
FISCAL UPDATE Article

Fiscal Services Division

August 19, 2025



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IOWA 911 COMMUNICATIONS COUNCIL MEETING — AUGUST 2025

Meeting. The 911 Communications Council met on August 14, 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](#).

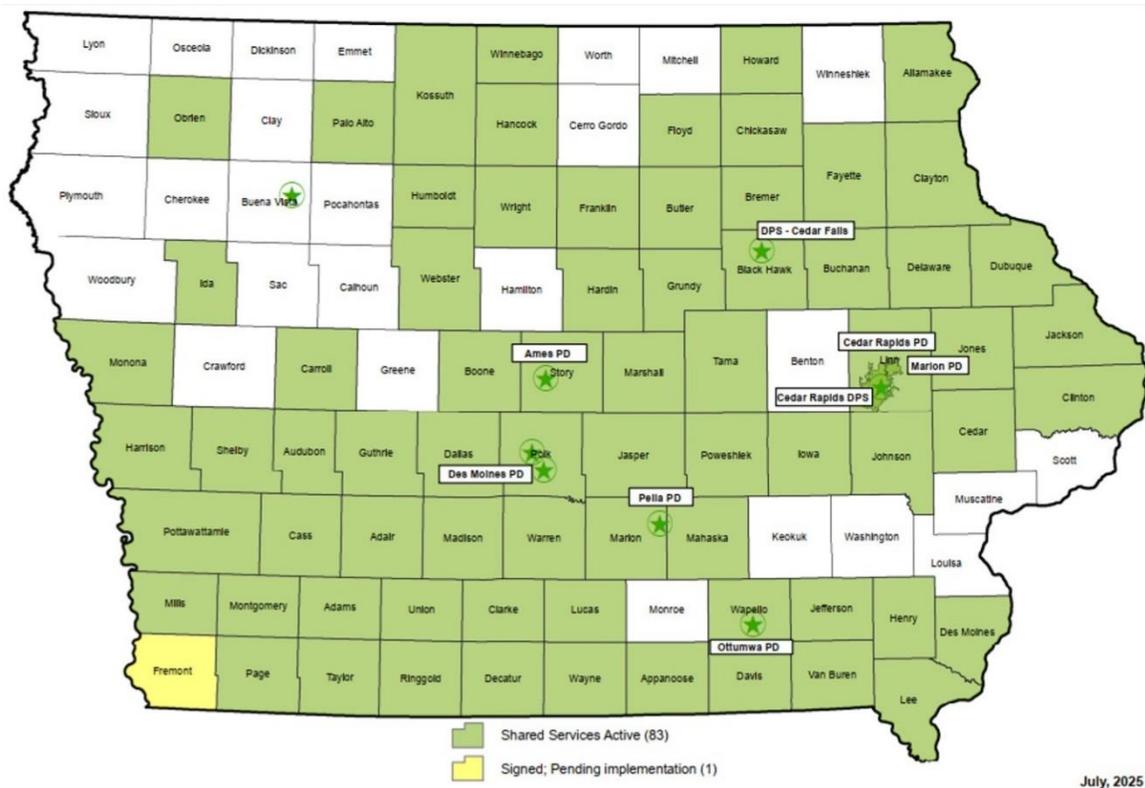
911 Program Financial Report and Program Update. Blake DeRouche, 911 Program Manager and State Administrator of the Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEMD), provided the Council with the following updates:

- The end-of-fiscal-year close-out financial report was presented. There is just under \$500,000 remaining in the program's surplus, and Mr. DeRouche reported that the projected shortfall in funding is not as significant as initially estimated. In the first quarter of FY 2026, it is expected that the passthrough remittance required from each county will begin with the first quarterly payment. The program's expected shortfalls have been estimated through FY 2027, and analysis will be done quarterly to determine the percentage of total passthrough surcharge funds that the program is short. The next anticipated large technical costs are the relocation of two data centers and the implementation of new Internet protocol (IP) suite routers for the 911 network.
- A critical incident mapping webinar was held in conjunction with the Department of Education and GeoComm, which has had a project in development for approximately 18 months to map school campuses and provide call locations for public service answering points (PSAPs). An additional information session is planned for the PSAPs and call-handling vendors to discuss what is occurring with the data center moves.
- Annual forms are coming due. The FY 2025 expenditure collection form is available on the shared site.
- **Geographic Information System (GIS) Grants:** Funding for GIS grants 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 July, all 99 counties met these benchmarks.
- **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 training requests for approval in August and approximately \$71,000 remains in the Fund. Children's activity books are still available by request for summer and fall events.

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 no requirement to be on Iowa shared services. Fremont County is implementing its services in October 2025.

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

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



July, 2025

Iowa Statewide Interoperable Communications System (ISICS) Board Update. Haley Nichols, Statewide Interoperability Coordinator (SWIC), reported on several items, including the ISICS and the Department of Public Safety (DPS) outreach booths at the Iowa State Fair. ISICS cache radios were deployed to support RAGBRAI and utilized for several training events. The form for these deployable resources may be found on the DPS’s [website](#). The SWIC and Deputy SWIC, Curtis Walser, participated in several neighboring states’ interstate interoperability meetings. The DPS recently participated in an on-site assessment by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA), and the assessor provided a valuation of the State’s scope and commitment to interoperable communication. The Communication Unit Leader (COML) course is scheduled for September 22 through 24, 2025, in Council Bluffs. There is no update on federal grant funds. ISICS Board committee member reapplications are due by November. Due to policy changes made by the Board, all current members are required to submit committee membership forms.

Emergency Communications Coordinator Report. Chris Maiers, Emergency Communications Coordinator of the federal Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), gave an update emphasizing an updated cyber advisory on [Scattered Spider](#), a cybercriminal group that engages in data theft. [Interlock](#), a new ransomware variant targeting critical infrastructure, utilizes drive-by downloading on compromised legitimate websites. It is advised that domain name system (DNS) filtering and protections such as web access firewalls and credentialing should be updated as a countermeasure. The [cyber eviction strategies tool](#) aggregates resources to build incident remediation and response plans. A communications exercise (COMMEX) will occur in Cape Girardeau, Missouri, on August 18 through 20, 2025, and at Children’s Mercy Park in Kansas City, Missouri, on August 26 and 27, 2025. The Red River Communications Unit (COMU) Boot Camp in Durant, Oklahoma, will be held October 12 through 17, 2025.

Discussion from Participants. The issue of service provider wireline cost recovery to PSAPs was addressed. Mr. DeRouche went through some recent history of wireline concerns, adding that it is possible to request that certain carriers conduct a circuit audit to classify those used to close out unnecessary recovery costs. Further, the Council was asked about the target date for new IP routers on the network that will meet a Federal Communications Commission (FCC) ruling for the Session Initiation Protocol (SIP) for carrier ingress on the network. Mr. DeRouche said that based on a meeting with the Iowa Communications Network (ICN), and accounting for applicable service provider's adoption schedules of up to 12 months, the tentative, best-case timeline for full implementation of these IP routers is approximately 18 to 24 months.

The Iowa Association of Public Safety Communications Officials (APCO) and National Emergency Number Association (NENA) fall conference is scheduled for October 13 and 14, 2025. The DPS will be conducting a free training that includes the National Law Enforcement Telecommunications System (Nlets), U.S. Marshals, and Iowa agencies at the FFA enrichment center in Ankeny on September 19, 2025.

Next Meeting. The next Council meeting will be held on September 11, 2025, at 9:30 a.m. at the Dallas County Human Services Campus in Adel.

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