Sample / Examples of Barriers to Broadband

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Topography

Broadband networks are difficult to build in and around Anytown Iowa. This is one of the reasons we have such limited access to competitive broadband services. Anytown River effectively divides our community in half, and getting infrastructure that can span that divide is difficult and expensive for providers. Similarly, since we are located in a river valley, wireless internet becomes challenging as well. Wireless providers have install more tower (more expense) to serve homes and businesses along the river front; the bluffs effectively block wireless service to the north end of town as well.

Rurality

The NW corner of Anytown County is extremely rural. It is primarily an agricultural area with many farms, but spread apart by several miles. In conversations with service providers, it is difficult to justify spending a lot of money to reach a handful of customers. But our rural residents want and need internet connectivity both for business and personal reasons. Whether its precision agriculture or simply doing online shopping or entertainment, none of this is possible without better internet service.

Demographics

Anytown Iowa has a higher than average poverty rate in comparison to other Iowa communities. New service providers are hesitant to invest in expensive broadband infrastructure that will ultimately serve citizens who fall at or below the poverty line. Existing provider(s) will not upgrade or improve their networks for the same reason. It is imperative that we provide this essential service to our most at-risk citizens.