The State of Iowa established a challenge process in which the public can dispute inaccurate broadband data.

The Commission evaluated 3.1 million Iowa residents and found that 3 million people (96%) had fixed broadband access. In rural areas, it determined that 1 of 1.1 million people (91.2%) have access to a fixed broadband connection at minimum speeds. Among urban residents, the FCC evaluated 2 million people and found that nearly all (98.7%) had fixed broadband access.

The State of Iowa uses Form 477 data as the basis for the state broadband map, using data published by the FCC in September 2019. The state opened a challenge process inviting the public to dispute the data from September 4 to September 28, 2020. A final version of the map was released on October 28, 2020, then another challenge process opened, which is currently under review.

Iowa’s estimates show that 1,166,701 households are served with fixed broadband of at least 25/3 Mbps across wired and wireless technologies, and that 54,875 remain unserved. Additionally, it shows that 98.1% of households are served with at least 10/1 Mbps speeds and 21,035 households remain unserved by even those services that do not constitute broadband. Finally, it shows that 85.69% of households have access to broadband at 100/10 Mbps speeds and 85.7% of households can access at least 50/5 Mbps broadband.

While broadband is available at high rates in counties like Buena Vista (99.2%) and Chickasaw (99.2%), the percentage of households with broadband access is much lower in counties like Adams (61.7%) and Ringgold (66.4%). Among different technologies, 69.5% of households have access to cable at current broadband speeds, with 69.1% of households having access to cable at speeds of 100/10 Mbps; 35.8% of households have access to fiber, and 34.4% having access to fiber at speeds of at 100/10 Mbps; 35.1% of households have access to DSL at 25/3 Mbps speeds, with only 18.9% having access to DSL at speeds of 100/10 Mbps. 52.2% of households have access to fixed wireless at 25/3 Mbps speeds, while only 1.57% of households have 100/10 Mbps wireless speeds.

BroadbandNow reports that in Iowa, 81.3% of residents have terrestrial broadband access while only 18.5% have access to a wired plan priced below $60 per month. According to data collected by Microsoft in November 2019, approximately two million people in Iowa do not use the Internet at broadband speeds.

Additional Resources:
- Broadband Blues
- FCC has money for rural broadband but isn’t sure where to spend it
- Virus exposes Iowa’s broadband weaknesses
- Iowa and the nation need real rural broadband solutions