

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Aug. 25, 2021

Lt. Gov. Crouch, Indiana Broadband Office designate Huntington County as the 50th Broadband Ready Community

INDIANAPOLIS (Aug. 25, 2021) – Today, Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch and the Indiana Broadband Office visited Huntington University to announce that Huntington County as an official Broadband Ready Community, making it the 50th Hoosier community to receive the designation. The Broadband Ready Communities Program was created as a tool to encourage broadband development throughout Indiana.

The Broadband Ready Community certification sends a signal to the telecommunication industry that a community has taken steps to reduce barriers to broadband infrastructure investment.

“Congratulations to Huntington County on receiving the Broadband Ready designation and to the 49 other Hoosier communities that have taken the appropriate measures to remove barriers that attract broadband investment,” Crouch said. “Huntington County’s designation comes at a great time as Indiana further invests in expanding broadband infrastructure. With \$270 million available to invest in this critical infrastructure through our Next level Connections Broadband grant program, our administration remains focused on getting high-speed, reliable internet service to unserved and underserved Hoosiers.”

The certification was approved by the Indiana Broadband Office following the Huntington County Commissioners adoption of a Broadband Ready Community ordinance.

"Huntington County is honored to receive the designation as a certified Broadband Ready Community. To compete for high quality development, along with talent attraction and retention, strong broadband connectivity is essential. This pandemic has shown us that economic and educational resiliency depends upon expanded access to broadband for work-from-home and school-from-home options. By making our permitting process more user-friendly to all development and by streamlining the broadband permitting process, Huntington County is welcoming expanded broadband throughout the county," said Huntington County Commissioner Tom Wall. "We are grateful to Senator Andy Zay for authoring the Indiana Broadband Expansion bill, which spurred us to apply for this Broadband Ready Community certification."

According to Scott Rudd, Director of the Indiana Broadband Office, over the last 6 months, there has been a major uptick in communities seeking the Broadband Ready designation.

"Today we celebrate with Huntington County for taking this step to success. Their County Leadership understands the importance of affordable and reliable broadband access to all residents," Rudd said.

Via 2020 legislation, the Broadband Ready Community Program was transitioned from the Indiana Economic Development Corporation ([IEDC](#)) to the Office of Community and Rural Affairs ([OCRA](#)). [IBO](#) began the day-to-day management of the Broadband Ready Community Program on July 1, 2020. For more information, visit in.gov/indianabroadband.



Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch (center) joins Huntington County Commissioner Tom Wall (second from left) and other local officials to announce Huntington County as the 50th Broadband Ready Community on Wednesday, Aug. 25, 2021, at Huntington University. The Broadband Ready Community designation sends a signal to the telecommunication industry that a community has taken steps to reduce barriers to broadband infrastructure investment.

Under the leadership of [Lieutenant Governor Suzanne Crouch](#), who also serves as the Secretary of Rural Development, the Indiana Broadband Office (IBO) mission is to assist residents in need of affordable and reliable broadband connectivity. This mission of reaching Hoosiers where they live, work and play is accomplished by communicating with stakeholders, providing resources to a diverse audience, and leveraging established relationships with elected officials, associations, and providers. For more information, visit in.gov/broadband.