



8/24/2023

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

Jones County Economic Development (JCED) is a public-private partnership dedicated to strengthening the economic base in Jones County by assisting existing businesses, attracting new investments and jobs, and fostering a business climate favorable for economic growth. While many people might see that as focused more on manufacturing and industrial development, Jones County Economic Development takes a much more comprehensive approach to community development, including the consistent drive to enhance internet infrastructure for our business and residents. We know that this means access to reliable, quick, and affordable internet for our businesses and residents.

While parts of Jones County have this access, many areas still do not, leaving holes in our ability to pursue a comprehensive and quality approach to economic development. For example, businesses are more reliant on internet today than even ten years ago, making quality and affordable internet a mandatory requirement of business retention and recruitment. Additionally, the workforce needs to have access to the internet at their homes, not only for potential work-related needs, but for their family's and children's needs as well. Finally, it adds to the overall quality of life in our region by exposing people to greater interests and information about where they live and the world at large.

During our process to be determined a Broadband Intervention Zone through the State of Iowa, JCED worked to discuss short-term and long-term strategies to accomplish complete coverage of Jones County households and businesses. JCED's focus was on affordable strategies that continued the development of fiber to every home and business in the county. Those conversations encouraged us to believe that not only did Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative intend to help us deliver on those goals, but is committed to providing broadband services that are affordable. Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative has been in the fiber internet business since 2017 and continues to grow. Their resident package of 250 mbps/250 mbps at \$69.95/month and business package of 100 mbps/100mbps at \$99.95/month are consistent with other competitors in the area. These offerings are affordable for both residents and businesses within Jones County. As Jones County looks to grow along with the State of Iowa, it's clear that the broadband gaps have to be addressed.

Thank you for consideration of their application for financing under the NOFA #008 award. If you have any questions or concerns that Jones County Economic Development can address, please reach out via email at director@jonescountydevelopment.com or via phone at 319-480-7446.

Sincerely,

Derek Lumsden, Executive Director
Jones County Economic Development