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

The Emergency Broadband Benefit Program opened to US families, individuals

The FCC-administered program provides discounts on internet service and related equipment to eligible households.

Source: Connected Nation

Digital Divide

[What Higher Ed Can Bring to Closing the Digital Divide](#)
Community and technical colleges are particularly well-suited to partnering with governments to bring broadband and digital literacy to underserved urban and rural communities.
Source: Government Technology

[Washington, D.C., Eyes City Fiber Network as Key Element to Close Digital Divide](#)
Citing the need for more household broadband, the district develops plans for helping families go online.
Source: State Tech

Cybersecurity

[Email Security and Working from Home](#)
What is the future of passwords? More urgently, how are you doing with using (or reusing) passwords now? Here are some helpful tips, good any day of the year.
Source: Government Technology

[In Wake Of Pipeline Hack, Biden Signs Executive Order On Cybersecurity](#)
The order "reflects a fundamental shift in our mindset from incident response to prevention, from talking about security to doing security."
Source: NPR

[Do Ransomware Gangs Restore Data, Even After They're Paid?](#)
Ransomware attacks have been a hot topic recently, and organizations need to take steps to make these attacks more expensive to carry out. Learn more about the short and long term strategy for destroying ransomware.
Source: KnowBe4

Government

[Work continues to map out broadband gaps in Iowa](#)
Gov. Kim Reynolds signed a new law last month that will provide funding to help companies install

broadband to high-need areas in Iowa.
Source: We Are Iowa 5 News

[The government is making broadband more affordable — for now. How do we make that permanent?](#)
Acting FCC Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel on new subsidies to connect low-income Americans to the internet.
Source: Marketplace

Public Safety

[Take the FirstNet Virtual Tour](#)
See how FirstNet helps first responders and those who support them in various situations. Plus see how the Emergency Operations Center brings everyone together.
Source: FirstNet

[Nebraska plans to complete next-generation 911 by the end of 2022](#)
NG911 is picking up momentum at both state & federal levels. 2021 could signal a new era for America's 911 systems and the 911 professionals who lead & staff them.
Source: State Scoop

[New Illinois 911 system to include text messaging and videos](#)
The ability to share video could help first responders better prepare for what they're about to encounter when responding to a 911 call.
Source: FOX 2 Now

Education

[Higher Education Gets a Crash Course in Online Event Planning](#)
With the traditional college experience upended by social distancing requirements, schools look to alternatives to keep social traditions alive.
Source: Ed Tech: Focus on Higher Ed

[Montgomery Schools 'MGM Codes' Introduces Kids to Coding](#)
Montgomery, Al. Public Schools are collaborating with Apple and the nonprofit EdFarm on a new summer program to teach middle schoolers basic coding concepts.
Source: Center for Digital Education

Healthcare

[Providers Adapt to Telehealth to Identify Signs of Child Abuse and Neglect](#)
"There are some creative and innovative ways to support kids and identify safety concerns through telehealth."
Source: mHealth Intelligence

[16 key takeaways from 6 recent telehealth reports](#)
Telehealth may become a permanent aspect of how patients receive their healthcare. Sixty-five percent of healthcare leaders said they are facilitating a shift toward virtual care offerings.
Source: Becker's Hospital Review

Libraries

[Library of Things: Granting Community Access to Emerging Tech](#)
As literacy evolves to include digital and technological literacy, libraries are also evolving to include new technologies to meet a wide range of community needs.
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.