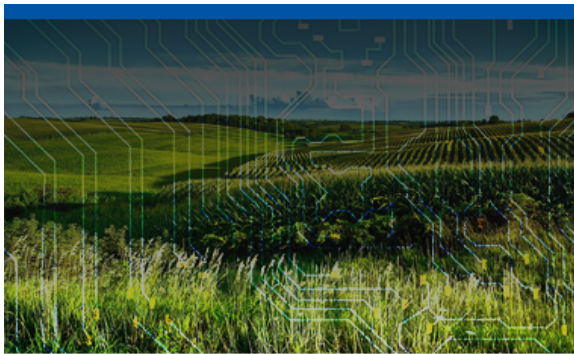# Broadband News
FROM AROUND THE WEB

A Broadband Awareness Initiative from the [Iowa Communications Network](#)
Weekly Update: December 2, 2021

We are Hiring! ICN is seeking two highly skilled and motivated individuals who will serve as field technicians within the Technical Assistance Center. Application deadline is December 19: [Apply Today](#).

USDA Begins Accepting Applications for Loans and Grants to Help People Living in Rural Communities Get Access to High-Speed Internet

"High-speed internet is the new electricity," Vilsack said. "It must be reliable, affordable and available to everyone."

Source: USDA

Iowa Related

[Iowa Driver's License to Go Digital During the Next Year](#)
The director of the Iowa Department of Transportation's motor vehicle division said state officials have launched a pilot project aimed at making digital driver's licenses available for download sometime in 2022.
Source Government Technology

Cybersecurity

[Don't be the next victim of scammers who claim to be from Microsoft, trying to debug your laptop](#)
Mary Jo Schrade, with the Microsoft Digital Crimes Unit, says three in five of us have received those calls, and one in six lost money on them.
Source: Radio Iowa

[The Case for Fostering a Cybersecurity Work Culture](#)
This article encourages companies to treat cybersecurity as a team effort, combining secure individual behaviors and awareness through clear and simple policies.
Source: Infosecurity Magazine

Sector Related

Education

[What Efficiencies Can Tech Consolidation Bring to Higher Ed?](#)
Consolidating technology into one platform offers benefits for IT administrators, students and staff.
Source: EdTech: Focus on Higher Education

[Why is Online Education Crucial for Success in the Tech Age](#)
With the tech age upon us, online education has become crucial to success in order to stay up-to-date with technology and trends.
Source: TechDay

Government

[Broadband and the States: The Critical Role of Partnerships](#)
With $65 billion on the way from Washington to expand Internet access, it's time for businesses, research organizations and others to join with the public sector to shape strategies to make the most of the funds.
Source: Governing

[FCC approves texting '988' to reach National Suicide Prevention Lifeline by next year](#)
A texting option will benefit individuals seeking help, including young people and people with disabilities, who prefer to text rather than call.
Source: CNN

Healthcare

[Telemedicine Will Remain Even as the COVID-19 Crisis Recedes; But the Policies That Enabled Great Advances in Telemedicine Should Become Permanent](#)
Telemedicine has proven itself to produce a trifecta of benefits: patients enjoy it and some often prefer it, it reduces costs, and it improves outcomes. Not many calls are this obvious in the world of health care.
Source: National Law Review

[Adoption of Connected Medical Devices has Increased to 25% of US Broadband Households in 2021](#)
"Interoperability is critical for extending the value of connected devices and services in remote patient care."
Source: Yahoo Finance

Public Safety

[How FirstNet can provide the best pre-hospital care possible](#)
From mapping applications and patient health databases to information exchange with emergency rooms, EMS professionals can use data to respond more effectively.
Source: FirstNet

Technology

[What about smart roadways? Missouri-based tech startup intends to turn highways into networks](#)
A smart pavement system comprised of "precast concrete sections embedded with digital technology and fiber optic connectivity to transform ordinary roads into smart roads."
Source: Urgent Communications

Digital Divide

[Building out Alaska's broadband infrastructure](#)
A new report from Alaska's Broadband Task Force looks to fiber as the best solution for the state's

middle-mile connections, while recommending a broader array of options for last-mile solutions.
Source: GCN

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.