

VINTON MUNICIPAL COMMUNICATIONS UTILITY

High Speed Broadband Extension for Phase 2 of the Anderson Creek Estates Executive Summary

Abstract

Vinton Municipal Communications Utility proposes a program utilizing Empower Rural Iowa funding via the State Broadband Grant program to extend high speed internet service up to 1 Gig / 1 Gig to an unserved residential development south of Vinton, Iowa.

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Summary

Vinton Municipal Communications Utility (“VMCU”) is applying for Empower Rural Iowa funding under the State Broadband Grant program (NOFA #004) to partially fund its extension of high speed broadband services to the new Anderson Creek Estates Phase 2 residential development south of Vinton, IA. This extension will allow residents to select internet speeds from 100/100 Mbps up to 1 / 1 Gigabit.

VMCU began offering high speed broadband service in June 2020 in the City of Vinton and Phase 1 of the Anderson Creek Estates development. The response from businesses and residents has been very strong to date. Of the 33 Phase 1 lots, 12 have facilitated service. In 2021 VMCU will deploy the high-speed broadband services for Phase 2 using an extension of the Fiber to the Home network built in 2020 to the Anderson Creek Estate Phase 1 development.

VMCU will be able to activate service upon completion of the network extension since the upstream end of the network is already providing 100 mb up and down minimum and 1 gigabit maximum up and down services today to its residents and businesses.

The Project area is in Census Block 190119603005076 just south of the Vinton city limits. Both Phase 1 and the Project (Phase 2) are in this Census Block. This Census Block is currently not a Targeted Service Area (TSA). This classification is being challenged in Docket 20OCIO036. As of July 31, 2020, the Project area was a greenfield development area with no homes, businesses, or population. The Project proposes to serve 70 new single family, residential housing lots and 6 new multi-unit dwelling lots with each lot having an 8-unit apartment building in the Anderson Creek Estates Phase 2 development. In total, the Project will extend service to 118 residential housing units. No new businesses are currently forecast for the development. The developer expects to begin work in Q2 2021 and have lots ready for utility facility installation in Q3 2021. VMCU is in the pre-planning stage for extension of its network to serve this new area. The completion date identified in the application is within 5 years of the 10/29/20 release of this NOFA.

The Project does not require State funds to be completed. VMCU has financial resources to complete this project. However, the State funds will provide a meaningful boost for the project and enable VCMU to apply those dollars to other future expansion projects to bring 1 / 1 Gigabit broadband service to the Vinton area as this community continues to grow and expand.

VMCU has submitted its application in accordance with Iowa Code section 8B.11, Iowa Administrative Code rule 129-22 and Empower Rural Iowa NOFA #004 guidance. Names and contact information for the responsible party/contact are included in the application. VMCU is not seeking confidential treatment of its application. VMCU is currently delivering up to 1 / 1 Gigabit service to the Vinton area and will deliver the same or substantially similar service to the Project area in this grant application. Only Allowable Expenditures have been included in the application and the costs to develop the application are not included in the Project costs. The Project costs are only for the Project area and do not include outside the TSA expenditures.