



## Connect Every Acre

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In 2014, Governor Branstad offered a “Connect Every Iowan” broadband initiative to help reduce the “digital divide” and better deploy technology assets across the state. In addition to initiatives to better connect Iowans, Governor Branstad recognizes the critical broadband needs of rural Iowa. In particular, it is important to leverage new opportunities for economic growth in rural Iowa as our agricultural producers adopt and deploy new data-driven technologies in the field.

The newly announced “Connect Every Acre” initiative will drive action to help achieve the Governor’s goal of becoming the “Most Connected State in the Midwest” under the TechNet State Broadband Index. It will truly work to connect every acre by targeting investments to projects that prioritize connecting Iowa farms, schools and communities.

Specifically:

- Identifies the State of Iowa OCIO to coordinate statewide broadband availability and access between the public and private sector.
- Creates the Iowa Farms, Schools and Communities Broadband Grant Program to award grants to communication service providers to invest broadband access to farms, schools and communities. Governor Branstad’s Fiscal Year 2016 budget includes \$5 million for these grants.
- Provides a 100% property tax exemption for broadband infrastructure for infrastructure in place on or after July 1, 2014.
- Streamlines the permitting process by requiring permitting authorities for non-wireless broadband related permits to be done within sixty business days.

“The fabric of our state is woven together by the gravel roads and the interstate system, but in this day and age it also must be connected through access to broadband as well. This legislative session, let’s come together and pass legislation allowing rural Iowa to experience continued growth and connection to the rest of Iowa and the rest of the world.”

– Iowa Governor Terry E. Branstad, 2015  
Condition of the State address, Jan. 13, 2015