



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

**We are hiring!** The Facilities & Technical Assistance Bureau Chief will manage new & existing facilities, responsible for Network Operations Center, and oversee staff to prioritize projects with other network activity. For more details: <http://ow.ly/A3rS50EBMkP>

**Searching for High School Students** to discuss broadband and Internet topics, learn about Iowa technology companies, and discover technology careers. Apply for the **Statewide Youth Broadband Advisory Council (SYBAC)** for the 2021-2022 school year by May 14. <https://icn.iowa.gov/sybac>

## INTERNET USAGE



### Internet use skyrockets in pandemic year

The pandemic exacerbated trends that existed before the pandemic, including working from home, digital classrooms and online video.

Source: N'West Iowa REVIEW

## Government

### [Gov. Reynolds signs new broadband access legislation into law](#)

The new law expands broadband for faster internet speed in rural areas. Lawmakers said the law would provide incentives for faster service throughout the state.

Source: KCCI

### [NGA's Cybersecurity Policy Academy Gets Rolling With 5 States](#)

Here's how three states — Indiana, Kansas and Montana — plan to bolster their cybersecurity through the program.

Source: Government Technology

## Public Safety

### [Next Generation 911](#)

NG911 is a nationwide update using new technology to share more detailed data such as images, text and video. It also enhances the ability of 911 call centers to communicate with each other.

Source: Lake Superior News

## Healthcare

### [The Federal Communications Commission Announces Narrow Window to Apply for Second Round of COVID-19 Telehealth Program Funding – Applications Due May 6, 2021](#)

The COVID-19 Telehealth Program was designed to help health care providers purchase telecommunications equipment, broadband connectivity, and other devices necessary for providing

telehealth services to rural, low-income and underserved populations.

Source: The National Law Review

### [How do providers strike the right balance between in-person care and telehealth?](#)

How providers can find the right mix of in-person care and telehealth, and what role value-based care can play in the future of virtual care.

Source: Healthcare IT News

## Cybersecurity

### [Cybersecurity Is a Marathon](#)

Cybersecurity for schools and institutions has become critical with an onslaught of cyber attacks and growing dependence on technology. Securing networks and data is a process that requires careful planning.

Source: Government Technology

### [Stop using your work laptop or phone for personal stuff, because I know you are](#)

A former IT pro turned end user explains why blending your work and personal tech was, is and always will be a bad idea for you and your employer.

Source: ZDNet

## Education

### [OSU primed to lead Big 12 with new esports arena](#)

The skyrocketing popularity of esports — a broad term encompassing the vast universe of online gaming — is not a fad; it's a movement. And OSU has now entered the arena.

Source: Oklahoma State

### [Upkey Opens Summer Virtual Internship for 10,000 Students](#)

Chicago-based ed tech startup Upkey is offering an online internship program to 10,000 students to learn new skill sets in technology leadership, marketing and communication, etc.

Source: Government Technology

## Digital Divide

### [Can Municipal Networks Solve America's Connectivity Problem?](#)

Pres Biden's infrastructure plan would eliminate state restrictions that prevent cities from providing broadband. Kutztown, Pa., provides a possible future for other communities.

Source: Government Technology

### [The new digital divide is between people who opt out of algorithms and people who don't](#)

The savvier users are becoming aware about how algorithms affect their lives. Others are relying on algorithms to guide their decisions.

Source: Yahoo News

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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.