



## Letter of Support

March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023  
Office of the Chief Information Officer  
Re: 'Invitation to Qualify – Louisa County, IA'

As Executive Director of Louisa Development Group, I would like to provide my support for the development and expansion of broadband in Louisa County.

A lack of high-speed broadband access in Louisa County presents a loss of opportunity for residents and businesses alike.

Rural areas often suffer from a lack of broadband access due to low population density. For many internet service providers (ISP), there simply aren't enough customers in the rural areas to make a return on their investment. Government funding is critical to assisting in the development of broadband and increasing connectivity in rural areas.

Geographic obstacles are another issue affecting broadband access in rural areas. Here in Louisa County, we have areas that are cut off from broadband access due to hills, bluffs, and tree cover. Users are often left with no or limited access due to poor or no line of sight, which is crucial for wireless connection with broadband towers.

With support from the OCIO and the State of Iowa, we can make the necessary upgrades to provide high-speed, reliable broadband service state-wide.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cole Smith".

Cole Smith

Executive Director, Louisa Development Group

(319) 523-2371 x206

cjsmith3@iastate.edu

**IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY**  
**Extension and Outreach**

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To whom it may concern,

ISU Extension and Outreach Louisa County is committed to supporting the growth and development of our local community. As such, we are writing to express our strong support for the expansion of broadband internet access in our county.

Broadband internet is no longer a luxury, but a necessity for businesses, schools, healthcare providers, and residents alike. Access to reliable, high-speed internet is critical for economic development, education, healthcare, and social connectedness. Unfortunately, many of our rural communities are currently underserved or have no access to broadband internet, which can limit their ability to fully participate in our digital society.

We believe that expanding broadband internet access in Louisa County is crucial to ensuring that our community remains competitive and connected. The benefits of broadband internet access are numerous and include:

**Increased economic opportunities:** Businesses with high-speed internet are better equipped to compete in a global economy and can create new jobs and opportunities.

**Improved education and workforce development:** Broadband internet access can help students and job seekers access educational resources and job training programs.

**Better access to healthcare:** Telemedicine and remote healthcare services are becoming increasingly common, but are only possible with reliable broadband internet access.

**Enhanced quality of life:** Broadband internet can help residents stay connected with friends and family, access entertainment and cultural resources, and more.

We urge you to prioritize the expansion of broadband internet access in Louisa County. We believe that this investment in our community's future will pay dividends for years to come.

Sincerely,



ISU Extension and Outreach Louisa County  
County Director

August 23, 2023

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

Re: NOFA #8

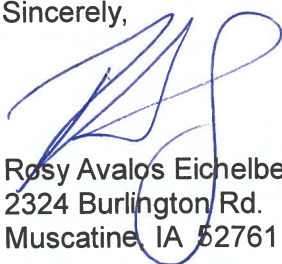
I understand that Muscatine Power and Water ("MPW" has recently applied for funding through NOFA #8 to expand fiber services into rural Muscatine County. I am writing in support of that application. My husband and I live just four miles southwest of Muscatine. We are currently a fixed wireless customer of MPW and would greatly benefit personally and professionally by having fiber internet at our home.

My husband operates a law office in Muscatine and uses MPW's fiber internet. I work for a local bank that also uses MPW's fiber internet. The service is highly reliable and MPW offers very good customer and help desk services to its customers. We both have access to our jobs remotely if we have reliable internet access. Therefore, the upgrade would be very efficient for us both.

I have also noticed that MPW recently upgraded speeds for its fiber customers at no extra cost, which makes their 100/100 service very affordable at \$50.99. If MPW expands its fiber service to our area, the bill for our home internet will decrease and give us much more bandwidth! We know that this expansion comes at a high price, but approving their funding request would help so many more members of my community.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Rosy Avalos Eichelberger  
2324 Burlington Rd.  
Muscatine, IA 52761