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## FISCAL UPDATE Article

Fiscal Services Division

May 13, 2025



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### IOWA 911 COMMUNICATIONS COUNCIL MEETING — MAY 2025

**Meeting.** The 911 Communications Council met on May 8, 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:

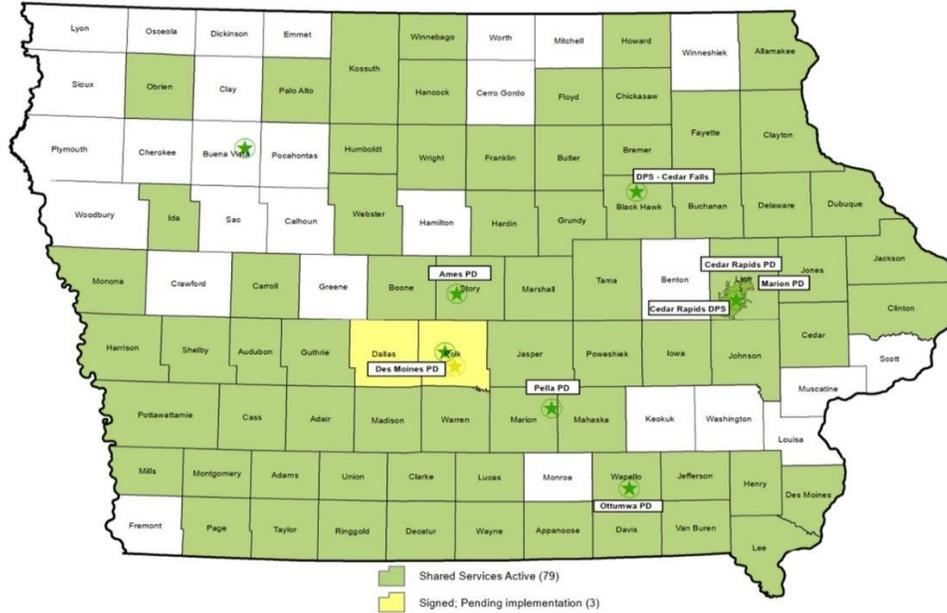
- No further action has occurred regarding [House File 951](#) (E911 Surcharge, Natural Disasters Bill), or [House Study Bill 332](#) (Emergency Telephone Systems Bill). The U.S. Senate Commerce Committee passed and moved [S.725](#) (Enhancing First Response Act) to the Senate floor, which, if enacted, would categorize public safety telecommunicators as a protective service occupation under the Standard Occupational Classification System (SOCS).
- **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 April, all 99 counties met these benchmarks. A GeoComm representative spoke on the standardization of attributes required for GIS data for next-generation 911 services and specific guidance to be provided to each of the counties following review of the dataset.
- **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 are no training requests for May, and there is approximately \$19,000 remaining in the Fund. Mr. DeRouchey presented possible options for the use of the remaining funds this fiscal year to include the printing of additional children's activity books or 911 brochures.
- Mr. DeRouchey spoke about the extension of the virtual learning management system (LMS) and costs associated with extensions from July 1, 2025, through December 31, 2025, being approximately \$19,000, while an extension through the next fiscal year until June 30, 2026, is approximately \$37,000.

**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 LMS is available for free to all PSAPs, and there is no requirement to be on Iowa shared services.

- Three current deployments are underway with the Des Moines Police Department, Polk County, and Dallas County.
- The LMS online portal has added three new Iowa Statewide Interoperable Communications System (ISICS) classes: radio basics, pursuit communications, and status board.
- Zetron is delivering a MAX Call Taking Training System to the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA). The system will be used in basic public safety telecommunicator training at the ILEA and hosting agencies. The first use is in Scott County, where trainees will experience taking and handling test 911 calls on full-feature laptop consoles.

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

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



**Presentation from Attorney General’s Office.** John Gish and Tracy Bearden, representing the Iowa Attorney General’s Office—Victim Assistance, gave a presentation on coordination with Iowa PSAPs on sexual assault examinations.

**Iowa Statewide Interoperable Communications System Board Update.** Haley Nichols, the Statewide Interoperability Coordinator (SWIC), reported on the following items:

- The ISICS training courses uploaded through the agency to the Zetron training portal have seen an increase in enrollments based on the end-of-course surveys, and new modules created by the Training and Outreach Committee will continue to be shared for agencies’ personnel.
- The Communications Technician course at Cedar Rapids will be June 2 through 6, 2025. Registration remains open, with only six remaining participant slots available.
- There will be training in Floyd County on May 28, 2025, as the county comes online to ISICS, and another June 1, 2025, in Lucas County, for all disciplines, to include a tabletop exercise to utilize the system.
- Grant funds for the [iMED plan](#) have been paused since February 21, 2025, with no further update.

**Emergency Communications Coordinator Report.** Chris Maiers, Emergency Communications Coordinator of the federal Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), gave an update on technical assistance and changes expected in the program. Work is being done to ensure that federal subject matter experts are available to provide support, replacing contracted personnel who were previously part of the program, which may create some delay in delivery timelines of anticipated projects. The new service delivery model is being built, and program updates are being reviewed. The communications unit leader course has been postponed, with the potential to occur later this year. The tactical dispatcher course is June 10 through 13, 2025, and the incident communications manager course is July 21 through 23, 2025, both in Kansas City, Missouri.

**Next Meeting.** The next Council meeting will be held on June 12, 2025, at 9:30 a.m. at the Dallas County Human Services Campus in Adel.

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