

CHAPTER 24
BROADBAND FORWARD AND TELECOMMUTER FORWARD CERTIFICATIONS

Chapter rescission date pursuant to Iowa Code section 17A.7: 2/25/31

261—24.1(15E) Definitions.

“*Applicant*” means a political subdivision that submits an application to the authority for a broadband forward certification or telecommuter forward certification.

“*Authority*” means the economic development authority created in Iowa Code section 15.105.

“*Broadband*” means the same as defined in Iowa Code section 8.76.

“*Broadband infrastructure*” means the same as defined in Iowa Code section 8.76.

“*Certification*” means a certificate issued to a political subdivision pursuant to this chapter.

“*Political subdivision*” means the same as defined in Iowa Code section 15E.167.

“*Program*” means the broadband forward and telecommuter forward certification program established pursuant to Iowa Code section 15E.167 and this chapter.

[ARC 9997C, IAB 1/21/26, effective 2/25/26]

261—24.2(15E) Application, review, and approval.

24.2(1) *Application.* The authority will develop a standardized application process and make information on applying available on the authority’s website at www.opportunityiowa.gov. To apply for certification under the program, a political subdivision shall submit an application to the authority in the form and manner prescribed by the authority. A political subdivision may apply for broadband forward certification and telecommuter forward certification concurrently.

24.2(2) *Review.* The authority will review each complete application to determine whether an applicant meets the criteria for certification.

24.2(3) *Approval.* The authority may approve, deny or defer applications for certification. If the authority approves an application for certification, the authority will issue a broadband forward or telecommuter forward certificate and assist the political subdivision in publicizing its certification.

[ARC 9997C, IAB 1/21/26, effective 2/25/26]

261—24.3(15E) Broadband forward certification.

24.3(1) To obtain broadband forward certification, a political subdivision shall submit to the authority an application that meets the criteria in Iowa Code section 15E.167(3).

24.3(2) A political subdivision applying for certification shall designate a single point of contact with the responsibilities described in Iowa Code section 15E.167(4).

24.3(3) The authority will evaluate whether the applicant demonstrates that its efforts or proposed efforts to develop broadband infrastructure and access to broadband will have a sufficient impact that warrants certification.

[ARC 9997C, IAB 1/21/26, effective 2/25/26]

261—24.4(15E) Telecommuter forward certification.

24.4(1) A political subdivision that meets the criteria for broadband forward certification may apply for telecommuter forward certification. To obtain telecommuter forward certification, a political subdivision shall submit to the authority an application that meets the criteria in Iowa Code section 15E.167(6).

24.4(2) A political subdivision applying for certification shall designate a single point of contact designated with the responsibilities described in Iowa Code section 15E.167(7).

24.4(3) The authority will evaluate whether the applicant demonstrates that its efforts or proposed efforts to further develop and promote the availability of telecommuting will have a sufficient impact that warrants certification.

[ARC 9997C, IAB 1/21/26, effective 2/25/26]

261—24.5(15E) Maintenance of certification.

24.5(1) Reports. A political subdivision certified pursuant to this chapter shall submit an annual report to the authority verifying its continued eligibility for certification pursuant to Iowa Code section 15E.167. If applicable, the report will also address a political subdivision's compliance with the restrictions in Iowa Code section 15E.167(5).

24.5(2) Revocation of certification. The authority shall revoke the certification of a political subdivision that does not comply with the requirements of Iowa Code section 15E.167 or that the authority otherwise determines is no longer eligible for certification pursuant to this chapter.

[ARC 9997C, IAB 1/21/26, effective 2/25/26]

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code section 15E.167.

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