

Media Contact: Jeremy Thacker jthacker@connectednation.org (615) 521-5905 For Immediate Release June 6, 2013

Connect Iowa Releases New Broadband Availability Figures

Research shows encouraging increase in availability of higher broadband speeds in the past six months

Explore New Access Tables View the Map

Des Moines, IA – New research unveiled today by Connect Iowa reveals encouraging news for the state's broadband landscape. Access to higher speeds of Internet service is on the rise in both urban and rural areas across Iowa. In fact, 6.37% more households have access to broadband service of 10 Mbps download/1.5 Mbps upload (including mobile wireless) now than just six months ago. This is the seventh comprehensive broadband availability data refresh since the Connect Iowa program started in 2010.

Among the findings of the new broadband availability research are:

- 93.7% of lowa's 1.2 million households now have access to broadband service of at least 6 Mbps download/1.5 Mbps upload, including mobile wireless. That is an increase of 6.07% from October 2012 (excluding satellite services).
- 90% of lowa's households now have access to service of at least 10 Mbps download/1.5 Mbps upload, including mobile wireless. That is an increase of 6.37% since October 2012 (excluding satellite services).
- 97.74% of lowa's nearly 671,000 rural households now have access to broadband speeds of at least 3 Mbps download/768 Kbps upload, including mobile wireless. That is an increase of 3.14% since October 2012 (excluding satellite services).
- 88.27% of lowa households are now able to choose from more than one provider for broadband service (also excludes satellite providers).
- 29.72% of lowa households have access to broadband service of at least 25 Mbps download/1.5 Mbps upload, excluding mobile and satellite services.
- Only 3.93% of lowa households have access to broadband service of at least 100 Mbps download/1.5 Mbps upload, excluding mobile and satellite services.
- Broadband service of at least 1 Gbps download has been previously unavailable

statewide. However, Cedar Falls just announced news of becoming <u>lowa's first</u> <u>gigabit city</u>, now making the service available to 600 businesses and 11,000 homes, including 400 rural properties.

"It is encouraging to see continued increases in broadband availability, especially at speeds above the 3 Mbps mark, which allows lowans to really use all the resources available on the Internet," said Connect Iowa Program Manager Amy Kuhlers. "It's critical that we keep growing access to much higher speeds across the state to ensure Iowa remains competitive in the national and global economies as well as providing Iowans with all the other educational, safety, and other lifestyle opportunities the Internet brings."

Last year, Connect Iowa released an innovative new broadband mapping tool called My ConnectView M offering unmatched views of the Iowa technology landscape. Residents and businesses are encouraged to use the interactive map to find area providers and help validate the data. To report that broadband is not available in a given area, consumers can fill out a broadband inquiry.

Nonprofit Connect Iowa has been working since 2009 to ensure that Iowa residents have access to the economic, educational, and quality of life benefits derived from increased broadband access, adoption, and use. Part of that work includes maintaining detailed analysis of broadband availability across the state to support broadband planning efforts. Through its Connected Community Engagement Program, Connect Iowa is currently working with nearly two-dozen communities across the state to support comprehensive community broadband planning efforts and provide technical assistance.

Connect lowa's research was conducted as part of the State Broadband Initiative grant program for lowa, funded by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA). The data were gathered in accordance with the requirements of the NTIA. The process begins by contacting all known providers in the state and providing information about the broadband mapping project. Information on broadband service areas is collected from each provider through voluntary participation and is subject to confidentiality protections. Connected Nation strives to maintain a flexible mapping process to be able to collect data from providers in a variety of formats based on providers' technical capabilities and resources.

###

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.

Follow Connect Iowa on Facebook and Twitter.