



A Broadband Initiative from the [Iowa Communications Network](#)



Empower Rural Iowa Broadband Grant Program

The State of Iowa is making available \$50,000,000 from the CARES Act Coronavirus Relief Fund (“CARES Act Funds”) to address the increased need for internet connectivity due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

BROADBAND GRANTS

Education

[State offers high-quality online opportunity for all districts in Iowa](#)

For K-12 schools that want to participate, there will be no cost for the upcoming school year using federal CARES Act dollars.

Source: Iowa Department of Education

[Hybrid Learning Goes Mainstream amid Response to COVID-19](#)

Many school districts are planning to reopen using a hybrid learning model, but with specifics varying so wildly, let's examine what that will mean for students and teachers.

Source: Center for Digital Education

[Governor Reynolds announces \\$1 million career academy competitive grant awarded to North Iowa Area Community College](#)

The proposal will expand access to career academy programs in some of the region's most in-demand fields.

Source: Iowa Department of Education

Digital Divide

[Microsoft CEO: Broadband internet access is a 'fundamental right'](#)

A new initiative aims to bring broadband and other services, such as free WiFi and digital skills training to rural communities in the 19 states where Land O'Lakes has farms.

Source: Northwest Indiana Times

[The Bay Area seniors who are left behind by a telehealth tech divide](#)

Seniors are most affected by COVID-19 and through a program by Community Tech Network they are assisted with training, internet connection and a tablet.

Source: Mercury News

Healthcare

[Patients want to keep using virtual care after COVID-19 pandemic ends, survey finds](#)

"Many patients said they felt care was more personal, more convenient, and timelier."

Source: Fierce Healthcare

[Prioritizing access to care: Keeping telehealth options for all Americans](#)

"As Congress considers additional coronavirus relief legislation, we must include measures to support a responsible, permanent expansion of telehealth."

Source: The Hill

[Telehealth got a huge boost from COVID-19. Now what?](#)

Telehealth had already been seeing growing demand; if there's a silver lining in the coronavirus pandemic, it's that it significantly accelerated that trend.

Source: Engadget

[Wellmark: Virtual mental health visits up 3,000% since pandemic began](#)

3 in 4 Americans with behavioral health conditions are continuing therapy services during the COVID-19 pandemic, due to virtual visits & other digital health services.

Source: Business Record

Cybersecurity

[Cybersecurity competition: CompTIA seeking high school and college students for hacker and security games](#)

The company will host prep sessions for the National Cyber League's cybersecurity competitions for individuals and teams.

Source: TechRepublic

[Cyberattacks Increasingly Threaten Schools — Here's What to Know](#)

61% of nearly 7.7 million enterprise malware encounters reported in the past month came from those in the education sector, making it the most affected industry.

Source: Ed Tech K12

[Alabama County Offices Work to Reopen After Cyberattack](#)

Officials say that they hope to reopen a pair of governmental office services during the week to come after a nearly two-week closure that was caused by a ransomware attack.

Source: Government Technology

Government

[U.S. House Committee Approves Massive Tech Spending Bills](#)

Tech spending was approved by the House Appropriations Committee. Twelve bills focus on boosting homeland security, election security, rural broadband and other issues.

Source: Government Technology

Public Safety

[FirstNet Begins Path to 5G](#)

The board has authorized \$200 million to go toward "initial upgrades to set FirstNet on the path to 5G" and "to expand the dedicated fleet of deployable assets."

Source: Telecompetitor

[Maryland Becomes Part of Larger Sex Offender Registry Network](#)

Maryland has contracted with OffenderWatch, an IT firm that has developed a vast network of sex offender registries across 21 states.

Source: Government Technology

[Stark County, Ohio, Moves Toward Text-to-911 Services](#)

With the new system, if any part of the network goes down, 911 calls would be routed through

another location.

Source: Government Technology

Connect with the Iowa Communications Network:

[Twitter](#) | [Facebook](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | [Instagram](#)