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

## BROADBAND GRANTS

## Empower Rural Iowa Broadband Grant Applications Now Being Accepted

The application window for the Empower Rural Iowa Broadband Grant Program has officially opened, making $5 million dollars in grant funds available for communication service providers who expand high-speed Internet service into unserved areas in Iowa.

## Integrating FirstNet into 911 Operations

The FirstNet Authority continues to engage public safety from every discipline to better understand what they need from the FirstNet network. The FirstNet Authority talked with professionals working in public safety answering points (PSAPs)—at Arizona's Public Safety Broadband Forum for PSAPs ("Forum") in Phoenix, Arizona in late August.

## Payment card thieves hack Click2Gov bill paying portals in 8 cities

In 2017 and 2018, hackers compromised systems running the Click2Gov self-service bill-payment portal in dozens of cities across the United States. Now, Click2Gov systems have been hit by a second wave of attacks that's dumping tens of thousands of records onto the Dark Web, researchers said.

## All-fiber deployments to 90% of U.S. households achievable by 2029 - report

The Fiber Broadband Association released a study that said all-fiber deployments were on pace to hit about 50% of U.S. households by 2025.

## You watch TV. Your TV watches back.

The Washington Post tracked how four of the most popular TV brands record everything we watch.

## Education and the Digital Divide

In many schools around the country, teachers might be able to take for granted that their students have access to the internet outside of school. Unfortunately, for too many students, that just isn't true. The resulting "Homework Gap" is expanding inequity.

## Wolcott, Conn., school district hit by second ransomware attack

After spending the summer recovering from a ransomware attack that hit district computer systems in June, Wolcott Public Schools in Connecticut is now wrestling with a second ransomware attack, officials confirmed with EdScoop on Friday.

## IBM to host free ransomware exercises for cities

Observing the ongoing barrage of ransomware attacks against local governments, IBM plans to invite groups of city IT officials and other municipal leaders to practice responding to those attacks at its state-of-the-art cyber range in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

## Study finds digital alerts boost STEM student success

By signing up to receive digital alerts, STEM students at two-year colleges were able to overcome barriers to academic success and ultimately achieved higher rates of persistence, according to a study.

## Intellivisit Continues to Expand Virtual Healthcare

The company provides software that "assist(s) patients and providers with the technical and cognitive work of medicine." Using a consumer app, patients are able to receive virtual diagnoses from health care providers and their organizations.

## CISA launches contest to identify top cyber talent in government

Federal employees will soon compete in a series of increasingly difficult contests showcasing their cybersecurity skills. "Strengthening our federal cybersecurity workforce is key. This competition is designed to be a unique and fun way to engage and reward existing talent."

## The Gap Between Strong Cybersecurity And Demands For Connectivity Is Getting Massive

The gap is expanding all over the world. Before you haul the kids off to the mall to buy the latest in back-to-school fashion and accessories, let's clarify what I mean by "the gap. The gap is the void between responsible cybersecurity and the connectivity demands of the industrial internet of things (IIoT).

## Broadband expansion is crucial to health care access

If trends continue and as telemedicine and remote patient monitoring become more widely adopted, the author predicts a transformation in patient engagement, patient outcomes and a significant reduction in health care costs.

## Why survey estimates of the number of Americans online don't always agree

How many U.S. adults use the internet? This might seem like a straightforward question, with a straightforward way to find out: Just ask. But different sources of information measure internet use in ways that can be tricky to reconcile. Depending on the source, the estimated share of Americans who were online as of 2017 and 2018 is as low as 79% or as high as 89%.

## Army Cyber Command Ready for Aggressive Ops Around 2020 Election, Chief Says

Russia and other actors who try to meddle in the election will be met with a much broader, aggressive and more unified cyber campaign than in years past, according to Lt. Gen. Stephen Fogarty.

**BROADBAND STRONG:** Delivering **FLEXIBLE** broadband and **FAST** experiences to meet the growing broadband needs of education, government, public safety, and healthcare in Iowa.

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