

Crawford County
1202 Broadway
Denison, IA 51442
08-15-2023

Ebony E. Cooksey
Market Development Manager
Nextlink Internet via email ecooksey@team.nxlink.com

To the Iowa Office of the Chief Information Officer

Crawford County is submitting a letter of support for Nextlink Internet to expand into unserved rural areas within our county under the Empower Rural Iowa Broadband Grant Program Notice of Funding Availability #008.

We have knowledge of Nextlink being active in multiple Iowa counties, including Cedar, Delaware, Dubuque, and Jones, and find the company to be a potentially excellent partner to serve rural households and businesses that are woefully underserved by the lack of broadband services. Lack of reliable broadband has caused harm to our economic development efforts and, therefore, we welcome Nextlink to bring broadband to their proposed areas if funded under the Empower Rural Iowa Broadband Grant Program Notice of Funding Availability #008.

Consumer Choice empowers communities and Nextlink offers an array of internet packages and affordable pricing for residents, businesses, commercial developments, schools, government facilities and more. Fixed wireless and fiber internet packages are available to Iowa businesses, farms, and homes with speeds of up to 1 Gig with no data caps or overage fees. Their competitively priced three plans for our communities include:

300 MB - \$39.95

500 MB - \$59.95

1 GIG - \$79.95

The above pricing is for the life of the services and includes unlimited data, no contract obligations, and a basic installation fee of \$99. Customers can also use Nextlink routers/mesh for an additional cost monthly. Most importantly, Nextlink guarantees its fair pricing beyond 12 months of service, unlike other providers who increase their rates after only 12 months of service with limited data.

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The company's Broadband Intervention Zone 28 Proposal for Crawford County covers approximately 0.7 square miles and 323 locations. There are 78 un/underserved locations eligible to receive 100/100 Mbps down/up speeds under the grant. Nextlink Internet's planned wireless coverage will offer 66 locations in BIZ 28 with wireless speeds of at least 100/20 Mbps down/up, of which 4 of 78 un/underserved locations fall within that coverage.

BIZ 30 covers approximately 50 square miles and 553 locations. There are 11 un/underserved locations eligible to receive 100/100 Mbps down/up speeds under the grant. Nextlink Internet's planned coverage covers 455 locations in BIZ 30 with wireless speeds at least 100/20 Mbps down/up, of which 7 of 11 un/underserved locations fall within that wireless coverage.

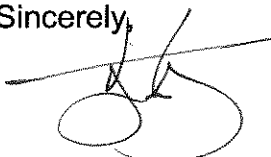
Crawford County has 8,500 locations. Nextlink Internet offers wireless coverage to 1,417 locations, of which 1,245 have wireless speeds of 100/20 Mbps down/up minimum and 172 locations being offered coverage speeds <100/20 Mbps down/up with 77 of those being upgraded to 100/20 Mbps down/up or better.

Nextlink's participation in the Affordable Connectivity Program also helps to ensure access to affordable internet connections our community desperately needs for work, school, and health care. The ACP benefit provides a discount of up to \$30 per month toward internet service for eligible households and up to \$75 per month for households on qualifying Tribal lands. Eligible households can also receive a one-time discount to purchase a laptop or desktop computer from participating providers. Their ACP team is available 24/7, prepared to address frequently asked questions for both new and existing customers.

Furthermore, Nextlink's digital inclusion plan directly enables work, education, and healthcare monitoring and addresses the critical needs for our community that resulted from or was made apparent by the COVID-19 public health emergency. We are also aware of their active partnership with the Microsoft Airband Initiative which supports customer access to technical expertise, preferential pricing on innovative technological solutions, and digital skills training.

In closing, the Iowa NOFA 8 program will help enable competent and capable internet service providers, like Nextlink, to continue their mission to close our community's digital divide by connecting additional businesses, farms, schools, and homes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ty Rosburg', with a large, stylized loop at the end.

Ty Rosburg, Chair of the Crawford County Board of Supervisors