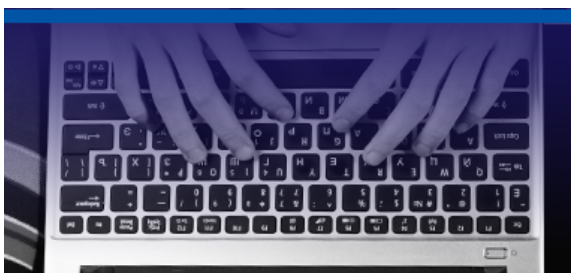




A Broadband Awareness Initiative from the [Iowa Communications Network](#)



DIGITAL DIVIDE

Federal funding available to close the homework gap and bridge the digital divide

Check this simple matrix to help state, community, and school district leaders identify funding options.

Source: Education SuperHighway

Digital Divide

[Challenges of Learning from Home](#)

A virtual forum to hear directly from residents on challenges of learning from home in Greater Des Moines and what can be done to improve the broadband experience for students and educators.

Source: DSM Partnership

Education

[FCC Announces New Program, Guidelines for School Broadband](#)

The FCC has announced rules for its new Emergency Connectivity Fund, which will distribute \$7.17 billion announced earlier this year for school broadband and devices.

Source: Government Technology

[Why Summer Learning Programs Are Pushing More Fun Than Academics](#)

Thanks to the \$6.1 billion allocated to address learning loss, district leaders are coming up with programs that exceed the dull image of traditional summer schooling.

Source: Ed Surge

Cybersecurity

[Phishing behind 70% of government breaches](#)

Of the nearly 30,000 security incidents analyzed in the 2021 Verizon Data Breach Investigations Report, the public sector was the second-most victimized industry.

Source: GCN

[Bipartisan House Bill Would Give States \\$500M for Cybersecurity](#)

The legislation would provide annual grants to boost cybersecurity as financial fraud & ransomware attacks continue to cripple essential citizen services.

Source: Government Technology

Government

["The Easy Button" for Taking Government to the Cloud](#)

The just-launched StateRAMP promises to standardize and simplify procurement of cloud services

that have already undergone rigorous security testing.

Source: GOVERNING

[How to Best Use Federal Funds for State and Local Modernization Efforts](#)

Investing in cloud-based infrastructure and tools for hybrid work will allow agencies to get ahead.

Source: State Tech

Healthcare

[The Veterans Healthcare System created a virtual system to treat veterans during the pandemic](#)

With in person services reduced, Dr. Zerwic said the department had to get creative to continue treating patients from home.

Source: KWWL

[Healthcare Startup, Boosted By Pandemic, Wants To Alleviate Fears Before And After Surgery](#)

PatientPartner, which helps surgery patients connect with each other, is seeing rapid growth during the pandemic.

Source: Broadband Census

[Support Builds to Add Telehealth Options for Critical Access Hospitals](#)

Telehealth advocates are rallying behind a bill that would allow rural and remote hospitals to use telehealth to treat patients dealing with mental health issues.

Source: mHealth Intelligence

Libraries

[Libraries Eligible for Billions in Federal Funding to Improve Connectivity for Residents](#)

The Emergency Connectivity Fund Program, announced by the FCC, will help libraries purchase laptops, Wi-Fi hot spots and more for patrons.

Source: Route Fifty

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.