

IOWA COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK

- The Iowa Communications Network (ICN) was created by the 1989 General Assembly as a fiber optic "cyberhighway" capable of carrying all forms of telecommunications traffic including voice, data, internet, and video. Construction of the network began in 1991.
- The number one priority of the ICN, by statute, is education. The ICN is committed to the continued enhancement of distance learning for Iowa's educational community.
- There is a global entry point within 15 miles of every Iowan utilizing ICN video services.
- Besides the more than 740 video access points utilizing ICN services, the ICN provides internet service. The ICN has experienced a 138.0% increase in Internet bandwidth sold from September 2008 to September 2009.
- Although the first priority is education, the ICN provides the capability for Iowans to have access to health care and government service opportunities available to them throughout the state.
- Use of the network is limited to:
 - Public and private education (Pre K-20)
 - State and federal government agencies
 - Public libraries
 - National Guard facilities
 - Judicial facilities
 - Hospital and physician clinics
- The ICN serves nearly 12,000 telephone, fax stations, or modem numbers in the Des Moines area and supports over 300 lines outstate (Council Bluffs, Waterloo, and Sioux City). The ICN also provides long distance voice services to users statewide.
- The network is made up of 3,100 miles of State-owned fiber and approximately 3,500 miles of leased fiber.
- The State owns the ICN fiber backbone and network equipment. The final debt service payment was made in March 2005. Construction and upgrade costs of the network have totaled \$231.0 million over the 16 years of its existence.
- Additional information regarding the ICN is available at the ICN website.
www.icn.state.ia.us

Source: Iowa Communications Network and Legislative Services Agency, Fiscal Services Division

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