

CHAPTER 21
BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE—PROJECT CERTIFICATION

Chapter rescission date pursuant to Iowa Code section 17A.7: 1/1/28

129—21.1(8B,427) Definitions. The definitions in rule 129—20.1(8B,427) shall apply to this chapter.

[ARC 2782C, IAB 10/26/16, effective 11/30/16]

129—21.2(8B,427) Scope. This chapter applies to communications service providers who request certification pursuant to Iowa Code section 427.1(40) from the office that an installation of the broadband infrastructure will facilitate broadband service at or above the download and upload speeds specified in the definition of targeted service area in a targeted service area(s).

[ARC 2782C, IAB 10/26/16, effective 11/30/16; ARC 4606C, IAB 8/14/19, effective 9/18/19; ARC 5173C, IAB 9/9/20, effective 10/14/20]

129—21.3(8B,427) Application for certification. Applications for certification shall be completed and submitted by the means specified online at ocio.iowa.gov/broadband. In order to receive certification from the office, applications must be filled out in their entirety. Communications service providers making application to the office will be required to certify that all of the information contained in the application is accurate. If it is later determined that any of the information contained in the application is inaccurate, the office may revoke the certification, in whole or in part. An application for certification shall include without limitation the following information:

1. The communications service provider's legal and business name(s) and address(es) and the name, address, telephone number, and email address of the person authorized by the communications service provider to respond to inquiries regarding the application for certification;

2. The broadband block number(s) or other unique identifier as provided on the statewide map referenced in rule 129—20.4(8B,427) for the targeted service area(s) forming the basis of the application (i.e., the targeted service area(s) in which the installation of the broadband infrastructure will facilitate broadband service at or above the download and upload speeds specified in the definition of targeted service area);

3. A description and overview of the specific technologies to be deployed (e.g., fixed wireless) that will facilitate broadband service at or above the download and upload speeds specified in the definition of targeted service area;

4. Attestation that the broadband infrastructure installed in the targeted service area(s) will facilitate broadband service at or above the download and upload speeds specified in the definition of targeted service area; and

5. Any other information as requested in the application.

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129—21.4(8B,427) Time of filing. Applications for certification must be received by the office at least ten days prior to the closure of the next applicable assessment deadline to be considered by the office for purposes of that reporting cycle. If the office does not receive an application within that time frame, the office may deny the application or consider the application as part of the next assessment cycle. Except as otherwise authorized by the office, an application for certification shall be deemed filed on the date of its actual receipt by the office. Notwithstanding the foregoing, except as otherwise authorized by the office, when an application for certification is filed during an open 20-day appeal period specified in 129—subrule 20.5(1) following the publication of an updated statewide map in accordance with rule 129—20.4(8B,427), an application for certification will not be deemed filed prior to the expiration of the 20-day appeal period.

[ARC 2782C, IAB 10/26/16, effective 11/30/16; ARC 4606C, IAB 8/14/19, effective 9/18/19]

129—21.5(8B,427) Notice of decision and issuance of certificate. Following the timely filing of an application for certification and before the closure of the next assessment cycle, the office shall notify the communications service provider by electronic means of its decision regarding the application for certification. If the decision is to deny the application or part of the application, such notice shall include a concise statement of the office's reasons for such denial, in whole or in part. A determination by the office to deny an application for certification, in whole or in part, may be appealed pursuant to 129—Chapter 6.

[ARC 2782C, IAB 10/26/16, effective 11/30/16; ARC 4606C, IAB 8/14/19, effective 9/18/19]

129—21.6(8B,427) Contents of certification. The certification shall state the communications service provider for which the certification is being issued, the broadband block number(s) (as provided on the map referenced in rule 129—21.4(8B,427)) of the targeted service area(s) for which the certification is being issued and county(s) in which such targeted service area(s) resides, that the office has determined the broadband block(s) in which the installation will facilitate broadband service are targeted service area(s), that the broadband infrastructure will facilitate broadband service at or above the download and upload speeds specified in the definition of targeted service area, and the date on which the certification is issued by the office. Such certification shall be signed by the CIO.

[ARC 2782C, IAB 10/26/16, effective 11/30/16; ARC 4606C, IAB 8/14/19, effective 9/18/19; ARC 5173C, IAB 9/9/20, effective 10/14/20]

129—21.7(8B,427) Targeted service areas subject to challenge. To the extent an application for certification satisfies all other requirements of this chapter, if at the time such application is filed the office's determination of whether a particular broadband block forming the basis of such application, in whole or in part, is a targeted service area currently subject to challenge pursuant to the appeal and contested case procedures set forth in 129—Chapter 20, or the judicial review and appeal procedures outlined in Iowa Code sections 17A.19 and 17A.20, the office will issue a certification. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the aspect(s) of the office's certification concerning broadband blocks forming the basis of the application for certification that is currently subject to such challenge shall be purely contingent and valid only to the extent the office's original determination is ultimately upheld at the end of the entire appeals process once final, including judicial review and any subsequent appeal. For purely administrative purposes, if a portion of an application for certification is later deemed invalid by operation of this rule, the office may require the communications service provider to file a new application pursuant to rule 129—21.3(8B,427).

[ARC 2782C, IAB 10/26/16, effective 11/30/16; ARC 5173C, IAB 9/9/20, effective 10/14/20]

129—21.8(8B,427) Certification of completion and field testing. To the extent applicable, after an installation of broadband infrastructure certified by the office is fully installed in a targeted service area, the communications service provider for which a certification was issued must certify to the office that such installation facilitates broadband service at or above the download and upload speeds specified in the definition of targeted service area. The office may, in its discretion, conduct field tests for compliance with the requirements of Iowa Code section 427.1(40) "b" at any time after broadband service is available in a targeted service area. Such field tests may include but not be limited to speed tests from any location in a targeted service area in which the project was deployed or, in the case of wireline installations, the communications service provider's network operation center or central office. As applicable, noncompliance may be reported to the attorney general, the department of revenue, or applicable county board of supervisors.

[ARC 2782C, IAB 10/26/16, effective 11/30/16; ARC 4606C, IAB 8/14/19, effective 9/18/19]

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code sections 8B.1 and 427.1(40) as amended by 2019 Iowa Acts, House File 772.

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[Filed ARC 5173C (Notice ARC 5110C, IAB 7/29/20), IAB 9/9/20, effective 10/14/20]