

The Iowa County Magazine



**July 2024
Opioid
Settlement
Funds**



WE'RE READY

Whether it's planned service or a jobsite repair, we're ready to help. Stop by your nearest Ziegler CAT location for more information on parts, service, and the latest technology.

LEARN MORE:
www.zieglercat.com

ZIEGLER 

The Iowa County

July 2024 * Volume 53, Number 7

The Iowa County: The official magazine of the Iowa State Association of Counties
5500 Westown Parkway, Suite 190
West Des Moines, IA 50266
515.244.7181 FAX 515.244.6397
www.iowacounties.org
Rachel Bennett, EDITOR
Courtney Biere, PRODUCTION AND LAYOUT

Copyright © 2024 Iowa State Association of Counties

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Dubuque County: Strategies for Opioid Settlement Spending <i>Carissa Brown, MMDI</i> | 4-5 |
| Polk County: Maximizing Impact of Opioid Settlement Funds <i>Gabbie Ruggiero</i> | 6-7 |
| Bremer County: Planning for Opioid Settlement Spending <i>Lindley Sharp, MPH, FMCHC</i> | 8-9 |
| Harm Reduction: A Key Element of County Opioid Response Efforts <i>Samantha Karon, MPH</i> | 10-11 |
| 2024 NACo WIR Conference <i>Kristi Harshbarger</i> | 12 |
| Financial Peace of Mind - Brought To You By IPAIT <i>Ben Nordin, CFA</i> | 13-14 |
| May Board Meeting Minutes Summary | 15-16 |
| Calendar of Events | 17 |



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.

ISAC OFFICERS

PRESIDENT Barry Anderson, Clay County Supervisor
1ST VICE PRESIDENT John Werden, Carroll County Attorney
2ND VICE PRESIDENT Linda Zuercher, Clayton County Treasurer
3RD VICE PRESIDENT Mark Campbell, Webster County Supervisor

ISAC DIRECTORS

Carissa Sisson, Franklin County Assessor
Eric Van Lancker, Clinton County Auditor
Russell Wood, Franklin County Community Services
Mike Miner, Mitchell County Conservation
AJ Mumm, Polk County Emergency Management
Wade Weiss, Greene County Engineer
Sandy Bubke, Monona County Environmental Health
Micah Van Maanen, Sioux County Information Technology
Josh Busard, Johnson County Planning and Zoning
Kevin Grieme, Woodbury County Public Health
Mary Ward, Cass County Recorder
Brad Kunkel, Johnson County Sheriff
David Muhlbauer, Crawford County Supervisor
Patrick Sweeney, Polk County Veterans Affairs
Carla Becker, Delaware County Auditor (*Past President*)
Brian Gardner, Linn County Sheriff (*Past President*)
Melvyn Houser, Pottawattamie County Auditor (*Past President*)
Richard Crouch - Mills County Supervisor
(*NACo Board Representative and Past President*)
Grant Veeder - Black Hawk County Auditor (*NACo Board*)

ISAC STAFF

William R. Peterson - Executive Director
Lucas Beenken - Public Policy Specialist
Rachel Bennett - Member Relations Manager
Courtney Biere - Office Support Coordinator
Jamie Cashman - Government Relations Manager
Ashley Clark - IT Project Coordinator
Katie Cook - Member Support Coordinator
Andrew De Haan - IT Director
Kristi Harshbarger - General Counsel
Molly Hill - Staff Accountant
Brad Holtan - Finance and Program Services Manager
Nick Johnson - ICACMP Program Support Specialist
Brandi Kanselaar - CSN Project Coordinator
Beth Manley - Compliance Officer
Tammy Norman - IPAC Program Manager
Brock Ridders - Software Support Specialist
Jacy Ripperger - Marketing Coordinator
Joel Rohne - Technology Service Bureau Program Manager
Kelsey Sebern - Event Coordinator
Molly Steffen - Program Support Coordinator
Jessica Trobaugh - ICACMP Project Manager/Trainer
Dylan Young - Senior Software Developer

** The views and opinions expressed in articles authored by anyone other than ISAC staff are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of ISAC.

ISAC members are elected and appointed county officials from all 99 counties. *The Iowa County* (ISSN 0892-3795, USPS 0002-150) is published monthly by the Iowa State Association of Counties, 5500 Westown Parkway, Suite 190, West Des Moines, IA 50266. Periodicals postage paid at Des Moines, IA 50318. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to rbennett@iowacounties.org. Subscriptions: \$25 per year.

Dubuque County: Strategies for Opioid Settlement Spending

With the help of researchers, colleagues, community partnerships, articles, data, evidence-based strategies, and too many other contributors to name, Dubuque County continues to move forward following the abatement strategies for opioid settlement spending in a variety of ways.

Amongst the research came an emerging trend of creating opioid working groups, networks, or committees, that pulled essential members of the community together to help plan how to spend opioid settlement funds. We decided to follow suit and create one for our county as well. It is referred to as our Opioid Working Group, made up of many community members who have experience in assisting people with substance use and opioid use disorders in many different capacities. These members include our local Area Substance Abuse Council (ASAC), recovery resources, law enforcement, harm reduction, a person with lived experience, family services, medically assisted treatment providers, outpatient care, drug court/jail diversion, Board of Health members, our opioid response coordinator, county auditor, regional mental health coordinator, and more. The Group currently meets monthly, with a focus on collaboration to best determine the use of our opioid settlement funds. After months of one-on-one meetings and research, the working group members were selected to be part of the Group because of their knowledge, life experience, and/or their ability to work closely with the people who could benefit the most from the advancement or creation of programs through settlement funds.

Meanwhile, close collaboration with the Opioid Response Network (ORN), which provides free training and education to address opioid, stimulant, and all substance use disorders to entities requesting to work with them. They have connected us with multiple experts in their organization, and an organization partner that has 20 years of experience in the healthcare field related to this work. They also have immense knowledge about the use of opioid settlement funds and building strategic plans to help carry out goals related to spending and overall community benefit. With this connection, we have been able to start the development of our own strategic plan for our Opioid Working Group, that will help guide us as we move forward with plans for programs and initiatives. ORN helps us see the big picture, while the Working Group allows us to tweak the plan to fit the specifics of our county and its needs.

As the big picture planning continues, we are still taking steps to meet other goals we have for the county. One evidence-based strategy that we are working towards implementing, which has been successful throughout the country, is the process of saturating the community with Naloxone. While it continues to be available in most pharmacies, we want to make sure there is low to no barrier access to the product, as the market cost can still inhibit people from getting it. This plan has continued to grow through the services of Iowa Health and Human Services, the State Opioid Response Grant, and collaborative community partners. They have made it possible for a handful of organizations in our county to get trained and distribute free Naloxone, like many others throughout the state. We also plan to place Naloxone vending machines and boxes throughout the county, where people can get Naloxone for no cost, on their own time, and with no questions asked.



Carissa Brown, MMDI
Public Health Project Coordinator
Dubuque County Public Health
Carissa.Brown@dubuquecountyiowa.gov

Dubuque County: Strategies for Opioid Settlement Spending

Another abatement strategy we are working towards is the increase of prevention education surrounding opioids and opioid use disorder. In many cases, this can be done without much use of settlement funds, but is still a large effort moving forward. We continue to build relationships with local organizations who already provide substance use disorder and substance misuse information, as many have connections with local schools, community organizations, and businesses where they have been presenting this information for years. The goal is to echo their message, while putting an emphasis on preventative methods surrounding opioid use specifically. Thanks to prevention science and research backed toolkits, we can work to promote healthy lifestyles among all ages while reducing vulnerabilities that may affect individuals or the county at large.

We will continue to research, plan, and adjust as the needs of Dubuque County and available resources change to help those impacted by the opioid crisis. We also look forward to seeing what innovative ideas come from other counties in Iowa and across the globe that we can learn from and adapt to make the biggest impact in our community.



Polk County: Maximizing Impact of Opioid Settlement Funds

Polk County's Strategic Approach

Polk County's vision for opioid settlement funds (OSF) is to invest in high-need areas with the greatest impact on people with lived experience of substance use in a transparent, intentional, and sustainable manner. To carry out this vision, we prioritize people harmed by the opioid epidemic, and we first looked at what our community needs before spending funds.

Identifying Community Needs

Assessing community needs by collaborating with people across sectors of the community is critical to effectively spending OSF. As a starting point, Polk County hosted a Sequential Intercept Modeling (SIM) Mapping Workshop through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Gains Center. The SIM Mapping Workshop details how people with mental health and substance use disorders come into contact with the criminal justice system. The Workshop helps communities identify resources and gaps at the following intercepts: community services; law enforcement; initial court hearings and detention; jails/courts; reentry; and community corrections. Attendees are representatives from the intercepts as well as people that have been involved with the criminal justice system in recovery. From this process, we determined that: 1) deflection from the criminal justice system; 2) housing; and 3) services for people leaving the Polk County Jail were the top service gaps in our community. If programs to fill these gaps serve people with substance use disorders, they can be funded through OSF, so we created a strategic plan to use our OSF to build systems to address these gaps. Beyond this initial assessment, we will assess treatment and prevention needs with service providers as we monitor the realignment of publicly funded behavioral health services and legislative action on spending state OSF.

Balancing Urgency with Long-Term System Change

While assessment to direct spending is critical, we feel the urgency to spend funds: people are dying from substance use in Iowa. Provisional data from Iowa Health and Human Services shows an overall slight reduction in drug-involved deaths in 2023 from record highs in 2021 and 2022.¹ Evidence-based strategies to reduce overdose fatalities include harm reduction, in which people with lived experience of substance use build relationships with people who are using substances to engage them in health strategies to reduce the negative effects of substance use and improve their quality of life. Despite harm reduction efforts being listed as a Core Strategy of the National Opioid Settlement and the extensive body of research to prove harm reduction efforts are effective public policy as well as save lives, stigma prevents them from being funded. In addition, our SIM Mapping Workshop showed us other types of peer support programs should be integrated throughout our community, including ones where people in recovery help people using substances enter or maintain recovery.



Gabbie Ruggiero

Program Planner

Polk County Behavioral
Health and Disability Services

gabbie.ruggiero@polkcountyiowa.gov

1. On the HHS website, navigate to Programs & Services -- Mental & Behavioral Health -- Substance Use Disorders -- Substance Use Reports & Data -- Mortality Data for the most up to date provisional data.

Polk County: Maximizing Impact of Opioid Settlement Funds

In recognition that our other OSF projects would take time to impact the community, we prioritized creating a two-year grant for projects that provide immediate, direct supports for people harmed by the opioid epidemic. Projects could include harm reduction, peer supports, and other wrap-around services to help people stay in treatment and recovery. Grant applicants were asked how they serve people who use opioids, if there is evidence to support their program’s effectiveness and necessity, how peers would be involved, how they planned to collaborate with other organizations, and how their project would be sustained after the grant period ended. As a team of five reviewers, we learned application questions needed to be ultra-specific with word count limits to cut down on time spent reviewing the applications. We also learned what Polk County organizations need across sectors—staff, which may pose sustainability challenges if funded through grants.

In particular, organizations wanted to hire peer support specialists, whose services currently have limited reimbursement through insurance. Applications were another avenue for learning more about community needs to shape future efforts, and in the meantime, we will distribute almost \$1 million into our community from this funding cycle.

As we navigate the “Wild West” of OSF, we can’t lose sight of the reason we’re getting these funds—to help the people harmed by the opioid epidemic. Listening to the stories of people in recovery, people struggling to get help with their addiction, and the loved ones of people who have died from substance use and involving them in this work is critical to understanding what works, what doesn’t work, and what work we have to do. At Polk County, we’re ensuring these one-time funds have a lasting impact and that our projects offer hope to our community.

Bremer County: Planning for Opioid Settlement Spending

As communities nationwide grapple with the devastating fallout of the opioid crisis, a new opportunity has emerged to heal and rebuild. The funds from opioid settlements have given the nation a chance to turn the tide on this public health catastrophe. But with this opportunity has come the ubiquitous question of “How should we spend these funds?” While some counties have already answered this question, many counties, and even the state, have yet to determine when or how they will spend their allocations.

Other counties, such as Bremer County, haven’t determined how to spend the funds but have started a comprehensive, strategic process to decide how to spend the funds effectively. The strategic planning approach in Bremer County came as the result of the Bremer County Board of Supervisors designating the Bremer County Public Health Department (BCHD) and mental health and developmental disabilities coordinator/county substance abuse administrator (MHDD/CSA) to create a plan determining how best to use the dollars.



Lindley Sharp, MPH, FMCHC
Administrator
Bremer County Health Department
lsharp@co.bremer.ia.us

One of the first steps that the BCHD and MHDD/CSA undertook in developing a plan for the settlement funds was adopting The Principles for the Use of Funds from the Opioid Litigation created by the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. These principles encourage spending money to save lives, using evidence to guide spending, investing in youth prevention, focusing on racial equity, and developing a fair and transparent process for deciding where to spend the funds.

To develop a fair and transparent process, the Bremer County Opioid Task Force was created. The Task Force includes individuals with expertise in: addiction and substance use; those who work with youth; prevention and treatment providers; law enforcement; corrections; social service organizations; elected officials; and others who have insights into strategies that are working and areas where additional resources would be helpful. The BCHD, MHDD/CSA, and Bremer County Attorney plan and organize the meetings.

Meetings One and Two

The first two meetings for the Bremer County Opioid Task Force were informational. The meetings included an overview of the history of the opioid settlements, the estimated funding Bremer County could expect to receive until 2039, reporting requirements for the funds, and presenting the Iowa Opioid Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The BCHD also presented qualitative and quantitative data to help the Task Force make informed decisions based on evidence.

Qualitative Data

Before the Task Force was formed, BCHD was contacted by the Social Work Department at Wartburg College, asking if the BCHD had any upcoming strategic planning projects that students could work to be part of. Knowing that the Task Force would eventually need to gather input from persons or groups that touch different parts of the opioid epidemic, the Wartburg students conducted focus groups with persons with lived opioid experiences and with groups with first-hand experience in working with persons who use substances. The students worked with BCHD to employ convenience sampling to recruit participants for the focus groups and created fixed questions to ask during the structured focus group interviews. The students moderated the focus groups and then transcribed and cleaned the data into a report with themes and categories based on the responses they received.

Bremer County: Planning for Opioid Settlement Spending

Quantitative Data

Quantitative data was collected from several different databases. BCHD utilized data from the Iowa Public Health Tracking Portal, where counties can find data related to adult substance use, drug overdoses, prescription-monitoring program data, substance-involved mortality, and youth substance use data from the Iowa Youth Survey. BCHD also reached out to our Integrated Provider Network to collect data on substance use disorders and co-occurring diagnoses for our service area. Data was also gathered from Iowa Health and Human Services for opioid treatment admission details for the state.

Meetings Three Through Six

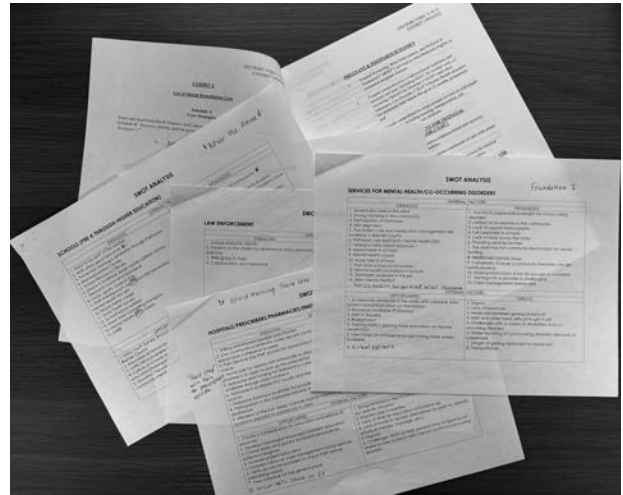
The next three meetings involved completing a strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats (SWOT) analysis and identifying common themes across nine SWOT areas. The nine SWOT areas that the Task Force examined were: schools; law enforcement; services for mental health/co-occurring disorders; treatment for substance use disorders; faith-based organizations; recovery support services; community; hospitals/prescribers/pharmacies/health systems/EMS; and workplaces.

Meetings Seven and Eight

The seventh and eighth meetings of the Task Force involved mapping out data themes and current and known resources, services, and programs based on the core strategy areas in the Iowa Opioid MOU. Mapping out themes helped to show where there is already a baseline level of spending on substance use disorders and where future spending can be used to supplement, rather than supplant, existing funding.

Future Meetings

The future task force meetings in Bremer County will involve identifying and prioritizing the core strategy areas where funding should be initially spent. These strategy areas will be recommended to the Bremer County Board of Supervisors. With spending hopeful in fiscal year 2025, the ongoing steps for the Task Force will include monitoring the progress and outcomes of the spending with partners that implement strategies.



Harm Reduction: A Key Element of County Opioid Response Efforts

America is in the midst of an opioid crisis, losing over 100,000 lives to overdose each year since 2021. The nature of this crisis has evolved rapidly in recent years, with synthetic opioids, such as fentanyl, now dominating the drug supply. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that for every instance in which someone dies from a drug overdose, there are 15 instances in which someone experiences an overdose but survives. This pattern points us towards a key element of county opioid response efforts: harm reduction.



Samantha Karon, MPH
Senior Program Manager, NACo
skaron@naco.org

Harm reduction is an evidence-based approach to engage and meet the needs of people who use drugs. The United States Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration defines harm reduction as an approach that combines prevention, risk reduction and health promotion strategies to empower people who use drugs with the choice to live healthier, self-directed, and purpose-filled lives. For America's counties, harm reduction complements prevention, treatment, and recovery services to create a more holistic and effective system of care.

Through the national opioid settlements, counties have access to flexible resources that can enhance our existing opioid response strategies, including incorporating or expanding the role of harm reduction in our systems of service. However, county authority to implement harm reduction strategies varies by state. Common state-level policy barriers include:

- **Naloxone.** Some states limit the ability of counties to distribute Naloxone, an FDA-approved medication that safely and effectively reverses opioid overdose.
- **Drug checking tools.** Some states prohibit counties from purchasing and/or distributing drug checking tools, such as fentanyl test strips, which enable people who use drugs to make safer and more informed decisions.
- **Syringe services programs (SSPs).** Some states prohibit counties from funding and/or operating SSPs, which provide access to sterile supplies for safer substance use, among other health and social services.

To understand how counties are integrating harm reduction into opioid response efforts, NACo interviewed county leaders and harm reduction stakeholders from five counties: Arapahoe County, Colorado; Graves County, Kentucky; Hennepin County, Minnesota; Allegheny County, Pennsylvania; and Bexar County, Texas. Each county represents a unique state policy context, ranging from the most restrictive (Texas) to the least restrictive (Minnesota). As a result, each county has integrated harm reduction into its opioid response strategy in a unique way.

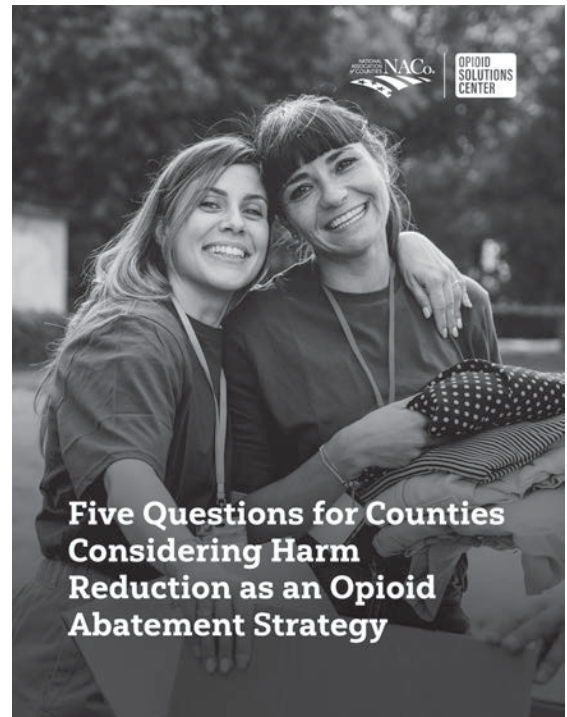
Through these interviews, NACo identified five questions for counties considering harm reduction as an opioid abatement strategy:

1. **What is harm reduction and what would it mean for our community?**
Question in Action: Graves County, Kentucky (population 37,000)
2. **What if our county isn't involved in the delivery of substance use services?**
Question in Action: Arapahoe County, Colorado (population 655,000)
3. **What if community-based organizations already offer harm reduction services?**
Question in Action: Allegheny County, Pennsylvania (population 1.2 million)
4. **What if harm reduction is restricted at the state level?**
Question in Action: Bexar County, Texas (population 2 million)
5. **How can opioid settlement funds support harm reduction?**
Question in Action: Graves County, Kentucky (population 2 million)

Harm Reduction: A Key Element of County Opioid Response Efforts

Each question explores what harm reduction can look like in different county contexts. For example, Question One asks, “What is harm reduction and what would it mean for our community?” In 2017, county leaders and community members in Graves County, Kentucky began to discuss this question after learning that the county was at high risk of experiencing an HIV outbreak related to injection drug use. Seeking a localized solution, members of the county’s substance use prevention agency spent the next two years building relationships across sectors, raising awareness of various effective interventions, and deliberating which of these interventions would best meet the needs of community members. Ultimately, the county decided to integrate harm reduction into the services offered at its public health clinic. Today, the clinic serves as a safe, stigma-free environment where people who use drugs can access food, water, clothing, and a warm hand-off to appropriate care, such as housing services, mental health treatment, substance use treatment, and recovery supports.

These case studies are part of a growing library of resources provided by NACo’s Opioid Solutions Center, an initiative to help counties maximize the impact of opioid settlement funds. To access the *Five Questions for Counties Considering Harm Reduction as an Opioid Abatement Strategy* and more, please visit www.naco.org/opioid.



PIPER | SANDLER
Experts in Iowa Public Finance
 Capital Planning, Project Financing, Debt Financing, Advisory Services

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| <p>No. 1 In Iowa by number of transactions in 2023*</p> | <p>No. 1 In Iowa by par amount & number of transactions for the past five years*</p> | <p>CONTACTS Travis Squires +1 515 247-2354 Tim Oswald +1 515 247-2358 Garrett Pochop +1 515 247-2359 Matthew Gillaspie +1 515 247-2353 Will Braverman +1 515 247-2344</p> |
|---|--|---|

pipersandler.com
Since 1895, Member SIPC and NYSE. ©2024 Piper Sandler & Co. 2/24
 *Source: Thomson Reuters, Refinitiv, as of 2/1/24.

DORSEY
 always ahead

WE ARE A PROUD SUPPORTER OF ISAC AND IOWA COUNTIES.
 Dorsey’s attorneys provide specialized legal services to Iowa counties, including financing, economic development, public health, privacy laws and litigation.

Dorsey & Whitney LLP
 801 Grand, Suite #4100
 Des Moines, IA 50309
 (515) 283-1000

dorsey.com

2024 NACo WIR Conference

I attended the meeting for NACo's Western Interstate Region (WIR) on May 8-10 in Mariposa County, California as the National Association of Civil County Attorneys' NACo Board member representative. The rest of the Iowa delegation included Grant Veeder, Black Hawk County Auditor and NACo Board member, and Bill Peterson, ISAC Executive Director. Mariposa County is next door to Yosemite National Park, which allowed for wonderful siteseeing opportunities outside of the meetings and made the mobile tours on the first day of the conference very popular. NACo also hosted a reception for NACo Board members and WIR Board members at the Yosemite Mountain Sugar Pine Railroad. This was a fun evening of camaraderie and networking, where we were treated to a train ride and sing-along in a beautiful setting.



Kristi Harshbarger
ISAC General Counsel
kharsbarger@iowacounties.org

One of the keynote speakers was Adrienne Haslet, a ballroom dancer and a survivor of the Boston Marathon bombing. Ms. Haslet has faced incredible challenges in her life and continues to be inspiring. Her story is definitely worth looking up, and her presentation was very motivational.

The NACo Board of Directors meeting included updates from key NACo staff, including an overview of the NACo Blueprint from NACo Executive Director Matt Chase, a legislative update from NACo Chief Government Affairs Officer Mark Ritacco, and an overview of the new NACo National Center for Public Lands Counties. NACo continues to have impressive membership engagement. Their membership is at 2,630 counties, which is 86% of all counties, parishes, and boroughs in our nation and has a retention rate of 99.2%, which is among the highest of any national association. One thousand eight hundred seventy-seven unique county officials from 828 counties participate on a NACo committee. If you are interested in learning more about how you and/or your county can get involved in NACo, please reach out.

Topics that stood out to me included an update on US Supreme Court activities from the Local Legal Center, information on the possible rewrite of the Farm Bill, and the sharing of NACo's new AI-generated children's book "Marvelous Adventures of Countyland." We have copies of the book in the ISAC office if you are interested in taking a closer look at this publication. Additionally, Paul Terragno, Managing Director of NACo Edge, provided information on the variety of services offered through NACo Edge. To learn more about how these value-added services may benefit your county, please go to NACo's website - <https://www.naco.org/page/cost-saving-solutions-naco-edge>.

NACo President Mary Jo McGuire recognized Bill Peterson for his years of service to ISAC and NACo and wished him well in his retirement on August 5 of this year. Grant Veeder ended the NACo Board meeting with a limerick which, as usual, left us all smiling. While getting to this conference required some effort (the closet airport was Fresno, an hour and half away), it was a great event, and I enjoyed the opportunity to attend. Next year's WIR Conference will be held May 20-23, 2025, in Pennington County, South Dakota.

Financial Peace of Mind - Brought To You By IPAIT

“Recent inflation readings have been more favorable than earlier in the year...and there has been modest further progress toward our inflation objective.” – Jerome Powell, June 2024

There has been a wide variety of commentary and diverse opinions on the state of the economy and the Federal Reserve’s response. In the following summary, we attempt to provide our perspective and connect the dots on how this information could help prepare for the future of your county.

The Federal Reserve’s battle against inflation appears to be in its final stages. The effects of higher interest rates are still working through the economic machine, but there are indications of a broader economic slowdown that should bring inflation back in line with the Fed’s long-term target.

Following the supply and demand shocks related to the COVID-19 pandemic, inflation roared to a peak greater than 7% in June of 2022 as measured by the Bureau of Economic Analysis’ Personal Consumption Expenditure (PCE). This 7% level was well above the Federal Reserve’s target of 2% averaged over time.

In an effort to tame inflation, the Federal Reserve began raising rates from the zero lower bound all the way to our current policy target rate of 5.25-5.50%. That level has been constant for nearly a year, since July of 2023. Through that time, we have seen inflation moderate but persist at higher than target levels. The most recent PCE print, April 2024, was 2.8%. Elevated inflation had initially been driven by food prices, but pressures have shifted through this inflationary cycle and now service costs are increasing the quickest. Rising wages and rents are key sources of inflation in the service sector.

The Federal Reserve has a dual mandate of maintaining price stability (i.e. modest inflation), while also promoting maximum sustainable employment. While opinions vary on the degree of the relationship, stronger employment can contribute to higher inflation. Through this economic cycle, the labor market has been resilient. Recently, there has been some attention paid to preliminary indications of more balance in the labor market. This includes data from the Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey (JOLTS) which indicates fewer job openings throughout the United States. However, the May employment report showed a very strong 272,000 new jobs added. This level was considerably higher than expectations, and monthly wage growth was also above expectations at 0.4%. The May employment report also showed the unemployment rate ticked up to 4.0% as the labor force declined slightly. These statistics have moderated from their hottest levels, but the United States labor market remains strong and provides little confidence that wage growth pressures in the services sector will subside soon.

The United States economy has continued to grow at a strong rate despite the higher interest rate environment. This is due in large part to United States consumers being employed and experiencing wage growth. Furthermore, a Bloomberg survey of economists does not forecast a recession over the coming year and a half.

With inflation moderating at a slower pace in recent months, a continued strong employment picture and continued growth, the ~~million~~ trillion-dollar question remains: When will the Fed begin cutting interest rates?

Commentary from the Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC), the group of Federal Reserve officials charged with setting the policy rate, has been consistently more hawkish in tone in recent meetings. Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell, as well as other members, have repeatedly stated they need to be confident inflation will return to, and remain, near the target. With inflation declining, the market continues to price in at least one rate cut this year. As of June 13, 2024, data from the swaps market shows a 75% chance the first full rate cut will occur



Ben Nordin, CFA
AVP, Institutional Portfolio Manager
PMA Financial Network, LLC
bnordin@pmanetwork.com

Financial Peace of Mind - Brought To You By IPAIT

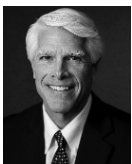
in September 2024 and a high chance of a second rate cut by December. This is a stark contrast from previous market expectations which started the year anticipating six rate cuts in 2024.

The FOMC will remain data dependent and only begin cutting rates after several months of significantly lower inflation or a marked deterioration in labor market conditions. All indications remain that the Fed's next move will be a cut. The dot plot, a survey of FOMC members, from the June 2024 meeting indicated only one cut in 2024, down from three in the March dot plot. Those additional cuts were shifted into 2025, not eliminated from their forecast. Each employment and inflation data point will be watched closely by the Fed and markets, looking for signs of continued lower inflation or weakness in the labor market.

Given the uncertainty around interest rate movements and the broad increase in yields across the Treasury curve, we feel matching assets to liabilities remains the most prudent method of investing public funds. Market timing is notoriously difficult to manage so our advice is to place funds out the curve in a pattern that matches your known liabilities. For example, if you have a project with known expenditures 6, 9, 12 months away we can match fixed term investments to those dates. This approach, known as asset liability matching, will provide certainty of yield and liquidity to fund your project's needs. Asset liability matching mitigates both the reinvestment risks present with having shorter duration investments if rates move lower along with the market value risk of longer-term investments if rates move higher.

As of June 13, 2024, IPAIT's diversified rate is 5.11%. This rate remains elevated relative to its five-year average and significantly exceeds the minimum required by the State of Iowa. Although these elevated rates are expected to be reduced when the Fed begins to cut rates, keep in mind that with inflation easing, real yields are still quite attractive. We believe right now is a great time for a discussion as we look into the future. Our Iowa team is always available to sit down and have a conversation to learn more about your county and to help maximize your overall return.

To learn more and contact an IPAIT representative, scan or click the below:



Paul Kruse
Senior Vice President – Director, Iowa
PMA Financial Network, LLC
pkruise@pmanetwork.com



Caleb Walter
Vice President, Investment Services
PMA Financial Network, LLC
cwalter@pmanetwork.com



Anita Tracy
Associate Vice President,
Investment Services
PMA Financial Network, LLC
atracy@pmanetwork.com

About the Author:

Ben Nordin, CFA is an Associate Vice President and Institutional Portfolio Manager at PMA Asset Management, LLC. He earned a B.A. in Economics from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and is a CFA Charterholder. Ben holds Series 7, 63, and 65 FINRA investment licenses and has worked in the financial industry for over 8 years.

May Board Meeting Minutes Summary

Summary of ISAC Board of Directors Meeting Minutes – Wednesday, May 1

ISAC President Barry Anderson called the meeting to order and led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Three sets of minutes were approved unanimously: ISAC Board on February 21, 2024; ISAC Spring Conference General Session on March 14, 2024; and ISAC Board on April 3, 2024.

Jose Garcia, McGowen, Hurst, Clark & Smith (MHCS), P.C., discussed issues related to the FY 2024 audit with the ISAC Board. The ISAC Board members were asked to raise any issues or concerns prior to the start of the audit scheduled for August 2024 with President Anderson and Jose directly.

The ISAC Board recessed and reconvened following adjournment of the Iowa Group Benefits Program Board of Directors meeting.

Kristi Harshbarger gave an overview of the changes proposed by the ISAC Articles and Bylaws Committee. Once finalized, changes to the Articles will be approved by an electronic vote of the membership. The bylaws require a resolution by the Board to update following member approval. A draft of the changes has been sent to the IRS for their review and the process for member approval of the changes will not begin until that feedback is received. The board unanimously recommend the changes to the ISAC Articles for a vote of the membership approval. It then unanimously approved the recommended changes to the bylaws pending membership approval of the Articles.

The ISAC Board recessed and reconvened following the Iowa Counties Technology Services Board of Directors meeting.

Brad Holtan reviewed highlights and the Board unanimously approved the March 31, 2024, ISAC financial report. The April and May financials will contain some changes due to the completion of the fixed assets project and building renovation expenses. For informational purposes, Brad gave highlights of ISAC's quarterly investment report.

Brad gave an overview of the Technology Service Bureau (TSB) financials for FY 2024. They did not have funding in FY 2024 because the appropriation made by the Iowa Legislature during the 2023 legislative session went elsewhere. The ISAC Board unanimously approved waiving up to \$300,000 in TSB receivables in FY 2024.

Bill Peterson presented information in response to an earlier discussion of the ISAC Board related to collecting NACo membership dues with ISAC dues. He included and reviewed informational documents related to the dues cost by county, current NACo membership status, as well as research from states who collect NACo dues in various ways. Discussion included logistical, budgeting, and the current county budget challenges. A suggestion was made to promote membership through affiliates and not just supervisors.

Rachel Bennett reported that the 2024 NACo Annual Conference is being held in Tampa, Florida, on July 12-15. She reviewed a tentative agenda of conference highlights and Iowa-specific scheduling.

Bill reviewed the process for submitting applications for NACo Presidential Appointments with NACo. He also asked members to contact him directly for steering committee appointments.

Kelsey Sebern reported that the 2024 ISAC Spring Conference was a success. ISAC staff received great feedback from members during and following the conference. Jacy Ripperger reported that we had a good turnout of exhibitors, and they were also pleased.

May Board Meeting Minutes Summary

Brad reported that golfer and sponsor registration is open, and work is underway for the 19th Annual ISAC Scholarship Golf Fundraiser being held at Toad Valley Golf Course in Pleasant Hill on July 17.

Kelsey presented two options for the 2024 ISAC Annual Conference agenda. Option one includes a keynote speaker but moves the General Session to the first morning of the conference, risking lower attendance. Option two leaves the agenda as it has been in the past with the General Session in the afternoon without a keynote speaker. The Board unanimously approved that a keynote speaker adds a lot of value and opted for option one.

President Anderson invited all Board members to save the date for the ISAC Board Retreat that is being held in Clay County on October 2-4. The agenda and RSVPs will be sent soon.

Jamie Cashman and Lucas Beenken gave an overview of the 2024 Legislative Session. They reported on ISAC's legislative priorities and objectives, other bills of interest to counties, as well as answered questions. Rachel reviewed the 2024-2025 ISAC policy development process.

Staff was dismissed, and the Board went into a closed session.

President Anderson adjourned the meeting.

2024 Calendar

July 2024

- 12-15 NACo Annual Conference and Exposition
(Hillsborough County/Tampa, Florida)
- 17 ISAC Scholarship Golf Fundraiser
(Toad Valley Golf Course, Pleasant Hill)

August 2024

- 21-23 ISAC Annual Conference
(Veterans Memorial Community Choice
Credit Union Convention Center, Des Moines)

September 2024

- 17-20 ISSDA Fall Jail School
(Holiday Inn Des Moines Airport)
- 24 Leadership Seminar
(West Des Moines Marriott)

October 2024

- 2-4 ISAC Board of Directors Retreat
(Clay County)
- 6-9 Assessors Fall School
(Holiday Inn Des Moines Airport)

November 2024

- 13 ISAC Board of Directors Meeting
(ISAC Office)

December 2024

- 3-6 ISSDA Winter School
(Holiday Inn Des Moines Airport)
- 4-6 78th Annual Iowa County Engineers Conference
(Veterans Memorial Community Choice Credit
Union Convention Center, Des Moines)

January 2025

- 15-16 New County Officer's School
(The Meadows Event and Conference Center)
- 30 Statewide Supervisors Meeting
(Embassy Suites Des Moines Downtown)

March 2025

- 13-14 ISAC Spring Conference
(Veterans Memorial Community Choice
Credit Union Convention Center, Des Moines)

If you have any questions about the meetings listed above or would like to add an affiliate meeting to the ISAC calendar, please contact Kelsey Sebern at ksebern@iowacounties.org.

2024 ISAC Preferred Vendors

Endorsed Elite Preferred Vendors

County Risk Management Services, Inc.
representing ICAP and IMWCA
Assured Partners

Elite Preferred Vendors

IP Pathways
Murphy Tractor and Equipment Co.
Summit Carbon Solutions

Endorsed Platinum Preferred Vendor

Iowa Public Agency Investment Trust
(IPAIT)

Platinum Preferred Vendors

Ahlers & Cooney, P.C.
Community State Bank
D.A. Davidson Companies
Delta Dental

Heartland Business Systems
Henry M. Adkins and Son
MidAmerican Energy
Neapolitan Labs
Northland Securities, Inc.
Schneider Geospatial
Tyler Technologies

Gold Preferred Vendor

Cost Advisory Services, Inc.
Cott Systems
CTC Disaster Response
Dorsey & Whitney LLP
GSS Midwest
ISG
Kofile
Murphy Tower Service
Piper Sandler
Purple Wave Auction, Inc.
Speer Financial, Inc.

The Center for Infrastructure and
Economic Development
U.S. Imaging, Inc.
Vanguard Appraisals, Inc.
Wellmark Blue Cross Blue Shield of Iowa
Ziegler CAT

Silver Preferred Vendors

Advanced Correctional Healthcare
ITC Midwest
MercyOne
Sidwell
UMB Bank

Endorsed Preferred Vendors

National Association of Counties
(NACo)
Nationwide Retirement Solutions
Professional Development Academy

cott
systems
Since 1888

cottsystems.com

Donald Beussink
Account Executive
c) 319.621.3059

e) dbeussink@cottsystems.com

Recording Software
Digitization of Historical Records
Cloud-Based Solutions
Online Records Access
Microfilm

OIB ONLINE
INDEX
BOOKS™
powered by **cott**

GSS INC.
www.gssmidwest.com

**Telecom and Fiber
Development, Deployment
and Due Diligence**

Putting you first - in everything we do.

At Community State Bank, we're all in when it comes to helping you and the greater Des Moines community thrive. That's why we put employees, customers and communities first - in everything we do.

Find out how CSB will put you first.



515.331.3100 | BankCSB.com



10 YEARS

MAKING LEADERS BETTER SINCE 2014
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ACADEMY

You are invited to celebrate with us in 2024. It is our High Performance Leadership Academy's 10th anniversary. We can think of no better way to celebrate than investing in your workforce. Significant celebration scholarships will be available for existing leaders looking to get better and emerging leaders looking to get ready to navigate change and overcome the challenges of work today.

Email Luke (lukea@pdaleadership.com) to secure your scholarship, enroll your team, and celebrate with us. Let's make leaders better, together, in 2024 and beyond.





NEAPOLITAN LABS IS OFFICIALLY IOWA'S #1 COUNTY WEBSITE PROVIDER

WHAT OUR CLIENTS ARE SAYING

“Working with Neapolitan Labs was easy, rewarding, and ultimately led to a wonderful website and employee portal.

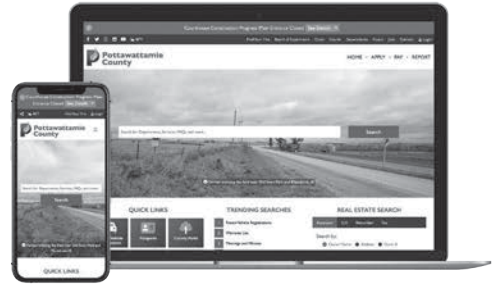


David Bayer
Chief Information Officer, Pottawattamie County

“Neapolitan Labs truly understands county government and how it works. They implemented features that have made my job easier and more efficient.



Rebecca Bissell
Auditor, Adams County



WORK WITH US

hello@neapolitanlabs.com
515.999.5221
neapolitanlabs.com

COUNTIES • ELECTIONS • PUBLIC HEALTH • SHERIFF • DIGITAL RECORDS • APPOINTMENTS • TEXT NOTIFICATIONS

One Partner. Endless Opportunities.



Revolutionizing Work



Modernizing Applications



Transforming Infrastructure



Securing What Matters



Connect with our team at hbs.net

Vanguard Appraisals, Inc.

For All Your Assessment Services



- Consultation
- Appraisals
- Software
- Web Sites

1-800-736-8625

www.camavision.com

US ★ Imaging

Rhonda Olson
Northern Account Manager

400 S. Franklin Street
Saginaw, MI 48607

Cell: (989) 928-1559
Fax: (989) 753-7333

e-mail: rolson@us-imaging.com



CENTER
for Infrastructure & Economic
Development

Renewable Energy Resource for
Local Leaders

www.centerforlocalpolicy.org

 **WIRTGEN GROUP**

GET MORE WITH MURPHY



JOHN DEERE


MURPHY
TRACTOR & EQUIPMENT CO.

murphytractor.com | 855-246-9124





THE EASIEST WAY TO SELL USED EQUIPMENT



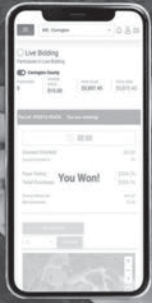

BID NOW! purplewave.com




Online Tax Auctions Made Easy

-  **BIDDER REGISTRATION SUITE**
-  **AUCTION DEPOSITS & PAYMENTS**
-  **SOFTWARE INTEGRATION**
-  **ENGLISH-SPANISH TRANSLATION**

www.govease.com | dmyers@govease.com







Contact Speer today:
Maggie Burger, Sr. Vice President
mburger@speerfinancial.com

Helping Counties Navigate:

- ◆ Bond Issues
- ◆ Debt Planning
- ◆ TIF Projects
- ◆ Continuing Disclosure
- ◆ Debt Refinancing



MAKE
Speer Financial, Inc.
Your Municipal Advisor TODAY!





AHLERS COONEY
ATTORNEYS

Ahlers & Cooney, P.C.
100 Court Avenue, Suite 600 | Des Moines, IA 50309
www.ahlerslaw.com | info@ahlerslaw.com | 515-243-7611

For over 135 years, Ahlers & Cooney has represented Iowa's cities, counties, municipal utilities and other public bodies.

Comprehensive services include:

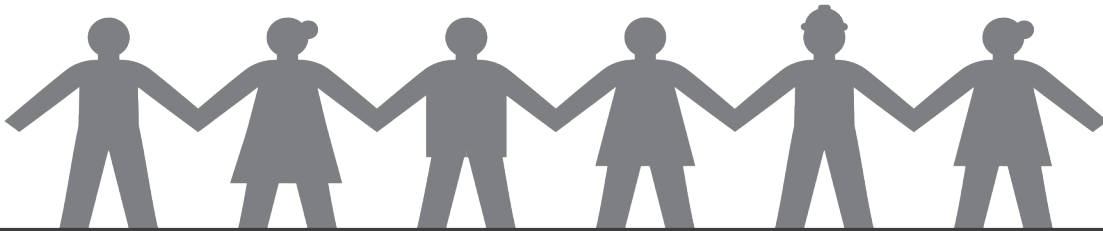
- Public Improvement Contracting
- Public Financing
- Economic Development
- Employment Law
- Lease Financing Transactions
- Internal Investigations
- Environmental Compliance
- Labor Negotiations
- Land Use/Community Development
- Litigation
- Eminent Domain
- Special Assessments
- General Municipal Services
- Utility Issues



Lester Buresh Family Community Wellness Center
City of Mount Vernon
Photo Courtesy of OPN Architects

For your smile. For your health. For your community.

When you choose Delta Dental of Iowa you get more than great dental and vision insurance. You make a difference for others because we invest in Iowa communities.



Learn more at
SharingHealthySmiles.com



**AN IOWA COMPANY
SERVING
IOWA COUNTIES**



**FOR COST ALLOCATION SERVICES AND
FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT SERVICES**

**Contact Jeff Lorenz (515)-238-7989
or Roger Stirler (515) 250-2687**



From finance and HR to property tax and document imaging, we deliver powerful software to 50 counties across the state.

tylertech.com/erp



**MURPHY
TOWER SERVICE**

**Enabling communication
wherever you go.**



515.989.9225
murphytower.com



YOUR TRUSTED TECHNOLOGY PARTNER SERVING IOWA COUNTIES FOR YEARS TO COME



Cloud



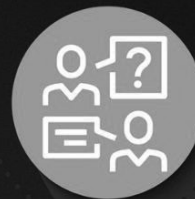
Managed
Services



Security



Infrastructure
Solutions



Consulting

IP
PATHWAYS™

IPAIT

IOWA PUBLIC AGENCY INVESTMENT TRUST

The IPAIT Advantage

Serving Iowa Counties with
Financial Strategies for Stronger Communities

IPAIT Board Representatives:

Craig Anderson, Supervisor-Plymouth County

Mitch Hambleton, Treasurer-Dallas County

Dan Zomermaand, Treasurer-Sioux County

Visit www.ipait.org or call toll-free (800) 269-2363

Sponsors:



IOWA
ASSOCIATION OF MUNICIPAL
UTILITIES



Investment Advisor/
Administrator/Marketer:



Contacts:



Paul Kruse
Senior Vice President, Director-Iowa
515.554.1555
pkruse@pmanetwork.com



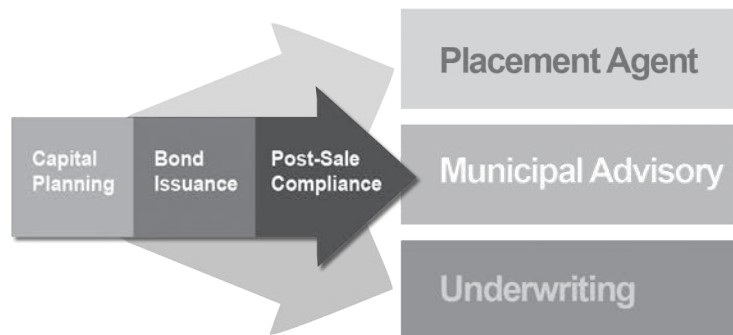
Caleb Walter
Vice President, Investment Services
515-224-2721
cwalter@pmanetwork.com

© 2023 PMA Securities, LLC. All rights reserved.

FINANCING SOLUTIONS FOR MUNICIPAL INFRASTRUCTURE



Project Finance: Planning Through Maturity



Scott Stevenson, Managing Director
(515) 471-2721 | SStevenson@dadco.com

Michael Maloney, Managing Director
(515) 471-2723 | MMaloney@dadco.com



D | A | DAVIDSON
FIXED INCOME CAPITAL MARKETS
D.A. Davidson & Co. member SIPC and FINRA

515 East Locust St., Suite 200 | Des Moines, IA | (515) 471-2700 | (800) 642-5082 | dadavidson.com



6903 Vista Drive
 West Des Moines, IA 50266
www.northlandsecurities.com
 515-657-4675
 Member FINRA and SIPC
 Registered with SEC and MSRB



- *Competitive Bond Sales*
- *Bond Underwriting*
- *Debt Refinancing*
- *Property Tax Impact Analysis*
- *Tax Increment Financing*
- *Financial Management Plans*
- *Utility Rate Studies*
- *Debt Capacity Analysis*
- *Referendum Assistance*
- *Capital Improvement Plans*
- *Goal Setting Workshops*
- *Property Tax Impact Analysis*

**NORTHLAND'S
 IOWA TEAM**

- *Commitment to integrity*
- *Creative solutions to complex issues*
- *Engaged team approach*
- *Customized financial planning models*
- *Staff with depth and experience*



Heidi Kuhl
 Director
hkuhl@northlandsecurities.com
 515-657-4684



Jeff Heil
 Managing Director
jheil@northlandsecurities.com
 641-750-5720



Chip Schultz
 Managing Director
cschultz@northlandsecurities.com
 515-657-4688

NSI 800-851-2920 | RC 23-387 Muni 23-279 1223

Henry M. Adkins & Son, Inc.

Serving County Officials and Election Authorities Since 1939



Web: www.adkins-printing.com
 Phone: 1-800-633-5503
 Fax: (660) 885-4019



Full Service Election Provider

- ⇒ Unisyn Voting Equipment
- ⇒ Tenex Electronic Poll Books
- ⇒ Tenex Live Results Reporting
- ⇒ Absentee Envelopes
- ⇒ Voter ID Cards
- ⇒ Election Forms
- ⇒ Election Signage
- ⇒ And much more.....

Commercial Printing

- ⇒ Business Cards
- ⇒ Flyers/Brochures
- ⇒ Letterhead
- ⇒ Business Envelopes
- ⇒ Wedding Invitations
- ⇒ Graduation Invitations
- ⇒ Birthday Invitations
- ⇒ And much more.....





**SUMMIT CARBON
SOLUTIONS**

Partnering to Build Stronger Communities

Partnering with 25 biorefineries in Iowa.

**Paying an average of \$1,094,000 per
county across the project in annual
property taxes once operational.**

**This money directly benefits schools,
townships, health services, and the
county general fund.**



ISAC GROUP BENEFITS PROGRAM

PARTNERING WITH COUNTIES ACROSS IOWA



Health Program

- Early release of renewal rates
- Experience and wellness discounts
- Multiple networks and plan designs
- 28 member counties



Worksite & Ancillary Program

- Group accident and critical illness plans
- Accident includes AD&D and wellness
- Voluntary Life and Voluntary AD&D
- Group disability products



Dental Program

- Comprehensive plan portfolio
- Voluntary and contributory pricing
- Broad network of providers
- 29 member counties



Complimentary ISAC Benefits

- Wellness program with Accident plan
- Employee Assistance Program
- COBRA administration
- Consolidated Billing



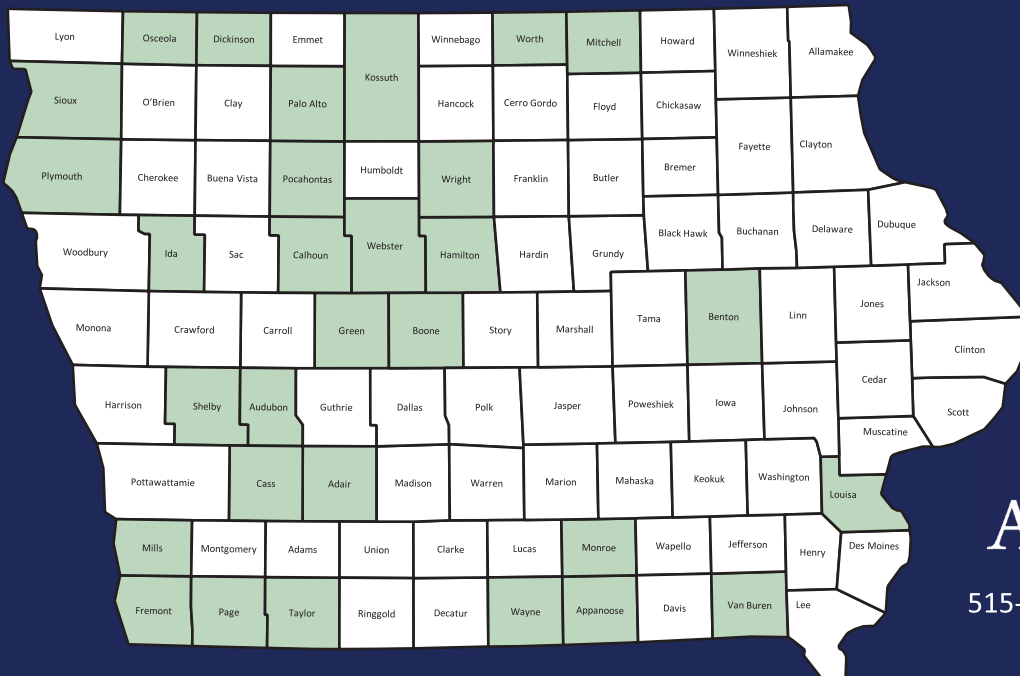
Vision Program

- Multiple carriers and plan options
- Exclusive fully insured county pricing
- Robust provider networks
- 23 member counties



AssuredPartners

- Employee benefit consulting
- Dedicated county service team
- Compliance assistance
- Online benefits enrollment platform



Current Members



515-493-0802 | assuredpartners.com

COVERAGE FOR IOWA COUNTIES



In the early 1980s, standard insurance carriers refused coverage to counties and cities. Out of that crisis, local governments joined together to get the coverage they needed. Coverage through IMWCA and ICAP.

CRMS 
COUNTY RISK MANAGEMENT SERVICES

representing



IMWCA

Property, casualty & workers' compensation coverage for counties in Iowa.
crmsia.com | icapiowa.com | imwca.org | With programs endorsed by ISAC.