
FISCAL UPDATE Article

Fiscal Services Division

November 20, 2025



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Des Moines, Iowa 50319

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IOWA 911 COMMUNICATIONS COUNCIL MEETING — NOVEMBER 2025

Meeting. The 911 Communications Council met on November 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](#).

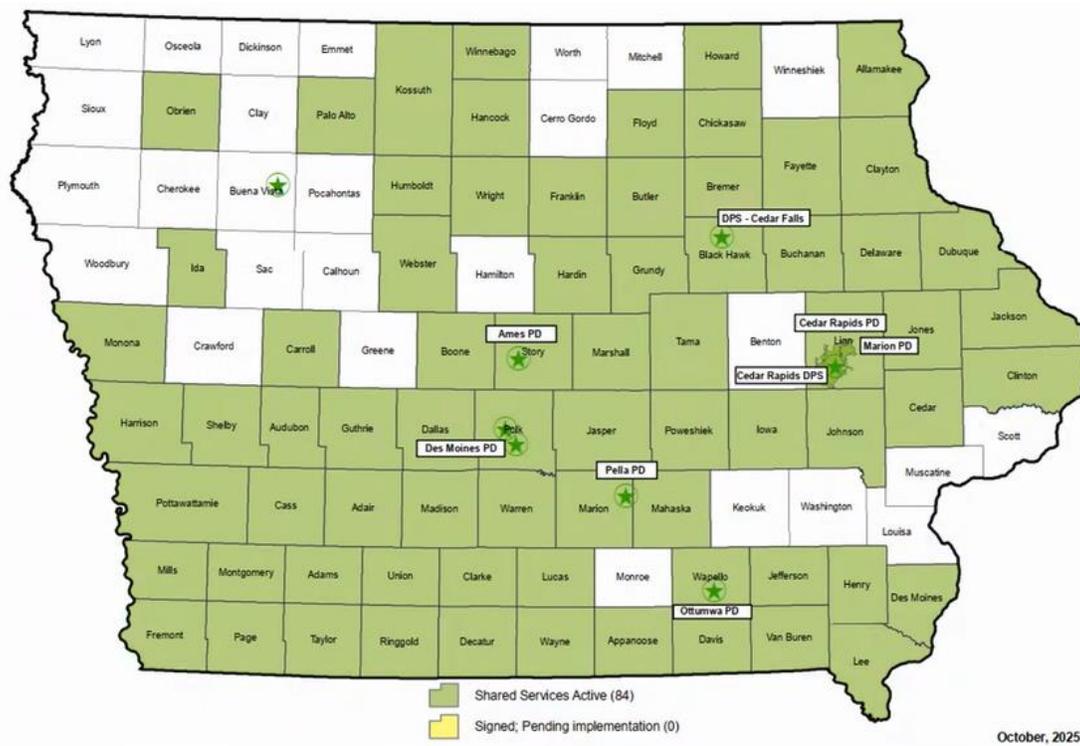
911 Program Financial Report and Program Update. Blake DeRouchey, 911 Program Manager and State Administrator of the Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEMD), provided the Council with the following updates:

- Mr. DeRouchey went over the 911 program financial report to explain updates to the quarterly payments to Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) worksheet and the first quarter expenditure report. Wireless cost recovery, allocating up to 10.0% of total surcharge generated to wireless carriers, is in its final quarter of invoices submitted to the State. The provision of Iowa Code allowing cost recovery ends on June 30, 2026, and with the last carrier ceasing invoicing, this is ahead of the anticipated end date.
- As of this meeting, 32 joint local 911 service boards have signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to withhold a portion of quarterly wireless surcharges for network updates pursuant to 2025 Iowa Acts, [Senate File 659](#) (FY 2026 Standing Appropriations Act). The first quarter is set at 5.86% of the wireless surcharge remittance, which is invoiced or withheld from county receipts of their quarterly payment.
- Proposed rewrites of administrative rules for the HSEMD are underway and Chapter [10](#), “911 Telephone Systems,” was published in the [Iowa Administrative Bulletin](#) on October 29, 2025. Public comment is due by November 19, 2025.
- Annual forms are coming due January 1, 2026, and the receipt of FY 2025 forms is in progress.
- **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 October, all 99 counties met these benchmarks, and each received partial payment totaling \$321,000 in GIS grant funds for the first quarter of FY 2026.
- **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. The Council approved \$2,400 in September for the Association of Public Safety Communications Officials (APCO) conference, but approval is requested for an amended amount of \$2,468.80. Approximately \$53,000 remains in the Fund following the approved course funding as amended.

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 deployed services in October.

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:

- The ISICS Board, and committees, continue to work on policy to align with the Statewide Communication Interoperability Plan (SCIP). Committee member reapplications received will be reviewed and members approved at the next ISICS Board meeting on December 11, 2025.
- There is no update on the status of the [iMED plan](#) grant funds, with funding extended until March 28, 2026. The funds have been paused since February 21, 2025, and the State has not been able to draw down the remaining balance. The program’s financial report was accepted by the federal government this month during the shutdown.
- Dodgeville, Wisconsin, is holding a Communication Unit Leader (COML) course that is open to Iowa students. Those interested should contact the SWIC for information and assistance in registering.
- The ISICS Board’s annual report is being drafted, and Ms. Nichols asks that you contact her if there is anything of interest to add, or to review the draft.

Emergency Communications Coordinator Report. Chris Maiers, Emergency Communications Coordinator of the federal Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), had no formal presentation but recommended agency attentiveness to cybersecurity of communication systems and network resources.

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

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