
FISCAL UPDATE Article

Fiscal Services Division

November 21, 2024



Ground Floor, State Capitol Building

Des Moines, Iowa 50319

515.281.3566

IOWA 911 COMMUNICATIONS COUNCIL MEETING — NOVEMBER 2024

Meeting. The 911 Communications Council met on November 14, 2024, at the Dallas County Human Services Campus in Adel. A recording of the meeting is available on the [Iowa 911 Communications Council channel](#) on YouTube.

911 Program Financial Report and Program Update. Blake DeRouchey, 911 Program Manager and State Administrator of the Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEMD), provided the Council with the following updates:

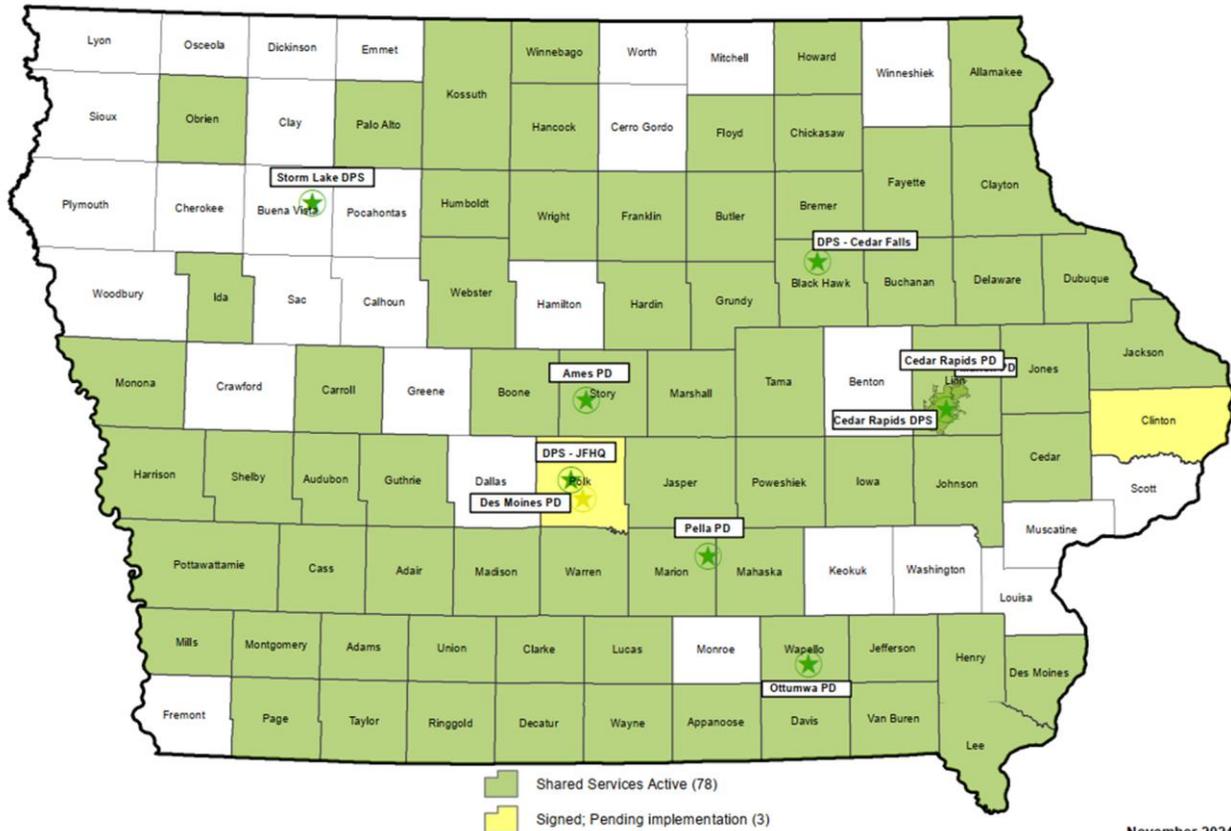
- Two positive indicators were highlighted in the financial update for Quarter 1 of FY 2025. For the first time in two years, there was no requirement to spend from the program surplus in Quarter 1, and costs did not exceed revenue deposited to the operating surplus. A \$300,000 administration cost to HSEMD to manage the program occurs in Quarter 1 of the fiscal year. Current forecasting projects total State available program funding will be exhausted by the second half of FY 2026.
- Annual Point of Contact, Expenditure Data Collection, and Service Board membership forms are due January 1, 2025, and the budget survey has received 29 responses.
- A Geographic Information System (GIS) informational call took place October 29 with 70 participants.
- 911 public safety answering point (PSAP) leadership training will be held on November 19.
- A 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline informational webinar and training is planned tentatively in January.
- Budget training with John Parker from the Department of Management will be scheduled as part of the January Council meeting.
- In October, the State's Emergency Management community discussed the deployment of Telecommunicator Emergency Response Teams (TERT) for emergency response under the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) in response to support requests for Hurricane Milton. EMAC allows emergency resources to be sent out of state to support requests from other states in times of disaster. Iowa's TERT group is working to be recognized for formal specialty designation by the State of Iowa to qualify for deployment under the compact.
- Facility owners of data centers in West Des Moines and Davenport notified the Council that the centers will need to be relocated in the future. The design is still being worked out with Comtech to ensure there is network integrity.
- Bill Burnett spoke on behalf of Comtech and their decision to sell the 911 Division. There is no impact on service to Iowa as of now, and discussion will continue when more information is available.
- **Geographic Information System Grants:** Funding is contingent on verification that the applicant possesses 98.0% match rates with GIS and 98.0% match rates with the Automatic Location Identification (ALI) system. In October, 98 counties met these benchmarks. The county that did not has corrected the issue and is eligible for funding the remaining months of the second quarter of FY 2025.
- **Training Fund Requests:** The Council receives \$100,000 annually from the 911 Wireless Surcharge Fund to cover travel costs for the Council and to assist with public education and training costs for PSAPs. There were no applications made for public education or training funds for the Council to consider. There is \$70,000 remaining in the Fund.

Shared Services Update. The HSEMD awarded Zetron Next-Generation 911 (NG911) contracts in December 2017 and July 2022 for shared 911 call-handling equipment. Zetron also provides a call-taking

system that offers computer-aided dispatch (CAD), 911 mapping, and emergency medical dispatch software in implementing NG911 protocols and systems. Polk County has signed up for Iowa Shared Services for next year. The virtual learning management system is available free to all PSAPs and there is not a requirement to be on Iowa Shared Services.

Figure 1 displays the current active shared services locations in the State by county.

Figure 1 — Current Active Shared Services Locations (by County)



Iowa Statewide Interoperable Communications System (ISICS) Board Update. Haley Nichols, the Statewide Interoperability Coordinator (SWIC), reported on several topics, including the Iowa Electronic Field Operations Guide (E-FOG), the [iMED](#) Project, the EMS communication plan, the Communications Technician (COMT) and Communication Unit Leader courses, and the Iowa Statewide Interoperable Communications System (ISICS) training.

Emergency Communications Coordinator Report. Chris Maiers, Emergency Communications Coordinator of the federal Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), reported on a few items, including two-phase communication trainings in Kansas City for the 2026 FIFA World Cup preparation, the [Secure by Demand](#) initiative for software purchases, the web-based [Infrastructure Survey Tool](#), quantum computing RSA-22 encryption cracking by the People’s Republic of China, and the Endpoint Detection and Response (EDR) Silencer tool allowing potential data theft or exploitation without detection.

Next Meeting. The next Council meeting will be held on December 12, 2024, at the Dallas County Human Services Campus in Adel.

LSA Staff Contact: Nathan Moore (515.725.0155) nathan.moore@legis.iowa.gov

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