State of Iowa

Office of Governor Chet Culver

Comments on Proposals

National Telecommunications and Information Administration's

Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP)

October 14th, 2009

For More Information Contact:

Jon Murphy

Iowa Office for State-Federal Relations

Jon.Murphy@iowa.gov

I. Overview

As required by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), the State of Iowa is providing this input as part of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration's (NTIA) Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) grant application review process. The purpose of this input is to ensure that Iowa BTOP projects expand broadband use to Iowa's unserved and underserved areas. State review of grant applications has focused on the degree to which the proposed projects achieve the goals of the ARRA and the BTOP of building out broadband infrastructure, providing for sustained use of broadband, and creating and retaining jobs across Iowa. This document will summarize the results of Iowa's review of the BTOP applications, explain the basis of that review, and will provide information about Iowa's statewide broadband deployment initiative.

Iowa expects a fair and equitable distribution of the $4.3 billion that is available in the BTOP. During NTIA's further consideration of proposals, they should place priority on those areas of the nation that:

- Have developed state broadband matching programs to leverage federal funding.
- Have significant rural populations.
- Have significant areas that are unserved and underserved by broadband technology.

Iowa shares NTIA's goals of bringing the benefits of broadband to all Americans. In Iowa, there are significant unserved and underserved areas. The BTOP can be a highly effective tool in addressing Iowa's broadband needs.

Because the investments made through this program will be the foundation from which Iowa builds its broadband plan, selecting the appropriate Iowa BTOP projects is especially important. Iowa places a high value on building out broadband infrastructure to best serve the needs of our citizens, especially in the critical areas of health care, education, cultural affairs, and public safety. Public funding will serve as a catalyst for increased private investment leading to job creation and business development throughout the State.

The State appreciates the opportunity NTIA has provided for state review of grant applications. The Office of the Governor, with public input, has reviewed proposals from Iowa and measured them against the following set of goals and priorities:

- Protect taxpayer dollars
- Provide Iowans in unserved and underserved areas with high quality, reliable, high speed Internet service
- Increase employment opportunities for Iowans

One of the highest priorities of this process was to identify those proposals that could best address the broadband needs of Iowans living in unserved and underserved areas of the State.[1] Entities with strong foundations in the State are best suited to understand and meet the needs of Iowa broadband users. Therefore, priority is given to those projects that have a strong presence in Iowa or are developed by Iowa companies. The State recommends that Iowa-based companies and proposals receive priority consideration for BTOP funding. In addition, and after reviewing all applications that seek to serve Iowa, it is clear that Iowa entities are well qualified and positioned to deliver on the priorities of the BTOP. Therefore, it is recommended and expected that multiple Iowa-based proposals will receive BTOP funding.

In the review process priority was given to those projects that could be developed in those areas of the State that are experiencing the highest levels of unemployment. The development of broadband infrastructure and its sustained use can help create and retain jobs for those areas of Iowa most severely impacted by the current economic downturn. A map showing rates of unemployment in Iowa by county as of August 2009 is attached to this document as Appendix A.

Increased broadband access can be helpful to Iowans in a variety of ways. Therefore, it is recommended that these proposals be separated by category – Sustainable Broadband Adoption (SBA), Public Computing Centers (PCC), and Last Mile or Middle projects – and that *at least* one Iowa project per category be approved by NTIA. Approving at least one project per category will provide Iowa a wider base from which to develop future broadband activities.

<u>I-JOBS – Iowa's Broadband Deployment Initiative</u>

Iowa has developed its own state program to stimulate and support the deployment of broadband infrastructure and to promote the wide adoption of broadband service. This effort is part of the I-JOBs program, which was passed by the Iowa General Assembly and signed by the Governor in the spring of 2009. I-JOBS established a joint broadband deployment governance board (BDGB), administered by the Iowa Telecommunications and Technology Commission (ITTC), the Iowa Department of Economic Development (IDED), and the Iowa Utilities Board (IUB), and included an appropriation of $25 million to promote the deployment and sustainability of high-speed broadband service in Iowa. This funding is intended to be used to contribute toward the 20% match of federal funds and is to be used for broadband infrastructure projects which promote universal access to high-speed broadband service at speeds exceeding the current federal requirements. State grants will be awarded and

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[1] Iowa's review of the BTOP grant applications and the review group's determination of whether a project proposes to serve an unserved or underserved area of Iowa relied in part on information about broadband availability in Iowa which has been collected by the Iowa Utilities Board (IUB) in recent years. The results of the IUB's 2007 survey of broadband availability, and a list of unserved and underserved communities, are included in an IUB report titled, "Assessing High-Speed Internet Access in the State of Iowa: Sixth Assessment."

administered by the joint governance board, which consists of 15 members representing various organizations and demographic groups. Information about Iowa's broadband deployment initiative can be found at: www.broadband.iowa.gov .

It is important to note that the Iowa BDGB will award state funds after federal funds have been awarded through BTOP and the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Broadband Incentives Program (BIP). Using the funding provided in I-JOBS, the State of Iowa will be able to significantly leverage federal funding to provide the most benefit to unserved and underserved areas of the State. The legislation creating the Broadband Deployment Governance Board is included as Appendix A.

II. Review of Iowa Proposals By Category

A. Infrastructure (Last Mile)

Iowa Telecom

Communities Served: Attica, Braddyville, Dundee, Indian Ridge subdivision near Mango, Ledyard, Numa, Pleasant Plain, Siam, and Yorkville
Grant Amount: $783,270
Application Highlights:

- Improve service to underserved communities and provide service to unserved communities by creating new fiber routes to replace existing copper facilities, replacing obsolete DSL facilities, and connecting more communities to Iowa Telecom's interoffice network.
- The expanded facilities will allow Iowa Telecom to offer service at higher speeds than those presently offered. The projects propose to deliver broadband services at speeds of 3+Mbps and up to 15 Mbps where the service points are connected to Iowa Telecom's interoffice fiber network.

Unemployment level in counties in which proposed project will be located	Application proposes to provide service in unserved areas	Application proposes to provide service in underserved areas
High to Very High		Attica, Braddyville, Dundee, Ledyard, Numa, and Pleasant Plain are all underserved communities. The review group was unable to determine the service level in the remaining communities.

Cedar Falls Utilities

Communities Served: Areas surrounding Cedar Falls
Grant Amount: $1,367,626
Application Highlights:

- The project will provide broadband access in underserved areas.
- Broadband technologies proposed are Fiber to the Premise and WiMax.
- Construction for the project will take 12 months and will create a needed economic boost for the proposed area. One full-time field technician will be hired to manage the new rural broadband networks.
- This project is based on a model that has been implemented numerous times already in smaller communities in the U.S.

Unemployment level in counties in which proposed project will be located	Application proposes to provide service in unserved areas	Application proposes to provide service in underserved areas
Medium to High		

Eastlight, LLC

Communities Served: Southeast Iowa
Grant Amount: $3,836,926
Jobs Created: 40 direct, 165 indirect, 50 spin-off, for total of 255 total jobs
Application Highlights:

- Currently serves Jefferson County in Iowa under the name of "Natel" and with the grant funds, they hope to reach the unserved and underserved consumers in 12 counties in Southeastern Iowa.
- The project addresses Administration priority areas of being located in an area with high to very high unemployment and providing service to multiple underserved Iowa communities.
- The project is also aimed at serving the anchor institutions in the proposed service area.
- Eastlight's proposal claims to be the most cost effective way to provide the greatest good to those who need it. Plans to reach 8,180 customers at a cost of $465 per customer.

Unemployment level in counties in which proposed project will be located	Application proposes to provide service in unserved areas	Application proposes to provide service in underserved areas
High to Very High	Unable to determine	Unable to determine

iPCS, Inc.

Communities Served: Missouri Valley
Grant Amount: $3,508,678
Application Highlights:

- iPCS, Inc. is an affiliate of Sprint Nextel Corporate and has been providing wireless service since 2000.
- The proposal will expand broadband to an underserved portion of the state (300 square miles and approximately 2,000 residents).
- Introduces competition and choice into the market area while modernizing functionality in health care, government and commerce. Also provides a service for public safety and first responders.
- The deployment of the plan will stimulate economic growth and job creation in the communities along the route. The project will require a 24-month construction period, which will include hiring and training personnel in Iowa.

Unemployment level in counties in which proposed project will be located	Application proposes to provide service in unserved areas	Application proposes to provide service in underserved areas
Low	Yes	

Long Lines Wireless, LLC

Communities Served: Northwest Iowa (Lyon, Osceola, Dickinson, Emmet, Kossuth, Sioux, O'Brien, Clay, Palo Alto, Plymouth, Cherokee, Buena Vista, Pocahontas, Humboldt, Woodbury, Ida, Sac, Calhoun, Webster, Monona, Crawford, Carroll, Harrison and Shelby Counties)

Grant Amount: $32,724,666

Job Creation: 165

Application Highlights:

- Will bring affordable broadband service ($50 per month for basic service of 4 mbps download access) to 100% of the following 24 rural, underserved counties: Lyon, Osceola, Dickinson, Emmet, Kossuth, Sioux, O'Brien, Clay, Palo Alto, Plymouth, Cherokee, Buena Vista, Pocahontas, Humboldt, Woodbury, Ida, Sac, Calhoun, Webster, Monona, Crawford, Carroll, Harrison and Shelby.
- 87% of the proposed funded service area is rural and underserved and approximately 25% of it is more than 50 miles from a non-rural area.
- Network will consist of a mobile 3G HSPA+ wireless system and 428 miles of optical fiber in a ring topology.
- It is estimated that 165 jobs for Long Lines and key suppliers will be created immediately with continued employment for 45 staff during the project's duration. Long Lines estimates that 2,900 indirect jobs will be created in the communities it serves.

Unemployment level in counties in which proposed project will be located	Application proposes to provide service in unserved areas	Application proposes to provide service in underserved areas
Medium to Very High	Unable to determine	Unable to determine

Satellite Broadband ARRA Application LLC

Communities Served: Unable to determine

Grant Amount: $206,892,074

Application Highlights:

- Includes the Western half of Iowa in the 20-state region service area.
- Applicant claims project will provide broadband coverage to approximately 20,100 Iowa households and 10,500 Iowa businesses that are unserved and approximately 268,600 Iowa households and 44,800 Iowa businesses that are underserved.

- It is estimated that installation and maintenance of 40,000 sites will require between 50 and 100 local jobs to be either saved or created. If customer care were done locally, another 40 jobs would be created.

Unemployment level in counties in which proposed project will be located	Application proposes to provide service in unserved areas	Application proposes to provide service in underserved areas
Unable to determine	Unable to determine	Unable to determine

Hawkeye Telephone Company

Communities Served: Hawkeye
Grant Amount: $1,623,608
Application Highlights:

- Potential to serve 158 underserved customers

Unemployment level in county in which proposed project will be located	Application proposes to provide service in unserved areas	Application proposes to provide service in underserved areas
High		Yes

Atkins Telephone Company

Communities Served: Atkins
Grant Amount: $2,178,417
Application Highlights:

Unemployment level in county in which proposed project will be located	Application proposes to provide service in unserved areas	Application proposes to provide service in underserved areas
High		Yes

La Motte Telephone Company

Communities Served: Springbrook
Grant Amount: $187,815
Application Highlights:

- Potential to serve 324 underserved households

Unemployment level in county in which proposed project will be located	Application proposes to provide service in unserved areas	Application proposes to provide service in underserved areas
High		Yes

B. Infrastructure (Middle Mile)

Iowa Telecom

Iowa Telecom, the incumbent local exchange carrier in 286 rural exchanges in Iowa, submitted 11 applications for BTOP funding. One application for 9 last mile projects was filed and is described above. The remaining applications are for multiple middle mile projects. Iowa Telecom proposes to place new interoffice fiber facilities between numerous Iowa communities and to extend fiber from central offices to new and existing digital loop carrier locations. Each of Iowa Telecom's applications aim to:

- Improve service to underserved communities and provide service to unserved communities by creating new fiber routes to replace existing copper facilities, replacing obsolete DSL facilities, and connecting more communities to Iowa Telecom's interoffice network.
- The expanded facilities will allow Iowa Telecom to offer service at higher speeds than those presently offered. The projects propose to deliver broadband services at speeds of 3+Mbps and up to 15 Mbps where the service points are connected to Iowa Telecom's interoffice fiber network.
- These projects addresses the Administration priority areas of being located in an area with high to very high unemployment and providing service to multiple underserved Iowa communities.

Specific comments regarding the individual applications are as follows:

Application 1.

Communities Served: Troy Mills, Welton, Winding Brook
Grant Amount: $534,759

Unemployment level in county in which proposed project will be located	Application proposes to provide service in unserved areas	Application proposes to provide service in underserved areas
High to Very High		Troy Mills is an underserved area. The review group was unable to determine the service level in the remaining communities.

Application 2.

Communities Served: Armstrong, Depew, Dolliver
Grant Amount: $774,176

Unemployment level in county in which proposed project will be located	Application proposes to provide service in unserved areas	Application proposes to provide service in underserved areas
High to Very High		Armstrong and Dolliver are underserved areas. The review group was unable to determine the service level in the remaining communities.

Application 3.

Communities Served: Bennett, Lowden, Stanwood, Tipton
Grant Amount: $797,066

Unemployment level in county in which proposed project will be located	Application proposes to provide service in unserved areas	Application proposes to provide service in underserved areas
Medium		Bennett, Lowden, and Stanwood are underserved areas. The review group was unable to determine the service level in the remaining communities.

Application 4.

Communities Served: Harvey and River Hills
Grant Amount: $505,841

Unemployment level in county in which proposed project will be located	Application proposes to provide service in unserved areas	Application proposes to provide service in underserved areas
Very High		Harvey is underserved. The review group was unable to determine the service level in the remaining communities.

Application 5.

Communities Served: Delta, Gibson, Thornburg, and What Cheer
Grant Amount: $799,048

Unemployment level in county in which proposed project will be located	Application proposes to provide service in unserved areas	Application proposes to provide service in underserved areas
Very High		Delta and What Cheer are underserved. The review group was unable to determine the service level in the remaining communities.

Application 6.

Communities Served: West Chester
Grant Amount: $287,773

Unemployment level in county in which proposed project will be located	Application proposes to provide service in unserved areas	Application proposes to provide service in underserved areas
Medium		Yes

Application 7.

Communities Served: Bridgewater, Cincinnati, J35 remote east of Clarinda
Grant Amount: $790,967

Unemployment level in county in which proposed project will be located	Application proposes to provide service in unserved areas	Application proposes to provide service in underserved areas
Medium to Very High		Bridgewater and Cincinnati are underserved. The review group was unable to determine the service level in the remaining communities.

The review group cannot comment on the specifics of the remaining 3 middle mile projects because the communities proposed to be served were redacted.

Iowa Health System (IHS)

Grant Amount: $12,982,159

Jobs Created: 800

Application Highlights: Recognizing the difficulties of providing healthcare services in rural, underserved areas, the Broadband Infrastructure Middle Mile Project proposed by IHS would improve access to broadband service for consumers residing in underserved areas by

- Improving delivery of healthcare services to patients by extending high capacity network access to underserved healthcare providers and providing high-speed connectivity to these providers at fair prices.
- Complementing state and national health care reform efforts by providing technological solutions necessary for Electronic Health Records and Health Information Exchanges.
- Partnering with existing phone companies and other service providers to extend the reach of the IHS network to rural healthcare entities in remote areas where new network construction may not be financially feasible.
- Stimulating demand for broadband service, spurring economic growth through the multiplier effect of improved middle mile infrastructure, and creating an estimated 800 jobs.
- Providing middle mile open access infrastructure for other broadband services.
- Governor Culver has sent a letter in support of this project to NTIA.

Iowa Communications Network

Grant Amount: $12,603,089

Application Highlights:

- The ICN project will directly benefit 200 K-12 schools, 30 libraries, 466 workforce development and public safety continuum locations, various healthcare networks and 364 other community anchor institutions.
- The proposed system design would provide a simplified, expandable, cost effective platform to meet current and future bandwidth demands of the ICN community anchor institutions.
- The grant would allow the legacy platforms with high operational costs and limited flexibility to be eliminated yielding operational efficiency gains and drive down the cost of broadband for the community anchor institutions served by the ICN and private carriers.

Pixius Communications, LLC

Communities Served: Fremont and Mills Counties

Grant Amount: $55,323,931

Jobs Created: 26

Application Highlights:

- Two of the 152 proposed steel lattice communications towers would be located in Fremont (last mile service) and Mills (middle and last mile service) counties in Iowa.

- Overall infrastructure cost of the project equates to $756 per square mile compared to $70,000 per square mile covered for a fiber deployment.
- It is estimated that 26 employment opportunities will be created in Iowa.
- Tower space will be made available to public safety organizations and broadband service will be offered to hospitals and other healthcare facilities at a 25% discount.

C. Sustainable Broadband Adoption Projects

Mediacom Communications

Grant Amount: $581,153

Application Highlights: The Iowa Workforce Development (IWD) submitted comments in support of Mediacom's grant application. IWD endorses two features of Mediacom's proposed statewide project, the GED OnDemand component and the development of service videos available through Mediacom's OnDemand system. IWD notes that 15% of its customer base lacks a high school diploma, and are thus hampered in their efforts to find employment. IWD explains that Mediacom's project would benefit IWD's customer base as follows:

- Mediacom's GED OnDemand system allows individuals to study for the GED at any time of the day, but is presently limited to persons with access to Mediacom services in their homes. This project would **bring broadband services into the 55 workforce field offices**, providing free access to GED services for all Iowans, and helping community colleges whose budgets for monitored classrooms allowing GED study have been reduced.
- Mediacom will partner with IWD to develop videos on employment issues, including developing a resume and job search and interview skills. These videos would serve unemployed and underemployed Iowans as well as Iowans considering a new career.
- Providing services and training to unemployed workers is a key priority to the Culver-Judge administration.

Evertek, Inc.

Communities Served: Everly

Grant Amount: $798,596

Jobs Created: 1

Application Highlights:

- Evertek, a telecommunications service provider that offers wireless broadband service to rural NW Iowa, proposes a broadband support program targeting senior citizens, unemployed persons, and low-income families.
- Evertek's Educational Broadband for the Betterment of Iowa (EBBI) program would provide the targeted groups with an Internet-ready PC, modem, cables, installation, training, and ongoing support, all at a low-cost of under $30 per month.
- EBBI could reach an estimated 20,000 customers in the service area of Evertek and its partners.

- EBBI would ensure the continued employment of two current Evertek staff members and the hiring of one additional employee.

Iowa Communications Network (ICN)

Grant Amount: $9,724,400

Application Highlights: The ICN proposes to provide improved access to broadband service for consumers in unserved and underserved areas via authorized users of the ICN's **broadband video conferencing program**, including schools, libraries, healthcare providers, governmental agencies, job-creating facilities, public safety and correctional facilities, National Guard sites, and other community organizations. The project will:

- Improve access to video conferencing service for K-12 schools by 52%, providing broadband connections for the first time to 78,000 K-12 students in 270 schools located in high poverty areas.
- Extend the operating life of the state's video conferencing service.
- Address barriers to adoption by allowing different types of video conferencing systems to work together and by implementing a flat monthly rate for a complete package of broadband video conferencing services.
- Work with local exchange carriers to provision high-speed circuits at 270 schools in high poverty areas, supporting high-pay, high-skill jobs.

Public Computer Centers

Davenport Public Library

Communities Served: Davenport

Grant Amount: $207,140

Application Highlights:

- The Enhanced Computer Center is designed to provide broadband educational opportunities to students in the K-12 school system, Scott Community College and local job-training programs.
- The Center would also allow video-conferencing and other broadband technologies for small business owners to use.
- Local companies would be used for the remodeling of the library; providing employment for 3-6 months.
- The educational and training components of this proposal are key priorities to the Culver-Judge Administration.

Sanford Research USD

Communities Served: Sheldon and Rock Rapids

Grant Amount: $1,441,330

Application Highlights:

- Two of the 12 hospitals in the plan are Sanford Sheldon Medical Center (Sheldon, IA) and Sanford Hospital Rock Rapids (Rock Rapids, IA).

- Each hospital will have four computer workstations/kiosks with privacy dividers (available to the public at no cost) and hardware to enable a guest wireless infrastructure.
- Computers will be linked to state and federal health information resources and linked to Sanford's Health video and education library for accurate medical information.

III. Types of Proposals

As noted, a variety of proposals seeking to serve Iowa were submitted for BTOP consideration. The review group identified several types of categories and identified the following priorities:

- Iowa-based proposals from Iowa companies
- Regional proposals which feature Iowa as one of a few service areas
- National proposals which include the entire (or nearly the entire) nation

State of Iowa Proposals

State of Iowa proposals are considered a priority among those that have been submitted proposing to serve Iowa. These proposals should be given priority consideration by NTIA during its selection process.

Regional Proposals

Regional proposals are viewed as a secondary priority and may provide a more specific understanding of Iowa's broadband needs. Six regional proposals have been submitted that may provide some level of service to the State of Iowa. In some cases, these regional proposals are promising, but remain a secondary priority to Iowa-specific proposals.

National Proposals

There are numerous national proposals which propose to serve Iowa. In many of these national proposals, the State has no existing relationship with the company making the proposal and, therefore, cannot comment on the ability of the proposal to serve Iowans. This point, coupled with the fact that it is very difficult to determine exactly how Iowa will be served by this type of proposal and how much of the proposed funding the State will receive, makes it difficult to consider these projects a State priority. Therefore, the State did not consider the national proposals as relevant to the State input being requested by NTIA.

IV. Review Process

Due to the short amount of time provided by NTIA for State input, the Governor's Office organized an informal review group to review proposals and gather input. This group was not asked to place proposals in rank order or provide up or down decisions on proposals. The group developed broad priorities and goals to help guide the input contained in this document. The group consisted of:

- Michael Shear, broadband consultant,
- Thom Hart, Iowa Department of Economic Development
- Krista Tanner, Iowa Utilities Board

- Rob Berntsen, Iowa Utilities Board (Chair)
- Jon Murphy, Iowa Office for State-Federal Relations

In order to allow for additional comments from the public and other interested parties, the State provided the opportunity for additional comment from the public and from grant applicants. Comments were able to be provided through the www.recovery.iowa.gov web site and were aggregated for additional input into the final comments provided in this document.

The group also received unemployment data from Iowa Workforce Development (IWD). A map with this data is included as Appendix B.

APPENDIX A –IOWA'S BROADBAND DEPLOYMENT LEGISLATION

Senate File 376

22 30 5. IOWA TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY COMMISSION

22 31 For public broadband technology grants for the deployment

22 32 and sustainability of high=speed broadband access:

22 33 ..... $ 25,000,000

22 34 a. It is the intent of the general assembly that funds

22 35 appropriated under this subsection for the deployment and

23 1 sustainability of high=speed broadband access be used to

23 2 access any federal funds made available. State and federal

23 3 funds made available for broadband deployment shall be used to

23 4 promote universal access to high=speed broadband services for

23 5 speeds to exceed federal requirements throughout the state for

23 6 the benefit of Iowans and for the sustainability of such

23 7 services.

23 8 b. (1) The utilities board created in section 474.1, the

23 9 economic development board created in section 15.103, and the

23 10 telecommunications and technology commission established in

23 11 section 8D.3 shall establish a joint governance board of

23 12 fifteen members including the following:

23 13 (a) Eleven members shall be voting members as follows:

23 14 (i) Three members representing educational users and local

23 15 governments including one member representing cities, one

23 16 member representing counties, and one member representing

23 17 educational users.

23 18 (ii) Two members, one representing urban residential users

23 19 in the state, and one representing rural residential users in

23 20 the state.

23 21 (iii) Three members representing broadband and

23 22 telecommunications providers including one member representing

23 23 cable providers, one member representing wire=line

23 24 telecommunications providers, and one member representing

23 25 wireless providers.

23 26 (iv) Three members representing the state, including one

23 27 member designated by the telecommunications and technology

23 28 commission, one member designated by the economic development

23 29 board, and one member designated by the utilities board.

23 30 (b) Four nonvoting, ex=officio members representing the

23 31 general assembly as follows:

23 32 (i) Two members appointed from the senate with one member

23 33 appointed by the majority leader of the senate and one member

23 34 appointed by the minority leader of the senate.

23 35 (ii) Two members appointed from the house of

24 1 representatives with one member appointed by the speaker of

24 2 the house and one member appointed by the minority leader of

24 3 the house.

24 4 (2) Administrative support and planning costs incurred for

24 5 the governance board shall be provided jointly by the

24 6 utilities board, the economic development board, and the

24 7 telecommunications and technology commission. Any necessary

24 8 rules shall be adopted by the economic development board on

24 9 behalf of the governance board.

24 10 (3) A quorum of the governance board shall be a majority

24 11 of the voting members.

24 12 c. The governance board established in paragraph "b" shall

24 13 do all of the following:

24 14 (1) Establish a comprehensive plan for the deployment and

24 15 sustainability of high=speed broadband access in areas capable

24 16 of timely implementation of such access. The plan shall be

24 17 consistent with federal requirements established for federal

24 18 funds made available for the purposes of projects that may be

24 19 considered by the governance board and shall be the basis for

24 20 a comprehensive statewide plan. The governance board shall

24 21 seek public input when establishing the plan and the

24 22 competitive process established under subparagraph (2).

24 23 (2) Establish a competitive process for the disbursement

24 24 of funds made available for the deployment and sustainability

24 25 of high=speed broadband services in the form of grants. The

24 26 governance board shall only consider applications from parties

24 27 seeking to use funds for projects that are sustainable.

24 28 (a) Priority shall be given under the plan to applications

24 29 submitted by qualified private providers of high=speed

24 30 broadband services.

24 31 (b) The plan shall require collaboration involving

24 32 qualified private providers and public entities, as

24 33 appropriate.

24 34 (c) The plan shall allow for the participation of public

24 35 entities to accomplish project purposes that are financially

25 1 feasible in areas of the state that remain unserved or

25 2 underserved as a result of a lack of private sector

25 3 investment.

25 4 (3) Make recommendations to the general assembly regarding

25 5 any necessary legislation needed to further the purposes of

25 6 this subsection.

25 7 (4) Establish and maintain separate accounts for the use

25 8 of bond proceeds and nonbond proceeds.

25 9 d. Applications submitted shall be designed to accomplish

25 10 all of the following:

25 11 (1) Provide minimum broadband capacity throughout the area

25 12 as determined by the governance board consistent with any

25 13 applicable state and federal law or guidelines. The

25 14 governance board shall ensure that the minimum broadband

25 15 capacity established meets or exceeds any federal requirements

25 16 established with regard to the availability of federal funds,

25 17 in the form of grants.

25 18 (2) Provide broadband connections to all business,

25 19 government, educational, and residential locations within the

25 20 project area.

25 21 (3) Utilize, where appropriate and feasible, existing

25 22 privately owned telecommunications fiber infrastructure and

25 23 wireless facilities to establish universal access to

25 24 high=speed broadband services, as appropriate and consistent

25 25 with the priorities established by the governance board for

25 26 the competitive process under paragraph "c", subparagraph (2).

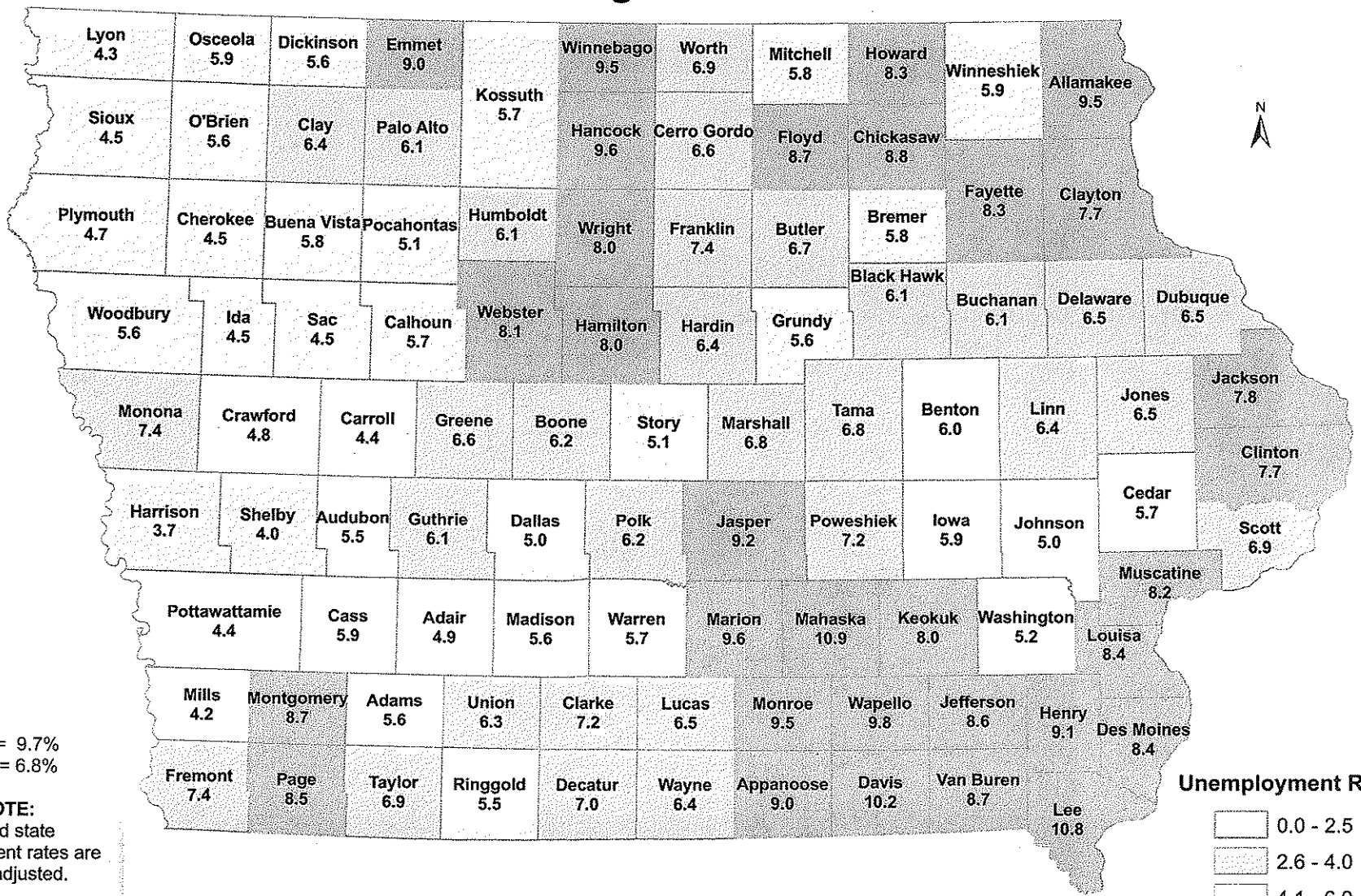
25 27 (4) Demonstrate that any project undertaken and funded by

25 28 the governance board shall be economically sustainable with no

25 29 further government assistance based upon expected revenue

25 30 generation.

Iowa Unemployment Rates by County
August 2009



U.S. = 9.7%
Iowa = 6.8%

NOTE:
The U.S. and state unemployment rates are seasonally adjusted.

County unemployment rates are *not* seasonally adjusted.

Source: Labor Force and Occupational Analysis Bureau, Iowa Workforce Development