



November 10, 2023

Hello there!

CTC is applying for a grant through the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development's Border-to-Border Broadband Development Grant program. If successfully awarded, funding would enable us to build a high-speed fiber internet network in Clinton Township!

In order to help increase the chances of being awarded grant funding, we're asking residents and business owners to send us letters of support so we can include them in the application.

If you're able to send an email or write a letter, please include your name, address, and reasons why you, your family, and/or your business would benefit from high-speed broadband internet. It's helpful to specifically address the lack of and/or unreliability of your current services. Commenting on how broadband would improve opportunities for farming, business, education, healthcare, business, safety, income/economics, or other significant items specific to your life, is beneficial as well.

Letters of support should be addressed to:

*Office of Broadband Development
180 E 5th St Suite 1200
St. Paul, MN 55101*

Completed letters can be emailed to anita@gocctc.com or mailed to CTC at 8 Third Avenue NW, Crosby, MN 56441.

The grant application is due soon so please direct questions to CTC and/or send your letter of support before December 4th.

A document with more details about the grant process and a sample letter of support is included for your reference.

Thank you, in advance, for your support of this application!

Regards,

The CTC Team

CTC Brainerd
1102 Madison Street
Brainerd, MN 56401

CTC Baxter
14385 Edgewood Drive
Baxter, MN 56425

CTC Crosby
8 Third Avenue NW
Crosby, MN 56441

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Clinton Township Broadband Grant Opportunity FAQs

Who is CTC? CTC is a cooperative headquartered in Brainerd. We have been providing telecommunications services - such as phone, internet, and television - since 1952. For more information about CTC and the services that we offer to businesses and residents, visit www.goctc.com.

Why are you reaching out to me? CTC is applying for a grant through the MN DEED's Border-to-Border Broadband Development Grant program. If we are awarded funding, it would enable us to build high-speed fiber internet in your area. You will have the option to opt-in or opt-out of our services. A grant award does not require anyone to sign-up for services or require construction on your property.

What services would be available to me? CTC offers the fastest, most reliable broadband internet services available. CTC's broadband services are superior to the services offered by other internet providers because we bring fiber optics directly to your home. Once to the home, fiber technology offers symmetrical high-speed internet via seamless Wi-Fi coverage throughout your home or hard-wired connections, whichever you prefer. CTC also offers landline telephone and business solutions. You can view our complete list of services at www.goctc.com.

Why is CTC applying for this grant? Rural areas are currently some of the least served areas in Minnesota. The Governors Broadband Taskforce has set a goal that all residents will have access to internet with speeds of 100Mb download and 20Mb upload by 2026. CTC fully supports this goal and will strive to do our part to help our local communities gain the connectivity they need and deserve.

What are the terms of the grant and what will this cost me? As the grant applicant, CTC will receive grant funds and provide the required financial match. If awarded, the funding will cover construction of fiber optics alongside roads and the fiber optic "drop cable", which is buried from the road to the side of your home or business. The funds also cover the cost of installation, to be completed by CTC technicians, once you subscribe to CTC services.

Why isn't more area included in the project? The grant application must meet specific criteria to be considered for funding. CTC has carefully reviewed all state and federal rules and programs to ensure we submit the most competitive application possible. If the project is awarded, CTC will continue to look for ways to expand our coverage area.

When will CTC find out if the grants have been awarded and when would construction begin? According to the grant program documentation, awards will be announced in early-mid 2024.

What can I do to help the chances of the project being funded? If you are a resident or a business owner, please consider writing a letter of support. Include your name, address, and reasons why you need broadband. Specifically address the current lack of (or unreliability of) services available at your home and/or business. Comment specifically on how broadband would improve opportunities for agriculture, education, healthcare, business, safety, income/economics, or other significant items specific to your life.

Letters of support should be addressed to:

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180 E 5th St Suite 1200
St. Paul, MN 55101*

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Project Map. This map is an *ESTIMATE* of the proposed project boundaries and are subject to change as CTC continues to evaluate all grant guidelines and create the most competitive application possible.



This grant opportunity is the BEST opportunity CTC is aware of to bring fiber optics to this area.

Since this state grant program is highly competitive, it is imperative that we garner as much community support as possible!

Please direct questions to CTC and/or send letters of support before December 4th!

SAMPLE LETTER

November [REDACTED], 2023

Office of Broadband Development
Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development
180 E 5th St Suite 1200
St. Paul, MN 55101

Dear Commissioner Varilek, Bree Maki, and members of the review team:

We are writing this letter to encourage an award of Border-to-Border Broadband program grant funds to CTC.

We currently reside in the area of Clinton Township in St. Louis County, Minnesota, where the proposed grant would be deployed. Our area is in urgent need of high-speed, reliable broadband internet services to support the residents, businesses, schools, farms, and healthcare facilities in or near where we live.

We have been left behind by private enterprise providers due to the high cost of providing access in the rural and unserved areas of Minnesota. We are forced to use slower, less reliable satellite services or dial-up for internet at home. These services are not cost effective and/or affordable for our family. We often have to plan a commute to town or some other place to access the internet.

As a household with (young children/remote work requirements/small business opportunities) it is extremely difficult in today's digital world to balance life, education, business, and recreation without adequate internet services.

It is apparent that the need for efficient internet services is a necessity for communities to survive and grow. The grant will address many needs for our rural area of Minnesota and effectively make this area competitive with our urban counterparts.

Again, we support CTC's effort to extend their network to Clinton Township and hope you strongly consider their request.

Sincerely,

(names of family members)