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

Reynolds Outlines 2021 Agenda, Including $150M for Broadband

"As we've seen during the pandemic, high-speed internet is as vital to our communities as running water and electricity," Reynolds says. "If they don't have it, they can't grow."

Source: KIWA Radio

Government

[End-to-End Verifiability Key to Future Election Security](#)
With election security in question, end-to-end verifiability can let voters know that their ballots have been received and not tampered with.
Source: Government Technology

[Iowa lawmakers to push solutions to bridge 'digital divide' amplified by pandemic](#)
Lawmakers said they intend to push forward additional funding & legislation to facilitate expansion of high-speed broadband internet across the state.
Source: The Courier

Cybersecurity

[2021 Cybersecurity Trends: Bigger Budgets, Endpoint Emphasis and Cloud](#)
Insider threats are redefined in 2021, the work-from-home trend will continue define the threat landscape and mobile endpoints become the attack vector of choice.
Source: Threatpost

[10 fastest-growing cybersecurity skills to learn in 2021](#)
People with experience in application development security are in the highest demand but cloud expertise commands the biggest paycheck.
Source: TechRepublic

[IoT Cybersecurity Improvement Act Of 2020](#)
Engineering The "IoT Cybersecurity Improvement Act of 2020" became a U.S. law on 12/4/2020. The legislation was passed by unanimous consent by the Senate and the House of Representatives.
Source: Semiconductor Engineering

[The top 4 security trends to watch for in 2021](#)
Bad news: Ransomware becomes a bigger threat, and it becomes harder to find security talent.

Good news: CISOs gain clout, and security infrastructure will improve.
Source: CSO

Education

[E-rate Supports 95% of K-12 Students](#)

The E-rate program currently provides financial aid for Internet connections that support 53,990,412 K-12 students in the United States.
Source: Funds for Learning

[Schools Strengthen Defenses Amid Increases in Cyberattacks](#)

As schools face increased cybersecurity risks with virtual learning, they're turning to cloud security solutions for a proactive defense against cybercriminals.
Source: EdTech K-12

Digital Divide

[Removing Roadblocks on Bridge Over Digital Divide: Explaining the Affordable, Accessible Internet for All Act](#)

The act proposes to invest $100 billion to expand broadband access in unserved and underserved parts of the country.
Source: Broadband Census

[Experts: Closing the Digital Divide Will Take More than Satellites](#)

"Very rural" places that have no access to other solutions, satellite Internet makes sense. But in less isolated areas, satellite can't offer what fiber and 5G can.
Source: Government Technology

[Company installing internet connection on silos, water towers in rural part of America](#)

There are rural internet connections in Illinois, Missouri, Indiana, Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Kansas. The plan is to install more than 80,000 connections.
Source: KCAU-TV

[Electric Co-ops Form Broadband Association](#)

5 electric cooperatives in three Eastern states have formed an association of broadband co-ops aimed at bolstering services in underserved rural areas.
Source: Telecompetitor

[FCC Seeking Input on Spending $3.2 Billion of Broadband Stimulus](#)

The program will reimburse service providers for providing discounted broadband services and connected devices during the coronavirus pandemic.
Source: MeriTalk

Healthcare

[FCC Seeking Guidance on Next $250M of Telehealth Funding](#)

The funding helps healthcare providers offer telehealth and connected care services to patients at their homes or mobile locations.
Source: MeriTalk

[Tip-top telehealth: Medical providers offer guidance for smoother virtual visits](#)

To start, people should spend time ahead of a virtual appointment making sure their technology & ability to access links or apps are working. More tips...
Source: Spokesman Review

[VA expands access to telehealth services during COVID-19 pandemic for older, rural and homeless Veterans](#)

Digital Divide Consult has helped more than 12,000 Veterans obtain internet access or a video-

capable device for health care needs.
Source: The Southern Maryland Chronicle

New CVS Pharmacy App Feature Can Read Prescription Labels Out Loud for Visually Impaired

Spoken Rx reads patient name, medication name, dosage and directions, to ensure patients are taking the correct prescriptions, as prescribed.
Source: HIT Consultant

12 Telehealth & Virtual Care Predictions and Trends for 2021 Roundup

Telehealth is valuable mostly clearly for visits that involve mental health or physical health issues that do not require a physical exam or procedure.
Source: HIT Consultant

Public Safety

FirstNet keeps students safe on school buses in Maryland

With these advanced communication capabilities, the fleet can stay in touch with school headquarters at all times, enhancing the safety and security of students.
Source: FirstNet

Pinellas County, Fla., Gets $4.6M Federal Grant for Safety Tech

The Federal Highway Administration awarded $4.6 million for the Connected Community project, which alerts drivers about traffic, emergency vehicles and pedestrians.
Source: Government Technology

The Iowa Communications Network is a state-of-the-art fiber optic network providing high-speed Internet, data, voice, security, and consulting services to Iowa's healthcare, education, government, and public safety sectors.