



Human Rights

Iowa HHS

December 1, 2023

Iowa BEAD Initial Proposal Plan: Public Comment

The Department of Management Division of Information Technology, formerly the Office of the Chief Information Officer, is requesting public comment on the State of Iowa Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Initial Proposal Plan. The Initial Proposal encompasses Iowa's proposed implementation of \$415,331,313 of broadband infrastructure funding made possible through the Investment Infrastructure and Jobs Act (IIJA).

The funds are being administered by the National Telecommunications and Infrastructure Administration. This proposal will result in a future broadband grant opportunity within Iowa targeting unserved and underserved locations.

Public comments may be submitted until 11:59 p.m. on Friday, December 15, 2023, by going to comment.iowa.gov. The public comment link may also be accessed by going to ocio.iowa.gov/broadband. Public comments will be made available to the public with personal identifying information redacted no later than December 27, 2023. Any questions regarding the initial proposal may be directed to ociogrants@iowa.gov.

HHS Human Rights awarded Environmental Justice Government-to-Government (EJG2G) Grant

Human Rights has been selected to receive over \$1 million to establish a statewide Environmental Justice Health Equity (EJHE) program to build the capacity of vulnerable Iowans to have meaningful involvement in addressing environmental and/or public health results. The program will address issues of inequity in a manner designed to organize, empower, and support vulnerable populations, including youth. It will address the risks of household environmental justice issues, including lead-based paint, asbestos, mold, lead service lines, and energy burden.

Human Rights will pilot activities in Waterloo, Des Moines, Sioux City, Cedar Rapids, and Iowa City. EJHE grant partners include the Iowa Environmental Council, Refugee and Immigrant Association, Iowa Missionary and Educational Baptist State Convention, Great Plains Action Society, Broadlawns Medical Center, and other Department of Health and Human Services' offices.

The project is anticipated to start in January 2024 and end December 2026.

Learn more about environmental justice at [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency](https://www.epa.gov).

Iowa African American Hall of Fame

The Connect Foundation has recently transferred custodianship of the Iowa African American Hall of Fame (IAAHF) over to the Des Moines Urban Experience. The purpose of the IAAHF is to recognize outstanding achievements of African Americans with respect to enhancing the quality of life for all Iowans. To date, there have been 77 individuals and one group inducted into the IAAHF since 1996, including George Washington Carver, who was posthumously inducted into the IAAHF in 2005.

The IAAHF plans on inducting up to *six inductees* per year, starting in February 2024. More information will follow, however, you are encouraged to reach out to Dwana Bradley, at dmuexp15@gmail.com or Gary Lawson at qms2000@aol.com for more information.

Youth Justice Council Supports Storm Lake Community Youth

The Youth Justice Council recently partnered with the Storm Lake School District to discuss ideas and activities that can be implemented to support youth engagement and better respond to youth violence.



On November 18, 2023, the Youth Justice Council traveled to Storm Lake to host a volleyball tournament with area students (as pictured above). During this event, students learned more about, and were invited to apply to the Youth Justice Council. Special thanks to community organizations and partners who attended, along with the Storm Lake Police Department who donated gift cards, door prizes, and other items.

The Youth Justice Council captured ideas from the youth on how the community can better support and empower Marshallese students. That feedback will be shared with school district, law enforcement, and community leadership.

The Youth Justice Council plans to travel to Storm Lake again in January to present to the entire student body at Storm Lake High School.

Save the Date - MLK Annual Celebration

Please join us for the annual celebration of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. hosted by the Commission and Office on the Status of African-Americans.

What: MLK Annual Celebration

When: **Saturday, January 13, 2024**
10:45 - noon

Where: Iowa State Capitol
First Floor Rotunda
[1007 E. Grand Ave.](#)
[Des Moines, IA 50319](#)

The event is free and open to the public. No registration is required.

Nominations for Awards

There is still time to submit nominations for the MLK Achievement Award, MLK Service Project Award, and to submit entries for the Call 2 Serve Youth Contest. Nomination forms and contest entries must be postmarked by **December 10, 2023**. The awards will be presented at the MLK celebration.

- **MLK Achievement:** Recognizes individuals who have demonstrated a commitment to Dr. King's vision, helping others, cultural awareness, diversity, active community participation and promoting racial equality of all people in Iowa.

[Nomination Form for Achievement Award](#)

- **MLK Service Project:** Recognizes individuals and/or organizations who are or have participated in a service project that has strengthened their Iowa community, such as mentoring, read to children at schools, community centers, or shelters, restored schools, built playgrounds, and organized neighborhood watches, etc.

[Form for Service Project Award](#)

- **Call 2 Serve Youth Contest.** Students in first through eighth grade are encouraged to submit entries for the annual Call 2 Serve contest, promoting the 2024 Martin Luther King Day of Service. Please get your students involved!

[Call 2 Serve Contest Forms](#)

If you have questions, please contact the Office on the Status of African-Americans at 515-281-3274 or 800-351-4659.

Understanding Law Enforcement Class for Burmese Refugees

The Bureau of Refugee Services has an upcoming class for Burmese refugees. The class is free, and registration is not required. Interpretation services and light refreshments will be provided.

Understanding Law Enforcement for Burmese Refugees

Wednesday, December 6, 2023 11:00 am-1:00 pm

Bureau of Refugee Services Office

[420 Watson Powell Jr. Way, Des Moines, IA 50309](#)

[Flyer - Understanding Law Enforcement](#)

Save the Date - Latino Education Summit

Save the date for the 2024 Latino Education Summit on March 1, 2024. It will be held at the Des Moines Area Community College, FFA Enrichment Center, Ankeny, Iowa. The summit is for educators, faculty, administrators, counselors, recruiters, other staff from K-12 institutions, colleges and universities, and anyone working with Latino students. For resources and information, visit this link: [Latino College Access Network](#).

Lunch and Learn Webinar Series

The Office of Latino Affairs invites you to register for Lunch & Learn Webinar Series held at noon through its Association of Iowa Latinx Professionals. The topics and dates are listed below.

- December 20, 2023: Mental Health 101 and Self Care

- February 21, 2024: Masters and PhD Programs
- April 17, 2024: Serving as a Board Member - What You Must Know
- June 19, 2024: Financial Literacy