



East Buchanan
Telephone Coop

October 2020



FIBER

COMING SOON TO A RURAL HOME NEAR YOU!

EBTC is happy to announce that we've received an Empower Rural Iowa Emergency Broadband Grant (CARES Act) for over \$2.3 million dollars from the State of Iowa OCIO's office. You can read more on the enclosed press release and see the map of the grant coverage area.

In a nutshell, this grant will provide for fiber internet connectivity in our rural areas where 25/3 speeds (25 Mbps download / 3 Mbps upload) aren't available. But it's much more than that. Customers should be able to get speeds up to 1 Gbps (1,000 Mbps) as compared to some customers currently subscribing to extremely low speeds such as 3, 5, or 10 Mbps. The faster speeds allowed by fiber optics will virtually allow subscribers to eliminate buffering when streaming.

But let's go to the next level. Fiber optics providing these speeds will also allow cooperative members in rural areas to have their students study online without connectivity issues. Workers who are telecommuting from home will be able to be on business video conferences and not have streaming issues – even if a spouse is watching videos or their children are doing online homework. And the faster speeds also allow tele-medicine to be used by having doctor appointments on your computer instead of appearing in person and exposing those at high-risk to communicable illnesses such as COVID-19.

We have found that most homes don't realize how many connected devices are on their home "Wi-Fi" network. Sure, it's known that you have a desktop or laptop and maybe a tablet or two. But does your student(s) each bring home a tablet from school? What about your smartphones that you connect to your home network? Gaming devices, and security cameras which require faster upload speeds. But let's not forget about your smart speakers, your Roku streaming stick or Apple TV box, your Fitbit or other health watch. Do you have a digital photo frame or a VOIP phone? And let's not forget your smart thermostat, doorbell or refrigerator! All of these use a portion of the speed package in your household. If you're using a device and it's buffering, check to see how many other devices are turned on and robbing your device of its needed data for a great experience. By choosing a higher speed package, there will be enough data for all your devices.

This project was supported by federal funds made available through the CARES Act and State of Iowa, acting by and through the Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO). Points of view expressed herein are those of the author or speaker and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the United States Government or State of Iowa or endorsement of the project.

NEW INTERNET SPEED PACKAGES – WITH OR WITHOUT A LANDLINE PHONE

With fiber optics already deployed in the rural areas of the Aurora-Stanley exchange and now planned for areas of Winthrop as well as Quasqueton, we realized that it's time to adjust our Internet packages so our cooperative members can take advantage of fiber optics. Plus we've heard your requests to not require a landline phone to obtain Internet service.

Rates	Winthrop & Quasqueton	Aurora-Stanley	Price w/out Landline Phone Service	Download/Upload Speeds
Lifeline Plan with Phone	\$73.45/month*	\$73.70/month*	N/A	10/10 Mbps
Basic Plan with Phone	\$91.45/month*	\$91.70/month*	\$79.95	50/50 Mbps
Fast Plan with Phone	\$118.45/month*	\$118.70/month*	\$109.95	350/100 Mbps
Fastest Plan with Phone	\$158.45/month*	\$158.70/month*	\$149.95	1 Gig = 1000/500 Mbps

Download and Upload Speeds are "Best Effort." *Plus taxes and surcharges

Effective on October 1st, all new customers or existing customers changing Internet speed plans will be converted to these new rate plans immediately. On January 1, 2021, all remaining customers on any currently existing plans will be migrated to these new plans.



ADOPTION GRANT

As part of the CARES Act grant that we've received, a portion is to assist cooperative members who because of COVID-19 issues are now required to have a speed package above 25/3. Customers applying for the Adoption Grant credit must sign an attestation that: 1) they don't currently receive Lifeline program discounts, 2) the customer needs the higher speed due to COVID-19 circumstances (tele-education, tele-work, tele-health reasons), 3) the customer had not previously subscribed to 25/3 speeds (or above) from a competing service provider within the last 6 months. The deadline to sign up for the credits is Monday, November 23rd at 5:00 PM.

ANNUAL COOPERATIVE MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Mark your calendars for Monday, December 7th at 1:30pm for the East Buchanan Telephone Cooperative membership meeting to be held at St. Patrick's Social Hall for social-distancing purposes. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, we are also attempting to have members attend via a Zoom meeting. Please watch for further notices.

Interested in serving on our board?

If you are interested in serving on the EBTC Board of Directors and wish to be on the ballot, please call our office as soon as possible.

CALL BEFORE YOU DIG!

Iowa One Call toll-free:

1-800-292-8989

You must call **AT LEAST TWO DAYS** before you begin digging



SITE SURVEYS

With the new CARES Act grant through the state of Iowa, there are some extremely fast construction deadlines that need to be reached for fiber deployment or the grant funding will be withdrawn. Our technicians are very busy visiting customers homes and rural businesses to conduct an evaluation of where the new fiber optic cable should be placed as it might not be the same entrance as the old copper wire. If you've been contacted by us regarding a site survey, please call our office asap to set an appointment so we receive the grant funding!