



A Broadband Awareness Initiative from the [Iowa Communications Network](#)
Weekly Update: December 30, 2021

We are Hiring!

ICN is seeking an Accountant 2 to perform internal audit duties and other revenue review and expense control tasks. Application deadline is January 6, apply today: [Accountant 2](#)



Year in Review 2021: Settling In to the Next Phase

While 2021 still felt the impacts of COVID-19, government IT agencies began the transition to a more hybrid future — modernizing systems, navigating cybersecurity and preparing for whatever is next.

Source: Government Technology

Iowa Related

[Taking swine medicine education into the virtual world](#)

Faculty at Iowa State University's College of Veterinary Medicine are laying the groundwork to teach students swine-medicine skills using virtual telehealth technology.

Source: Iowa State University

[WIN Will Utilize \\$15 Million In Grants For Fiber Optic Services In Carroll, Crawford, Calhoun And Sac Counties And Beyond](#)

Once completed, the services will be made available to nearly 6,000 homes and businesses in these rural areas.

Source: Carroll Broadcasting

[The Des Moines Public Library is offering hundreds of wireless internet hotspots to check out for those without easy access to high-speed internet.](#)

Sue Woody explains how this will help many in the community.

Source: WHO-TV 13

Sector Related

Government

[Data-Centric Approach Key to State Broadband Expansion](#)

States and broadband providers that leverage available data will make the biggest impact on communities that are unserved and underserved by current high-speed Internet.

Source: Government Technology

[Digital Services Gain Ground After Post-COVID Online Surge](#)

After the 2020 rush to get as much of government online as quickly as possible, 2021 saw sustained

growth of digital services as more decision-makers realized its value for both staff and citizens.

Source: Government Technology

Healthcare

[Hy-Vee launches online telehealth and pharmacy subsidiary, RedBox Rx](#)

Low-cost services that provides free shipment of medications for men's and women's health, mental health and other health conditions directly to patients' homes.

Source: Des Moines Business Record

[Telehealth gets a shot in the arm: What's next?](#)

Transforming the Telehealth industry can lead to proactive care and decreased healthcare costs.

Source: Benefits Pro

Education

[Study Compares Coding Bootcamps With Universities](#)

Having recently ranked coding bootcamps by trainee job placement, it was found that many of them and their trainees are flourishing while institutes of higher education face declining enrollment.

Source: Government Technology

[What's Driving Growth in the Ed Tech Market?](#)

COVID-19 intensified existing trends in the ed tech market, specifically an increase in investment.

Some experts say the pandemic was only a part of the cause, and the trend is likely to continue after it's over.

Source: Center for Digital Education

Public Safety

[FirstNet's public-safety-first approach to 5G and evolving the first-responder network](#)

Unlike previous technology upgrades, when public-safety users were mostly an afterthought, they are now a critical market to consider in technology rollouts.

Source: Urgent Communications

[5 key strategies to ensure E911 compliance](#)

A mobile and hybrid workforce makes phone location and 911 call routing challenging. Here are some ways to ensure your company is doing all it can to protect employees in an emergency.

Source: Tech Target

Cybersecurity

[NSA Funding Cybersecurity Workforce Training Programs](#)

Iowa State University and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign will lead a coalition of industry and government partners to train new and existing professionals to sustain the Midwest's cybersecurity workforce.

Source: Government Technology

[14 cybersecurity predictions for 2022 and beyond](#)

In the new year, ransomware attacks are projected to increase, major nation-states look to ramp up aggressive tactics, and deepfakes are likely to compound the threats to cybersecurity.

Source: MIT Tech Review

Digital Divide

[4 Barriers to Achieving Digital Equity in 2022, and How to Overcome Them](#)

Here's a look at how universities and colleges across the nation are working toward a more

comprehensive approach to closing the gap.

Source: EdTech: Focus on Higher Ed

[Biden-Harris Administration Mobilizes Resources to Connect Tribal Nations to Reliable, High-Speed Internet](#)

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has awarded more than \$4.6 million through its Community Connect Program to provide high speed internet connections to Tribal lands in Alaska, Arizona, Iowa, and New Mexico.

Source: The White House

The Iowa Communications Network is a state-of-the-art fiber optic network providing high-speed Internet, data, voice, security, and consulting services to