



News & Updates

[ICN Completes Connection to New Internet Exchange Point](#)

Our goal is to provide superior technology infrastructure and create an advantage for our customers. Here at the ICN we have been able to accomplish that goal by successfully connecting to our new Internet Exchange Point (IXP) in Chicago using Equinix.

[Read More](#)

[Internet2 Community Anchor Program \(CAP\)](#)

[Distance Learning Scholarship Program](#)

The [Internet2 Community Anchor Program \(CAP\)](#) has launched its [second annual distance learning scholarship program](#) to give K-12 teachers a free, one-on-one distance learning program for their class through the [Center for Interactive Learning and Collaboration \(CILC\)](#).

- ICN is proud to be part of Internet2's CAP program.

Any teacher from a K-12 school that is connected to the ICN can apply to use the scholarship to pay for a one-on-one distance learning class.

- Complete a [scholarship application form](#).
- The last day to apply is **Friday, November 19, 2021**.

[Gov. Reynolds announces \\$200 million broadband grant opportunity](#)

Governor Reynolds is making available up to \$200 million in federal American Rescue Plan Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds for broadband expansion in Iowa. To distribute these funds, the Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) is issuing Notice of Funding Availability #007 for the Empower Rural Iowa Broadband Grant Program. The window to submit applications opens October 25, 2021.

Broadband News

[FCC Can Help K-12 Cybersecurity](#)

[Signing the K-12 Cybersecurity Act Into Law](#)

[Ransomware is leading hospital boards to pour more money into cybersecurity](#)

[Passphrases and Securing Your Accounts](#)

[Hawkeye Community College launches cybersecurity program after seeing increase in attacks](#)

[Password Do's and Don'ts](#)

[Why Every Business Should Train Employees to Spot Phishing Emails](#)

[Iowa first responders using app to locate people in emergencies](#)

[American Rescue Plan: \\$200 million grant program to improve Iowan's broadband access](#)

[Broadband: FCC is Taking Steps to Accurately Map Locations That Lack Access](#)

Further information about the grant process is available on the [OCIO website](#).

CISA Kicks off Cybersecurity Awareness Month

Dedicating October to Encourage Everyone to be Cyber Smart

Throughout October, CISA will be focused on ensuring the public is practicing good “cyber hygiene,” easy and common-sense steps to protect yourself online. We urge everyone to implement these four easy things you can do on your devices:

- Implement multi-factor authentication on your accounts and make it 99% less likely you’ll get hacked.
- Update your software. Turn on automatic updates.
- Think before you click. Over 90% of successful cyber attacks start with a phishing email.
- Use strong passwords, and ideally a password manager to generate and store unique passwords.

[More information on How to Keep Yourself Cyber Safe.](#)

Highlights from Social Media

ICN Industry of the Month

The Industry of the Month is our Government sector. With ICN’s secure connections, government staff gather, process, & store authorized information. How do Iowans use the services? With benefit programs, facilitating travel, driver’s license renewal & more <https://icn.iowa.gov/government>



ICN Service of the Month

The ICN Service of the Month is our suite of Security services, since October is also Cybersecurity Awareness Month. Our services include: DDoS mitigation, firewall management (state firewall & managed firewall), consultation, and more. <https://icn.iowa.gov/security>

[Developing a skilled workforce in rural Iowa using advanced learning technologies](#)

[What could federal infrastructure money be spent on in the Quad Cities?](#)

[Focus of Broadband Expansion Should Be On Last Mile](#)

[Telemedicine — a boon for many in pandemic — threatened with cutbacks](#)

[John Deere Invests in STEM Resources for Iowa Schools](#)

[Treasury Ready to Send Billions to States for Broadband Projects](#)

[FCC Earmarks \\$163M for Expanding Broadband Internet Access in 21 States](#)

[Uncovering the true value of telehealth to improve care outcomes](#)

[Maximizing Highway Infrastructure's Potential with GIS](#)

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