
FISCAL UPDATE Article

Fiscal Services Division

September 17, 2025



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Des Moines, Iowa 50319

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IOWA 911 COMMUNICATIONS COUNCIL MEETING — SEPTEMBER 2025

Meeting. The 911 Communications Council met on September 11, 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](#).

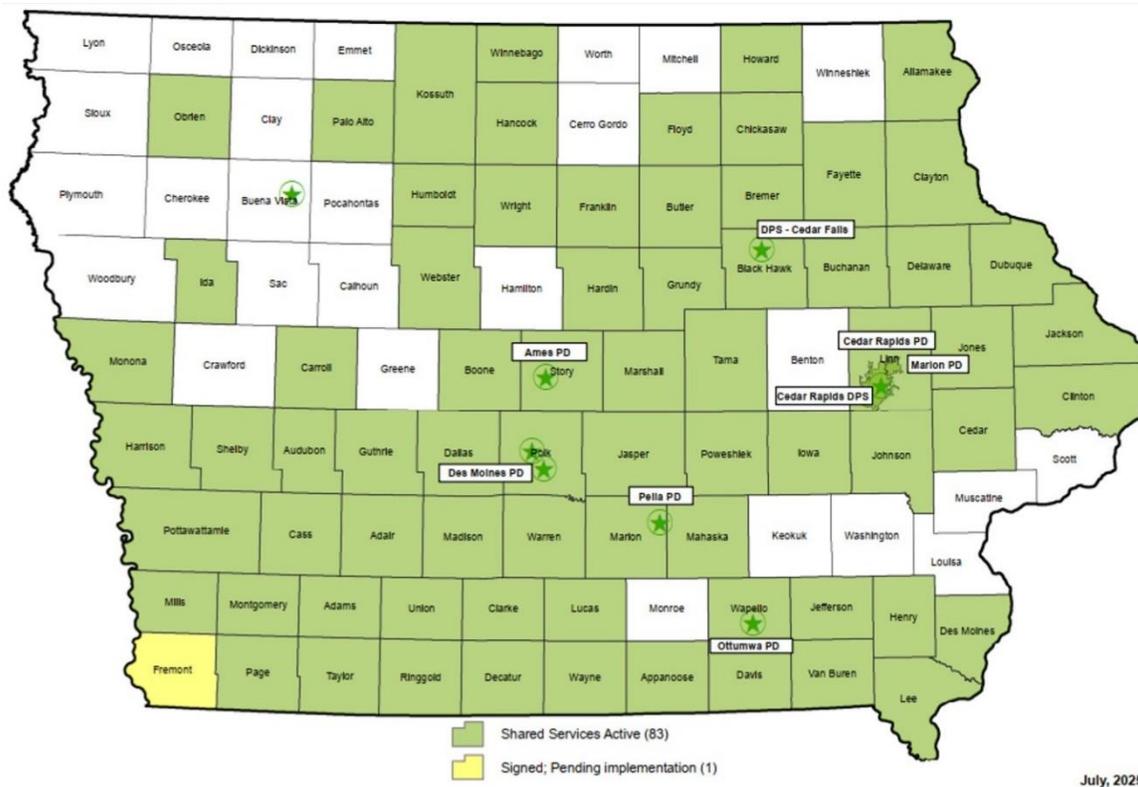
911 Program Financial Report and Program Update. Blake DeRouchey, 911 Program Manager and State Administrator of the Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEMD), provided the Council with the following updates:

- As of this meeting, there are 27 joint local 911 service boards interested in the [Memorandum of Understanding \(MOU\)](#) to withhold a portion of quarterly wireless surcharges to decrease the administrative effort of invoicing boards for reimbursements to HSEMD for network updates. Currently, 13 boards have signed the MOU pursuant to [Senate File 659](#) (FY 2026 Standing Appropriations Act).
- Comtech has scheduled two webinar sessions on September 23 and 25, 2025, for Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) and call-handling equipment vendors to participate in technical discussions of the Technical Data Center moves occurring in the near future.
- Annual forms are coming due January 1, 2026. 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 August, 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 two training requests for approval in September: \$5,000 for the National Emergency Number Association (NENA) and \$2,400 for the Association of Public Safety Communications Officials (APCO) conferences. Approximately \$63,000 remains in the Fund following approval of the conference funding.

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. Currently, there are 83 PSAPs operating on Iowa shared services, with Fremont County 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)



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

- There is new infrastructure being built in counties that are new users on ISICS. The Communication Unit Leader (COML) course is scheduled for September 22 through 24, 2025, in Council Bluffs, which will also serve as a COML instructor course for Iowa and neighboring states.
- Ms. Nichols has been attending virtual meetings of the National Council of Statewide Interoperability Coordinators (NCSWIC), sharing that there has been information put out about interoperable applications being made available. Questions may be directed to Ms. Nichols to assist with potential implementation.
- The [iMED plan](#) grant funds have received a six-month extension until March of 2026, as the project was intended as a two-year grant that was to end at the end of September. The funds have been paused since February 21, 2025, and the State has not been able to draw down the remaining balance.
- ISICS Board committee member reapplications are due by November. Ms. Nichols reminded members to complete these applications for reappointment for next year in accordance with the recent policy changes made by the Board.

Emergency Communications Coordinator Report. Chris Maiers, Emergency Communications Coordinator of the federal Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), gave the following updates:

- There is a new [software acquisition guide and tool](#) for government agencies that is focused on procurement and acquisitions, and includes a tool designed to customize decision-making processes.

- New guidance is available for operational technology (OT) owners and operators on [cybersecurity inventory](#), which is geared toward communication systems operational technology asset inventories essential for securing property, incident reduction, and ensuring continuity of capability.
- The technical assistance request period will open again in October, and the focus will be on governance, standard operating procedures, technology, training and exercises, and usage, to be coordinated with the SWIC and 911 Program Manager.
- The Red River Communications Unit (COMU) Boot Camp in Durant, Oklahoma, will be held October 12 through 17, 2025, with a one-day communications exercise to follow.

Information Sharing by Council Members. Chairman Robert Rotter initiated a discussion with representatives of Windstream Kinetic Business and related companies to have a member of the company address contracts, renewals, and issues of billings with PSAPs. Mr. Rotter stated that there have been issues with access to expiring and expired contracts between the PSAPs and the provider of services, which impedes the review of new contractual agreements for wireline services. Last month's meeting included discussion about carrier circuit audits and wireline cost recovery. Members of the company spoke to these concerns and provided their contact information for the meeting participants. There were concerns raised from PSAPs, including the merger of Windstream with Uniti and nonitemized invoices that delay payments.

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

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Doc ID 1543683