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

Governor approves budget bill with money for broadband improvements

The budget bill includes $100 million to extend broadband to areas that don't have service today — or to significantly improve slow broadband speeds in other areas.

Source: Radio Iowa

Government

[Secretaries of State Call for Help on Election Disinformation](#)
The threat of disinformation and misinformation campaigns is not going away, officials warn.
Source: State Tech

Healthcare

[MercyOne Des Moines says virtual nursing is the new normal](#)
The program started during the pandemic as a way to conserve personal protective equipment and limit exposure. The program was so beneficial and efficient that it is now permanent and expanding within the hospital.
Source: KCCI

[Blockchain ID for Homeless Health Care](#)
Researchers at the Univ of Texas in Austin aim to use blockchain to help homeless people access health care by verifying their identity & sharing it securely throughout a health services network.
Source: Government Technology

[AI-Powered App Helps Patients With First Steps of Telehealth](#)
A computer application that allows patients to communicate their symptoms to a chatbot via their smartphones and get recommendations on what steps to take next.
Source: Government Technology

Education

[Game on: Inventor makes coding fun for kids](#)
Whatever you choose to do in life, having a basic coding understanding will help you succeed.
Source: The Gazette

[3 ways teacher community supports STEAM education](#)
STEAM education is possible during remote learning, and teacher communities can generate creative ideas to keep learning moving forward.
Source: eSschool News

Public Safety

It's time to upgrade 9-1-1, the most critical of critical infrastructure
NG9-1-1 legislation recently introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives would provide $15 billion for a one-time, nationwide effort to modernize 9-1-1.
Source: The Hill

Digital Divide

Bridging the Digital Divide
Mariannette Miller-Meeks: I believe that every American benefits from reliable, affordable, secure, and accessible internet service.
Source: Iowa Torch

More Than 1 Million Households Enroll in Emergency Broadband Benefit Program
"The high demand we've seen... demonstrates what many of us already knew to be true – too many families are struggling to get online."
Source: MeriTalk

Historic Pennsylvania Highway Paves Route to Better Broadband
Wireless Internet hot spots have been activated along Route 40 as more remote parts of Pennsylvania find their own solutions to getting online.
Source: Government Technology

Cybersecurity

Low-Grade Ways of Bypassing Email Scanners
New research shows that cybercriminals are replacing common words in phishing scams with synonyms in order to bypass security filters.
Source: KnowBe4

Minimizing damage from a data breach: A checklist
How you respond to a data breach and the amount of damage it causes depends on how well prepared you are. Have you done everything on this list?
Source: CSO

Technology

Sidewalk Labs Unveils Parking Sensor Installed With Adhesive
A small, solar-powered, wireless, hockey puck-shaped sensor detects whether a vehicle is in a parking space — used to send drivers to an open space, or support dynamic pricing.
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.