack sufficient access to high-speed broadband service. Join us in refusing to let Iowa fall behind in its ability to offer its residents and businesses the high-speed Internet service to meet their vital needs. This project is for the people of Iowa; today, tomorrow, and the future.

Heart of Iowa Ventures, LLC is committed to our local communities. We offer educational grants and scholarships for High Schoolers in our communities, host annual youth tours of the nation's capital for rural youth to learn about broadband and share their community's story with key legislative, regulatory, and government figures, offer support of our local schools through hosting events, and take part in opportunities that work to improve local economy and quality of life.

High-speed internet availability can help reverse population decline, attract new families, increase home values, increase the earning power of rural residents, and provide equal education opportunity for students. Our vision for this project is to provide every resident and business within the project area with equal access to high-speed internet.

The project of Merle Hibbs will allow residents who currently cannot access internet over 25 Mbps download by 3 Mbps upload, to gain access to faster, more reliable internet at a minimum of 100 Mbps download and 100 Mbps upload up to 1000 Mbps download and 500 Mbps upload. This project is designed to lay the foundation for this community's strong and equitable recovery from the Coronavirus

pandemic and meet its long-term broadband needs to ensure an ever-strengthening economy. The pricing of \$49.99 for 100 Mbps download and 100 Mbps upload is deemed highly affordable based on market demographics and the formula provided by the NOFA.

The network design includes a fiber-to-the-home buildout, the most sustainable and cost-effective broadband technology available, for a total project cost of \$541,722.47. Grant funds are necessary for this project to move forward, and the eligible areas outlined within the core application have not been associated with any prior federal funding initiatives designed to provide broadband at 25 Mbps download by 3 Mbps upload or faster.

This project is scheduled to initiate on March 3, 2022 and be completed by August 1, 2023 or sooner, to meet the urgent needs of the community in the most efficient and strategic manner possible.