Broadband News
FROM AROUND THE WEB

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

ONLINE TRANSITION

Iowa Universities Patch Holes in Large Online Transition

Public universities in the state of Iowa are filling in the gaps, and as such, they have now largely transitioned to operating online amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

Source: Center for Digital Education

Education

[E-rate Trends Report](#)
The 10th annual Erate Trends Report is now available. Receiving a record-breaking response from applicants, results indicate need for increased flexibility and demand to fund off-campus learning.
Source: Funds for Learning

[Thanksgiving Ransomware Attack Hits Baltimore County](#)
The Baltimore County Public Schools system was shut down by a ransomware attack. Classes came to a halt for 115,000 students attending entirely online due to the coronavirus pandemic.
Source: Government Technology

[Missouri Schools Create Internet Service for Students](#)
The network is vital as remote learning continues during the pandemic, when students may be at a disadvantage if families are unable to afford or obtain reliable Internet service.
Source: Center for Digital Education

[Senators press CISA to do more to stop K-12 ransomware](#)
Senators asked the new head of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency what more the agency can do to help public school systems across the country to defend themselves from digital threats like ransomware, which has disrupted virtual learning environments, seized up educational IT resources and — in some places — even delayed or canceled classes.
Source: State Scoop

Cybersecurity

[Defend Against Ransomware - Business Tips](#)
Ransomware can wreak havoc on your business. Learn about ransomware – what it is, how to defend against it, and what to do if your business is the victim of a ransomware attack.
Source: Federal Trade Commission

[This week is National #TaxSecurity Awareness Week!](#)
NCSA's Tax Security Tips for Consumers resource can help you identify common scams and learn how to protect yourself this tax season. View the tips here:
Source: StaySafeOnline

Black Friday & Cyber Monday Top 10 Cybersecurity Tips
Because of the pandemic, retailers have already started online Black Friday deals that attract scammers. Be extra cautious when shopping online over the Black Friday & Cyber Monday weekend.
Source: KnowBe4

Online Safety Basics: Online Shopping
Take security precautions, think about the consequences of your actions online and enjoy the conveniences of technology with peace of mind using these tips while you shop online.
Source: Stay Safe Online

Holiday shopping season 2020
With so many deals around and what seem like eternal "Black Friday" sales, it's important to keep some online shopping tips in mind.
Source: FTC

Healthcare

UIHC telehealth program freeing up hospital beds
Patients track their vital signs daily and receive "virtual" visits via phone or video from the providers to check on their progress by the Home Treatment Team.
Source: Iowa News Now

Understanding the Difference in Telemedicine, Telehealth, and Telecare
But just what do all these "tele" words actually mean? Keep reading to get up-to-date on the latest healthcare technology.
Source: Our Community Now

Patients Like Telehealth, But Barriers Still Persist
The COVID-19 pandemic has been a moment of truth for telehealth, and, by most accounts, the technology is rising to the challenge.
Source: Psychiatric Times

Digital Divide

States Tap Federal CARES Act to Expand Broadband
States' efforts to expand connectivity using these federal resources have focused on four specific needs: increasing access to online learning for K-12 and postsecondary students, supporting telehealth services, deploying more public Wi-Fi access points, and investing in residential broadband infrastructure, especially in rural and underserved areas.
Source: Pew Trusts

This Small Town Shows How Rural Communities Can Bridge the Digital Divide
With the right investments in technology, rural communities could use this moment to remake their futures.
Source: Government Technology

Cisco announces hotspot delivery program in Michigan
A Cisco program will deliver outdoor Wi-Fi hotspots to 50 libraries and community centers around Detroit.
Source: State Scoop

Government

Broadband Brings Varied Economic Impacts to Local Areas, States
During a NTIA webinar, speakers discussed how broadband organizations can influence economic development projects, job numbers, local revenues and more.
Source: Government Technology

Fostering Contactless Government Beyond the Pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic forced government to accelerate the adoption of contactless technologies to keep daily operations moving. 10 areas to focus on post pandemic.
Source: Government Technology

Here's What Government Will Look Like in 2030

Thirty experts, academics and big-picture thinkers on the biggest trends and issues that will shape state and local government over the next decade.
Source: Government Technology

Building real cyber resiliency in government

Takeaways from a panel of experts discussing how organizations can take a threat-based approach to cybersecurity, paving the way for expanded use of cloud services and resiliency for the future.
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.