

LETTERS OF SUPPORT



**STORY COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
LATIFAH FAISAL
LISA HEDDENS
LINDA MURKEN**

Story County Administration
900 Sixth Street
Nevada Iowa 50201
515-382-7200
515-382-7206 (fax)

August 22, 2023

TO: Office of the Chief Information Officer
200 E. Grand
Des Moines, IA 50319

RE: Empower Rural Iowa Broadband Grant Program- NOFA # 008
Application for Broadband Intervention Zone 506675
Story County

To the Office of the Chief Information Officer of the State of Iowa:

It is my pleasure to offer this letter in support of Colo Telephone's application to provide quality and affordable broadband services to over 160 eligible unserved and underserved customers in Broadband Intervention Zone 506675. This BIZ includes several rural townships in north central Story County.

Earlier this year Story County submitted an Intent to Qualify as a Broadband Intervention Zone (BIZ) for a large area of north central Story County. This application was approved, ranking 12th out of 99 proposals. Since then, a group of local officials has been working with local service providers to craft a plan for provide for coverage of as many eligible locations as possible in this BIZ. Colo Telephone Company has committed to applying for this funding opportunity. Story County is also prepared to provide matching funds should this application be approved.

Colo Telephone Company has provided communication services to eastern Story County for over 100 years. They currently have over 1000 broadband customers in areas adjacent to this BIZ and offer affordable rates for 100/100 mbps service.

Despite the fact that some broadband expansion requests have been approved from previous NOFAs, we have many unserved and underserved rural locations that were not included in those funding requests. This is particularly important because Story County is one of a handful of counties in Iowa with significant population increase shown by the 2020 Census, and a good share of that growth is residential development and agriculture-related businesses in the unincorporated areas of the county. This lack of broadband service deters prospective businesses from locating in this area. It also detracts from residents' ability to educate their children and to access emergency and public safety information.

Many of the eligible locations have not been served due to low population density, and probably will not be served adequately in the near future without government assistance.

I greatly appreciate the Office of the Chief Information Officer's decision to qualify this area of our county as a Broadband Intervention Zone and urge you to give strong consideration to Colo Telephone's request for funding to bring fast and affordable broadband service to this area.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large loop followed by a series of smaller loops and a long horizontal stroke.

Latifah Faisal, Chair
Story County Board of Supervisors

**STORY COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY****Melissa Spencer, Coordinator**900 6TH STREET, NEVADA, IA 50201

PH: (515) 382-7315 FAX (515)382-7328

EMAIL: mspencer@storycountyia.govWEB SITE : www.storycounty.com/emergencymanagement

TO: Office of the Chief Information Officer
200 E. Grand
Des Moines, IA 50319

Re: Empower Rural Broadband Grant Program- NOFA #008
Application for Broadband Intervention Zone 506675
Story County, Iowa

To the Office of the Chief Information Officer of the State of Iowa:

I am pleased to support Colo Telephone Company's application for funding to serve over 160 eligible unserved or underserved locations in Story County.

Earlier this year Story County submitted an Intent to Qualify as a Broadband Intervention Zone (BIZ) for a large area of north central Story County. This application was approved, ranking 12th out of 99 proposals. Since then, a group of local officials has been working with local service providers to craft a plan to provide for covers of as many eligible locations as possible in this BIZ. Colo Telephone Company has committed to applying for this funding opportunity.

Colo Telephone Company has provided communication services to eastern Story County for over 100 years. They currently have over 1000 broadband customers in areas adjacent to this BIZ and offer affordable rates for 100/100 mbs. service.

As we stated in our letter supporting the creation of the BIZ, the existing internet infrastructure is not up to standards and the ripple effect stretches across nearly every area. Story County Emergency Management is responsible for emergency and disaster notifications through the Story County Iowa Alert System that services residents of the areas in this BIZ. Without secure broadband access, residents will not receive critical emergency alerts and notifications via email and will not have access to disaster response and recovery information through the internet. Most all disaster recovery programs at the State and Federal level require individuals to have internet access to apply for financial and other assistance. Without secure internet access their personal disaster recovery will be prolonged.

In addition to disaster related events, lack of secure broadband access is a deterrent to prospective companies locating to area in the BIZ and a hinderance to attracting and retaining a much-needed workforce. Furthermore, it detracts from the County's ability to educate our children, further handicapping our ability to grow a workforce from within.

The pandemic showed us how dependent our residents and economies are on an inter-connect world. The longer Story County goes without adequate internet service, the farther the County falls behind and the harder it will be to catch up.

I greatly appreciate the Office of the Chief Information Officer's decision to qualify this area of our county as a Broadband Intervention Zone and urge you to give strong consideration to Colo Telephone's request for funding to bring fast and affordable broadband service to this area.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Melissa Spencer' followed by a stylized monogram or initials.

Melissa Spencer
Coordinator
Story County Emergency Management Agency



Sheriff's Office

Story County
PAUL H. FITZGERALD, Sheriff



Emergency 911 • Office: 515-382-6566 • Fax #: 515-382-7479 • 1315 S. B Ave. Nevada, Iowa 50201

August 16, 2023

Office of the Chief Information Officer
200 E. Grand
Des Moines, IA 50319

RE: Empower Rural Iowa Broadband Grant Program- NOFA # 008
Application for Broadband Intervention Zone 506675
Story County, Iowa

To the Office of the Chief Information Officer of the State of Iowa:

I am pleased to support Colo Telephone Company's application for funding to serve over 160 eligible unserved or underserved locations in Story County.

Earlier this year Story County submitted an Intent to Qualify as a Broadband Intervention Zone (BIZ) for a large area of north central Story County. This application was approved, ranking 12th out of 99 proposals. Since then, a group of local officials has been working with local service providers to craft a plan to provide coverage for as many eligible locations as possible in this BIZ. Colo Telephone Company has committed to apply for this funding opportunity.

Colo Telephone Company has provided communication services to western Story County for over 100 years. They currently have over 1000 broadband customers in areas adjacent to this BIZ and offer affordable rates for 100/100 Mbps service.

As we stated in our letter supporting the creation of this BIZ, this area of our county is woefully underserved. Next Generation 911 (NG911) technologies and capabilities are on the horizon of being deployed nationwide. This overdue upgrade to our current 911 system will allow members of our community to make an interoperable, secure, reliable and end-to-end 911 call in their time of need. Simply put, this translates into lives saved.

Investing in and improving broadband coverage in the underserved areas of Story County will help support the needs of an operational NG911 system. With this infrastructure improvement, we can avoid leaving these areas in a vulnerable position by having the capability to fully utilize a NG911 system.

I greatly appreciate the Office of the Chief Information Officer's decision to qualify this area of our county as a Broadband Intervention Zone. I urge you to give strong consideration to Colo Telephone Company's request for funding to bring fast and affordable broadband service to this area.

Respectfully,


Paul H. Fitzgerald
Story Co. Sheriff



August 11, 2023

Office of the Chief Information Officer
200 E. Grand Ave.
Des Moines, Iowa 50309

RE: Application for NOFA 8 Funds by Colo Telephone Company for Broadband Intervention Zone
506675 – Story County application

To the Office of the Chief Information Officer of the State of Iowa:

It is my pleasure to offer this letter in support of the application submitted by Colo Telephone Company/Central Iowa Broadband for NOFA 8 funding for BIZ 506675 – Story County.

There are numerous unserved and underserved locations in the boundaries of our school district, as this application documents. The ripple effect stretches across nearly every aspect of our community. Not only is it a deterrent to prospective businesses locating in our communities, it is also a hinderance to attracting and retaining residents. Furthermore, when residents do not have adequate broadband, it detracts from their ability to educate their children, and to access emergency and public safety information.

The pandemic showed us how dependent our communities and economies are on an interconnected world. The longer we go without adequate internet service, the farther we fall behind and the harder it becomes to catch up. The application submitted by Colo Telephone Company/Central Iowa Broadband moves the needle forward. As a local business, Colo Telephone has provided communication services in eastern Story County for over 100 years. They first offered broadband service in 2012 and currently have over 1000 broadband customers in Story County. Colo Telephone Company/Central Iowa Broadband supports our communities, and we strongly support their application.

I greatly appreciate the Office of the Chief Information Officer taking this step to ensure quality, affordable and accessible broadband for all residents of Iowa. I would ask you to please grant Colo Telephone Company/Central Iowa Broadband's application for funding.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Julious T. Lawson', is written over a large, stylized circular flourish.

Dr. Julious T. Lawson
Superintendent



Colo-NESCO Community School District

August 11, 2023

Office of the Chief Information Officer
200 E. Grand Ave.
Des Moines, Iowa 50309

RE: Application for NOFA 8 Funds by Colo Telephone Company for Broadband Intervention
Zone 506675 – Story County Application

To the Office of the Chief Information Officer of the State of Iowa:

It is my pleasure to offer this letter in support of the application submitted by Colo Telephone Company/Central Iowa Broadband for NOFA 8 funding for BIZ 506675 – Story County. There are numerous unserved and underserved locations in the boundaries of our school district as this application documents. The ripple effect stretches across nearly every aspect of our community. Not only is it a deterrent to prospective businesses locating in our communities, it is also a hinderance to attracting and retaining residents. Furthermore, when residents do not have adequate broadband, it detracts from their ability to educate their children and to access emergency and public safety information.

The pandemic showed us how dependent our communities and economies are on an interconnected world. The longer we go without adequate internet service, the farther we fall behind and the harder it becomes to catch up. The application submitted by Colo Telephone Company/Central Iowa Broadband moves the needle forward. As a local business, Colo Telephone has provided communication services in eastern Story County for over 100 years. They first offered broadband service in 2012 and currently have over 1000 broadband customers in Story County. Colo Telephone Company/Central Iowa Broadband supports our communities, and we strongly support their application.

I greatly appreciate the Office of the Chief Information Officer taking this step to ensure quality, affordable and accessible broadband for all residents of Iowa. I would ask you to please grant Colo Telephone Company/Central Iowa Broadband's application for funding.

Respectfully,

Marc Snavely
Colo-NESCO Superintendent/Elementary Principal

Middle School, High School, District Office
919 West Street, PO BOX 136
Colo, IA 50056
(641) 377-2282

Elementary School
407 North Center Street
Zeoring, IA 50278
(641) 487-7411

**District Office**

Gates Memorial Hall
82515th Street
Nevada, IA 50201

(515) 382-2783
www.nevadacubs.org



NevadaCSD

Dr. Steve Gray

Superintendent
sgray@nevadacubs.org

Dr. Kody Asmus

Associate Superintendent
of School Improvement
kasmus@nevadacubs.org

Doyle Forster

Director of Nutrition
dforster@nevadacubs.org

David Kroese

Director of Buildings &
Grounds
dkroese@nevadacubs.org

Jason Sampson

Director of Transportation
jsampson@nevadacubs.org

Brian Schaeffer, SBO

Business Manager
Board Secretary
bschaeffer@nevadacubs.org

Joe Wakeman

Director of Technology &
Communications
jwakeman@nevadacubs.org

August 11, 2023

TO:

Office of the Chief Information Officer
200 E. Grand Ave.
Des Moines, Iowa 50309

FROM:

Dr. Steve Gray, NCSD Superintendent

RE:

Application for NOFA 8 Funds by Colo Telephone Company for Broadband Intervention
Zone 506675 – Story County application

To the Office of the Chief Information Officer of the State of Iowa:

It is my pleasure to offer this letter in support of the application submitted by Colo Telephone Company/Central Iowa Broadband for NOFA 8 funding for BIZ 506675 – Story County.

There are numerous unserved and underserved locations in the boundaries of our school district, as this application documents. The ripple effect stretches across nearly every aspect of our community. Not only is it a deterrent to prospective businesses locating in our communities, it is also a hinderance to attracting and retaining residents. Furthermore, when residents do not have adequate broadband, it detracts from their ability to educate their children, and to access emergency and public safety information.

The pandemic showed us how dependent our communities and economies are on an interconnected world. The longer we go without adequate internet service, the farther we fall behind and the harder it becomes to catch up. The application submitted by Colo Telephone Company/Central Iowa Broadband moves the needle forward. As a local business, Colo Telephone has provided communication services in eastern Story County for over 100 years. They first offered broadband service in 2012 and currently have over 1000 broadband customers in Story County. Colo Telephone Company/Central Iowa Broadband supports our communities, and we strongly support their application.

I greatly appreciate the Office of the Chief Information Officer taking this step to ensure quality, affordable and accessible broadband for all residents of Iowa. I would ask you to please grant Colo Telephone Company/Central Iowa Broadband's application for funding.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steve Gray', is written over a white rectangular box.





Heart of Iowa Regional Transit Agency HIRTA Public Transit

Boone, Dallas, Jasper, Madison, Marion, Story, and Warren Counties

August 18, 2023

TO: Office of the Chief Information Officer
200 E. Grand
Des Moines, IA 50319

RE: Empower Rural Iowa Broadband Grant Program- NOFA # 008
Application for Broadband Intervention Zone 506675
Story County, Iowa

To the Office of the Chief Information Officer of the State of Iowa:

I am pleased to support Colo Telephone Company's application for funding to serve over 160 eligible unserved or underserved locations in Story County.

Earlier this year Story County submitted an Intent to Qualify as a Broadband Intervention Zone (BIZ) for a large area of north central Story County. This application was approved, ranking 12th out of 99 proposals. Since then, a group of local officials has been working with local service providers to craft a plan for provide for coverage of as many eligible locations as possible in this BIZ. Colo Telephone Company has committed to applying for this funding opportunity.

Colo Telephone Company has provided communication services to eastern Story County for over 100 years. They currently have over 1000 broadband customers in areas adjacent to this BIZ and offer affordable rates for 100/100 mbps service.

As we stated in our letter supporting the creation of this BIZ, having adequate broadband service in rural areas is imperative for allowing people to remain in the community of their choice, as well as, for growth, education, access and transportation. Connected schools, libraries, an educated workforce, virtual medical services and more efficient use of resources all make communities more attractive to new businesses and families, while enabling existing residents and businesses to keep being successful.

HIRTA continues to provide more innovative services and technology because it is important that those in rural areas receive the same types of access and conveniences as their urban counterparts. When passengers can access the internet through laptops, smart phones, and other communication devices they can transform their transit experience by extending access to information and connectivity, as well as, allow more opportunities for people to use public transit within their own communities, with expanded jobs and other services that would could come to their area.

I greatly appreciate the Office of the Chief Information Officer's decision to qualify this area of our county as a Broadband Intervention Zone and urge you to give strong consideration to Colo Telephone's request for funding to bring fast and affordable broadband service to this area.

Respectfully,

Julia Castillo

Julia Castillo

Executive Director

August 18, 2023

Office of the Chief Information Officer
200 E. Grand Ave.
Des Moines, IA 50309

RE: Colo Telephone's Application for NOFA 8 Funds for BIZ 506675

To the Office of the Chief Information Officer of the State of Iowa:

It is my pleasure to offer this letter in support of Colo Telephone's application to provide quality and affordable broadband services to unserved and underserved customers in Broadband Intervention Zone 506675. Grant Township in Story County is included in the proposed service area.

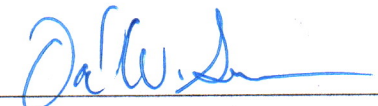
Colo Telephone Company has provided communication services to eastern Story County for over 100 years. They currently have over 1000 broadband customers in areas adjacent to this BIZ and offer affordable rates for 100/100 mbps service. They also have an excellent reputation with their customers, and Grant Township eagerly welcomes them as service providers.

Despite the fact that some broadband expansion requests have been approved from previous NOFAs, we have many unserved and underserved rural locations that were not included in those funding requests. This is particularly important because Story County is one of a handful of counties in Iowa with significant population increase shown by the 2020 Census, and a good share of that growth is residential development and agriculture-related businesses in the unincorporated areas of the county. This lack of wired broadband service deters prospective businesses from locating in this area. It also detracts from residents' ability to educate their children, to access emergency and public safety information, and to accept employment that involves working remotely. Many of the eligible locations have not been served due to low population density and probably will not be served adequately in the near future without government assistance. While various satellite and cellular services have recently become available in Grant Township, these methods are prone to limited operating range, "dead spots" in certain areas of a house, and frequent signal dropouts. Some rely on a clear line of sight for signal reception. The speed and reliability of these options cannot compare to a wired broadband service.

We greatly appreciate the Office of the Chief Information Officer's decision to qualify this area of our county as a Broadband Intervention Zone and urge you to give strong consideration to Colo Telephone's request for funding to bring fast and affordable broadband service to this area.

Respectfully,

John Clough 
Grant Township Clerk
61526 260th St
Nevada IA 50201
jwccclough@gmail.com
515-450-3660

David Swensen 
Grant Township Trustee
61523 260th St
Nevada, IA 50201

Jerry Linn 
Grant Township Trustee
711 West T Ave
Nevada, IA 50201

Charles Lloyd 
Grant Township Trustee

26606 610th Ave
Nevada, IA 50201

August 21, 2023

Office of the Chief Information Officer
200 E. Grand Ave.
Des Moines, IA 50309

RE: Colo Telephone's Application for NOFA 8 Funds for BIZ 506675

To the Office of the Chief Information Officer of the State of Iowa:

It is my pleasure to offer this letter in support of Colo Telephone's application to provide quality and affordable broadband services to unserved and underserved customers in Broadband Intervention Zone 506675. Nevada Township in Story County is included in the proposed service area.

Colo Telephone Company has provided communication services to eastern Story County for over 100 years. They currently have over 1000 broadband customers in areas adjacent to this BIZ and offer affordable rates for 100/100 mbps service.

Despite the fact that some broadband expansion requests have been approved from previous NOFAs, we have many unserved and underserved rural locations that were not included in those funding requests. This is particularly important because Story County is one of a handful of counties in Iowa with significant population increase shown by the 2020 Census, and a good share of that growth is residential development and agriculture-related businesses in the unincorporated areas of the county. This lack of broadband service deters prospective businesses from locating in this area. It also detracts from residents' ability to educate their children and to access emergency and public safety information. Many of the eligible locations have not been served due to low population density, and probably will not be served adequately in the near future without government assistance.

I greatly appreciate the Office of the Chief Information Officer's decision to qualify this area of our county as a Broadband Intervention Zone and urge you to give strong consideration to Colo Telephone's request for funding to bring fast and affordable broadband service to this area.

Respectfully,

Amber Nusbaum, Nevada Township Trustee
2426 Lincoln Hwy
Nevada, IA 50201
alnusbaum@gmail.com
(515)509-3442

August 23, 2023

Office of the Chief Information Officer
200 E. Grand Ave.
Des Moines, Iowa 50309

RE: Application for NOFA 8 Funds by Colo Telephone Company for Broadband Intervention Zone
506675 – Story County application

To the Office of the Chief Information Officer of the State of Iowa:

It is my pleasure to offer this letter in support of the application submitted by Colo Telephone Company/Central Iowa Broadband for NOFA 8 funding for BIZ 506675 – Story County.

There are numerous unserved and underserved locations in the boundaries of our school district, as this application documents. The ripple effect stretches across nearly every aspect of our community. Not only is it a deterrent to prospective businesses locating in our communities, it is also a hinderance to attracting and retaining residents. Furthermore, when residents do not have adequate broadband, it detracts from their ability to educate their children, and to access emergency and public safety information.

The pandemic showed us how dependent our communities and economies are on an interconnected world. The longer we go without adequate internet service, the farther we fall behind and the harder it becomes to catch up. The application submitted by Colo Telephone Company/Central Iowa Broadband moves the needle forward. As a local business, Colo Telephone has provided communication services in eastern Story County for over 100 years. They first offered broadband service in 2012 and currently have over 1000 broadband customers in Story County. Colo Telephone Company/Central Iowa Broadband supports our communities, and we strongly support their application.

I greatly appreciate the Office of the Chief Information Officer taking this step to ensure quality, affordable and accessible broadband for all residents of Iowa. I would ask you to please grant Colo Telephone Company/Central Iowa Broadband's application for funding.

Respectfully,

April Heintz, Owner

Scriptive Solutions Custom Apparel

25345 620th Ave

Nevada, IA 50201



Smart Choice

August 25, 2023

Office of the Chief Information Officer
200 E. Grand Ave.
Des Moines, IA 50309

RE: Broadband Intervention Zone 12 (NOFA) #008 Funding – Story County Application

To the Office of the Chief Information Officer of the State of Iowa:

I am writing to express support for the Broadband Intervention Zone 12 (NOFA) #008 Funding application submitted by Story County for its proposed collaboration with Colo Telephone Company. As someone deeply invested in the economic and community development which requires the accessibility of advanced digital infrastructure, I am thrilled to endorse this crucial initiative.

In today's interconnected world, reliable and high-speed internet connectivity is no longer a luxury but a necessity for thriving communities. The Broadband Intervention Zone 12 project, as presented in the NOFA #008 application, holds immense promise in bridging the digital divide and enhancing the quality of life for residents in Story County.

The significance of robust broadband access cannot be overstated. It not only facilitates seamless communication but also empowers education, healthcare, commerce, and public services. By addressing the connectivity gaps in Zone 12, Story County is taking a proactive step toward fostering inclusivity and ensuring that all residents have equal opportunities to participate in the digital economy.

The comprehensive approach outlined in the application demonstrates the dedication of Story County. The proposed strategies, partnerships, and deployment models reflect a clear understanding of the unique challenges posed by rural and underserved areas. Moreover, the commitment to affordability and sustainability is indicative of a long-term vision that will benefit current and future generations.

I am confident that, with the appropriate funding and resources, the Broadband Intervention Zone 12 project will be a resounding success. It has my full endorsement and support, and I am eager to see the positive impact it will have on Story County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Daniel A. Culhane', with a stylized, flowing script.

Daniel A. Culhane, President & CEO
Ames Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development