
FISCAL UPDATE Article

Fiscal Services Division

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IOWA 911 COMMUNICATIONS COUNCIL MEETING — JANUARY 2025

Meeting. The 911 Communications Council met on January 9, 2025, at the Dallas County Human Services Campus in Adel.

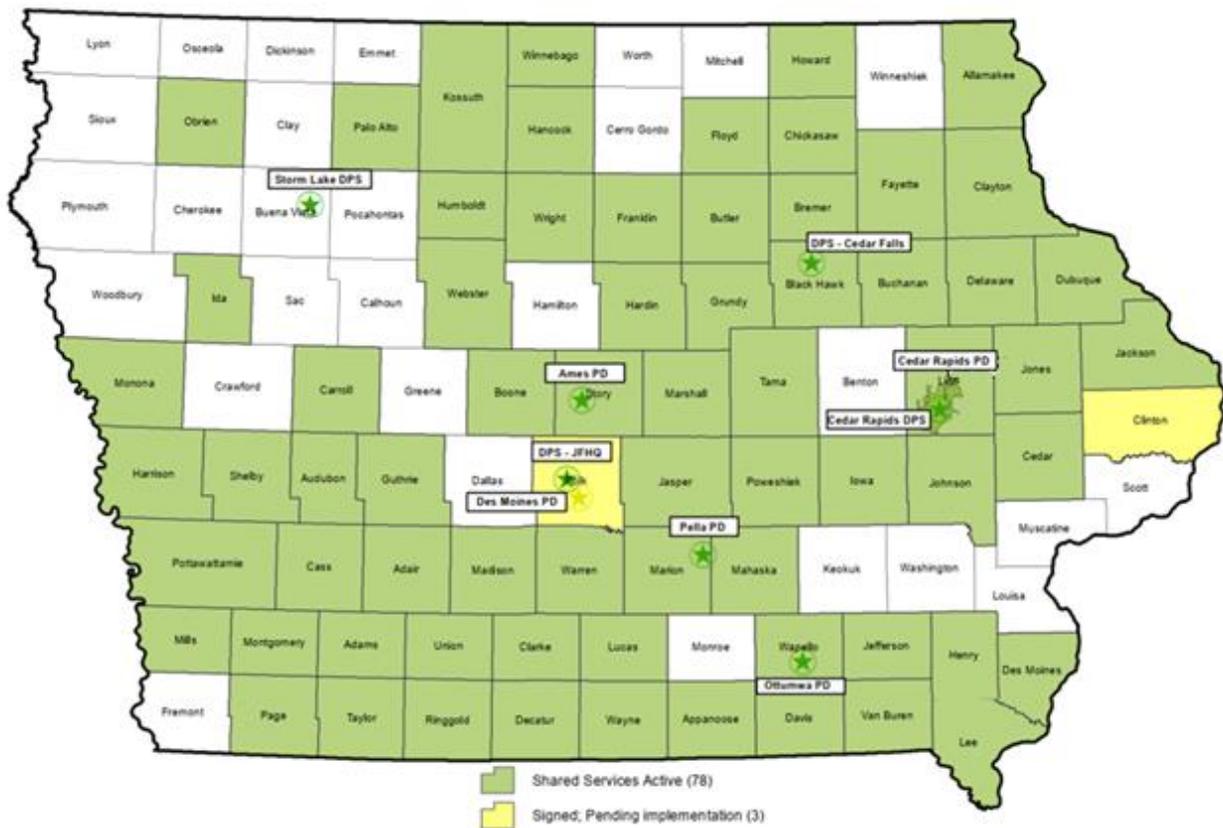
911 Program Financial Report and Program Update. Blake DeRouchey, 911 Program Manager and State Administrator of the Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEMD), provided the Council with the following updates:

- Annual Point of Contact, Expenditure Data Collection, and Service Board membership forms were due January 1, 2025. There are 22 counties that still owe their Service Board membership forms, and 18 counties owe their Expenditure Data Collection forms. If the Expenditure Data Collection forms are not received, 911 surcharge funding will be withheld for these counties.
- John Parker, from the Department of Management, gave a short presentation on the budget process and timelines for county 911 Service Boards.
- **Geographic Information System (GIS) 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 December, 98 counties met these benchmarks with second quarter grant payments totaling \$319,000.
- **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 public safety answering points (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. An item before the Council to consider is the extension of the online learning management system through June 30, 2025. The estimated cost to the Fund is \$8,900.

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. The virtual learning management system is available free to all PSAPs, and there is not a requirement to be on Iowa Shared Services. There have been no additions for shared services since the Council's December meeting.

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

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



Council Discussion. The Council voted to extend the online learning management system through June 30, 2025, at a cost of \$8,900.

Iowa Statewide Interoperable Communications System (ISICS) Board Update. Haley Nichols, the Statewide Interoperability Coordinator (SWIC), reported on several topics, beginning with the Communication Unit Leader course April 1-4, 2025, in Council Bluffs, which is limited to 30 students. There will be a weeklong Communications Technician (COMT) course in Cedar Rapids with a spring date to be determined. In June, Illinois and Wisconsin will participate in a tri-state tabletop communications exercise (COMMEX) taking place in Dubuque. Legislative night is being held the first week of the legislative session with the Department of Public Safety, and the mobile command vehicle will be present for legislators to view.

Emergency Communications Coordinator Report. Chris Maiers, Emergency Communications Coordinator of the federal Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), reported on several items, including guidance to [protect communication infrastructure](#), mobile communications [best practices](#) to protect against exploitation by cyber threat actors, [lessons learned](#) from the CISA red team to improve cybersecurity posture, safe deployment of [artificial intelligence \(AI\)](#) in critical infrastructure, the updates to technical assistance resources and coursework, expanded cyber-resilient 911 trainings, and the two-phase communication trainings in Kansas City for the 2026 FIFA World Cup preparation, which are open to regional participants.

Information Sharing by Council Members. The Council Chair reiterated that two Council vacancies still exist, and this can make it more difficult to reach a quorum at Council meetings.

Next Meeting. The next Council meeting will be held on February 13, 2025, at 9:30 a.m. at the Dallas County Human Services Campus in Adel.

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