Marion County

Broadband Initiative Outcomes



Marion County Economic Development Staff, with the assistance of Magellan Consultants and multiple RARE AmeriCorps participants, have worked since 2017 to bridge the digital divide by supporting and facilitating the development and expansion of fiber-based broadband service to unserved and underserved rural areas of Marion County.

Broadband
Business
Analysis &
Strategic Plan

2018-19

Start of Public-Private-Partnership Projects 2019-20

Broadband Rural Outreach, Surveying and Mapping 2021-22 Collected Rural Speed Tests & FCC Map Challenges 2022-23

Facilitated &
Supported ISP
Applications to
BDP and BEAD
Grant Programs
2023-24

Completed Deployment Projects

Wheatland-Metheny Rd Project - 2020

- Partnered with DataVision
- 48 rural connections
- Marion County lottery contribution \$150,000
- DataVision contribution \$151,408

Detroit-Idanha Project - 2020

- Partnered with Ziply
- 477 rural connections
- Marion County contributed staff support
- Ziply received CARES Act funding of \$627,300

Arbor-Grove Rd Project - 2021

- Partnered with St-Paul Cooperative Telephone
- 22 rural connections
- Marion County lottery contribution \$60,000
- St Paul Cooperative contribution \$47,450

Howell-Prairie Rd Project - 2023

- Partnered with DataVision
- 24 rural connections
- Marion County lottery contribution \$150,000
- DataVision contribution \$194,929

The deployment of fiber-based broadband service enhances economic growth and diversification, the ability of citizens and businesses to access education, healthcare and public safety services – improving the overall quality of life of rural communities.

Broadband Generates Economic Value





571 rural connections



\$1,113,450 of added annual economic value within rural communities

*calculated using broadband impact estimates from the



Up to 3.1% increase in property values

*per FBA study on property values