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

FCC Opens Application Window for $7.17B Emergency Connectivity Fund

Schools and libraries can now begin to file applications for funding to purchase laptops and tablets, Wi-Fi hotspots, modems, routers, and broadband connections.

Source: MeriTalk

Education

[House Bill Urges More Funding and Data on K-12 Cybersecurity](#)
Education policy advocates continue to push for additional federal resources geared toward bolstering K-12 cybersecurity following a record-breaking year for cyber attacks.
Source: Government Technology

Healthcare

[Libraries and Telehealth Tackle Health-Care Gap Full Force](#)
With federal funding for broadband in the pipeline, anchor institutions like libraries are well-positioned to increase patron access to telehealth services.
Source: Government Technology

[Central Iowa family pushes to keep telehealth services available](#)
The Byersdorfers say it's allowed them to continue therapy sessions for their son, Braden.
Source: KCCI

Government

[Texas Artificial Intelligence center boosts efficiency, workforce](#)
The Texas Artificial Intelligence Center of Excellence is already shaving hours off some of the state government's most tedious tasks.
Source: WorkScoop

[House lawmakers introduce bill to increase American awareness of cyber threats](#)
A group of bipartisan House lawmakers introduced legislation to step up cybersecurity literacy and increase awareness among the American public.
Source: The Hill

Digital Divide

[Iowa internet providers prepare for $100 million public broadband funding](#)
A new Iowa law will allow a wider area to be eligible. This round requires providers to offer faster

speeds to make Iowa's broadband infrastructure "future ready."
Source: The Gazette

[Here's where the FCC's $3.2B Emergency Broadband Benefit fund is going](#)
The FCC provided a state-by-state breakdown of its enrollment numbers. The tracker, updated
weekly, shows Iowa with 25,606 households enrolled.
Source: Fierce Telecom

Cybersecurity

[Cybersecurity Increasingly Important in Wake of Pandemic, Experts Say](#)
Experts share how the pandemic had changed their organization's cybersecurity controls and the
future of protecting healthcare data.
Source: MeriTalk

[Pay the ransom or not? It's complicated.](#)
New research out of the University of Texas at Austin investigates how these decisions are made.
Source: GCN

Internet

[What is fiber-optic internet?](#)
Fiber transmits data at speeds far exceeding all other methods, according to the FCC. "It is going to
be the technology of the future. It is today and it'll slowly replace old technologies."
Source: KELOLAND News

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.