

The Iowa County Magazine

Line	ID	GL #	DG	COA	New	Amendment	Re-Estimate	Current	Actual FY	Claims
41402	10000 04022 100 60 00	40 (Mental Illness)	22100 (Services Management)	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 107,000.00	\$ 110,000.00	\$ 106,656.85	\$ 106,656.85	
41403	10000 04022 110 60 00	40 (Mental Illness)	22110 (Services Management)	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 7,600.53	\$ 7,600.53	

Claim ID	Client ID	Client	Accrual Fiscal Year	Amount to Pay	Amount Paid	Paid Date	Reconciliation Status
7431621			2018	\$567.19	\$567.19	7/31/2017	Complete
7431945			2018	\$591.96	\$591.96	8/31/2017	Complete
7455852			2018	\$917.35	\$917.35	9/30/2017	Complete
7461051			2018	\$575.46	\$575.46	10/31/2017	Complete
7473631			2018	\$598.02	\$598.02	11/30/2017	Complete
7473755			2018	\$575.46	\$575.46	12/31/2017	Complete
7483598			2018	\$575.46	\$575.46	1/31/2018	Complete
7540767			2018	\$584.92	\$584.92	2/28/2018	Complete
7540906			2018	\$886.65	\$886.65	3/31/2018	Complete
7553733			2018	\$581.28	\$581.28	4/30/2018	Complete
7565925			2018	\$578.38	\$578.38	5/31/2018	Complete
7583503			2018	\$568.40	\$568.40	6/30/2018	Complete

Showing 1 to 12 of 12 entries

TOTALS:	Current	\$654,450.00	Actual FY	\$665,107.64	Query Total	\$585,107.64	Amendment	\$0.00	Re-Estimate	\$654,450.00	New Budget	\$0.00
Line	ID	GL #	DG	COA	New	Amendment	Re-Estimate	Current	Actual FY	Claims	Assigned To	Active
41402	10000 04022 100 60 00	40 (Mental Illness)	22100 (Services Management)	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 107,000.00	\$ 110,000.00	\$ 106,656.85	\$ 106,656.85	-- Select --		
41403	10000 04022 110 60 00	40 (Mental Illness)	22110 (Services Management)	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 7,600.53	\$ 7,600.53	-- Select --		
41404	10000 04022 110 60 00	40 (Mental Illness)	22111 (Services Management)	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 9,522.43	\$ 9,522.43	-- Select --		
41405	10000 04022 113 60 00	40 (Mental Illness)	22113 (Services Management)	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 37,000.00	\$ 42,000.00	\$ 35,896.50	\$ 35,896.50	-- Select --		
41411	10000 04022 116 60 00	40 (Mental Illness)	22116 (Services Management)	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 700.00	\$ 700.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	-- Select --		
41413	10000 04022 260 60 00	40 (Mental Illness)	22260 (Services Management)	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 27.78	\$ 27.78	-- Select --		
41414	10000 04022 413 60 00	40 (Mental Illness)	22413 (Services Management)	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	-- Select --		
41415	10000 04022 414 60 00	40 (Mental Illness)	22414 (Services Management)	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 1,700.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 986.10	\$ 986.10	-- Select --		



Revenue Details

TOTALS: Cash Query Total: \$18,860.21 Accrual Query Total: \$18,877.92

Cash	Accrual	Print Receipt	Revenue ID	Received From	Revenue Code
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	44558	Prairie Ridge Integrated Behavioral Healthcare	41500 04000 5310 62 - Client Care Charges
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	44511	Cherokee MHI	41500 04000 5310 62 - Client Care Charges
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	44381	Cherokee MHI	41500 04000 5310 62 - Client Care Charges
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	44335	43 North Iowa	41500 04411 8480 61 - Miscellaneous Refunds
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	44334	Cherokee Mental Health Institute	41500 04000 5310 62 - Client Care Charges
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	44301	Heartland Business Systems	41500 04411 8480 61 - Miscellaneous Refunds
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	44299	Cherokee	41500 04000 5310 62 - Client Care Charges
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	44216	Cherokee MHI	41500 04000 5310 62 - Client Care Charges
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	44157	Prairie Ridge Integrated	41500 04000 5310 62 - Client Care Charges
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	44156	Mental Health Institute	41500 04000 5310 62 - Client Care Charges

Line ID	Revenue Code	Description	New	Amendment	Re-Estimate
41726	10000 00053 2140 99	Business Property Tax Credit	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
41532	10000 04000 2713 60	Misc Contrib/Reimb-Other Gov	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
41703	10000-00051-1000-99	Current Net Property Taxes	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
41704	10000-00051-1010-99	Delinquent Property Taxes	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
41708	10000-00051-1200-99	Mobile Home Taxes	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
41707	10000-00051-1240-99	Grain Handled Taxes	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
41709	10000-00051-1600-99	Utility Replacement Excise Tax	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
41710	10000-00053-2100-99	Homestead Credit	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
41711	10000-00053-2110-99	Elderly-Disabled Credit	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
41712	10000-00053-2130-99	Ag Land Credit	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
41722	10000-00053-2170-99	FAMILY FARM CREDIT	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
41723	10000-00053-2210-99	MOBILE HOME REPLACEMENT	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00

July 2025
Community
Services Network
Opportunities

YOU'RE ALMOST DONE WITH A
LANDSCAPING PROJECT. YOU'VE ONLY
GOT **5 YARDS OF ROCK** TO PUT IN 3 BEDS.
BUT THE NEWBIE **ACCIDENTALLY TORE A**
HYDRAULIC HOSE, LEAVING YOU WITH 5
YARDS OF ROCK TO SHOVEL BY HAND.
THAT'S WHEN YOU **CALL YOUR ZIEGLER**
REP. HE LINES UP YOUR REPAIR BY 2 PM
SO YOU CAN **COMPLETE THE**
PROJECT ON TIME.

ZIEGLER 

THE

GET-THE-JOB-DONE

DEALER

GET IT DONE AT ZIEGLERCAT.COM

The Iowa County

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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.

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1ST VICE PRESIDENT Mary Ward, Cass County Recorder
2ND VICE PRESIDENT David Muhlbauer, Crawford County Supervisor
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**** The views and opinions expressed in articles authored by
anyone other than ISAC staff are those of the authors and do
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ISAC members are elected and appointed county officials
from all 99 counties. *The Iowa County* (ISSN 0892-3795, USPS
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Policy Process for 2026

The development of the ISAC legislative package is member driven and updated annually. Ideas for law changes and stances on specific issues come from individual county officials and professionals and our affiliate organizations. The annual legislative package is developed and voted on by *voting delegates of the membership (more information below) and ratified by the ISAC Board of Directors guides ISAC each legislative session.

Progress on the 2026 ISAC legislative package has already begun as affiliate organizations have or are currently reviewing proposals from individual members. Some of these proposals are returning ideas that have gained traction at the Capitol but haven't made it to the governor's desk just yet, while others are new ideas to help solve a problem identified at the county level or in a specific department. Affiliates vet these proposals to determine if the issue is widespread, is in need of legislative action, and has a realistic chance of being considered by the current legislature. Each affiliate then submits its chosen proposals to the ISAC Legislative Policy Committee (LPC). This year's deadline for both affiliate and individual proposals is July 18.



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The LPC is comprised of two representatives from each of ISAC's 16 affiliate organizations and this year will be chaired by ISAC 1ST Vice President and Cass County Recorder Mary Ward. The first meeting of the LPC will be on August 19, at which the legislative proposals for 2026 will be considered. The Committee also reviews the current year's legislative package for updates. Previous proposals may be kept, amended, or removed. Amendments may come in the form of updated language or fine-tuning the proposal or moving an objective to a policy statement (more on that later). Proposals may also be removed if the governor signed a bill addressing the issue, there is no longer interest in pursuing the idea, or in some cases, if the outlook for a given issue is not hopeful given the legislative environment.

In developing the legislative package, the LPC may include a proposal in one of three areas: policy statement, objective, or top priority. The three areas are defined as:

- **Policy Statements**, as the name implies, are declarations of principle on specific issues.
- **Legislative Objectives** are specific identified problems with a proposed solution. The Government Relations Team will actively pursue bill drafts to address these identified problems with the proposed solution.
- **Top Priorities** are also self-explanatory in name and are the three to five legislative objectives that rise to that higher level of importance and urgency. These are typically issues that have or would have a significant statewide impact and could affect multiple offices, departments, or the county as a whole.

The LPC meets again in September, and over the two meetings will develop recommendations for policy statements, legislative objectives, and top priorities. The proposed legislative package is then considered by each county's voting delegates in October via online voting. During the voting process, policy statements are voted on in a block, legislative objectives individually, and recommendations for up to five top priorities. The online voting tool also offers the opportunity for feedback.

The ISAC Board of Directors will then ratify the member vote and set the top priorities during its November board meeting. Recommendations for the top priorities are made to the Board in three separate ways — the LPC, the member vote, and ISAC staff. The Board also has ultimate discretion related to the legislative package, but oftentimes recommendations it receives play heavily into reaching that final package.

Policy Process for 2026

After the Board of Directors finalizes the legislative package, the Government Relations Team works with affiliates and legislators to get bills drafted that will address the problem identified with the solution proposed. The bills are then navigated through the subcommittee, committee, and floor debate process in each chamber in hopes of reaching the governor's desk for final approval. But the whole process starts with ideas from our members. Most affiliates have reviewed proposals for 2026, but there's still time to submit individual proposals to the LPC by the July 18 deadline. For the Legislative Policy Request Form visit www.iowacounties.org/legislative/legislative-policy-committee/ and submit your idea(s) as soon as possible. Thank you for your participation in the ISAC legislative policy development process.

***Voting Delegates:** The ISAC Articles of Incorporation were amended in November 2024 to have the boards of supervisors designate voting delegates through a resolution. The definition of voting delegates remain unchanged, which are all elected officials and the principal officer for each county department represented by an Affiliated Association of ISAC. Note that each voting delegate may only vote once even if they represent more than one affiliate. As required by our Articles of Incorporation, we are requesting an approved resolution of the voting delegates for your county. More information will be sent regarding this process via email.

This article originally appeared in the July 2023 edition of The Iowa County magazine. It has been updated and modified.





Renewable energy projects by Apex Clean Energy are helping rural Iowa counties and their communities renew their economic base, while providing a reliable and affordable energy source. One project at a time!

CSN: What Started as a Niche is Now a Platform for Everyone

When the Community Services Network (CSN) launched in January of 2010, the system was internally developed by ISAC staff mainly for community services, with a primary focus on mental health. There have been many changes in the last 15 years, and thanks to the Iowa Counties Technology Services (ICTS) Operations Committee, ICTS Advisory Committee, and the ICTS Board of Directors, CSN has evolved and kept up with legislative changes and the needs of its entities and users, including those outside of the mental health focus.

CSN is no longer just for community services and/or mental health. CSN has many features that any county department can use!

Financials

CSN has a robust financial area that includes budget tracking for both expenditures and revenue. A department can see where their budget stands in real time and have a choice to use its original budget amount, a re-estimated budget, or an amended budget. New budget line items can be added on the fly. There is a clear visual showing the amount of the budget used compared to the percentage of the fiscal year completed. The ability to view financials by cash or accrual is also available.

When paying claims, CSN has an adjudication feature. This helps to ensure there are no duplicate payments made to the same vendor. There is also an area to enter a provider contract limit, and CSN will notify the user if 75% of the contract amount has been paid.

The best part about financials in CSN is that it already has the ability to integrate with the county auditor's Harris/Solutions or Tyler Technologies software. CSN could potentially integrate with other software as needed in the future. This saves time by avoiding manual entry into each system for both payment and reconciliation.

For example, when a department receives invoices (aka claims) to pay, there are various ways to enter those claims into CSN including direct entry by the office, department, or provider, eClaim template upload, or via an EDI/837. CSN adjudicates the claims, then notifies the user if each claim should be approved, denied, or partially paid. The user has a choice of creating a voucher/jacket for each claim and can either physically hand the claim run to the auditor or submit the claim run electronically using the integration feature.

Once the auditor pays the claim run, the department reconciliation can happen manually, or via the integration feature. This works the same with employee payroll expenses as well. The expenses submitted to the auditor will reflect immediately in the budget, showing real-time spending authority, and then will adjust after departmental reconciliation, in case a claim did not get paid as expected. Utilizing the user-friendly financial area can make managing budgets an easier task for anyone.

CSN has many reporting options. Along with canned reports, there is an option for ad-hoc reports.

The financial area of CSN can be used as a stand-alone module.



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CSN: What Started as a Niche is Now a Platform for Everyone

Client Management

CSN includes a client-focused area that can contain a lot of information, including but not limited to: name history; address history; insurance; care team and emergency contacts; education; employment; income; expenses; somatic information; committals; narratives and notes; events; arrests; screens and assessments; referrals; treatments; and repayment agreements.

Currently, entities such as General Assistance, Veterans Assistance, and Judicial Advocates use CSN to make sure their clients are getting the best services and care.

CSN is designed to follow all HIPAA and Iowa privacy laws.

Provider Information

CSN may assist with locating a provider. Providers listed in CSN can be searched by agency name, county location, type, TIN, NPI, and even by the specific services they offer. A specific service search will bring back a list of providers that offer that service, their contact information, and location. There are nearly 14,000 providers in CSN representing various types of businesses.

Support/Training

CSN offers user support and training integrated into the system. From the homepage, a user can find direct links to the CSN YouTube channel videos that include tutorials and webinars, view the CSN User Manual, and enter a support ticket and track the response. Entities may request on-demand CSN training from the knowledgeable ISAC ICTS staff, that can be conducted remotely or in person.

If you'd like a demo of CSN and how the system can increase efficiencies in your office or department, please email CSNStaff@iowacounties.org or call 515.369.7006.



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- Labor Negotiations
- Litigation
- Special Assessments
- Utility Issues



Courthouse, Marshall County, Iowa

U.S. Economic Update and Introduction to Liability-Driven Investing

The U.S. Economy: Resilience Amid Uncertainty

The United States economy appears to be relatively stable as we move through 2025. Rearward looking fundamentals remain strong; however, weaker sentiment suggests some underlying weakness exists. Domestic labor markets continue to report robust statistics, with the unemployment rate recently reported at 4.2% — notably below the 30-year average of 5.4%. Wage increases, while moderating, still outpace inflation for many workers, supporting consumer spending. Consumer spending, in turn, accounts for roughly 68% of the country's economic activity, therefore even modest gains in employment and wages have a significant multiplier effect. That said, there is no avoiding the policy uncertainty in Washington related to our federal budget legislation and international trade. Even before these policies embody their final state, corporations may adjust their hiring and investment decisions. Closely monitoring employment and spending will be paramount to identify impacts on the real economy.



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Inflation, which dominated economic headlines throughout the past several years, has made substantial progress. The Federal Reserve's preferred inflation gauge, the Core Personal Consumption Expenditures (PCE) Index, registered 2.5% year-over-year increase as of April 2025—still above the central bank's 2% target. While goods inflation has largely returned to normal as supply chains have healed, services inflation remains somewhat elevated, particularly in housing, insurance, and healthcare. This “stickiness” in services is expected to ease over time as newer agreements reflect current market conditions and input costs stabilize.

Looking ahead, the risk of inflation returning to the high single-digit peaks of 2022 is low, barring any major external shocks such as a significant escalation in geopolitical tensions or a sharp spike in energy prices. Most analysts expect inflation to continue its gradual decline, providing the Federal Reserve with greater flexibility in its policy decisions. This progress on lower inflation may be delayed by the impact of tariffs on the prices of certain goods.

Navigating Federal Reserve Policy and the Yield Curve

Market expectations for Federal Reserve policy have shifted considerably over the past year. At the start of 2025, many investors anticipated that the Fed would resume cutting interest rates by mid-year, possibly as early as June or July. However, as inflation—especially in the services sector—proved more persistent than expected, these expectations faded. Now, most market participants look toward the fall for the first potential rate cut, with the September or October Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) meetings seen as the most likely meeting for the next rate change. The exact timing remains uncertain, and if inflation does not continue to decline as anticipated, rate cuts could be pushed into 2026.

This uncertainty has important implications for investors and local governments alike. The yield curve, which had been inverted for much of the past two years—meaning short-term interest rates were higher than long-term rates—is now beginning to normalize. A normal yield curve, where longer-term investments yield more than shorter-term ones, reflects investor confidence in the economy's long-term prospects. This shift back to a normal yield curve means that investors can once again expect to earn a term premium for holding longer-dated securities.

For those who have grown accustomed to the recent environment where short-term investments, such as Treasury bills or money market funds, outperformed longer-term bonds, it is important to remember that this was an anomaly. In more typical times, extending the duration of investments can provide higher returns and greater certainty, especially in a declining short term interest rate environment.

U.S. Economic Update and Introduction to Liability-Driven Investing

Strategic Planning: The Case for Liability-Driven Investing

Given the current economic landscape, how should local governments position themselves for the best financial outcomes? The answer lies in careful planning and a focus on matching investments to liabilities. This approach, known as liability-driven investing (LDI), begins with a thorough review of upcoming obligations—such as payrolls, debt service, and operating costs—and then invests in securities that mature when those funds will be needed. This strategy minimizes reinvestment risk and provides greater certainty for budgeting.

To illustrate the benefits of this approach, consider a recent example involving a county that needed to fund a liability due in May 2025. On June 1, 2024, the county had two main investment options: a local government investment pool (LGIP) with a variable rate or a 12-month Treasury bill with a fixed rate. At the time of investment, the LGIP offered a yield of 5.08%, while the Treasury bill offered a fixed yield of 5.00%.

Over the course of the year, as interest rates declined, the variable yield on the LGIP also dropped, resulting in a final return of 4.68%. The Treasury bill, by contrast, delivered the stated 5.00% return. It can be difficult to make the decision to invest at the lower fixed rate, but through time this adds value.

The following table summarizes the key differences between these two investment options:

Investment Option	Initial Yield*	Return Mechanism	Final Return**	Return v. Initial Yield
LGIP (Floating Rate)	5.08%	Variable, Daily Reset	4.68%	-0.40%
Treasury Bill	5.00%	Fixed Rate	5.00%	0.00%

*Net of all Fees yield as of 06/01/2024

** Net of all fees trailing 12 month return as of 05/31/25

This example demonstrates the value of locking in rates, when possible, especially in a declining rate environment. While floating rate instruments can offer flexibility and the potential for higher returns if rates rise, they also expose investors to the risk of declining yields. Fixed-rate instruments, such as Treasury bills, provide certainty and can outperform floating rate securities when rates are falling.

Positioning for Success in an Uncertain World

As we look to the future, the United States. economy is well-positioned to weather ongoing uncertainties, including potential shifts in Federal Reserve policy, lingering inflation risks, and global economic developments. For local governments, the path to financial success lies in thoughtful planning and a disciplined approach to investment. By carefully mapping out liabilities and extending the duration of investments to match them, local governments can achieve more predictable and favorable financial outcomes—even in times of economic uncertainty.

Trying to time the market or relying too heavily on short-term, variable-rate instruments can be costly. Instead, embracing a liability-driven investing framework allows governments to lock in favorable rates, minimize risk, and ensure that funds are available when needed most. In an environment where every basis point counts, this approach can make a meaningful difference for the communities that local governments serve.

Rest assured you do not need to navigate this process alone. While tracking the markets and monitoring your cashflow to make optimized investments can sometimes seem overwhelming, tools like PTMA's CFMAX offered through IPAIT can help. With this online service, available to all IPAIT participants, the IPAIT team can input your current year budget and historical data to help analyze your daily cash balance highs and lows and when existing investments are maturing. We can then optimize an investment plan for your funds based on your specific data.

U.S. Economic Update and Introduction to Liability-Driven Investing

Having a strategic investment plan based on real time data and help from our team of experts can help ease your mind when it comes to investing and take one more thing off your plate. Please feel free to contact anyone on the IPAIT team to learn more.

On that note, we would like to introduce Cam Draude as our newest Relationship Manager. You will find his contact information below. Please feel free to reach out and welcome him!

Scan the QR code below to learn more and contact an IPAIT representative:



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Disclaimer

Source: PMA, Bloomberg as of June 17, 2025. Data unaudited. Many factors affect performance including changes in market conditions and interest rates and in response to other economic, political, or financial developments. Investment involves risk including the possible loss of principal. No assurance can be given that the performance objectives of a given strategy will be achieved. All comments and discussions presented are purely based on opinion and assumptions, not fact. These assumptions may or may not be correct based on foreseen and unforeseen events. The information presented should not be used in making any investment decisions. This material is not a recommendation to buy, sell, implement, or change any securities or investment strategy, function, or process. Any financial and/or investment decision should be made only after considerable research, consideration, and involvement with an experienced professional engaged for the specific purpose. **Past performance is not an indication of future performance.**



INVEST IN LEADERSHIP IN 2025

Stronger Leaders. Stronger Counties. Stronger America.

The National Association of Counties (NACo) High Performance Leadership Academy is announcing start dates for 2025. Whether you are looking to level up existing leaders or develop emerging leaders as they prepare to address the business of your county, now is the time to make an investment in leadership.

The NACo High Performance Leadership Academy is an innovative, completely online 12-week program created to equip frontline county government professionals with practical leadership skills to deliver results for counties and communities.



Done From Your Desk

100% online course delivery allows participants to continue working while learning



Cohort Model

Participants progress through the academy with peers who share similar experiences



For Leaders of All Types

HPLA is for both supervisors & those preparing to be a leader



Cost-Effective

NACo member-county per enrollee cost begins at \$1,995

January	April	August	September
1/13/2025	4/28/2025	8/11/2025	11/14/2025

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Know Your Flood Risks - Iowa Flood Center Tools

Birth of the Iowa Flood Center

On June 13, 2008, the Cedar River in Cedar Rapids crested at its highest level in history reaching 31.12 feet, shattering the previous record of 20 feet. Many consecutive days of heavy rainfall led to flood damages across the state estimated at \$10 billion. The floodwaters inundated 10 square miles of the city, dislocating 18,000 residents and impacting critical buildings including the primary hospital, fire station, library, and police station.

Iowans lacked access to reliable information to help them understand, plan, and prepare for the 2008 flood. In response, Iowa legislators established the Iowa Flood Center (IFC) at the University of Iowa's IIHR—Hydroscience and Engineering (IIHR) department, a world-renowned institute for education, research, and public service dedicated to solving some of the world's greatest water resources challenges. IIHR's expertise made it the natural home for the IFC, the nation's first and only academic center devoted solely to flood-related research and education.

The IFC provides technical support to many local, state, and federal partners through flood monitoring and forecasting, inundation mapping, mitigation, and education and outreach, helping Iowans understand and reduce their current and future flood risks.

IOWA

Iowa Flood Center

Breanna Shea
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Iowa Flood Center
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Figure 1. 2008 flood in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Reliable Information

Historical data shows that Iowa sees its greatest storm activity during the month of June, and it's important for Iowans to know their flood risks before an event occurs. The IFC's [Iowa Flood Information System](#) (IFIS) is a Google Maps-based web platform that provides emergency responders, decision-makers, community leaders, home and business-owners, and landowners with accessible, real-time flood information.

The IFC's network of more than 270 stream-stage sensors update river-levels on IFIS every few minutes. The sensors complement the United States Geological Survey (USGS) stream gages by filling in data gaps to improve flood monitoring and forecasting. The IFC's network of more than 50 hydrologic weather stations (hydrostations) collects data on precipitation, soil moisture and temperature, and groundwater levels in shallow wells to better predict floods, assess droughts, and manage Iowa's water resources. The IFC is halfway to its goal of deploying one hydrostation in every county throughout Iowa to enhance the state's ability to plan, prepare, and respond to hazardous extreme weather events.



Figure 2. An IFC-designed, built, and deployed stream-stage sensor in action.

IFIS harvests data provided by the USGS, National Weather Service (NWS), United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), and other groups, making Iowa home to one of the densest flood-risk data networks in the country. Data collected is uploaded to IFIS approximately every 15 minutes, where it is displayed for users to easily understand, interpret, and apply to mitigate real-life flood impacts. Since its creation, the system has had over four million pageviews from users looking for reliable flood information, with thousands more users accessing the system every day.

Know Your Flood Risks - Iowa Flood Center Tools

During the 2008 floods, communities lacked the context needed to relate NWS forecasted river stages to their own property and to understand the extent and depth of predicted floodwaters. IFC has developed libraries of flood inundation maps for dozens of Iowa communities that translate forecasted river stages into high-resolution, interactive, scenario-based maps that are used for planning and decision-making in advance of a flood.

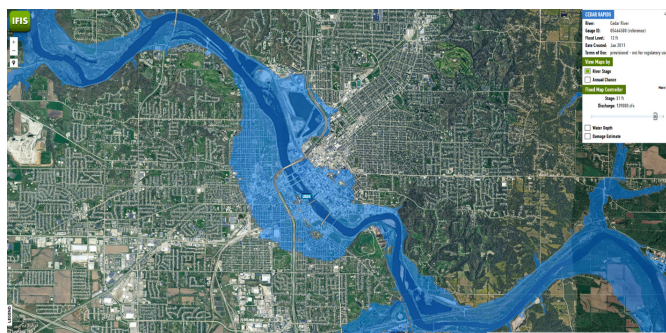


Figure 3. Cedar Rapids flood inundation maps.

Through a collaborative partnership between the IFC and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, flood map products were developed for all 99 counties in Iowa. Maps show the 2-, 5-, 10-, 25-, 50-, 100-, 200-, and 500-year floodplain boundaries. The maps provide critical information to evaluate flood risks and support decision-making, though they are considered non-regulatory. Maps that have completed review and become regulatory should be accessed through FEMA's [Flood Map Service Center](#).

A Watershed Approach

The IFC's advanced technical capabilities have been leveraged to support watershed management efforts statewide through the [Iowa Watershed Approach](#) (IWA)—a program that has brought more than \$100 million to the state of Iowa, funded by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development. The IWA is an adaptive framework for integrated water resource management focused on developing innovative strategies to reducing flooding, improve water quality, and increase community resilience.

Following the creation of watershed management authorities (WMAs) by Iowa lawmakers in 2010, the Program emphasized working closely with WMA's made up of city, county, and local soil and water conservation district representatives to empower them with science-based information to develop long-term watershed management goals and guide strategic conservation practice implementation efforts.



Figure 4. Albert Wetland in the Middle Cedar River Watershed constructed through the IWA project.

Through the Program, more than \$40 million was invested in conservation practices like ponds, wetlands, and terraces, and more than 700 targeted practices were built in select watersheds across Iowa. The program ended in December 2022 and was a collaboration among many partners and stakeholders who contributed to its success. The IFC continues to stay engaged in watershed management efforts across the state.

Improving Flash Flood Forecasting

In the past 16 years since the IFC's establishment, the state of Iowa has been impacted by eight significant flood-related disasters. The most recent June 2024 flood event devastated communities in Northwest Iowa after the region received intense rainfall between 10 to 15 inches amidst a three-year drought. The record-breaking flooding damaged more than 5,100 homes and businesses in Spencer, Iowa, and hundreds of people were evacuated by boat.

Know Your Flood Risks - Iowa Flood Center Tools

New research shows that Iowa has become a hotspot for mesoscale convective storms that are a precursor for flash floods such as the event that was experienced in Northwest Iowa last summer. Research being led by the IFC is working to improve flash flood predictions by studying the characteristics of rainstorms to identify their different types, when and where they occur, and how they move. By integrating this information into predictive computer models, this research aims to improve the accuracy of precipitation forecasts, providing earlier and more reliable flood information for communities at risk.

Education and Outreach

Students, staff, and researchers are dedicated to ensuring IFC’s resources and tools are easily accessible and tailored to meet the needs of diverse audiences, ranging from K-12 students, emergency managers, state agencies, policymakers, and private citizens. Outreach activities include dozens of STEM festivals, conference exhibits and presentations, public meetings and demonstrations, and hosting visitors and stakeholder exchanges. To learn more, visit iowafloodcenter.uiowa.edu.



Figure 5. Iowa Water Conference attendees visit an IFC hydrostation in Johnson County.

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2025 Calendar

July 2025

11-14 NACo Annual Conference and Exposition
(Philadelphia, Pennsylvania)

August 2025

20-22 ISAC Annual Conference
(Veterans Memorial Community Choice Credit
Union Convention Center, Des Moines)

September 2025

16-19 ISSDA Fall Jail School
(Holiday Inn Des Moines Airport)

October 2025

1-3 ISAC Board of Directors Retreat
(Carroll County)
5-8 Assessors Fall School
(Holiday Inn Des Moines Airport)

November 2025

19-20 ISAC Board of Directors Meeting
(ISAC Office)

December 2025

2-5 ISSDA Winter School
(Holiday Inn Des Moines Airport)
3-5 79th Annual Iowa County Engineers 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.

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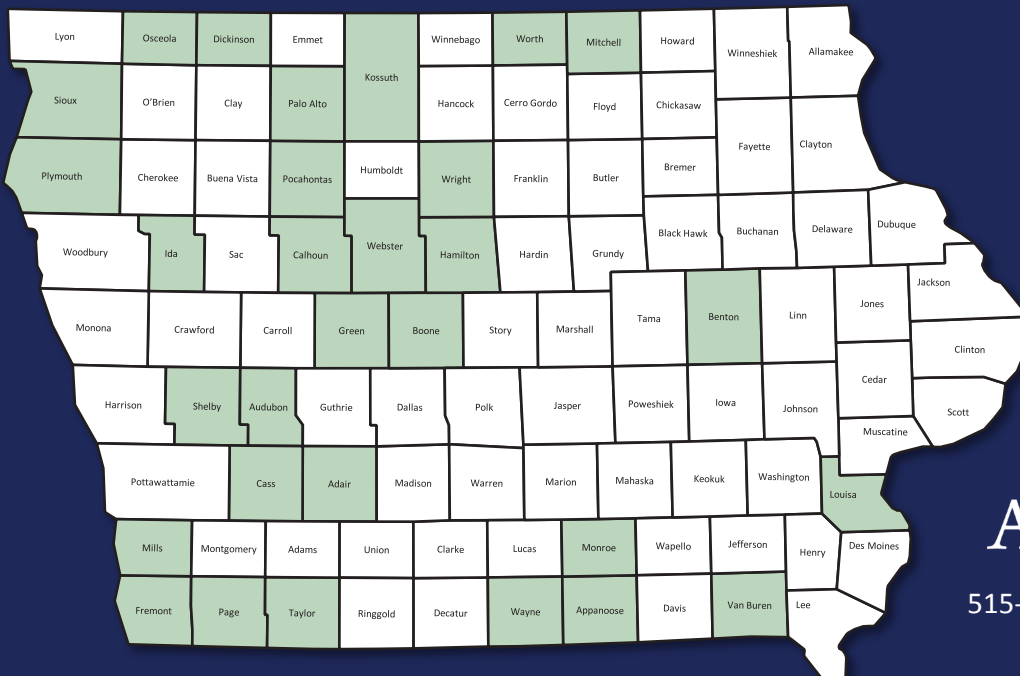
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