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April 2021

News & Updates

Student Applications are Being Accepted

ICN has opened the application process to find the next group of Broadband Ambassadors.

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.

- Students entering 10th - 12th grades may apply.
- Monthly meetings by video conference.
- Hear from Iowa technology companies.
- Learn cybersecurity best practices.
- SYBAC runs Sept 2021 through Apr 2022.

[Learn More and Apply](#)

Mandatory 10-Digit Dialing Impacts

Recently there has been media coverage explaining how Iowans in the 515/319 area codes will be required to dial 10 digits starting April 24, 2021.

The FCC ordered that any area code that has the 988 prefix and has 7-digit local dialing be transitioned to 10-digit local dialing to ensure everyone is able to reach the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline using the 3-digit 988 code. Customers must continue to dial 1-800-273-TALK (8255) to reach the Lifeline until July 16, 2022.

[Read What ICN customers need to do?](#)

April is Safe Digging Month - Call 811 Before You Dig

April is annually recognized as National Safe Digging Month. As construction activity starts to pick back up across the State, we want to remind all Iowans and contractors to be safe and always

Broadband News

[Iowa taps into FirstNet for 911 backup](#)

[Don't do any spring digging without calling 811 first](#)

[CISA and NCSA Advise K-12 on Future Cybersecurity Threats](#)

[The Importance of Cybersecurity to SEO](#)

[As Iowa invests millions into rural broadband, Washington Co. family calls upgraded speeds 'a game-changer'](#)

[As telehealth visits become more common, here are ways you can make the most of your consultation](#)

[USDA: Distance Learning & Telemedicine Grants](#)

[FirstNet Partnership Kicks Off Fifth Year, Brings Initial 5G Investment to FirstNet](#)

call 811 before any construction or digging projects. The call is free and Iowa law requires everyone to locate underground utilities before digging.

[Read April is Safe Digging Month Blog](#)

Partnership launches Central Iowa Broadband Internet Survey

The Greater Des Moines Partnership has launched the Central Iowa Broadband Internet Survey for 11 counties in the region. The purpose of the Survey is to measure broadband internet availability and identify areas that do not currently meet consumer needs and expectations.

Residents and businesses in the following counties are encouraged to take the survey: Adair, Dallas, Guthrie, Jasper, Madison, Marion, Marshall, Polk, Poweshiek, Story and Warren. **The Survey will be open until Tuesday, April 27.**

There are two separate survey links: [one for residential households](#) and [one for businesses](#).

[FCC allocates Iowa the 17th highest portion of funding to address digital divide](#)

[NG911 for Telecommunicators A New Resource](#)

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