

From: Mike Barron <barronmc@icloud.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 17, 2020 6:13 PM
To: Tom Richtsmeier <generalmanager@vmeu.org>
Subject: Re: NOFA #004

November 16, 2020

Matt Behrens
Deputy Chief Information Officer
State of Iowa
200 East Grand Ave
Des Moines, IA 50309

RE: Vinton Municipal Communications Utility Empower Rural Iowa
Broadband Grant

Dear Deputy Chief Behrens,

As a resident living in the Vinton, Iowa area it is important that residents have access to high quality broadband service that is reliable, provided at an affordable rate and supported by a local broadband services entity. With the current Covid pandemic health struggles experienced by Iowa citizens, it's critical to the Vinton, Iowa community that quality 1Ggabit downstream / 1Gigabit upstream broadband service is readily available. Access to high speed broadband service will allow Vinton residents to work from home, limit Covid virus spread and access telemedicine services. Elderly residents would have the option of at-home health care services instead of group-housing based healthcare with the deployment of high-speed broadband service.

Rural Iowa Broadband Grant applications from communications service providers should reduce or eliminate unserved and underserved areas through the installation of 25/3 broadband or 100/20 broadband facilities. The Vinton Municipal Communications Utility (VMCU) will use its Iowa broadband grant funds to provide much needed 1 Gigabit downstream and 1 Gigabit upstream broadband service to the Vinton, Iowa business community and the area covered under this application.

Vinton, Iowa is a growing community with an increasing number of residents and businesses. Today broadband coverage may be non-existent or limited in some areas making it difficult for emergency services to respond

effectively. The safety of Vinton, Iowa citizens is enhanced with the deployment of Gigabit broadband service to the Vinton, Iowa community.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my support for the VMCU Empower Rural Iowa Broadband Grant application.

Sincerely,
Michael C Barron
605 W 18th St
Vinton, IA 52349