



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



## COMPUTER SCIENCE

### Gov. Kim Reynolds announces members of new Computer Science Work Group

"Computer science is no longer an elective course, but a basic skill every student needs to succeed in a technology-driven workplace," said Gov. Reynolds.

Source: Office of the Governor

## Education

### [A virtual Hour of Code starts now](#)

More than 8 million new students joined Code.org to begin learning computer science. Whether you're at home or in the classroom, anyone can host or participate in an Hour of Code!

Source: Code.org

### [Learn as you play with the CyberStart Game](#)

A free national program for high school students to master cybersecurity as a gateway to the industry, up their digital skills, & compete for scholarships!

Source: CyberStart

### [5 Things We've Learned About Virtual School In 2020](#)

The heart of the job right now is getting students connected with school and keeping them that way — both technologically and even more importantly, emotionally.

Source: Iowa Public Radio

### [Connected Nation, Funds For Learning Launch "Connect K-12" to Help State, District Leaders Improve School Connectivity](#)

Connect K-12, a free website that provides internet speed and pricing transparency information to help schools identify broadband solutions and negotiate better deals for services.

Source: Connected Nation

## Government

### [MS-ISAC hits 10,000 members, eyes continued growth with local governments](#)

It's helped foster a culture of intelligence sharing among state and local governments that are maturing as cybersecurity organization.

Source: StateScoop

### [How Biden Could Change the Conversation on Cybersecurity](#)

The incoming administration could mean significant changes for technology in federal cybersecurity. The increased attention will mean changes for state and local governments as well.

Source: Government Technology

## Healthcare

### [\*\*How health care systems are expanding telehealth to deliver care safely during Covid-19\*\*](#)

"Today, telehealth is a sustainable, long-term tool in our toolkit. It elevates safety, flexibility, convenience and access."

Source: Kansas City Business Journal

### [\*\*How the COVID-19 pandemic is reshaping healthcare with technology\*\*](#)

Geisinger Health's IT organization has kept up with a 500% increase in telehealth visits and a doubling of remote workers to 13,000 employees.

Source: CIO

## Public Safety

### [\*\*Emergency Communications Centers and FirstNet\*\*](#)

One of their most important roles is to proactively engage with the public safety community about how FirstNet can benefit emergency communications.

Source: FirstNet

### [\*\*App helps police find 911 callers who don't know their location\*\*](#)

Several police services across Ontario are using a new mobile app that helps first responders find 911 callers who don't know their location.

Source: CTVNews

### [\*\*Defense bill set to pass with state cybersecurity programs\*\*](#)

The final draft of the National Defense Authorization Act includes language that formalizes & expands the role that National Guard units play in cyber operations.

Source: StateScoop

## Cybersecurity

### [\*\*This holiday season, help friends and family avoid a scam\*\*](#)

Read these tips from the FTC's Pass it On campaign for ideas, and then tell people where to find them.

Source: Federal Trade Commission

### [\*\*5 keys to supporting telework effectively and securely\*\*](#)

Suddenly countless numbers of people are working from home. This massive shift can have huge repercussions from a security, privacy, regulatory and data governance standpoint.

Source: Insider Pro

### [\*\*Somehow, it managed to get worse': Ransomware ticks up in 2020\*\*](#)

Multiple strains of extortion malware have continued to wreak havoc across IT organizations, particularly state and local governments trying to survive through COVID-19.

Source: StateScoop

## Digital Divide

### [\*\*Montana Library Offering Hot Spots to Help Close Digital Divide\*\*](#)

The Library is offering Wi-Fi hot spots in an effort to close connectivity gaps and bolster online learning and work while the library facilities are closed to visitors.

Source: Government Technology

### [\*\*Iowans can't afford to wait for better broadband\*\*](#)

Just like roads and bridges were once considered foundational infrastructure in our community, we

now need to focus on broadband to get us where we need to go.

Source: The Gazette

### **Broadband Blues**

As technology continues to evolve, ensuring farmers have adequate broadband capabilities is only going to grow in importance.

Source: Successful Farming

### **Starlink, SpaceX's satellite internet project, seen in Eastern Iowa skies Friday night**

Starlink is the name of a satellite network that the private spaceflight company SpaceX is developing to provide low-cost internet to remote locations.

Source: KCRG

### **A Broken Piece of Internet Backbone Might Finally Get Fixed**

A task force specifically dedicated to helping "content delivery networks" and other cloud services adopt the filters and cryptographic checks needed.

Source: Wired

---

The Iowa Communications Network is a state-of-the-art fiber optic network providing high-speed Internet, data, voice, security, and consulting [services](#) t