

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Lt. Gov. Crouch, Indiana Broadband Office designate Putnam County as a Broadband Ready Community**

**INDIANAPOLIS** (June 23, 2021) – Today, Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch and the Indiana Broadband Office announced Putnam 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.

“The Indiana Broadband Office and I are excited that Putnam County leaders have taken the necessary steps to receive the Broadband Ready Community certification,” Crouch said. “This designation comes at a great time as Indiana further invests in expanding broadband infrastructure for Hoosiers with a new law that allocates another \$250 million to increasing high-speed, reliable internet opportunities.”

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

“The Greencastle/Putnam County Development Center understands the importance of broadband to a growing community like ours, both with residents and businesses. We are grateful the state has made this program possible, and we want to promote broadband in our community. We have many good providers in our county that will work with us to help provide quality broadband service to Putnam County” the Putnam County Commissioners said in a joint statement.

According to Scott Rudd, Director of the Indiana Broadband Office, there are now more than 45 Indiana communities with the Broadband Ready designation.

"We are excited to add Putnam County to the ever-growing list of Broadband Ready communities," Rudd said. "Local leadership in Putnam County should be commended for its commitment to broadband development, and the Broadband Ready Community designation further illustrates that commitment."

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](https://in.gov/indianabroadband).

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*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](https://in.gov/broadband).*