
Q: Will counties or affiliates be required to have Clearinghouse approval for projects?

A: The advisory board will not have the authority to mandate to the affiliates on how to run their own projects. The advisory board is to be an information sharing resource for those who wish to use it. The advisory board will enable information sharing and help to prevent overlapping of existing technologies.

Q: What will be the main benefits of a Technology Clearinghouse?

A: The County Technology Clearinghouse could provide coordination that should result in three major benefits:

- Savings by counties and county offices working collaboratively;
- Savings by leveraging the resources of one project for use by other projects; and
- Increased and improved services to Iowa residents, particularly in smaller counties, through the development of electronic county services, and by preventing the development of technology silos between various county projects.

Q: What is the timeframe?

A: Ideally ISAC would like to have the first facilitated advisory board meeting before the end of the calendar year 2006.

Q: How does this fit in with the CREEGAC committee created by the legislation?

A: The committee was created to focus on the real estate information. It has worked well and helped to create some great working relationships between affiliates. The advisory board that we are discussing today will not replace CREEGAC but will work with it.

Need more information?

The minutes and PowerPoint presentation from the “President’s Roundtable” discussion are available at:

www.iowacounties.org/Technology.htm

Select “Meeting Minutes”

Additional questions may be directed to:
Robin Harlow

Technology Project Manager

Iowa State Association of Counties

Email: rharlow@iowacounties.org

Office: 515-244-7181, x306

County
Technology
Clearinghouse



Background

The County Technology Clearinghouse Project was approved by the ISAC Board of Directors in September 2004. The ISAC Board authorized staff to pursue a grant from the Iowa Local Government Innovations Fund. Funding was obtained from the Local Government Innovations Fund and staffing approved for ISAC's FY-2006 Budget. A Technology Project Manager was hired in January 2006 to manage the CTC Project.

The intent for the grant was to create a mechanism to overcome:

- Insufficient expertise within many counties to develop strategic direction and vision for technology;
- Insufficient technology staff resources (or no technology staff) within many counties;
- Difficulty in ensuring inter-office operability from the citizens' standpoint;
- Difficulty in coordinating multi-county applications; and
- Limited resources.

In August 2006, all affiliates were invited to participate in a roundtable discussion on the County Technology Clearinghouse.

The questions and answers from that discussion are presented in this brochure.

Questions & Answers

Q: What would be the steps involved in making the Clearinghouse operational?

A: As outlined in the original grant, there will be 5 steps:

- 1) Activate an Advisory Board
- 2) Advisory Board performs an assessment of information technology and processes.
- 3) Advisory Board develops a Strategic Plan.
- 4) Advisory Board implements an Action Plan.
- 5) Advisory Board performs a post-project assessment and determines future life.

Q: What is the purpose of the Advisory Board ?

A: The initial purpose would be to perform assessments and develop strategic and operational plans for the Clearinghouse. In the long term, the purpose would be to oversee the strategic plan and monitor operational activities so that the Clearinghouse would fulfill the mission as defined by the Advisory Board.

Q: What effect would the Advisory Board have on current affiliate projects?

A: The advisory board should not look into the replacement of the existing affiliate projects but should provide direction and resources for future projects.

Q: Will the Advisory Board be affiliate focused or have more of an overarching focus?

A: Yes to both. ISAC is an affiliate based organization and our board is structured around the affiliates. Our affiliates are the strength of our organization. The board will have representation from the different affiliates. This will enable the board to discuss not only affiliate issues but address those that have more of a broad-based approach or county prospective.

Q: What would be the time commitment to serve on the Advisory Board?

A: Initially a couple of one or two day intense meetings. These meetings will address the establishment of the mission statement and goals of the board. Once up and going it could be a quarterly meeting.