

---

## FISCAL UPDATE Article

Fiscal Services Division

October 27, 2020



---

Ground Floor, State Capitol Building

Des Moines, Iowa 50319

515.281.3566

### EMPOWER RURAL IOWA BROADBAND GRANTS — OCTOBER 2020

**Background.** On October 26, 2020, Governor Reynolds announced [a new round](#) of grants to expand broadband access. The \$5.0 million in additional broadband grants is the latest in a series of [Empower Rural Iowa Broadband Grants](#) to provide more Iowans access to critical broadband infrastructure. The first Empower Rural Iowa Broadband Grants were made in 2018. To date, more than 61,000 homes, schools, and businesses are slated to get access to broadband service in rural Iowa. With matching funds from the Empower Rural Iowa Initiative and federal [Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security \(CARES\) Act](#)-funded grants, the total infrastructure investment in Iowa comes to more than \$121.0 million with this latest round of broadband grants.

**Application Information.** The application window for the latest round of broadband grants is open from October 29, 2020, through November 22, 2020. Applications can be submitted electronically through the [Iowa Grants System](#) (Funding Opportunity #380273). Comments and questions can be emailed to [ociogrants@iowa.gov](mailto:ociogrants@iowa.gov) from October 23, 2020, through October 28, 2020.

LSA Staff Contact: Eric Richardson (515.281.6767) [eric.richardson@legis.iowa.gov](mailto:eric.richardson@legis.iowa.gov)

Doc ID 1155744