ABOUT THE PROJECT

The Central Iowa Hospital Corporation proposes to bring broadband capabilities to medical facilities across rural and underserved parts of Iowa. In a state with hundreds of thousands of underinsured residents residing in medically underserved locations, this project aims to improve health care and delivery, provide education and training for rural health practitioners, facilitate tele-health, support disaster readiness, and promote health education and awareness for residents. The awardee plans to partner with over 100 community serving institutions including 56 healthcare clinics and providers and 21 EMS units, seven city governments, and over 30 educational institutions by deploying equipment, broadband connectivity, training, and support to these critical community facilities. The project also plans to link correctional facilities with tele-health providers to create savings to taxpayers by significantly mitigating costs associated with transporting inmates.

The effort also expects to stimulate job creation within the rural health sector while improving health outcomes in medically underserved communities and delivering training and education to the rural healthcare workforce.

The Rural Iowa TeleHealth Initiative also proposes to:

- Provide 2,400 hours of teacher-led training each year for approximately 7,900 residents via distance learning over the three-year life of the project.
- Train over 1,000 healthcare staff in broadband-enabled tele-health capabilities.
- Leverage BTOP infrastructure awards to the Iowa Health System and Iowa Communications Network to support its sustainable broadband adoption goals.
- Measure and report on the use, outcomes, and satisfaction with tele-health technology to help inform future health technology efforts.

ORGANIZATION’S HISTORY

Central Iowa Hospital Corporation, doing business as Iowa Health - Des Moines, is the parent of four hospitals: Iowa Methodist Medical Center, Iowa Lutheran Hospital, Blank Children's Hospital, and Methodist West Hospital. More than 200 primary care physicians in 45 Iowa Health Physicians and Clinics offices work with the organization to help keep central Iowans healthy. The company’s mission is improving the health of its communities through healing, caring, and teaching.

PROJECT PARTNERS

- Clarke County Hospital
- Greene County Medical Center
- Guthrie County Hospital
- Grundy County Memorial Hospital