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News & Updates

Grants Awarded to Enhance Security

ICN received five grants to enhance our security operations from the Iowa Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEMD).

[View How the Funding will Support the Network](#)

Updating the Network to Build Efficiencies into the Future

Many telecom organizations are struggling to manage their aging infrastructure, much of which has exceeded its intended lifespan. Several years ago, the ICN needed a transformation. ICN's Chief Technology Officer explains minimizing ICN's legacy footprint and looking towards the IP future.

[Read about the New Era of 'Building Efficiencies' into the Future](#)

ICN Legislative Update

Session Highlights:

- **Executive Director Appointment:** Randy Goddard was confirmed as ICN's executive director by the full Senate on April 21.
- **Billing Services HF 805:** A bill for an act relating to the services provided by the Iowa Telecommunications and Technology Commission was signed by the Governor on April 30. This new billing process has an effective date of July 1, 2021.

[Read the ICN Legislative Update](#)

Thank you SYBAC Students for Great Year!

Broadband News

[Federal Funding to Close the Homework Gap & Digital Divide](#)

[FirstNet & 5G: An experience unlike anything else for America's first responders](#)

[Iowa Impact from National 988 Hotline and Transition to 10-Digit Telephone Dialing](#)

[Tips for Starting a Drone Program for K-12](#)

[16 key takeaways from 6 recent telehealth reports](#)

[What Higher Ed Can Bring to Closing the Digital Divide](#)

[Library of Things: Granting Community Access to Emerging Tech](#)

[Washington, D.C., Eyes City Fiber Network as Key Element to Close Digital Divide](#)

[Do Ransomware Gangs Restore Data, Even After They're Paid?](#)



E-Rate: Emergency Connectivity Fund Program

On May 11, 2021, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) released a Report and Order ([FCC 21-58](#)) establishing the Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF) Program. Congress appropriated \$7.171 billion for the ECF Program, which will be administered by USAC.

FCC Emergency Broadband Benefit Program

The FCC has begun funding monthly broadband discounts to eligible households as part of the Emergency Broadband Benefit Program. The program works through participating vendors and offers qualifying households a discount of up to \$50 a month toward broadband service and up to \$75 for qualifying households on tribal lands.

Enroll through a [participating broadband provider](#) or directly with the [Universal Service Administrative Company](#).

[Work continues to map out broadband gaps in Iowa](#)

[Emergency Broadband Benefit Program](#)

[The Veterans Healthcare System created a virtual system to treat veterans during the pandemic](#)

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