



Bremer County Recognized as Certified Connected Community

Bremer County completes technology plan aimed at bridging technology gap, boosting economy, paving way for improved quality of life

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[View the technology action plan](#)

Bremer County, IA – Today, legislative leaders and local officials joined Connect Iowa to recognize Bremer County for becoming a Certified Connected Community and releasing its technology action plan.

“It is clear the economy is changing, and to remain competitive, we must remain connected,” said Governor Branstad in recognition of the achievement. “The communities that will thrive in this new economy are those that take every opportunity to organize and plan to continually improve their technological capabilities. That is precisely what Bremer County has done with this Connected Community assessment.”

Bremer County is the 3rd county to become certified and the 13th community to hold a certification ceremony. The other communities in Iowa that have received this certification are Indianola, Webster City, West Des Moines, Black Hawk County, Creston, Fairfield, Osceola, Urbandale, Manning, Grinnell, Knoxville, Story County, Charles City, and Bremer County. Manchester, IA is also being recognized as a Certified Connected Community today.

Bremer County has been working since April 2014 with Connect Iowa on the [Connected Community Engagement Program](#). This initiative assesses the local broadband landscape, identifies connectivity gaps, and establishes technology-driven goals and objectives to increase broadband access, adoption, and use for families, organizations, and businesses throughout the community. Bremer County met the requirements necessary to achieve the Certified Connected Community status.

Kip Ladage, Bremer County community champion and Emergency Management Coordinator said, "Recently Iowa and the country was reminded about the importance of broadband. Through Connect Iowa's Connected Community program, Bremer County has worked hard to put our community on the path to being connected to the world."

"We congratulate Bremer County for its Certified Connected Community distinction," said Tom Ferree, Connected Nation president and COO. "The community and its leaders are committed to broadband technology and to improving its already strong broadband status. Connect Iowa and Connected Nation applaud their diligence to continue improving technology access to its citizens, businesses, and organizations."

For more information about the project or to join a Connected community technology team, please contact Connect Iowa at info@connectiowa.org.

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About Connect Iowa: Connect Iowa is a subsidiary of Connected Nation and operates as a nonprofit in the state of Iowa to promote broadband access, adoption, and use. The Iowa Economic Development Authority (IEDA) is leading the initiative to increase broadband Internet access throughout rural Iowa. Connect Iowa was commissioned by the state to work with all broadband providers in Iowa to create detailed maps of broadband coverage and develop a statewide plan for the deployment and adoption of broadband. For more information visit: www.connectiowa.org.

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Connected Nation developed the Connected Community Engagement Program to help guide a community through an assessment of its overall broadband and technology status.

Connected certified communities have measurably demonstrated their proficiency for effective Access, Adoption, and Use of broadband-supported technologies. Connected Nation through its partners provides a national platform for recognizing those communities that excel across these important benchmarks. Funded by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), this effort is part of the State Broadband Initiative. <http://www.connectednation.org/get-connected>