



Legislative Services Agency

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Fiscal Services Division

Fiscal Update Article

Iowa 911 Communications Council Meeting — October 2026

October 20, 2026

Meeting

The 911 Communications Council met on October 8, 2026, 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:

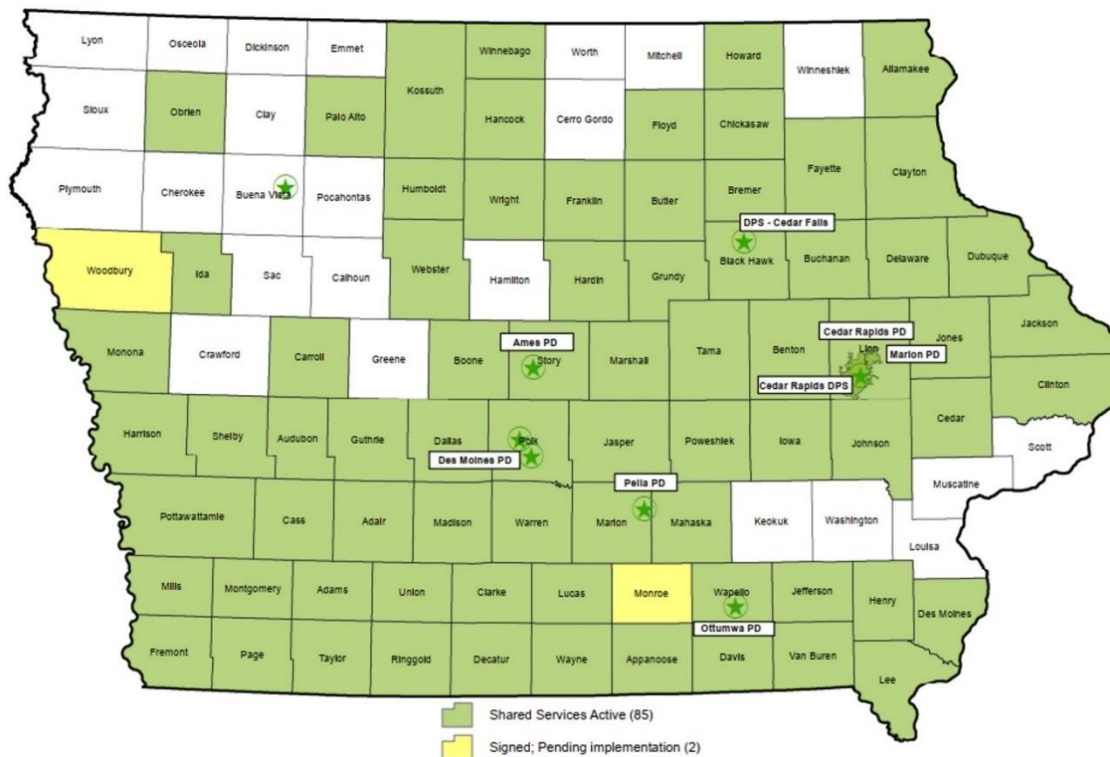
- The deadline for submission of annual forms is January 1, 2027.
- In preparation for wireline providers' Next Generation 911 (NG911) migration to Session Initiation Protocol (SIP) call delivery, a webinar is scheduled November 2, 2026, at 1:30 p.m. covering the process for Phase 1 readiness of provider integration.
- A new person has been selected for the HSEMD 911 program, and more details will be provided in November when they are anticipated to begin their position.
- A disaster response vehicle (DRV) was temporarily deployed to Jefferson County on October 1, 2026, to manage 911 calls following flash flooding that displaced the county communications center.
- On October 26, 2026, Mr. DeRouchey will present at the National Emergency Number Association (NENA) conference.
- Lumen Technologies is making plans to retire analog copper telecommunications lines. The Iowa Utilities Commission (IUC) is in the process of reviewing the filing presented to the State, and no 911 infrastructure is anticipated to be impacted during the phase out.
- 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 September, all 99 counties met these benchmarks, and the first quarter grant payments have been submitted.
- Training Fund Requests: The Council receives an allocation of \$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 two requests for training totaling approximately \$25,000:
 - \$5,000 for the NENA fall conference at which representatives from the Spokane Washington Regional Emergency Communications Center will present.
 - \$20,000 for the 40-hour accreditation NENA Center Manager Certification Program (CMCP).

Once these requests are approved, the remaining Fund balance for FY 2027 will be approximately \$13,000.

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 learning management system (LMS) is available for free to all PSAPs, and there is no requirement to be on Iowa shared services. Woodbury County is scheduled to deploy its shared services on October 21, 2026. Monroe County is scheduled to deploy shared services on November 18, 2026. **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 several issues during the meeting:

- The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will conduct a nationwide test of the Emergency Alert System (EAS) on November 17, 2026, that will interrupt normal programming.
- The Incident Tactical Dispatcher (INTD) course is scheduled for December 7, 2026, in Carroll County.
- The State-sponsored Communications Unit Leader (COML) course is on hold to institute the modernized curriculum. Ms. Nichols noted that a course may be available in the spring.

Emergency Communications Coordinator Report

Chris Maiers, Emergency Communications Coordinator of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), gave an update on the following items:

- [Prioritizing security updates based on risk](#) and selecting the proper strategy for security management. This directive includes a remediation timeline as a resource to mitigate

vulnerabilities, and there is a CISA working session available to assist with organizational preparedness.

- On October 30, 2026, two scenario-driven exercises of the [Shared Resources \(SHARES\) High Frequency \(HF\) Radio Program](#) will be conducted. This program supports a communication network for emergency preparedness personnel when other traditional means of communication are damaged or inaccessible.
- Technical assistance (TA) requests are being accepted through October 23, 2026, and can be submitted through the SWIC.

Next Meeting

The next Council meeting will be held on November 12, 2026, at 9:30 a.m. at the Dallas County Human Services Campus in Adel.

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