



A Broadband Awareness Initiative from the [Iowa Communications Network](#)
Weekly Update: August 13, 2021



Graduates of new Hawkeye Community College program could help thwart rising cyber attacks

A new information technology program launching this fall at Hawkeye Community College will produce graduates equipped to respond to the attacks.

Source: The Courier

Cybersecurity

[How state and local governments can prepare for ransomware](#)

The better the information-sharing systems are between the state & local levels, the better organizations can develop organic cyber response approaches & capabilities for more resilient structures.

Source: State Scoop

[Kansas Sets Up Bipartisan Cybersecurity Task Force](#)

Kansas now has an extra resource to help defend its digital infrastructure: a cybersecurity task force.
Source: Government Technology

Education

[94% of E-rate Applicants Receive Commitments, E-rate Application Review Deadline Looms](#)

As of July 31, 2021, 94% of applicants have received a funding commitment and 57% of the funds requested have been committed, a 15% increase compared to FY2020.

Source: Funds for Learning

[Millions of Students With Home Internet Access Still Can't Get Online](#)

Even as the number of unconnected students declines, there is another group that has made virtually no headway... students who are "under-connected."

Source: EdSurge

Digital Divide

[Emergency Broadband Benefit Program Enrollment Tops 4 Million](#)

One million of those households signed up in the first week after the \$3.2 billion subsidy program began in May.

Source: Telecompetitor

[Is Broadband for All Really Possible?](#)

After almost two years of dealing w/ remote learning & work-from-home, one thing most Americans can agree on is that the country's broadband infrastructure needs a major upgrade & an inclusive buildout

Source: Government Technology

Government

[178 applications received for share of \\$100 million in state broadband grants](#)

Dozens of applicants are seeking nearly \$300 million in state grants to extend and expand broadband service in Iowa.

Source: Radio Iowa

[Augmented, Virtual Realities Hold Promise for Government](#)

From field operations to personnel training to service delivery, there are a lot of opportunities to improve government through these immersive experiences.

Source: Government Technology

Public Safety

[National 911 Program Releases 2021 Report on Advancing 9-1-1](#)

The report includes updates on funding 9-1-1's future, legislation and policy, collecting & using 9-1-1 data, new NG 9-1-1 sources, advancing emergency communications and 9-1-1 system resources.

Source: Mission Critical Communications

[The Evolving Role of Drones in Emergency Response](#)

The use of drones takes on a more vital role within emergency response efforts, serving as a helpful tool in getting to especially hard-to-reach areas.

Source: Mission Critical Communications

Healthcare

[For telehealth, a hybrid future mixed with in-person care – and mobile devices](#)

Virtual care experts predict the future will hold a mix of digital and in-person healthcare.

Source: Health IT News

[How hospitals are gearing up virtual care for the delta variant surge](#)

The demand for telehealth intensive care unit and emergency room services is also on the rise.

Source: Becker's Hospital Review

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.