



BROADBAND READY COMMUNITIES

DESCRIPTION

The IEDC will assist in encouraging broadband development throughout Indiana by certifying communities as broadband ready.

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.

While investment in broadband infrastructure is not guaranteed to follow once a community obtains the certification, reducing the regulatory hurdles that deter investment is a key step towards creating an environment ripe for broadband investment.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Any community in Indiana pursuing improved broadband access is eligible for the Broadband Ready Community certification and may apply through the IEDC.

The IEDC will certify a unit as a Broadband Ready Community if it meets the following requirements:

- » Fill out the online application form, accessed via the Broadband Center website.
- » Upload via the online application form any supporting documentation necessary to demonstrate compliance with the eight (8) statutory requirements under IC 5-28-28.5-7.

Please send questions or inquiries to—
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Small Business Ombudsman
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MINIMUM STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS

In order to comply with statutory requirements, a unit seeking the Broadband Ready Community certification must institute procedures that provide for

- (1) The appointment of a single point of contact for all matters related to broadband development projects
- (2) The establishment of procedures to allow for the electronic submission of all forms, applications, and documentation required for a broadband development project
- (3) A requirement that all permit applications are approved or denied within 10 business days after they are filed
- (4) An assurance that all inspections related to a broadband project will be completed in a timely and expeditious manner

These procedures must also prohibit the unit from

- (5) Requiring the designation of a final contractor to complete a broadband project
- (6) Imposing a fee to review an application or to issue a permit on a broadband project
- (7) Imposing a seasonal moratorium on the issuance of permits for a project
- (8) Discriminating among communications service providers

MODEL ORDINANCE/RESOLUTION

One way a unit can comply with the requirements of state law is to pass a resolution or ordinance establishing permit procedures.

The IEDC, in collaboration with the telecommunications industry and local government representatives, has created a model ordinance to assist communities in this effort. The model ordinance, found on the Broadband Center website, satisfies the minimum requirements under IC 5-28-28.5-7.