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News & Updates

Protection from Security Threats

On December 10, 2020 the federal government released a Cybersecurity Advisory on threats targeting K-12 distance learning education to cause disruption and steal data. There are four main threats the joint advisory points to:

- Ransomware Attacks
- Malware
- DDoS Attacks
- Video Conference Disruptions

The ICN has helped numerous schools recently when it comes to protection from Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS) attacks. The first step customers can take in protecting themselves from the increased threat is to work with their ICN Account Consultant. There is very little information required to stand up our DDoS Mitigation service. The only limitation is that customers must have ICN Internet service to protect assets such as internal networks, websites, web servers, etc.

[Read the full federal cybersecurity advisory.](#)

ICN Releases Fiscal Year 2020 Annual Report

The Iowa Communications Network released its annual report for Fiscal Year 2020 on November 24, 2020. The report highlights the work completed between July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020.

[Read entire report](#)

FCC awards over \$140 Million to Iowa Broadband Providers

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) recently announced that it has awarded \$143,892,544.40 to 11 broadband providers to bring broadband to rural Iowa. The Rural Digital Opportunity Fund Phase I Auction is a federal program focusing on bringing broadband to 10 million Americans. Nearly all rural locations eligible for the award will receive broadband at speeds of 100 Megabits per seconds (Mbps) download, with nearly 85% of eligible locations receiving Gigabit service according to the FCC.

“Access to high-speed internet access is an essential part of everyday life. The FCC’s Rural Digital Opportunity Fund builds on the efforts we have underway through my empower rural Iowa initiative as well as significant funds we have allocated through the CARES Act,” said Gov. Reynolds.

Broadband News

[States Prioritized Broadband as COVID-19 Took Hold](#)

[Iowa City among Iowa school districts planning to replace snow days with 'virtual learning days'](#)

[Empower Rural Iowa Annual Task Force Recommendations](#)

[14 real-world phishing examples — and how to recognize them](#)

[NewBoCo receives \\$50,000 grant to expand programming for K-5 students](#)

[Congress Passes The Internet Of Things \(IoT\) Cybersecurity Improvement Act](#)

[Report: America Needs More Open-Access, Middle-Mile Networks](#)

[How to Secure Federal Broadband Grants](#)

[Full STEAM Ahead](#)

[2020 in Review: The Gov Tech World Turned Upside Down](#)

[Telehealth's evolution in 2020 will continue in the new year with more streamlined technologies](#)

[4 Holiday Cybersecurity Projects to Fill Some Quiet Time](#)

[Read Full Announcement](#)

K-12 Education Announcements:

Funding Year 2021 Window Opens on Jan 15, 2021

The FY2021 application filing window will open at noon EST on Friday, January 15, 2021 and close at 11:59 p.m. EDT on Thursday, March 25, 2021.

FCC Releases FY2021 Eligible Services List

On November 30, 2020, the Federal Communications Commission's Wireline Competition Bureau released the final Eligible Services List (ESL) for Funding Year 2021. No new categories of products or services were added to the program's eligible services framework.

[DA 20-1418](#)



[Top 200 most common passwords of the year 2020](#)

[Ohio Library System to Connect 800 Homes to Free Internet](#)

[COVID-19 and the Digital Divide in Virtual Learning](#)

[Swift Shift to Telework Proves Public-Sector's Agility](#)

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