A Broadband Awareness Initiative from the [Iowa Communications Network](#)
Weekly Update: September 17, 2021

Join Our Team. ICN is looking for a Telecommunications Specialist Senior to assist the State and oversee multiple projects at over 1500 sites. [Learn more and apply](#).

Governor Reynolds announces broadband grant recipients of $100M investment

"Expanding broadband across our state continues to be a top priority." Thirty-nine applicants have been awarded a total of $97,500,000 for broadband infrastructure.

Source: Iowa Governor

Sector Related

Public Safety

[Revisiting FirstNet, the Public Safety Network Born from 9/11](#)
Among its many recommendations, the 9/11 Commission advised the country to develop a network specifically for public safety, a network on which responders could communicate without interference due to high volumes of commercial traffic.
Source: Government Technology

Earlier this year, we announced that ICN is partnering with FirstNet, built with AT&T, on behalf of Iowa HSEMD to use FirstNet as the backup connection for Iowa PSAPs providing 9-1-1 services to Iowans.

[House budget legislation includes $10 billion in federal NG911 funding](#)
Grant money would be available to support eligible entities in implementing, operating, maintaining, and training for NG911.
Source: Urgent Communications

Education

[Protecting Both Privacy and Security in Higher Ed](#)
Partnerships between privacy and security offices help colleges leverage and protect data without compromising confidentiality.
Source: Ed Tech Focus on Higher Ed

[Virtual Reality to Train Manufacturing Students](#)
Owensboro Community & Technical College is using a grant from the National Science Foundation to create a virtual reality-based training for higher-education students in advanced manufacturing.
Source: Center for Digital Education

Healthcare

[Understanding the Fraud Risks of Expanded Telehealth Use](#)
Telehealth adoption has increased dramatically due to the pandemic, but the technology's expanded use also raises concerns over healthcare fraud.
Source: Health IT Security

[Health and Human Services issues $25.5B in COVID-19 relief funding aimed at rural, small providers](#)
Applications for the relief distributions open up on September 29. The funding includes $8.5 billion from the American Rescue Plan (ARP) that will go to rural providers.
Source: Healthcare Finance

Government

[CISA Opens Sign Up for the President's Cup Cybersecurity Competition](#)
Federal employees and service members can put their cyber chops to the test.
Source: Nextgov

Cybersecurity

[Guide to the Best Cybersecurity Careers](#)
If you're interested in starting a cybersecurity career, there's a job out there for you in this broadening field.
Source: Touro College Illinois

[CISA Adds Single-Factor Authentication to List of Cybersecurity Bad Practices](#)
CISA's catalog is aptly dubbed "Bad Practices," and is tailored to organizations supporting critical infrastructure or national critical functions.
Source: MSSP Alert

Digital Divide

[Closing the Digital Divide in Healthcare & Equitable Telehealth Access](#)
Unfortunately, gaps in access still exist. Accessibility is still not universal, and a lot of the blame belongs to the digital divide in healthcare.
Source: HIT Consultant

[5 Million Households Signed Up for the Emergency Broadband Benefit - Here's How to Apply](#)
The Emergency Broadband Benefit is a $3.2B program that covers $50 a month for high-speed internet service for eligible households, and $75 for customers in Native American tribal areas.
Source: Yahoo Finance

Technology

[Kansas Farmer Launches New Innovation Farm Project](#)
With the help of irrigation, drone and imagery companies, as well as KSU researchers and water conservationists, one farmer is using his land and his knowledge to further innovation.
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.