

## ISAC's Organizational Structure

ISAC is comprised of several statewide associations called affiliates. For example, all the county treasurers in the state have their own association which is called the Iowa State Treasurers Association, Inc., and are cited as one of ISAC's affiliates. In total, there are 15 of these associations that are affiliated with ISAC.

- Iowa State Association of Assessors
- Iowa County Attorneys' Association, Inc.
- Iowa State Association of County Auditors
- Iowa County Community Services Association
- County Conservation Directors Association of Iowa
- Iowa Emergency Management Directors Assn.
- Iowa County Engineers Association
- Iowa Environmental Health Specialists
- Iowa Counties Information Technology Organization
- County Public Health Nurses Association
- Iowa County Recorders Association
- Iowa State Sheriffs' and Deputies' Association
- Iowa State Association of County Supervisors
- Iowa State County Treasurers' Association, Inc.
- County Zoning Officials

Each of these associations elects its own officers. Some have as few as three officers, while some have as many as 10. Each association decides how its board representative is chosen for the ISAC Board of Directors. The supervisors are allowed to seat three members on the ISAC Board due to their greater number throughout the state. After the overall ISAC Board is chosen, the Board elects its own executive board. The term of all board members is one year, but there is no restriction against consecutive terms. Any county official in the state who is a director of the National Association of Counties (NACo) automatically becomes a member of the ISAC Board.

## ISAC Member Organizations

**ISAC Alumni Association:** This association is comprised of approximately 50 members that have retired from a county position but want to remain in contact with ISAC and their friends in county government. Anyone who is a former elected or appointed county employee is eligible to join. Approved by the ISAC Board of Directors, the organization meets regularly to discuss current county government issues and offer solutions to county officials. The organization provides constructive discussions at meetings, serves on panels in an advisory capacity and offers the benefit of wisdom and experience to current county officials.

**ISAC Associate Members:** This association is comprised of professional organizations wanting to provide services to county officials. Associate members pay annual dues in order to have advertising discounts and listings in ISAC publications, registrations to ISAC schools and a service description on the ISAC website. Associate members contribute to ISAC in many ways. The dues these organizations pay helps defray the costs of ISAC activities, thereby lowering the registration costs for workshops, the annual conferences and other training for county officials.

### Iowa State Association of Counties

501 SW 7th St., Ste. Q  
Des Moines, IA 50309-4540  
(515) 244-7181 Fax: (515) 244-6397  
Web Site: [www.iowacounties.org](http://www.iowacounties.org)

### Office Hours:

Monday-Friday 8am-4:30pm



# Iowa State Association of Counties



## Background On ISAC

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The Iowa State Association of Counties (ISAC) is a private, nonprofit corporation. The organization was established by law on June 30, 1971 with the signing of Senate File 37. ISAC members are elected and appointed county officials from all 99 counties. The main purpose of ISAC is to secure and maintain cooperation among the counties and county officials, promote comprehensive study of local problems and find ways of solving them, provide methods of interchange of ideas among various county officials, and promote and work for the enactment of legislation that is most beneficial to the citizens of Iowa. Counties pay voluntary dues to belong to ISAC. In return, ISAC provides a number of services to member counties, such as training, benefit programs, education, technical assistance and lobbying.

## Member Benefit Programs

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### ■ Training

New County Officials School, held every other year in January, is offered to familiarize new office holders with their county duties and current issues important to their office. A manual filled with information on county government is given to county officials in attendance. In off years a variety of refresher classes are offered through ISAC University. Other information seminars are presented throughout the year as needed.

### ■ Benefits Programs

Several member programs are offered through ISAC. ISAC endorses IPAIT, an investment pool for public agencies; Nationwide Retirement Solutions, through partnership with the National Association of Counties (NACo); IMWCA, workers' compensation coverage; and ICAP, self-insurance program. ISAC also has a self-funded group health insurance program currently used by over 25 counties. Counties participating in the health insurance program have access to an Employee Assistance Program.

### ■ Education

Conferences and workshops sponsored by ISAC are held throughout the year. Two ISAC schools (one in March and one in November) are offered for networking, education and affiliate meetings. Six district workshops in June are open to county officials seeking further understanding of the bills passed during the previous session that directly impacted county government. Special workshops and seminars are offered throughout the year on timely issues affecting county officials. Publications are the main source of information sharing for ISAC with material such as *The Iowa County* magazine (published monthly), Legislative Newsletters (published weekly during the General Session), Legislative Bill Summaries (completed after the General Session each year), County Directory (published every other year) and the ISAC Legislative Priorities (created at the beginning of every General Session).

### ■ Technical Assistance

ISAC performs fiscal research and analysis, conducts surveys and prepares information as needed on topics such as property taxes, county salaries, mental health issues and legislative issues. Two full time attorneys are on staff to answer questions on personnel issues, board meeting rules or other legal matters. County Case Management Services (CCMS), a 28E organization, provides quality, cost effective case management programs. CCMS staff members provide training statewide and are available to answer questions pertaining to case management issues.

County Rate Information Systems (CRIS) is a 28E entity created to establish a rate setting methodology that enables participant counties to negotiate appropriate reimbursement rates with covered MH/DD providers.

Electronic Transaction Clearinghouse (ETC) was created as a result of HIPAA. It is a 28E entity consisting of counties as dues-paying members. The technology used by ETC gives counties, when they are in the role of payors, the ability to accept medical claims electronically.

### ■ Lobbying

Seven steering committees meet each year to formulate policy direction for ISAC through the use of policy statements and legislative objectives. Steering committee members are county officials appointed by their affiliate presidents.

The steering committees are:

- County Administration and Organization
- Environment and Public Health
- Human Services
- Land Use and Rural Affairs
- Public Safety
- Taxation and Finance
- Transportation

ISAC staff then lobbies on the ISAC priorities, reacts to legislation that directly affects county government and researches questions for legislators and county officials regarding potential and past legislation.

When the General Assembly is not in session, ISAC's legislative staff attend legislative interim study committee meetings, various state agency meetings and hearings. Most importantly, in the summer they travel to the six ISAC districts and explain in person the impact of bills passed in the previous session.

#### ISAC's Vision Statement

To be the principal, authoritative source of representation, information and services for and about county government in Iowa.

#### ISAC's Mission Statement

To promote effective and responsible county government for the people of Iowa.