



Demonstrated Experience NOFA #8

East Buchanan Telephone Cooperative (EBTC) has provided landline telephone service under other legal names since before 1905, and solely as a cooperative since 1963. Internet service has been provided to all cooperative members since the 1990's when dial-up Internet service was introduced.

Our General Manager has been in the telecom industry since 1989, and EBTC's Plant Manager has over 40 years of experience working in the telecom industry, while one technician has been employed for over 47 years.

Because of recent fiber projects – some grant-funded – we have hired three experienced technicians since 2020, with the most recent hires in July 2022 and January 2023. We are currently sponsoring a high school graduate in DMACC's telecom technician program with the intent of hiring him full-time upon course completion in 2024.

We have completed Fiber-To-The-Home projects in the rural Aurora-Stanley exchange, our Quasqueton rural service area due to a NOFA 3 CARES Act Grant, and at the same time because of Covid brought FTTH services to the rural Winthrop service area, plus we have recently completed a NOFA 7 grant and a project through the town of Walker IA bringing the town FTTH services for the first time, and also last year we finished FTTH in the towns of Stanley and Aurora, while just last month (July 2023) we started FTTH projects in the towns of Quasqueton and Winthrop. When our most recent projects are completed, our cooperative service area will be finally 100% FTTH!

West Union Trenching from West Union Iowa was the contractor for all of these projects and we have received cost estimates from them for this NOFA 8 project.

East Buchanan Telephone Cooperative partners with, collaborates with, and donates to many organizations both inside and outside of our service area. EBTC also has a \$150,000 USDA revolving loan fund (RLF) and has assisted many start-ups and expanding businesses over the years, including a child daycare next to the East Buchanan Community School building, and last Spring awarded a \$140,000 RLF loan to a local business to purchase the local grocery store that was in danger of closing.

As a further demonstration of EBTCs experience, you may contact the Walker (IA) city clerk and discuss what FTTH has meant to their community, which prior to the project, the clerk told us, "Walker is the only town in Linn County without any FTTH!"

EBTC looks forward to bringing fiber optic and high-speed Internet to consumers in this project's area to advance their opportunities for remote work, healthcare, and education.

Your Communication Source

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