



A Broadband Awareness Initiative from the [Iowa Communications Network](#)
Weekly Update: October 8, 2021



It's Cybersecurity Awareness Month: Passphrases and Securing Your Accounts

When it comes to passphrases, it's best to mix it up! Here are some simple ways to secure your accounts through better passphrase practices. #BeCyberSmart

Source: National Cybersecurity Alliance

Iowa Related

Government

[What could federal infrastructure money be spent on in the Quad Cities?](#)

The bill would add \$550 billion in new federal spending. The measure would provide \$65 billion to expand high-speed internet access.

Source: WQAD

Education

[Developing a skilled workforce in rural Iowa using advanced learning technologies](#)

The goal is to pilot new Extended Reality-enabled STEM educational models that increase interest in STEM career paths among rural students/families.

Source: Iowa State University

Healthcare

[Telemedicine — a boon for many in pandemic — threatened with cutbacks](#)

Telehealth held promise for the long term with its potential to reach individuals in remote communities, nursing homes and low-income neighborhoods.

Source: The Gazette

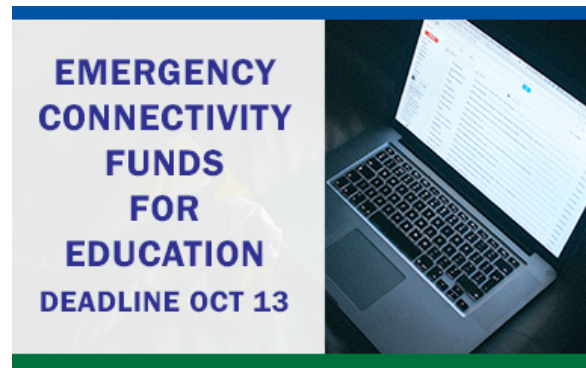
Reminder: The second application window for the Emergency Connectivity Fund closes on October 13

This program can help close the Homework Gap for students, teachers & library patrons who lack off-premises internet access.

Apply by Oct 13.

Source: FCC

ICN's [Hotspot service](#) qualifies for the Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF) program.



Digital Divide

[New York to Create State's First Map of Broadband Service](#)

The first-ever, in-depth statewide broadband mapping study will attempt to identify availability, reliability and cost of high-speed Internet service across the state.

Source: Government Technology

[SiFi Networks Announces Plans to Launch 30 Open Access Networks in 2022](#)

Because SiFi Networks uses Open Access network architecture, multiple ISPs and other service providers will share space on SiFi's fiber infrastructure.

Source: KULR

[Focus Broadband Expansion On Last Mile, Says President of CETF](#)

Hearing from proponents of the open access model, which allows providers to ride on existing infrastructure to boost competition, lower prices, broaden connectivity.

Source: Broadband Census

Sector Related

Government

[Two Top Areas to Mitigate Government's Cyber Woes: Part One](#)

This two-part cybersecurity will dive deeper into the role that people and processes play in governments' cybersecurity stances. First up: people.

Source: Government Technology

Education

[Virtual coaching pilot got National U. students back on track](#)

Many of NU's students are returning from school after a break or come from under-resourced high schools and coaching can help support those students.

Source: EdScoop

Healthcare

[Ransomware is leading hospital boards to pour more money into cybersecurity](#)

A CISO talks about boards' changing views of security, how hospitals are adapting to ransomware strikes and how infosec professionals' priorities are shifting.

Source: Health IT News

Public Safety

[FirstNet posts resource guide for emergency managers](#)

The guide covers a number of topics related to emergency management communications, including features managers may use in their daily roles as well as those dedicated to incidents.

Source: GCN

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.