

The Iowa County

Iowa Increasing
Production
of Ethanol

April 2006

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Denise Obrecht, EDITOR

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ISAC's Mission:

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

ISAC's Vision:

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

The Boom of Ethanol Plants in Iowa

In 1908, Henry Ford designed his first Model T to run on ethanol. He called it the fuel of the future, which has proven to be true. Ethanol is a clean-burning, high-octane fuel that is produced from renewable sources. At its most basic, ethanol is grain alcohol, produced from crops such as corn. Because it is domestically produced, ethanol helps reduce America's dependence upon foreign sources of energy.

Ethanol was first introduced in Iowa over 27 years ago and the renewable fuel has grown since. Iowa is the nation's leader in ethanol production (Illinois and Minnesota follow). Ethanol plants in Iowa produce a third of the nation's ethanol supply. The U.S. currently produces over 4 billion gallons of ethanol every year, in plants ranging from smaller farmer cooperative owned facilities to private plants. The Iowa Renewable Energy Association states that about 10% of the corn grown in the United States is used to make ethanol. Each year, more than 320 million bushels of Iowa corn are processed into ethanol.

There are 95 ethanol plants in the United States. In Iowa, there are currently 21 ethanol plants (11 of the 21 are farmer-owned), with five more either planned or under construction. The plants each produce 6 million gallons to 110 million gallons of ethanol each year.

Positives

The Clean Fuels Development Coalition posts recent studies that show ethanol production added \$14 billion to the U.S. gross domestic product in 2004. The full impact of annual ethanol plant operations and spending for new construction of plants will add more than \$1.3 billion in tax revenue to the federal government, and \$1.2 billion to state and local governments. The Iowa Renewable Energy Association reported a generation of \$26 million in state tax revenues by Iowa's ethanol industry.

The American Coalition for Ethanol states that ethanol has a tremendously positive impact on our nation's economy - local people are employed, local crops are purchased to make the ethanol, and local tax bases are significantly expanded.

Hawkeye Renewables has two plants in Iowa - Iowa Falls and Fairbank. JD Schlieman, President of Hawkeye Renewables, said, "The key factors for our site selection were the availability of corn, workforce potential and access to rail, natural gas and water."

The Fairbank plant will open in May in Buchanan County. Cindy Witt, Buchanan County Auditor, said, "The plant will be great for the area because we just lost 300 jobs from the Tyson plant that closed in our county."

An average-sized ethanol plant employs about 40 people with good-paying, high-skill jobs and provides spin-off jobs

through local providers of goods and services for the plant. There are more than 5,000 people employed at ethanol plants in Iowa.

The Iowa Falls plant is one of two ethanol plants in Hardin County, with the second plant in Steam Boat Rock. Jim Johnson, Hardin County Supervisor, said, "We anticipated that the plants would increase the price of corn in the area, which has happened. One example is a local producer was able to get \$0.18 per bushel more selling to the ethanol plants than the local co-op."

Hardin County will be collecting property tax revenues from its two plants this year. Don Knoell, Hardin County Assessor, said he estimated \$437,312 in property tax revenue from the Iowa Falls plant and \$150,330 from the Steam Boat Rock plant. "Nothing else comes close to this value in Hardin County."

Negatives

Christine Spackman, Iowa DNR, said that ethanol plants have had a "problematic history" with the environment. Violations have ranged from doing wastewater discharge samples incorrectly, building in a floodplain without a permit, air emissions and not reporting a spill within six hours, to name a few. On-site visits are done at least once a year. "In my opinion, the violations occur from owners having too little experience."

Another burden to county officials is the incentives that are sometimes needed to entice ethanol plant owners. Schlieman said, "The rule of thumb is for a 50 million gallon plant to be constructed and operational, it takes \$65-\$70 million." He said Hawkeye Renewables has received various tax credits from the Iowa Department of Economic Development and look to the host city and county for assistance.

Johnson said Hardin County provided nearly \$1.2 million in TIF funding for the Steam Boat Rock plant. The county also built a hard surface road through grant funding and made some improvements to a county road. "The plants have increased truck traffic, which requires more road maintenance costs for the county." There is a 10-year tax abatement on the Iowa Falls expansion that recently took place, with a sliding scale to be implemented in years 5-10.

Witt said there will be a 15-year tax abatement on the Fairbank plant in Buchanan County. After 15 years, the county will then share property tax revenues with Fayette County, since the plant sits on the line between the two counties. "We needed to provide the company with an incentive to come to our area, and we didn't want to go with urban renewal."

Wesley Sweedler, Hamilton County Supervisor, said Hamilton County is anticipating the opening of its first ethanol plant in Jewell this spring. Hamilton County set up TIF district revenue bonds for the plant. The county also committed to \$3 million in improvements to the plant site, which includes the paving of roads, removing hills, and improving a railroad crossing.

Experts state the one thing that must be watched is to not build plants so close to each other that they begin to cannibalize each others' fuel stock. Sweedler said, "Geographically we see ourselves tapped out for future ethanol plants because of the location of so many plants close to Jewell, such as Iowa Falls and Fort Dodge."

Lucy Norton, Iowa Renewable Fuels Association, said, "The reality is plants are getting built closer and closer together." Norton said the demand for ethanol will double nationwide. "Iowa is a likely candidate for the increased production of ethanol, which means more ethanol plants are going to be built or current plants will expand."

Popularity in Flexible Fuel Vehicles

The Iowa Renewable Fuels Association announced that Iowa motorists chose ethanol blends 78% of the time in November 2005. Any amount of ethanol can be combined with gasoline, but the two most common blends are E10 and E85.

E10 - 10% ethanol and 90% unleaded gasoline - is approved for use in any make or model of vehicle sold in the U.S. Many automakers recommend its use because of its high performance, clean-burning characteristics. In 2004, about one-third of America's gasoline was blended with ethanol, most in this 10% variety. One acre of corn can produce 300 gallons of ethanol - enough to fuel four cars for one year with E10.

E85 - 85% ethanol and 15% unleaded gasoline - is an alternative fuel for use in flexible fuel vehicles (FFVs). There are currently more than 4 million FFVs on America's roads today. Tami Foster, Iowa DNR, said that 90,000 FFVs were sold in Iowa in 2005, up from 45,000 in 2004. In conjunction with more flexible fuel vehicles, more E85 pumps are being installed across the country. There are currently 30 stations in Iowa that sell E85. When E85 is not available, these FFVs can operate on straight gasoline or any ethanol blend up to 85%.

"The increase in the sale of E85 has been phenomenal in Iowa," said Foster. "In 2005 there were 668,595 gallons of E85 sold in Iowa. This is a 716% increase from 2003 and a 375% increase from 2004. We attribute this to gasoline prices going up and the increase in marketing we have done on the types of vehicles that use E85."

Norton said that money is the main reason stations do not add E85 pumps to their facility. "It costs between \$10,000 and \$27,000 to upgrade an existing pump to an E85 pump." Funds are available through the Iowa Values Fund to help with the cost. "Stations also have to look at the market for E85 in their area and see if there is a demand."

Foster said E85 sells for about \$.40 less than gasoline. "When comparing vehicles, there is usually only about a \$2,000 increase for purchasing a E85 vehicle."

The New Thing - Biodiesel Plants

In addition to the popularity of ethanol plants, biodiesel plants have been popping up around the state. Since the biodiesel tax incentive was signed by President George W. Bush and went into effect in January 2005, the interest in biodiesel plants has skyrocketed. Biodiesel is a renewable fuel made from domestically grown crops like soybeans and mustard seeds. Biodiesel can also be produced from recycled cooking grease. Biodiesel contains no petroleum, but it can be blended at any level with petroleum diesel to create a biodiesel blend. It can be used in compression ignition (diesel) engines with no major modifications. Biodiesel is simple to use, biodegradable, nontoxic, and essentially free of sulfur and aromatics, stated the National Biodiesel Board.

There are 54 biodiesel plants nationwide. Norton said there are three operational biodiesel plants in Iowa (Sergeant Bluff, Milford, Ralston), with 15 plants in the discussion phase. A biodiesel plant is currently being constructed in Hardin County at Iowa Falls. "We (Hardin County) are labeling ourselves as a strong renewable center for the area," said Johnson.

Make Iowa a Leader in Renewable Energy

In January, Rep. Lisa Heddens said Iowa needs to make an investment in new bio-science technologies in order to make the state a leader in renewable energy. House Democrats supported her assessment and said Iowa needs to expand and promote the use of E85 and biodiesel by prohibiting big oil companies from setting up franchise agreements that prohibit Iowa stations from selling E85. They would also like to offer gas stations an investment tax credit - starting at 20% for the purchase, installation, and conversion of pumps to E85; 10¢ per gallon tax credit for E85, and a 1¢ per gallon tax credit to retailers who sell biodiesel, based on the percentage of biodiesel blend (2¢ per gallon credit for selling 2% blend or 5¢ for 5% blend).

House Democratic leaders said Iowa should encourage economic growth through renewable fuels, including new bio-refinery technologies. Lew Olson, Research Analyst with the Republican Caucus Staff, said Republicans also support making Iowa a leader in renewable energy. Olson said, "We see a continued expansion of ethanol planned in the future." The Republicans support HF 2735, which among many things would provide incentives for infrastructure used to store and dispense renewable fuel.

What Does the Future Hold?

By all accounts, Iowa could be considered a leader in renewable energy today. The boom of ethanol plants is here, with biodiesel plants coming up close behind. The property tax revenues from these plants create overall a positive situation for counties.

Changing the State Budget Process

Earlier this legislative session Representative Dave Heaton (R-Henry) introduced HF 2159 to revise the calendar used for the development of the state budget. Basically his bill would start the budget process about two months earlier than the current process. For example, the Governor would be required to submit his or her budget to the Legislature for the following fiscal year by December 1 instead of February 1. Many other details would be changed to conform to this new requirement.

This sounds like a good idea because it would enable lawmakers to work on the budget earlier in the legislative session. That would help them to be more efficient in the long run. But I wouldn't stop there. The following are some ideas that I think would make the budget process even more efficient.

Create a Joint Budget Committee

Iowa currently has two joint legislative committees that play key policy roles in the legislative process - the Administrative Rules Review Committee and the Government Oversight Committee. A "Joint Budget Committee" would be a new standing joint legislative committee. Under this proposal, the Joint Budget Committee (JBC) would have equal representation between the House and the Senate. Perhaps 16 or 18 members would be a good size. Each house would appoint its members to reflect partisan proportions in their respective chambers. Members of the JBC could not serve on other standing policy committees, except Appropriations. In order to pass, any motion would have to receive a concurrent majority - a majority vote of House members and a majority vote of Senate members on the JBC. The committee would be jointly chaired as the other joint committees are chaired.

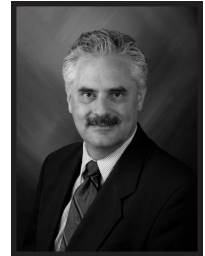
Budget Process

The JBC would begin its meetings in September of each year to craft the budget for the next fiscal year. Budget presentations from each state agency would be scheduled during the fall and into the legislative session. Those schedules would be published and time would also be allotted for testimony from interested groups and citizens. The committee could work on the budget through late February.

The JBC would present its proposed budget to the General Assembly in late February or early March. The whole budget would be contained in a single bill. Currently the seven budget bills produced by the seven appropriations subcommittees are typically scattered throughout the legislative session. This is confusing because the format of information contained in each is sometimes inconsistent with the other bills. It is often difficult to grasp the line items in one budget bill in relation to line items in the other bills.

By: *John Easter*

ISAC Director of
Intergovernmental Affairs



There have been a few times in recent years when the entire budget was in one bill, so this is not entirely new. One bill provides an opportunity for greater consistency in the way budgets of the various departments, offices and agencies are organized. One bill would also sharpen the focus on the state budget by the General Assembly, because the whole budget would be under legislative scrutiny at once.

Introduction of the budget bill would alternate each year between the two houses. The measure would always be referred to the Appropriations Committee. The house of origin could spend a full week or two considering the bill in caucus, subcommittee, Appropriations Committee and the floor. During that period the house of origin would work only on the budget and other legislative activity would be suspended. The following week, the second house would dedicate similar time for the same purpose. The balance of the session could be used for conference committee work on the bill if necessary. The conference committee should consist of the members of the JBC.

Impacts on the Legislative Process

Make no mistake, the JBC would be a powerful committee. Because there would be a single budget committee, there would be no need for the current seven appropriations subcommittees. Those subcommittees would be dissolved. Some legislators who currently serve on an appropriations subcommittee may not want to relinquish that authority to one committee.

However, standing committees would also become stronger. More policy work could be accomplished earlier in the session. Legislative time currently spent on budget subcommittees would be used for standing policy committees and subcommittee work. Standing committees could meet for longer periods of time so they could hear testimony from the public on major pieces of legislation. For example, instead of the current meeting blocks of just one hour for standing committees, each block could be scheduled for full morning or afternoon periods. More lawmakers would be better informed when voting on bills and amendments at the committee level.

The General Assembly would be a stronger branch of government with a JBC and this proposed budget process. Standing policy committee work would improve legislative outcomes with more meeting time and public input on bills. The legislative process would be more efficient, which would enhance its power with reference to the executive and judicial branches of state government. Perhaps a change of this magnitude would be more than lawmakers would want to undertake at one time, but at least enacting Representative Heaton's bill would be a start.

Can A County Put A Hy-Vee Logo On a Sheriff's Patrol Car?

By: David Vestal

ISAC General Counsel



Private Use of County Property: County employees cannot use county equipment for their private benefit, such as using a county car to take the kids to Disneyworld. But can a county agree to the private use of county property? For example, can a county agree that for a fee it will put advertising on its county patrol cars that says, "Shop at Hy-Vee"?

Article III, section 31 of the Iowa Constitution says that "no public money or property shall be appropriated for local, or privates purposes" without legislative approval.

The Iowa Supreme Court has not defined the phrase "private purpose," nor do we know exactly what a public purpose is. Instead, public purpose is to be a flexible and broad concept (*John R. Grubb, Inc. v. Iowa Housing Finance Authority*, 255 N.W.2d 89, 93 (Iowa 1977)). The Iowa Supreme Court says there is "a plain judicial intent to permit the concept of 'public purpose' to have that flexibility and expansive scope required to meet the challenges of increasingly complex social, economic and technological conditions."

In the *Grubb* case, the Iowa Supreme Court has stated, "we will not find absence of public purpose except where such absence is so clear as to be perceptible by every mind at first blush."

So in a situation like the Hy-Vee advertising on the patrol car, I'd argue that allowing advertising serves two public purposes: 1) it disseminates commercial information to the public; and 2) it reduces the cost to the public of running the sheriff's office.

This has come up in a number of Iowa Attorney General Opinions, mostly involving public schools. For instance, the Attorney General has declared that public schools can agree that only Coke products would be sold at the school, allow commercial photographers to take school pictures on school grounds, and allow vendors to use school grounds to sell musical instruments to students. In each case the Attorney General has acknowledged that a public benefit may be derived from commercial use of the school facilities.

The test is whether the absence of a public purpose "is so clear as to be perceptible by every mind at first blush." I don't think something like selling advertising space on a county car comes anywhere close to meeting that test.

Binding Future Boards: Can boards of supervisors sign long-term contracts that bind future boards? The general rule is that a board of supervisors may not bind future boards in matters that are essentially legislative or governmental in nature, as opposed to business or proprietary in nature.

A board of supervisors cannot bind future boards of supervisors regarding policy matters. But the general prohibition against one board binding its successors applies only to

matters involving governmental policy decisions and is not applicable to business contracts. (*Sampson v. City of Cedar Falls*, 231 N.W.2d 609, 613 (Iowa 1975) states a city council may bind future councils with respect to procurement of an adequate supply of electricity for municipal electric utility. *City of Des Moines v. City of West Des Moines*, 30 N.W.2d 500, 507 (1948) states a city council may enter into a 20-year contract for use of sewage disposal system.)

There is no bright line test, but the general rule is that if the board of supervisors is acting like any other business, purchasing goods or services, that is a business contract that may extend beyond the term of the board entering the contract (*V. L. Dodds Co. v. Consolidated School Dist. of Lamont*, 220 Iowa 812, 263 N.W. 522 (1935) - successor school board bound by contract for the purchase of paper products executed by prior board). So in general there is no limit on binding future boards regarding business contracts.

Troubling Lawsuits: There are two court decisions from outside Iowa that got my attention recently. One was *Doe v. XYZ Corp.*, a New Jersey appellate case. In that case, an employer was notified that one of its employees was using a workplace computer to access child pornography but took no action. After the employee was arrested, the employee's wife sued the company for failing to investigate and report the employee's viewing of child pornography. The appellate court held that the company had a duty to "report the employee's activities to the proper authorities and to effect internal action to stop those activities, whether by termination or some less drastic remedy." Counties have always had an interest in stopping employees from misusing county computers, but this case raises the possibility that counties could actually be sued for failing to stop criminal activity taking place on county computers.

The other case was *Maldonado v. City of Altus*, a 10th Circuit Court of Appeals case. In that case, the appeals court said that a city in Oklahoma that had an English-only policy in the workplace could be sued for violating the civil rights of its Hispanic employees. The Court said that the plaintiffs had proved that the policy created a hostile work environment. Iowa counties that have English-only policies might want to have their county attorneys review this case.

Parting Ponderable: In the past, I have written about regulating the off-duty conduct of county employees. I was interested in the news that under a new policy, Pinellas County Florida sheriff's deputies who get caught cheating on their spouses will be suspended from work for their behavior.

case management

Citizenship The New “People Perspective”

In the realm of targeted case management, we seem to spend a lot of time and effort addressing the issue of what we call the people that we serve. We have made a lot of progress over the past few decades. Over the years, terms such as “client”, “consumer”, “person with a disability”, “customer”, and “participant” are just a few of the variants that we have encountered in the field and in the literature. It is because language and the imagery created by verbal concepts are such powerful implements that we all seem to struggle to get a foothold on this slippery slope of semantic correctness. Many well-intentioned proponents make impassioned arguments for the use of their terminology, and I have my own personal opinions on which terms are most respectful and useful. But regardless which terms or verbiage you or your agency uses, it seems like these are often subject to scrutiny and debate.

But maybe the focus shouldn't be so much *what* we call these folks, but rather how we see them and treat them in our regular ongoing interactions. Last fall at the Mental Health Conference in Ames, a consumer speaker talked about the concept of citizenship. The more he spoke, the more the concept struck me as relevant to the job that we do within the framework of targeted case management. We work for our consumers/clients/participants (choose one) to help them become good, productive citizens within our communities. And like any other citizen in the community, there are certain outcomes that these folks want to achieve in their lives:

- They want to live in safe, comfortable homes. This means their home have all the amenities that we expect in our homes - heat, running water, phone service, and electricity. They should also be located in neighborhoods that are safe in terms of issues like crime, traffic, environmental hazards, etc. They want to have access to civil services such as police departments, fire departments and ambulance services that ensure their safety and health within the community.
- They want affordable transportation (access to a car or bus line) and desire close proximity to work, friends, and family.
- They want jobs that pay them real wages based upon real work. They want respect for the work that they do and the opportunity to learn new skills to further enhance their choices within the job market.
- They want to have money for their basic needs - food, shelter, clothing, medical care, etc. They want to make sure that their financial resources are protected and they want to have at least some control over these resources. They want to have a little money left over so they can buy some of the things they want (music CDs, tickets to

By: Dan Vonnahme
ISAC Case Management
Specialist



the movie, dining out, etc.) after they cover their basic needs.

- They want to be sure others respect their rights as citizens, such as the right to due process and the right to make informed decisions, including the right to vote.
- They want to actively participate in their communities. They want to have the mobility to go where they want to go and the freedom to do the things that are of interest to them - not the things that are of interest to the recreation program director with a van. They want the opportunity to meet other members of their community and form relationships of various levels with those other citizens.
- They want to be included. They want to belong to a church, a coffee club, or other social organizations along with the local banker, teacher, or working mom with three kids.

Some of these outcomes were spelled out at a session I recently attended at the “Reinventing Quality Conference.” Don Bashaw, the Assistant Deputy Director of the Ohio Department of MR/DD, spoke of his department’s efforts to develop a statewide quality framework that includes outcomes, core indicators and supporting performance measurements for the persons they serve.

A key concept going into this ambitious project was that these outcomes and indicators were designed so they could be applied to anyone, not just the MR/DD population. For example, the first desired outcome is people have the best possible health. Core indicators for this outcome include people have needed health services, people are supported to maintain healthy habits, and people take their prescribed medications. A number of measures are then tracked for each one of these core indicators. This is just one sample of 17 different outcomes identified by the state of Ohio. Mr. Bashaw admits they still have a long way to go in terms of implementing and coordinating the data they hope to glean from this project. But the point again is this, they are tracking the type of things that you and I hope to have in our lives - health, safety, financial security, community and personal connections, etc.

These ARE the things that the people we work with want in their lives as well. It doesn't matter so much if we call them a client, a consumer, a person with disabilities, or a participant, as long as they are able to see themselves as a neighbor, a friend, a co-worker, or a good citizen.

What Is A Blog?

By: Tammy Norman

ISAC Technology
Services Coordinator



A blog is a web-based journal or newsletter created by a person, commonly referred to as a “blogger,” to enable him or her to publish information via the Internet. You can set up and create a blog to plan social events, such as family or class reunions. You may want to set up a blog to share the birth of a child and then on a continuous basis share the changing events involved as your child grows and develops. A blog can truly be what you want it to be, purely an area that you post ideas, thoughts and concepts without much feedback, or you can create your blog in a manner that encourages feedback and the sharing of ideas among many people.

It is rather simple to create your own blog. I found a free service that was extremely user-friendly and it allowed me to set up and publish my blog within just five minutes. I created my blog thru “Blogger” at www.blogger.com. Once in this site you follow the step by step directions to create a username, password and template for your blog. You will then be allowed to upload photos, create a journal, post some helpful tips and invite people to join your blog. Those you invite will be required to login and create an account. Again it doesn’t take long to do this, but it is a requirement of this service.

There are many blog services out there. In my research, I found Blogger to be the easiest to join in. However, you can check out BlogJet, TypePad or FreeJournal.net; each are relatively easy and most are free. TypePad and FreeJournal are free; BlogJet offers a 30 day free trial period. Blogging can be fun and it is worth a try!

Website Note: It is that time of year again; please take a moment to sign up to be a part of one of the seven ISAC steering committees. You can be a voice for your affiliate in the legislative process! Sign up today online through ISAC’s website (www.iowacounties.org) or contact your affiliate president. Please forward any items that you would like addressed in this column to my attention at 515-244-7181 or via e-mail at tnorman@iowacounties.org. Until next month, keep clicking!

The Technology Donutshop

By: Robin Harlow

ISAC Technology
Project Manager



What do donuts have to do with technology and project management? I once read “When you go through life, make this your goal: watch the donut and not the hole.”

When looking at technology or building a project, it is easy to get caught up in focusing on what we don’t have and can’t get done. The focus of this column and the new Technology Clearinghouse web page will be to highlight the possibilities and tools available for counties to become more effective and efficient in serving their citizens.

Speaking of the web page, the Technology Clearinghouse web page is located under “Services” on the main ISAC web page (www.iowacounties.org). As I write this column the web page currently has this structure: About the ISAC Technology Clearinghouse, News, Project Management Office, Disaster Recovery, Education & Training, Supported Systems, Resource Library, Purchasing Programs and State Links.

Each month my column will cover a topic in more depth in the hope that it will pique your interest to visit the web page to learn more. The content on the web page is designed for both the novice and experienced. Your feedback and comments are important to me to help shape the site to meet your needs.

For now, what is the ISAC Technology Clearinghouse? The Technology Clearinghouse was created in October 2004 by a grant from the Local Government Innovations Fund. Warren County assisted in the creation of the Clearinghouse by sponsoring the application for the grant. The current objectives of the Clearinghouse are:

- Undertake an assessment of the current status of electronic service delivery in counties.
- Develop a strategic electronic service delivery plan. Plan would include: the electronic infrastructure required to enable all counties to deliver electronic services; identify products and services most suitable for delivery; and identify and establish the legal, regulatory, and operational parameters to ensure collaboration among counties.
- Develop and implement an action plan.
- Provide a post-project assessment.

To accomplish these objectives, I intend to work closely with our association affiliates, various county officials, and others to gather information, feedback and insights to help implement technology services within local governments in the most effective manner. So between columns, take a moment and visit the web page and enjoy your favorite donut! If I don’t carry your favorite donut, let me know. Next month’s topic: The Project Toolbox.

by the numbers

Federal Spending

By: Jay Syverson

ISAC Fiscal Analyst



As you prepare to send in your share of the federal government's nearly \$1 trillion in tax revenue by April 17th (the 15th is a Saturday, so you get an extra two days to procrastinate this year), let's take a look at what the people of Iowa counties are getting for their money. This month's *By the Numbers* looks at direct federal spending in Iowa counties as of federal fiscal year 2004.

The federal government directly spent \$19.5 billion in Iowa in 2004. This works out to about \$6,600 per Iowa resident, up from about \$5,000 federal spending per capita in 2000. The biggest chunk of federal spending in Iowa is retirement and disability payments (Social Security) at \$7 billion, followed by other direct payments (\$5.6 billion), grants (\$4 billion), procurement (\$1.6 billion) and salaries/wages (\$1.2 billion). Here's a comparison of Iowa and surrounding states (2004 data):

State	Total Federal Spending	Per Capita
South Dakota	\$6.6 billion	\$8,565
Missouri	\$45.7 billion	\$7,935
Nebraska	\$11.8 billion	\$6,752
Iowa	\$19.5 billion	\$6,591
Illinois	\$76.8 billion	\$6,042
Wisconsin	\$31.6 billion	\$5,742
Minnesota	\$28.8 billion	\$5,651

Within Iowa, most federal money was spent in Polk County (\$2.9 billion, or 15% of the state's total), followed by Linn (\$1.5 billion), Johnson (\$870 million), Scott (\$800 million) and Black Hawk (\$670 million). The bottom five counties are Audubon (\$48 million), Davis (\$48 million), Osceola (\$44 million), Ringgold (\$40 million) and Adams (\$33 million). On a per capita basis, Winnebago County is far and away the biggest beneficiary of federal spending. The federal government spends over \$28,000 per resident in Winnebago County; the four counties next in line are Wayne, Monona, Pocahontas and Fremont, all of which between \$8,000 and \$8,800. On the other end of the spectrum are Dallas, Warren, Sioux, Benton, Madison and Delaware counties. They all experience less than \$4,700 in per capita federal spending. This is one area where Dallas County's population boom has hurt it, statistically anyway. Dallas County ranks last in per capita federal spending at just under \$3,000 per resident.

Visit ISAC's website (www.iowacounties.org) for charts and more information on federal spending in Iowa and surrounding states.

health check

Use Your Seatbelt!

By: Sandy Longfellow

ISAC Administrative Assistant



In February, I spent some time in the waiting room of a hospital intensive care unit. I was there to support the family of a handsome 23-year-old young man. This young man is a friend, brother, son and grandson. He is someone that athletes who were participating in the state wrestling championships named as the person that was most influential in their success as a wrestler. This young man was driving home alone from a friend's house and hit some loose gravel on a local road. He was thrown out of his car and is now in a coma. His mistake was not wearing a seatbelt.

Although seatbelt usage is on the rise, don't let it be you that is hospitalized or even killed because of lack of use. Don't let it be your friends, children, and grandchildren waiting to see if you will recover. What possible reasons could you have for not using a seatbelt?

"I'm only going to the shopping center." Actually, this is the best time to wear a safety belt, since 80% of traffic fatalities occur within 25 miles of home and under 40 miles an hour.

"I won't be in an accident - I'm a good driver." Your good driving record will certainly help you avoid accidents, but even if you're a good driver, a bad driver may still hit you.

"I'll just brace myself." Even if you had the split-second timing to do this, the force of the impact would shatter the arm or leg you used to brace yourself.

"I'm afraid the belt will trap me in the car." Statistically, the best place to be during an accident is in your car. If you're thrown out of the car, you're 25 times more likely to die. And if you need to get out of the car in a hurry, you can get out a lot faster if you haven't been knocked unconscious inside your car.

"I don't need a belt - I've got an airbag." Lucky you! An air bag increases the effectiveness of a safety belt by 40%, but air bags were never meant to be used in place of safety belts.

Consult www.buckleupamerica.org for more information.

ISAC Fall School 2006

By: **Jerri Noboa**

ISAC Meetings Administrator



Though ISAC's next conference is several months away, it is never too early to make your hotel reservations. ISAC's Fall School of Instruction will be held November 29-December 1 at the Marriott and Renaissance Savery in downtown Des Moines. ISAC has hotel room blocks available at the Marriott, Renaissance Savery and Hotel Fort Des Moines. The Marriott and Renaissance Savery are offering rates of \$73/flat with suites at \$175. The Hotel Fort Des Moines' rates are \$73/flat and suites at \$93 (use booking #3426). For contact information visit ISAC's website at www.iowacounties.org.

Below are the assigned affiliate meeting sites for ISAC's Fall School of Instruction.

- Marriott: Auditors, Engineers, IT, Recorders, Supervisors, Zoning
- Renaissance Savery: Assessors, Community Services, Conservation, Emergency Management Directors, Public Health Nurses, Sheriffs, Treasurers

Mark your calendars and look for further information in the coming months regarding this educational conference!

Steering Committee Sign-Up

There is still time to sign-up to be a member of one of ISAC's steering committees. As a member of an ISAC steering committee, you will represent your affiliate's legislative needs and concerns. You are asked to attend your affiliate's summer meetings and the two ISAC steering committees that will be held on September 8th and October 6th in Des Moines.

There are seven ISAC steering committees: County Administration and Organization, Environment and Public Health, Human Services, Land Use and Rural Affairs, Public Safety, Taxation and Finance, and Transportation. These committees provide the public policy platform for ISAC in dealing with the legislative and executive branches of state government. The committee process is where policy statements and legislative objectives are introduced, debated, and rejected or adopted. Each ISAC affiliate is entitled to name three members to each steering committee. Most of the steering committees have approximately 35 members.

We encourage you to take a moment and sign up for this opportunity. You can do so by going to the ISAC website and registering at www.iowacounties.org or contacting your affiliate president directly. The deadline for registration is April

21. Steering committee chairs are also needed for the Environment & Public Health, Public Safety, Taxation & Finance and Transportation steering committees. The deadline for a chair position sign-up is May 19. For further information contact Tammy Norman at tnorman@iowacounties.org.

ISAC District Workshops

As the 2006 legislative process comes to a close, ISAC invites you attend a legislative wrap-up in your area. Six district workshops will be held around the state in June. At these meetings, the ISAC legislative staff provides presentations about the legislative year and its outcomes. Area legislators are invited to come and answer questions during a roundtable discussion. Breakout sessions for affiliate groups are held and the ISAC staff makes special presentations about bills affecting their particular areas.

Each participant will receive a 2006 Bill Summary Booklet. The booklet is created by the ISAC staff with summaries of all enacted bills that affected counties during the legislative session. The summary book is organized into topic areas that correlate with ISAC steering committees.

The dates and locations for the 2006 District Workshops:

- June 8 - District IV Workshop – Harrah's, Council Bluffs
- June 9 - District V Workshop – Indian Hills Community College, Ottumwa
- June 14 - District VI Workshop – Grand River Center, Dubuque
- June 22 - District II Workshop – Waldorf College, Forest City
- June 23 - District III Workshop – Buena Vista University, Storm Lake
- June 28 - District I Workshop – Holiday Inn Airport, Des Moines

Online registration is available on ISAC's website (www.iowacounties.org). The registration fee is \$35 with online registration or \$40 at the door. A continental breakfast and lunch are included. Come and hear how the legislative session affected your affiliate!

Your 24-hour Resource!

www.iowacounties.org

If you would like something added to ISAC's website contact Denise Obrecht at dobrecht@iowacounties.org.

counties in the spotlight

Pilot Program Helps Jail Collect Unpaid Debt

Just \$5 per month. It might not be much, but a former Dubuque County Jail inmate pays what he can, according to law enforcement administrators. The man, whose identity was withheld by officials, has been chiseling away at his accrued room and board charges for nearly five years. He's now made good on more than half of his \$675 bill.

The former inmate is among only 20 who are consistently making payments on debt owed to Dubuque County. There are about 2,100 others who collectively owe more than \$1.2 million in room and board charges, according to the Dubuque County Sheriff's Department.

But a new state pilot program designed to help local governments collect unpaid debt could soon help lighten the ledger. The Dubuque County Sheriff's Department is among five government units in the state recently selected for the Income Offset Program, authorized last year by legislators.

"Anything we bring in will be a plus," said Dubuque County Sheriff Ken Runde, adding that about one-third of his jail's inmates pay their bills. "If they think they can get away without paying it, they won't. But they've been getting away with it long enough the way I look at it."

Those with outstanding room and board charges have been put on a list submitted to the Iowa Department of Administrative Services, State Accounting Enterprise. The department will screen the names against outgoing checks from the state, including income tax refunds and Iowa Lottery winnings. The Sheriff's Department will be notified of any matches and will then contact the individuals, who have 10 days to settle the debt. If not, the check will be given to the sheriff's department. The citizens, must also pay a \$7 administrative charge, will receive the balance of the check.

"If they want to come down and set up a payment plan, we'll accept that and have their name removed from the list," Runde said. "However, if they make a plan with us and violate it, their name will go back on the list, and the next time we won't be as easy to work with."

The sheriff's department was informed in February of its first "hits" - 26 individuals awaiting tax refunds. The refunds will be held while the sheriff's department attempts to make contact with the individuals.

The other pilot participants include two cities (Marshalltown and Council Bluffs), a community college in Des Moines and a municipal utility in Muscatine. "The idea is to try this on a pilot basis with different kinds of governments and see what emerges," said Pat Deluhery, strategic partnerships director for the Department of Administrative Services. "We expect the pilot to endure and possibly be expanded."

Rates at Jails

Here's a look at what some northeast Iowa county jails charge their inmates:

- Clayton County - \$20 for every sentenced day
- Dubuque County - \$45 for every sentenced day
- Jackson County - \$10 for every sentenced day

(Provided by the Iowa Department of Administrative Services)

The Income Offset Program is not new to Iowa, though. It has been used for several years to assist with child support recovery efforts and unpaid court costs, Deluhery said. Since then, several other state agencies have been authorized to use the program. The program brought in \$17.4 million for about 50 state agencies and bureaus during fiscal year 2005, according to the Department of Administrative Services.

Runde said the pilot program is the county's first large-scale attempt to collect from inmates, who are charged \$45 per day. The room and board debt dates back to July 1996. The sheriff acknowledges that there are many people his department will never see any money from, but he says the program is a good start.

The Dubuque County Jail is not alone in the struggle to collect from inmates. For that reason, Clayton County Sheriff Robert Hamann said the Income Offset Program would be beneficial for all jails. "At least we could get some of our money back and give some relief to taxpayers," Hamann said. "The room and board payments help us stay within our budget, and helps us keep updated equipment we wouldn't otherwise get." Hamann estimated that about half of the inmates staying at his jail pay their outstanding bills.

(© Telegraph Herald, 2006. Reprinted with permission.)

Groundbreaking for Scott County Jail

The largest project in Scott County history was kicked off with a groundbreaking celebration in January. The Scott County jail will receive an expansion for the cost of \$29.7 million. Plans call for the capacity to increase to 380 beds, with construction taking two years. More than 58% of Scott County voters agreed in November 2004 to support a referendum to bring much-needed improvements to the jail. County officials have said the jail is chronically overcrowded and has little room to conduct rehabilitative programs, such as anger management and substance abuse counseling. *(Taken from the North Scott Press, January 18)*

Record Amount of Scholarship Funds Given At ISAC's Spring School

ISAC's Spring School was a success with education, skills training and networking provided to over 800 county officials March 19-21 in Des Moines.

ISAC awarded scholarships to seven outstanding high school students during the General Session on March 20. Due to a record fundraising effort last summer, scholarship amounts were increased significantly this year. The winner of the top scholarship, in the amount of \$7,500, was Elyse Fitzgerald from Bedford (Taylor County). Six other students received scholarships in the amount of \$5,000: Stephanie Seidl from Dedham (Carroll County); Aaron Slaichert from Garner (Hancock County); Andrew Stewart from Rock Rapids (Lyon County); Jane Ohde from Columbus Junction (Louisa County); and Ashley Losch from Cedar Rapids (Linn County). Glenn McCrea from Muscatine (Muscatine County) received a scholarship in the amount of \$1,500 from the BureauCats, a band almost entirely comprised of Scott County employees.

More than 300 county officials were honored with Years of Service Awards to acknowledge their dedication to serving citizens through county government. Jan Horton, Webster County Treasurer, was recognized for 45 years of service. Five county officials received special recognition for 40 years for service: Pat Sass, Black Hawk County Recorder; Kay Swanson, Mahaska County Auditor; Rosemary Allen, Davis County Deputy Auditor; Peggy Corll, Decatur County Deputy Treasurer; and Mary Leete, Clayton County Deputy Auditor.

Also during ISAC's General Session, Laurie Guest kept everyone's attention with her keynote address on finding contentment during stressful times. Networking opportunities held during the conference included the exhibitors reception, legislative reception and ISAC Dance. A special thank you to the Spring School Sponsors for their help with financing conference activities: The Sidwell Company; IPAIT; Cost Advisory Services, Inc.; Cott Systems, Inc.; ProMap, a division of The Schneider Corporation; Ruan Securities Corporation; Solutions, Inc.; TrueNorth Companies; and Tyler Technologies/INCODE Division.

Join us November 29-December 1 for ISAC's Fall School of Instruction! Information available on ISAC's website (www.iowacounties.org) under Upcoming Events.



Photos from left: Phil Rosenberg, *The HR Doctor*, presented an ISAC seminar on working with and through others. Larry Davis, Pearl River County Board of Supervisors (Mississippi), presented an ISAC seminar on disaster planning. A county official stopped by Imagetek's booth during the exhibitors reception on Sunday evening. Jan Horton, Webster County Treasurer, received an ISAC Years of Service Award from Denise Dolan, ISAC President.



Photos from left: Gary Anderson, ISAC's 3rd VP & Appanoose County Sheriff, received an award from Keep Iowa Beautiful. Glenn McCrea performed during ISAC's General Session after receiving a BureauCats music scholarship. Elyse Fitzgerald posed with Denise Dolan, ISAC President, after receiving ISAC's top scholarship for the year. Laurie Guest, keynote speaker, shared eight behaviors to implement during stressful times.

The Second Annual ISAC Scholarship Golf Fundraiser

Hosted by the Iowa State Association of County Auditors and the Iowa State Association of County Supervisors

Jester Park Golf Course - Granger, Iowa - July 19, 2006

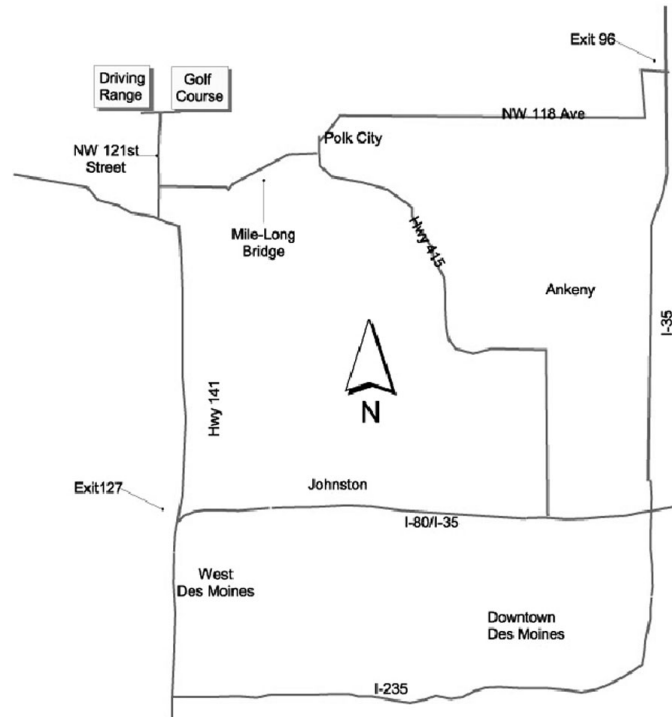
The Iowa State Association of Counties (ISAC) announces the 2nd Annual ISAC Scholarship Golf Fundraiser to be held July 19, 2006, at Jester Park Golf Course in Granger, Iowa. Jester Park is a par 71, 18-hole golf course that has the ability to accommodate 144 golfers. Jester Park Golf Course is located off I-80/35, exit 127, 30 minutes northwest of downtown Des Moines. Follow Highway 141 west 6.5 miles to NW 121st Street and turn right. Go north two miles to the golf course.

The Iowa State Association of County Auditors will be co-hosting the event with the Iowa State Association of County Supervisors to raise money for ISAC's scholarship program. ISAC scholarships are awarded to high school seniors that are children of county officials or county employees.

The 18-hole scramble (best-shot) with a shotgun start will begin promptly at 10:45am. Registration begins at 9:30am. You may register individually or in a group of up to four people. The \$75 fee includes golf with cart, lunch, beverages, welcome gift, one raffle ticket, prizes and dinner. Soft-spiked or soft-soled shoes are acceptable. Metal spikes are prohibited.

Individuals wishing to golf or just attend the dinner (approximately 4:30pm) should fill out and return the registration form before June 30, 2006. Payment must accompany your registration and is non-refundable. The course is limited to 144 golfers, and we sold out last year, so register early to reserve your spot! If you have any questions please contact Jay Syverson via phone at (515) 244-7181 or email at jsyverson@iowacounties.org.

We look forward to seeing you on July 19th! Remember, registration begins at 9:30am and golf begins with a shotgun start at 10:45am sharp - please be prompt.



The Second Annual
ISAC Scholarship Golf Fundraiser
 Hosted by the Iowa State Association of County Auditors and the Iowa
 State Association of County Supervisors
 Jester Park Golf Course - Granger, Iowa - July 19, 2006

When: Wednesday, July 19, 2006
 9:30am - Registration
 10:45am - Golf - 4-person scramble (best shot)
 Approximately 4:30pm – Dinner (immediately following golf)

Where: Jester Park Golf Course and Lodge
 11949 NW 118 Avenue, Granger, Iowa (515) 999-2903

Cost: \$75 (18 holes, shared cart, lunch, beverages, welcome gift, one raffle ticket, prizes and dinner)
 \$30 (dinner and one raffle ticket)

- _____ I will play in the ISAC Golf Fundraiser on July 19th. My \$75 is enclosed.
- _____ I will play in the ISAC Golf Fundraiser on July 19th. I am a qualifying sponsor and my fee is waived.
- _____ I have organized a group to play in the ISAC Golf Fundraiser. Our total entry fee is enclosed.
- _____ No golf, dinner only – \$30 is enclosed.

Contact Name: _____

County/Company: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone/Fax/Email: _____

If you wish to arrange a group of players, please confirm your group prior to indicating the names on this form. Individuals and groups of less than four will be paired with other players.

1) Name: _____	County/Company: _____
Phone: _____	Email: _____
2) Name: _____	County/Company: _____
Phone: _____	Email: _____
3) Name: _____	County/Company: _____
Phone: _____	Email: _____
4) Name: _____	County/Company: _____
Phone: _____	Email: _____

Payment MUST accompany registration and is non-refundable. Make checks payable to the ISAC Scholarship Fund. Entries must be received by June 30, 2006, and are filled on a first come, first served basis. Mail to: ISAC, Attn: Golf Fundraiser, 501 SW 7th St., Ste. Q, Des Moines, IA 50309. If you have any questions, please contact Jay Syverson via phone at 515-244-7181 or email at jsyverson@iowacounties.org.

associate member highlights



Taking Time Out of Tax Time...

When Wayne Walter became the Winneshiek County Treasurer in 1984, he soon realized he needed a better property tax payment solution. Back then, taxpayers were given only one payment option - make an office visit. He decided it was time to make it easier to pay taxes, so Wayne and his five-person staff began printing and mailing statements for the county's 16,000 parcels. "It was not only a service for the taxpayers," he says, "but it also made the business of collecting taxes much easier."

The Challenge

By 2005, Winneshiek had grown to 21,500 parcels. While the workload increased, they still only had 10 days in August to prepare statements. "Statement processing time was always a tense time of year. It took everyone in the office, including myself, using all of their available time during those 10 days." Adding to the pain, August is a popular vacation time. At one point, Wayne had to make the tough call to not allow vacations in August, just to get the statements out. He didn't know what else to do.

The Solution

"Then I learned of Allied Document Solutions," says Wayne. They offer solutions in design, printing, finishing, inserting, mailing, remittance, and imaging. They also print and mail 500,000 property tax statements for 40 counties and 2.3 million vehicle renewal notices for all 99 counties.

"I was satisfied after considering what we would save with the bulk mail discount they offered, with the reduced cost of the forms, and in employee time - that it was the right choice for us." Plus, his employees could take vacations again! "It's hard to put a dollar value on that," adds Wayne.

Contact

For more information about Allied Document Solutions, contact Steve Economos at 1-800-532-1436 ext. 8449 or economos@nationwide.com.

Never has the need to improve services to the public while reducing expenses been more important. With rising costs and increased demand for services, balancing these priorities can be challenging. That's where we can help.

Our visual information systems enable your county's agencies to easily access up to 12 different oblique (3D-like) views of any property, building, highway, or feature in your county. Our software will enable you to obtain measurements such as distance, height, elevation, and area directly from the oblique imagery, as well as insert GIS content and other data. The applications are virtually endless for multiple agencies:

- 9-1-1 - Locate calls for service and share information with first responders en route
- Appraisal and Assessment - View all the way around properties to generate more accurate valuations
- Community Planning - Compare land use and expansion over time with Pictometry Change Analysis
- Emergency Management Agencies - Annotate and highlight incident areas for preplanning, response, and recovery efforts
- Engineering - Reduce expenses by eliminating preliminary onsite inspections
- Fire Departments - Inspect structural compositions, roof layouts, and access points
- GIS - Expand the use of GIS by overlaying data on Pictometry's oblique images
- Homeland Security - Conduct vulnerability analysis and threat assessments of public buildings, bridges, schools, and other high risk areas
- Law Enforcement - Use daytime images of properties and structures for pre-emptive and concurrent tactical planning
- Public Works - Review properties for planning right of ways and easements
- Transportation - Examine neighborhoods for growth and traffic flow analysis

To schedule an onsite demonstration of this powerful technology in use at over 150 counties and two states, call your local Pictometry representative today.

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Multijurisdictional Agreements - Coverage Issues

Public entities represent very diverse and complicated commercial coverage risks. Many state statutes directed at the cities, counties and other public entities compound that diversity and add confusion. In addition, public entities enter into multijurisdictional agreements that increase the potential liability exposure for the public entity and for those individuals appointed to these boards and commissions.

A multijurisdictional agreement occurs when one or more public entities enter into an agreement to create a board or commission that will serve a specific purpose. One such agreement is a 28E agreement. One type of 28E agreement is designed to designate the division of the costs of equipment or services and the manner in which the equipment or services are to be utilized. This type of 28E generally stipulates that no separate entity has been formed.

Another type of 28E agreement creates a separate legal entity that requires its own property and casualty coverages to protect itself and its board members. One such 28E agreement may be an E911 Service Board. Under Iowa Code §34A.3, a county board of supervisors must establish a joint E911 Service Board or create a 28E agreement. The statute states that this 28E agreement automatically creates a legal entity.

An example of separate entities created by state statute are Emergency Management Agencies. According to Iowa Code §29C.9(4), an emergency management is a "municipality" as defined in Iowa Code chapter 670.1. That section defines a municipality as a "city, county, township, school district, and any other unit of local government. . ."

Public entities are not liable for the negligence of these separate organizations. Nor do public entities have control of the boards' actions. Such organizations have the authority to purchase equipment and enter into other contractual agreements without approval of the organization's member entities, on their behalf or in their own interests.

The Iowa Communities Assurance Pool (ICAP) definition of "Member" (and definition of "Insured" with insurance companies) does not include multijurisdictional agreements that form separate entities. Therefore, coverages do not exist for separate boards or commissions but they can be acquired. Among the separate coverages that should be investigated are: General Liability - for premises and operations exposures; Property, Automobile Physical Damage and Machinery Breakdown - to protect against damage to valuable buildings and/or equipment; Automobile Liability (if the entity owns vehicles) or Hired/Non-Owned Automobile Liability (if no vehicles are owned); Public Officials Errors and Omissions; Workers Compensation (if the 28E has its own employees); and a Fidelity Bond.

It is recommended that all public entity agreements and organizations formed by statutes be reviewed by legal counsel to determine if separate entities have been formed, which in turn, requires separate coverage. If it is determined that a board or commission is not an independent entity, then a member entity of the multijurisdictional board may be liable for the board's acts and omissions. All public entity agreements should also be reviewed by legal counsel and local insurance agent. *(Reprinted with permission from the March issue of ICAP Update.)*

Nationwide Retirement

The National Association of Counties (NACo) deferred compensation plan is a benefit offered by many Iowa counties. Nationwide Retirement Solutions affords county employees the opportunity to set aside some of their current income on a pretax bases for retirement. The account grows tax-deferred until retirement, when the employee can draw the money out to help meet income needs at that time.

Counties that have been visited recently by a Nationwide Retirement specialist include: Boone, Carroll, Johnson, Monona, and Plymouth counties. Contact will be made with Blackhawk, Bremer, Cerro Gordo, Dallas, Floyd, Hancock, Kossuth, Mitchell, Warren and Worth counties for meetings in the early spring.

If your county would like to schedule a service day for your NACo deferred compensation plan participants, please contact Chad Christensen (402-730-6066 or christc9@nationwide.com) in the western part of the state; Tom O'Connor (309-531-9204 or occonnot@nationwide.com) in the northeastern part of the state; and Ken Carpenter (314-724-2740 or carpenk6@nationwide.com) in the central and southeast part of the state. If you are uncertain who your representative is, contact Joyce Hall (573-642-4148 or hallj7@nationwide.com).

classified ad

Administrator

Dallas County Care Facility, Inc., in Dallas County, is a 93 bed residential care facility caring for intellectually and physically challenged individuals 18 and over. Requirements: Two years in a supervisory position in a long term health care facility. Bachelor's Degree in Public Health Administration, Business Administration, licensed nursing home administrator or other health related degree required. Excellent salary and benefits. Submit application/resume to dallascountycare@mcleodusa.net.

The National Incident Management System (NIMS)

In Homeland Security Presidential Directive (HSPD)-5, *Management of Domestic Incidents*, President Bush directed the United States Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to develop and administer the National Incident Management System (NIMS). Many counties and cities have likely heard about NIMS from their public safety personnel or county emergency management coordinator. An outgrowth of the war on terror, NIMS is intended to provide a framework for local, state and federal government to work together to respond to any domestic hazard, whether a natural disaster or terror incident. Some of the core concepts of NIMS include the following: recognizing that most incidents are managed locally; following Incident Command System (ICS) procedures in the field; enabling diverse organizations to work together because it employs common terminology, standards and procedures; measurable objectives; and applicability across the spectrum of emergency response (police, fire, EMS, etc.).

Components of NIMS include preparedness, resource management, communications and information management, supporting technologies and ongoing NIMS management.

Certain steps were taken to bring Iowa into initial compliance with NIMS. This work was undertaken by the Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division (HLSEM) and carried out in conjunction with the county emergency management coordinators and other groups. Among other steps, this included incorporating NIMS into existing training programs and exercises, promoting intrastate mutual aid agreements and institutionalizing the use of the ICS.

Additional Requirements for September 30, 2006

By September 30, 2006, additional requirements will be placed on local and state governments. Cities and counties will have to complete certain actions in order to receive federal preparedness funds. Federal preparedness funds encompass not only the State Homeland Security Grant Program, but also programs such as Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program, Emergency Management Performance Grants and others. (If a city is small enough that it does not have any emergency response capabilities (no police, fire and EMS) and does not intend to apply for federal preparedness grants, it would not be required to comply with NIMS.)

Counties and cities are required to adopt the concept of NIMS in a formal way, by resolution of the board of supervisors or city council. Cities and counties will want to have plans and procedures in place to use Incident Command System (ICS) during an incident and use in their everyday response. Entities will need to have plans or procedures in place for reporting of information to the public in the event of an incident.

Many counties and cities currently have mutual aid agreements with nearby entities and participate in the Iowa Mutual Aid Compact (IMAC). It is important that these agreements be documented.

Various training will be required - completion of IS-700: An Introduction to NIMS; IS-800: An Introduction to the National Response Plan; ICS 100: A Introduction to Incident Command; and ICS-200: Basic Incident Command. Counties and cities need to determine who should take these courses. Those that have a part to play in an incident should receive this training. In some instances, this may include county supervisors, city managers, city clerks or elected officials if they play a role in the emergency response plan. Training has already been delivered and will continue to be made available by HLSEM, county emergency management coordinators, the Fire Service Training Bureau, Iowa Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA) and others. Additionally, online courses are available from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) at www.training.fema.gov.

Counties and cities will need to incorporate NIMS in training and exercises and participate in a NIMS all hazard exercise program involving responders from multiple jurisdictions and disciplines.

Counties and cities will need to inventory their response assets and compare them against a list of resources developed by the United State Department of Homeland Security (DHS). Most of the resources on the lists are specialized equipment and most cities will not have many resources that meet the criteria on these lists. A coordinated effort to gather this information will be undertaken by HLSEM and county emergency management coordinators with the cities in their area. Counties and cities will need to ensure that equipment is interoperable when purchasing equipment with federal preparedness grant dollars.

Counties and cities will need to apply standards and consistent terminology across the public safety sector. This has been discussed among the law enforcement community in regards to whether or not police officers can use their special codes when responding to incidents. While police departments may choose to use these codes during non-emergency internal operations, in the event of a disaster and working with other jurisdictions, they would want to utilize plain language.

Next Steps

Many counties and cities have already begun going down the road of compliance by completing training courses and incorporating NIMS into policies and plans. Also, Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management sent a comprehensive information package (NIMS CD) that included sample resolutions to formally adopt NIMS and other information.

It will be important to work closely with county emergency management coordinators and public safety personnel to ensure these requirements are met for future grant opportunities. To demonstrate compliance, counties and cities will be asked to sign a letter, which can accompany future grant applications.

For questions regarding NIMS, contact your county coordinator or HLSEM at (515) 281-3231. (Information reprinted with permission from the December issue of Cityscape.)

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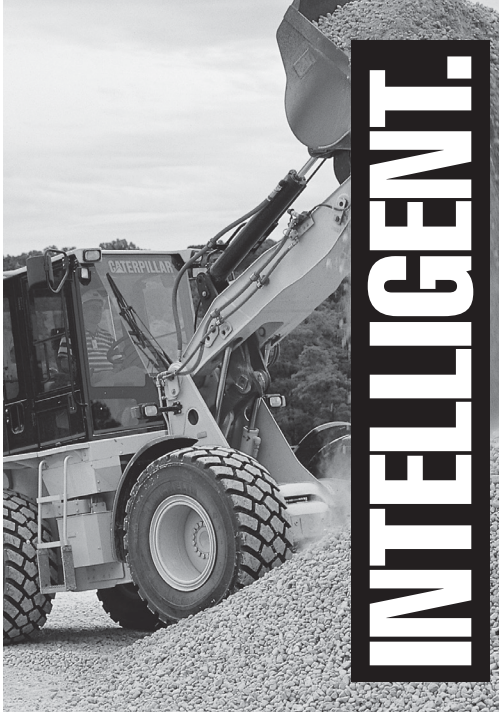
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As our Anniversary draws near, we will provide more detailed information regarding events that we will be sponsoring for our clients. (You can make a suggestion at our corporate website!)

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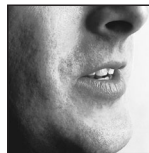
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July 19 Jester Park Golf Course, Polk County

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APRIL

- 5-7 CoZo Spring Conference
(Country Inn & Suites, Pella)
- 11 CCMS Administrators
(Hilton Garden Inn, Des Moines/Urbandale)
- 12 CCMS Cost Report Training
(Hilton Garden Inn, Des Moines/Urbandale)
- 18 CCMS North Central Support Group
(Hanford Inn/4th St. Diner, Mason City)
- 19 CRIS Board (ISAC Office)
- 19 CCMS East Support Group
(Coral Ridge Mall, Coralville)
- 21 ISAC Legislative Liaisons (ISAC Office)
- 25 Wellness Meeting
(Carroll County Conservation Center, Carroll)
- 28 ISAC Board of Directors (ISAC Office)

MAY

- 10-11 GA Retreat (Ames) Tentative
- 10-12 Treasurers Conference (Council Bluffs)
- 10-12 WIR (Sacramento, CA)
- 11 CCMS Advanced Case Manager
(Hilton Garden Inn, Des Moines/Urbandale)
- 18 Engineers Executive Board (ISAC Office)

JUNE

- 6-7 CCMS Supervisors Training
(Hilton Garden Inn, Des Moines/Urbandale)
- 7-8 Performance Measurement Conference
(Holiday Inn, Mason City)

- 8 District IV Workshop (Harrah's, Council Bluffs)
- 9 District V Workshop
(Indian Hills Community College, Ottumwa)
- 12-15 County Attorneys Summer Conference
(Arnolds Park)
- 14 District VI Workshop
(Grand River Center, Dubuque)
- 14-16 Information Technology Annual Conference
(Mason City)
- 21-23 CCMS Fundamentals
(Hilton Garden Inn, Des Moines/Urbandale)
- 22 District II Workshop
(Waldorf College, Forest City)
- 23 District III Workshop
(Buena Vista University, Storm Lake)
- 28 District I Workshop
(Holiday Inn Airport, Des Moines)

JULY

- 12 Engineers Midyear Conference Golf Outing
(Coldwater Golf Links, Ames)
- 13 Engineers Midyear Conference
(Gateway Center, Ames)
- 19 ISAC Scholarship Golf Fundraiser
(Jester Park Golf Course, Granger)
- 20 ISAC Board of Directors (ISAC Office)
- 25-28 Auditors Conference
(Stoney Creek Inn, Johnston)

Please visit ISAC's online calendar of events at www.iowacounties.org and click on 'Upcoming Events.' A listing of all the meetings scheduled thus far in 2006, agendas and meeting notices can be found on ISAC's website. A majority of ISAC's meetings offer online registration. If you have any questions about the meetings listed above, please contact Jerri Noboa at (515) 244-7181 or jnoboa@iowacounties.org.

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