



# Input Sought as Des Moines County Leaders Work to Boost Local Economy Through Innovative Tech Program

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*Residents invited to join groundbreaking effort for broadband expansion*

## **Kick Off Meeting**

### **Date and Time:**

Monday, May 7,  
5 p.m.

### **Location:**

SEIRPC  
1<sup>st</sup> Floor Mtg.  
Room 211 N. Gear  
Ave.  
West Burlington

**West Burlington** – A meeting to kick off an innovative technology program focused on growing the local economy and improving quality of life in Des Moines County is slated for May 7.

Local leaders from the Southeast Iowa Regional Planning Commission have elected to participate in an innovative program that seeks increased access, adoption, and use of broadband. Staff from Connect Iowa, the statewide nonprofit promoting solutions for broadband expansion, are guiding area leaders through the steps of the new [Connected](#) community certification program, offering a comprehensive and localized way for communities to bridge the digital divide.

A kick off meeting for the effort is set for 5 p.m., Monday, May 7, in the SEIRPC first floor meeting room at 211 N. Gear Ave in West Burlington, to begin building a plan to ensure that every home, school, organization, and business in the Des Moines County area has access to broadband.

Community members interested in the project are welcome to join. Local residents who represent the following sectors are also encouraged to attend:

- Business and industry
- Healthcare
- Libraries
- K-12 education
- Higher education
- Community-based organizations
- Government
- Agriculture
- Tourism, recreation and parks
- Tribal representatives

The local team will begin by assessing their current state of technology, work with Connect Iowa to determine what improvements are needed, and then devise a plan for achieving their local goals.

The *Connected* program is part of the Connect Iowa initiative. Connect Iowa is a non-profit working to accelerate the availability and use of technology throughout the state towards creating a better business environment, more effective community and economic development, improved healthcare, more efficient government, enhanced education, and improved quality of life.

For more information about the Connected project in Des Moines County, please contact Justin Bushong at [jbushong@seirpc.com](mailto:jbushong@seirpc.com) or (319) 753- 5107. You may also contact Connect Iowa at [info@connectiowa.org](mailto:info@connectiowa.org), or Connect Iowa Program Manager Amy Kuhlers at (515) 421-2561.

# # #

**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](http://www.connectiowa.org).

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