

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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

**INDIANAPOLIS** (July 21, 2021) – Today, Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch and the Indiana Broadband Office announced Randolph 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.

“This designation comes at a great time as Indiana further invests in expanding broadband infrastructure,” Crouch said. “Our administration remains focused on getting high-speed, reliable internet service to unserved and underserved Hoosiers. Congratulations to Randolph County as it joins dozens of other Indiana communities that are now broadband ready and looking to attract this critical investment.”

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

“Broadband connectivity in Randolph County is a requirement for the viability and success of everyone in the county including the education system, small businesses, farmers, and individual families. Broadband is as necessary today as were roads and electricity of the past. If Randolph County is to continue to survive and grow, everyone must participate in establishing broadband connectivity for now and for the future,” said Randolph County Commissioner Gary Girton.

According to Scott Rudd, Director of the Indiana Broadband Office, there have been 8 communities that have achieved the Broadband Ready designation over the last year.

“We commend Randolph County for taking this step to success. 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](https://in.gov/indianabroadband).

*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).*