
FISCAL UPDATE Article

Fiscal Services Division

March 26, 2025



Ground Floor, State Capitol Building

Des Moines, Iowa 50319

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IOWA 911 COMMUNICATIONS COUNCIL MEETING — MARCH 2025

Meeting. The 911 Communications Council met on March 13, 2025, 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.

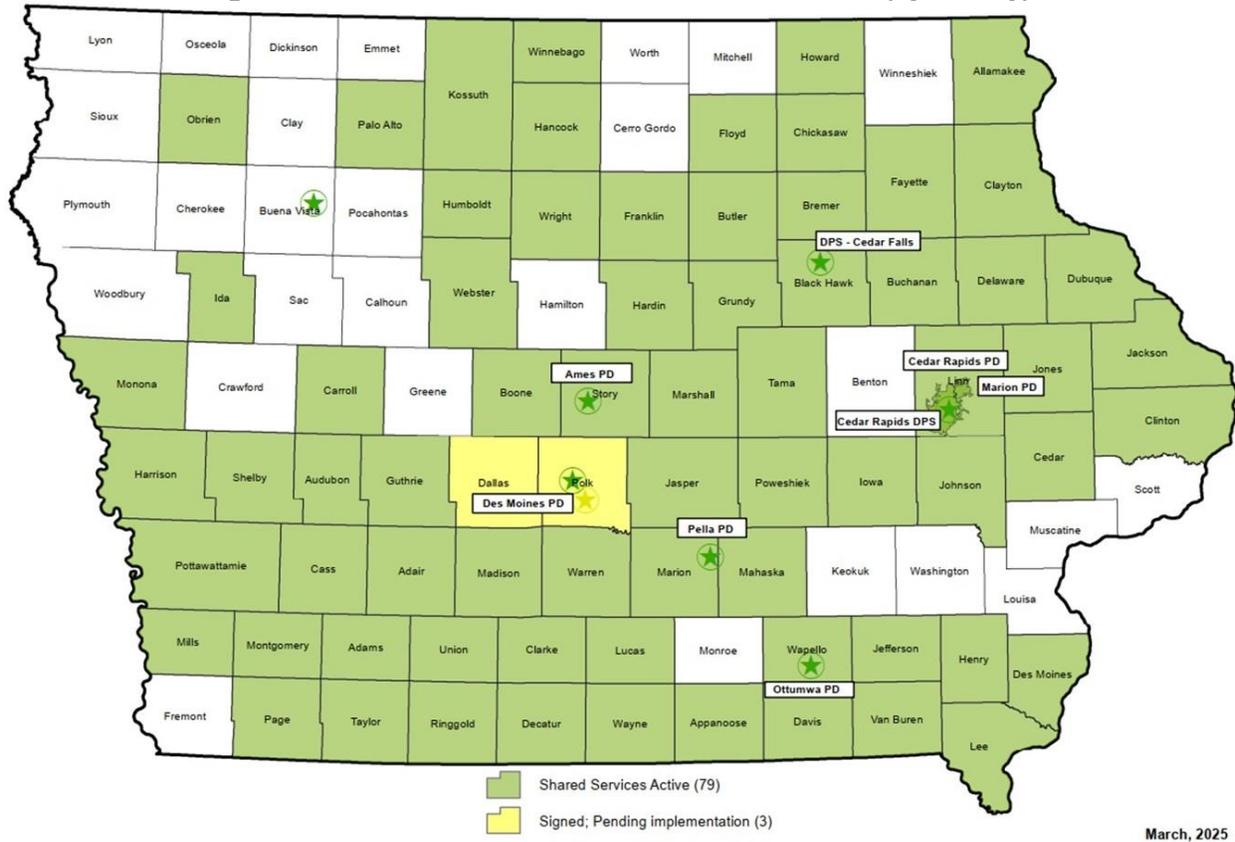
911 Program Financial Report and Program Update. Blake DeRouchey, 911 Program Manager and State Administrator of the Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEMD), provided the Council with the following updates:

- A legislative update was given for proposed legislation that addresses the Next Generation 911 (NG911) transition and program funding as well as a modification to voting membership on county 911 service boards. Legislation introduced earlier in the week ([House File 951](#)) would establish a \$2.0 million grant program appropriation for counties with a population of 16,000 to 16,500 for the repair or replacement of 911 equipment impacted by a natural disaster in calendar year 2024.
- Due to a promotion within the HSEMD, the Department is opening a position related to emergency management, [Alert Iowa](#), and 911 programming.
- Public safety telecommunicators and public safety answering point (PSAP) volunteers from across the State were asked to participate in a survey for the Iowa 911 Telecommunicator Week campaign. Currently, six individuals have provided their stories and more engagement is encouraged, with the deadline to participate set for the end of March.
- Annual point-of-contact, expenditure data collection, and service board membership forms were due January 1, 2025. Four counties owe their service board membership forms, and three counties owe their expenditure data collection forms. If the expenditure data collection forms are not received this month, 911 surcharge funding will be withheld for these counties in Quarter 3.
- **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 February, all 99 counties met these benchmarks, and the next quarterly payment is expected in April.
- **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. Two training applications were approved, which included \$5,000 for attendance at the Iowa Association of Public Safety Communications Officials (APCO) spring conference and \$5,000 for attendance at the Iowa National Emergency Number Association (NENA) spring conference. As of February 2025, there is approximately \$42,000 remaining in the Fund. After payments for these applications, there will be approximately \$32,000 remaining in the Fund.

Shared Services Update. The HSEMD awarded Zetron 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 for free to all PSAPs, and there is not a requirement to be on Iowa shared services. Clinton County is now live on shared services, and three current deployments are underway with the Des Moines Police Department and Polk and Dallas counties.

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 items, including that ISICS Board committees will transition to a Microsoft Teams platform over the next month; that the Incident Communication Center Manager course is a requested training priority; that there is uncertainty regarding federal funding and ISICS is working to confirm the Council Bluffs Communication Unit Leader course April 1 through 4, 2025, will proceed; and that the Communications Technician course in Cedar Rapids will occur June 2 through 6, 2025. On June 12, 2025, Iowa, Illinois, and Wisconsin will participate in a tri-state tabletop communications exercise, which will take place in Dubuque with a functional exercise happening on September 19, 2025. Ms. Nichols also addressed the pause of grant funding for the [iMed plan](#), but there is an updated Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Communications Plan available on the EMS [webpage](#) of Iowa Health and Human Services (HHS).

Emergency Communications Coordinator Report. Chris Maiers, Emergency Communications Coordinator of the federal Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), reported on updates to technical assistance [resources](#) and coursework with a focus on resiliency in communications, and categories of training and support available. There is an emphasis on special security events, and there is additional training in Kansas City for the 2026 Federation of Association Football (FIFA) World Cup preparation.

Next Meeting. The next Council meeting will be held on April 10, 2025, at 9:30 a.m. at the Dallas County Human Services Campus in Adel.

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