MUNICIPAL SUCCESS
STORIES FROM IOWA

Curtis Dean, SmartSource Consulting and Community
Broadband Action Network
EARLY ADOPTERS

• 1980’s: Several communities build municipal cable systems. This was before Iowa law required a referendum.

• 1994-2000: Dozens of successful referenda to authorize municipal telecommunications, including several towns with legacy cable systems

• New or upgraded hybrid fiber-coax (HFC) systems built in 15 communities.

• Offering cable TV, telephone, and internet

• Most early adopters: projects driven by the need for better TV and telephone service
THE DROUGHT

• Between 2001 and 2014, only ONE community (Lenox) approved a referendum that led to a successful municipal network.

• "Opportunity Iowa", November 2005 – referenda approved in 19 communities but none of them have built broadband (yet).
THE RENAISSANCE

• 2015: Vinton approved a referendum on the THIRD TRY. Began fiber network operations in 2020.
• 2017: Adair approved referendum (100%); neighboring telecom cooperative is building fiber
• 2018: Pella approved referendum. Beginning to hook up customers now.
CURTIS DEAN CONTACT INFO:

Phone: (515) 650-0251
Email: Curtis@smartsourcconsulting.com

Thank you!