

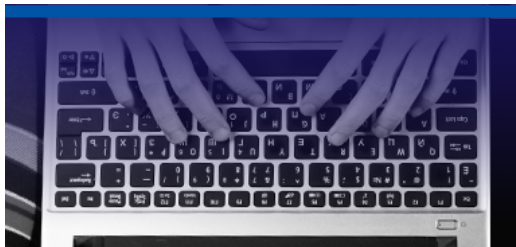


A Broadband Awareness Initiative from the [Iowa Communications Network](#)
Weekly Update: April 7, 2022

SYBAC applications are open!

The Statewide Youth Broadband Advisory Council (SYBAC) is a unique opportunity for motivated high school students to research and discuss broadband and Internet topics, learn about Iowa technology companies, and discover technology careers.

Learn more & apply here: <https://icn.iowa.gov/sybac>



DIGITAL DIVIDE

Understanding the Digital Equity Gap and Bridging the Digital Divide in Higher Ed

Broadband internet, hotspots and other measures can increase student access to digital tools.

Source: EdTech: Focus on K-12

Iowa Focus

[Upgrading Iowa's State Firewall Platform](#)

In order to better secure State government information, it was determined that the best practice would be to integrate a firewall platform that could segment each customer's network.

Source: Iowa Communications Network

[38 Schools to Advance Career-Linked Learning through STEM BEST H.D. Recognition](#)

STEM BEST H.D. is designed to prepare students for the workforce through curriculum and career-linked learning. Apply for the next round by May 9.

Source: Iowa STEM

[States Considering Range of Options to Bring Broadband to Rural America](#)

Electric cooperatives were among recipients of more than \$210 million awarded from the recent Empower Rural Iowa broadband grant program.

Source: The Pew Charitable Trusts

Sector Focus

Government

[Ransomware is 'straining' local government services, FBI says](#)

Ransomware actors continue to stress local government organizations by causing disruptions to utilities and critical public services, according to an advisory issued this week by the FBI.

Source: State Scoop

[What U.S. courts learned using video communications platforms](#)

Judges not only kept their dockets moving; but they also discovered it was possible to make court proceedings more accessible, more convenient and more transparent for everyone involved.

Source: State Scoop

[How Can Government Make Digital Services More Inclusive?](#)

When it comes to accessibility and inclusion, there are steps local and state agencies can take — and others that should be avoided — to provide an equitable government service experience across populations.

Source: Government Technology

[FCC Chair: Broadband Maps Will Be ‘Absolutely’ Done in Fall](#)

The maps are mandated by the Broadband DATA Act and are essential for distributing new federal broadband dollars from the bipartisan infrastructure bill.

Source: Government Technology

Healthcare

[FCC Announces Last Group of Connected Care Pilot Program Projects](#)

In all, the \$100 million FCC pilot program, which focuses on veterans and those with low incomes, will fund 107 projects in 40 states and the District of Columbia.

Source: Telecompetitor

[Health Center Uses \\$1.1M FCC Grant to Remote Monitor Patients](#)

The grant provide remote patient monitoring and video consults to low-income and veteran patients with complex, chronic conditions.

Source: Government Technology

Education

[Blackbird Program Teaches Coding to Middle Schoolers](#)

Partnering with Washington’s Bellevue School District on a two-week pilot program, the ed-tech company successfully prepared teachers to incorporate coding into core subjects after one day of training.

Source: Government Technology

[Survey: Teachers Want a Say in the Ed-Tech Adoption Process](#)

Teachers want to play a major role in decisions about classroom technology, and over 90% of them expect to continue using tools they adopted for online and hybrid learning during the pandemic.

Source: Government Technology

Cybersecurity

[600K Unfilled Cyber Jobs Create Big Opportunity for Hackers](#)

Hiring cybersecurity professionals from another company doesn’t address the underlying issue: that there aren’t enough qualified workers.

Source: Government Technology

[Act Now to Protect Against Potential Cyberattacks](#)

There have been warnings about the potential for Russia to engage in cyberattacks due to economic sanctions. There is now evolving intelligence that they may be exploring options for cyberattacks.

Source: The White House

Digital Divide

[The Digital Divide and Access to Justice](#)

The digital divide is having an increasing impact on whether residents get equitable access to

justice, a new report found.

Source: Government Technology

[Report: Public Libraries Essential to Closing Digital Divide](#)

A new report underscores the role of public libraries in expanding digital equity during the pandemic through partnerships with government entities & other efforts.

Source: Government Technology

Misc

[Implant Allows Paralyzed People to Use Computers by Thinking](#)

The brain implant, which was co-developed by a Carnegie Mellon University professor, was tested in four Australian patients for a year and proved successful. A U.S. trial is approaching.

Source: Government Technology

[Proposed Hyperloop Involving Pittsburgh Remains in Development](#)

The Pittsburgh metropolitan region now is down to a single proposed hyperloop system project, which if built would have the power to speed passengers to Chicago in less than an hour in special pods.

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.