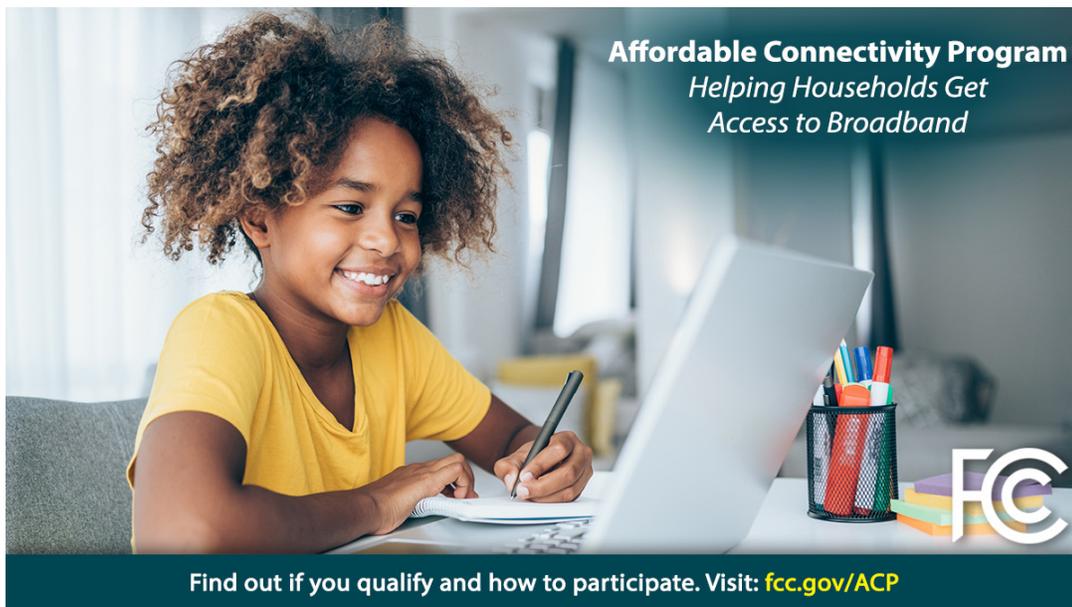




114 W. Jefferson, Bloomfield
www.mycmtech.com • 641-664-2074

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NEWSLETTER



The Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) is an FCC benefit program that helps ensure that households can afford the broadband they need for work, school, healthcare and more. The benefit provides a discount of up to \$30 per month toward internet service for eligible households and is limited to one monthly service discount.

Who Is Eligible for the Affordable Connectivity Program?

A household is eligible if a member of the household meets at least one of the criteria below:

- Has an income that is at or below 200% of the federal poverty guidelines; *or*
- Participates in certain assistance programs, such as SNAP, Medicaid, Federal Public Housing Assistance, SSI, WIC, or Lifeline;
- Participates in Tribal specific programs, such as Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance, Tribal TANF, or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations;
- Is approved to receive benefits under the free and reduced-price school lunch program or the school breakfast program, including through the USDA Community Eligibility Provision in the 2019-2020, 2020-2021, or 2021-2022 school year;
- Received a Federal Pell Grant during the current award year; *or*
- Meets the eligibility criteria for a participating provider's existing low-income program.

Emergency Broadband Benefit (EBB) recipients fully enrolled as of December 31, 2021 will automatically continue to receive their current monthly benefit until March 1, 2022. At that time, they will be automatically transitioned into the ACP. You can learn more the program transition and steps you may need to take to stay enrolled after March 1st, by visiting fcc.gov/broadbandbenefit.

Scholarship Opportunities for High School Seniors

Citizens Mutual is offering scholarships to seniors whose parents are members of the Cooperative.



• Iowa Communications Alliance

Membership Scholarship

ICA is excited to announce the availability of two \$2,500 scholarships to be awarded to students whose parents or guardians are currently employed by or serving as a director of an Iowa Communications Alliance “Active Member” Company. This application is also open to any student who is a current employee of an ICA Active Member Company.

New for 2022, the applicant eligibility has been expanded to include both high school seniors and current full-time undergraduate college/university students who will be continuing their undergraduate education in the 2022-2023 academic year.

The application is available at:

www.iacomcommunicationsall.org/ica-scholarship-programs

• Next Gen Scholars Program

The Iowa Communications Alliance Next Gen Scholars program was created in response to our member companies’ need for skilled technicians. This program is available to students planning to pursue **either the Network Technology -**

Telecommunications Certificate or the Network Technology - Telecom/Data Communications AAS Degree.

The process begins with recruitment, followed by an application and approval process. After the candidates are approved, the Iowa Communications Alliance, a sponsoring ICA member company, DMACC, and the student split the tuition costs for the program. The sponsoring company may offer a mentoring program including paid or unpaid internship opportunities while the student attends DMACC. Successful completion of the DMACC program usually qualifies graduates for an interview at the sponsoring company with a competitive salary and excellent advancement potential, though there is no guarantee of employment.

• Aureon Scholarship Program

The Aureon Scholarship Program is available to students pursuing a STEM-related course of study after high school graduation and residing in a home with service from an Iowa Independent Telecommunications Company (ITC). The program will award a total of \$10,000. Individual scholarships will range from \$1,000 to \$3,000.

The application deadline is midnight March 1, 2022.

To apply go to <https://www.aureon.com/eventpages/aureon-scholarship-program/>

• Foundation for Rural Service Scholarship

FRS (Foundation for Rural Service) will award two \$2,500 scholarships — one for the NTCA Rural Broadband Association geographic region and one sponsored by an NTCA associate member. These applications can be picked up at the High School Guidance Counselor’s office or at Citizens Mutual’s office. The completed applications must be postmarked and sent by Feb. 25, 2022



Hey, juniors, we have a trip for you!

Experience our nation's capital with the FRS (Foundation of Rural Services).

The FRS Youth tour brings more than 100 high school students from rural communities across the nation to Washington, D.C., for five days to learn about legislative and government processes and the importance of quality broadband connections. NTCA member companies, including Citizens Mutual, sponsor students and chaperones to attend and see our nation's capital in action. Citizens Mutual is proud to once again sponsor a student to attend the Foundation for Rural Service Youth Tour in Washington, D.C. This year's Youth Tour will be June 1-5, 2022.

This trip includes four nights' hotel accommodations, airfare, three meals a day, bus transportation to all activities, admission to ticketed events, and special entertainment.

Applications for the 2022 Youth Tour may be picked up at Citizens Mutual's business office located at 114 W. Jefferson St., Bloomfield or from the High School Guidance Counselor. Any student who is currently 16 or 17 living in Davis County and whose parents are subscribers of services from Citizens Mutual is eligible to apply. Home school students, comparable to a junior level, are also eligible. **All applications are to be returned to Citizens Mutual before March 5, 2022.**

A winner and an alternate will be selected on an anonymous basis by a committee of the Board of Directors of Citizens Mutual Telephone.

Watch out for pedestals



It is a new year and Citizens Mutual would like everyone to be watchful of the phone pedestals in the alleys and along the sides of roads and drives.

When a pedestal gets damaged, it can affect service to a large number of customers. So whether you are pushing snow this winter, burning weeds this spring, or clearing and mowing ditches and fence rows

this summer, please watch out for the phone pedestals.

If you ever happen to see one of our phone pedestals damaged, please kindly let us know so we can get it repaired and avoid any service outages.



Closed Captioning

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is concerned that consumers may experience difficulty in receiving and/or viewing closed captioning on some digital television (DTV) programming, including high definition television (HDTV), provided by a subscription video provider.

If you have difficulties with this service from Citizens Mutual, you should ensure that the captioning function on your set-top box, if applicable, is turned on and ensure that the captioning function on your DTV is also turned on.

If you are still unable to view closed captions, you should contact the cooperative for assistance.

For immediate closed captioning concerns:

Customer Service
Phone (24-hrs): 641-664-2074
Fax (24-hrs): 641-664-9780
Email: mycmtech@mycmtech.com

To file a written complaint regarding closed captioning issues contact:

Citizens Mutual Telephone Cooperative
Attn: Vince Tyson, General Manager
114 W Jefferson St, PO Box 130
Bloomfield, IA 52537
Phone: 641-664-2074
Fax: 641-664-9780
Email: mycmtech@mycmtech.com

Welcome to

citizens mutual



Drakesville

Tiffany Lindly 308 S. Polk St. 722-3116

Bloomfield

Clover & Bloom Boutique 106 S. Washington 664-1222

Michaela Ells 501 W. Poplar St 242-1134

Mark

Aaron McGregor 29204 Larch Ave. 929-3011

Jay Moore 27327 Nutchatch Ave. 929-3802



Citizens Mutual employees had a blast participating in Bloomfield Main Street's Hometown Christmas parade on December 4.

Annual Meeting and Summary of Bylaws

The following information is provided in accordance with the requirements of the Rural Utility Services (RUS):

- The Cooperative's annual meeting shall be held each year on the date designated by the Board of Directors.

- Notices shall be mailed to each member prior to each annual meeting.

- Each member shall be entitled to one vote on each item submitted at the meeting.

- All questions shall be decided by majority vote of those members present or represented by mail.

- Each director shall select and appoint a member of the Nominating Committee.

- The members of the Nominating Committee shall nominate cooperative members for vacancies on the Board of Directors in accordance with the prescribed director area representation.

- A statement of the nominations shall be mailed to each member not later than 60 days prior to the annual meeting.

The Cooperative's complete bylaws are printed in the information pages of your telephone directory.



Citizens Mutual Hours: 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday; 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Wednesday

Call Iowa One Call before you dig: 811 • Internet Tech Support: 1-800-205-1110

Payments are due on the 20th of each month.

For your convenience, Citizens Mutual offers Automatic Bank Deduct, payment boxes in the front of the building and in the alley, payment via e-statement and automatic credit card payment.