

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Lt. Gov. Crouch, Indiana Broadband Office designate Daviess County as a Broadband Ready Community

INDIANAPOLIS (November 3, 2022) – Today, Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch and the Indiana Broadband Office announced that Daviess County is now designated as an official Broadband Ready Community. 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.

"We are resilient in finding opportunities to bring reliable, high-speed internet to unserved and underserved Hoosiers across the state," said Crouch. "Everyday communities lead these initiatives to improve overall quality of life, and today we congratulate Daviess County leaders investing in their residents and becoming certified Broadband Ready."

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

"We are excited to continue to advance Daviess County to the next level in broadband deployment," said Daviess County Commissioner, Nathan Gabhart. "Meeting the needs of tomorrow's workforce requires us to continually be looking over the horizon. We pride ourselves in Daviess County for being on the cutting edge of technology and infrastructure to provide the best foundation for a strong economy."

Earnie Holtrey, Project Manager at the Indiana Broadband Office congratulates Daviess County leadership on their initiative to become a Broadband Ready Community.

"It is exceptional to see the Daviess County Commissioners position their community in the most effective means possible towards affordable and reliable connectivity. This is a special day for the county and its residents, and we are honored to celebrate this designation with them," said Holtrey.

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

Under the leadership of <u>Lieutenant Governor Suzanne Crouch</u>, 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 <u>in.gov/broadband</u>.