

The Iowa County Magazine



**September 2025
The ISAC
99-County Tour
Has Begun!**

**Pictured 5th stop - Adair County.*



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.
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SO YOU CAN **COMPLETE THE**
PROJECT ON TIME.

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The Iowa County

September 2025 * Volume 54, Number 9

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Iowa State Association of Counties
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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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ISAC 99-County Tour Photo Album



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www.linkedin.com/company/iowa-state-association-of-counties

Visit the
99-County
Tour Web
Page!



IOWA STATE ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

WWW.IOWACOUNTIES.ORG

2025 ISAC Excellence in Action Award

The ISAC Excellence in Action Award Program is a competitive awards program that seeks to recognize innovative county government employees, programs, and projects. The selection committee is comprised of a representative from each ISAC affiliate and nominations are judged on the following seven attributes: innovation and creativity; leadership; replication; cost savings; increased efficiency; cooperation with others; and perseverance.

This year the committee wishes to recognize and congratulate the Johnson County Public Health Communicable Disease Program as the recipient of the 2025 ISAC Excellence in Action Award.

Local public health departments are responsible for investigating and mitigating the spread of communicable diseases. This involves contacting individuals with a positive test for follow up, providing public health guidance, and investigating the exposure and potential spread. Last year Iowa had the ninth case of travel-associated Lassa fever in the United States in the last 55 years. Lassa fever is a severe viral illness with symptoms coming on rapidly upon infection.

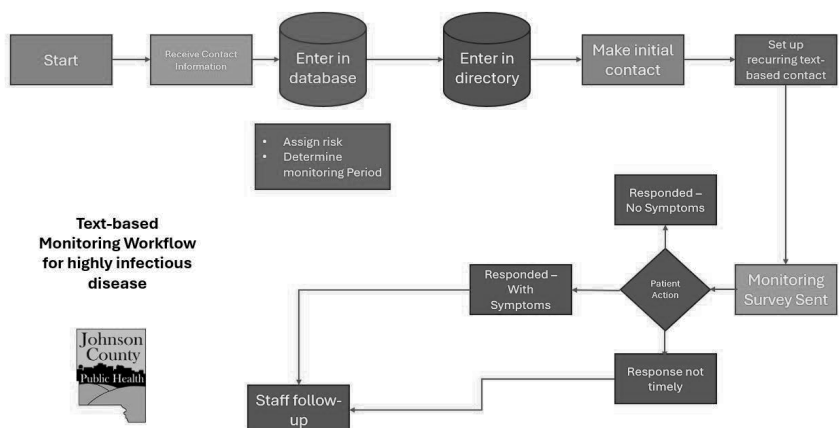
Given its capacity and proximity to specialty pathogen units in Iowa City, Johnson County Public Health (JCPH) was called into action. JCPH was requested to support monitoring of dozens of potential contacts over a four-week period. The monitoring centered around a text message-based workflow to remain in contact with individuals and provide valuable information to the department and other partners. Among other activities, Johnson County Public Health conducted twice per day text-based contact monitoring aided by emerging technology. Along with the efficiency and organization gained using this technology, it was estimated that staff time for follow-up phone calls was around 5% of what it likely would have been without the text-based workflow.

The rapid response, coordination among various agencies and levels of government, and the use of technology were noteworthy. As the nomination put it, the program demonstrated scalability to fill a gap, improved the administration of an existing county government program, intergovernmental cooperation and coordination to address a shared problem, and replicable model from which other counties may learn.

Congratulations to the Johnson County Public Health Communicable Disease Program, the recipient of the 2025 ISAC Excellence in Action Award!



Lucas Beenken
Senior Policy Advisor
Iowa State Association of Counties
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2026 ISAC Scholarship Application



Apply Today!

The official application for the 2026 ISAC Scholarships is now open. Scan the QR code below or visit the following link to apply.

Scholarship Application:

<https://forms.gle/MBPuNzLWNnmnSaP98>

ISAC Scholarships are awarded to current high school seniors who are the children or dependents of Iowa county officials and professionals.



SCAN HERE

➔ Want to Get Involved?

- **Attend:** Join us for the ISAC Scholarship Golf Fundraiser, which is held annually each summer. Keep a look out for more information on the 2026 event!
- **Donate:** Consider submitting a tax-deductible donation to the ISAC Education Foundation.
 - GoFundMe: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/isac-education-foundation>
 - Venmo: <https://venmo.com/u/ISAC-Education-Foundation>
 - Check made out to the ISAC Education Foundation
- **Volunteer:** Participate on the ISAC Scholarship Selection Committee by reviewing applications to help select the next round of scholarship recipients.

➔ Get in Touch

Have questions or want more information? Please reach out to Katie Cook. Contact information below.



Katie Cook
Engagement Manager

☎ 515.369.7028
✉ kcook@iowacounties.org
🌐 www.iowacounties.org





2026 ISAC Scholarship Application

Criteria, Eligibility, and Process

- 1) Eligibility to apply is limited to children or dependents of current county officials or employees. This does not include city employees, employees of county extension offices, or individuals who are themselves county employees. Final eligibility will be determined by the ISAC Executive Director.
- 2) At least one \$1,000 scholarship shall be awarded annually.
- 3) The candidates must be seniors in high school.
- 4) This is a one-year scholarship and can be received only once by an individual.
- 5) The scholarship can be awarded to anyone who will be a full-time student of any accredited continuing education program (including, but not limited to community colleges, trade schools, and public or private colleges).
- 6) The scholarship monies will be paid directly to the college's financial aid office; one half is to be applied for the first semester, and the second half is to be applied for the second semester.
- 7) The candidates must provide personal reference statements from three individuals other than family members, complete an application, and participate in an interview.
- 8) The criteria used in awarding scholarships will be scholastic achievement, financial need, participation in extracurricular/community activities, and overall character.
- 9) The Scholarship Committee shall award all scholarships and the decision of the Selection Committee shall be final.
- 10) The Scholarship Committee shall consist of seven members, to be appointed by the ISAC President. The Selection Committee shall consist of one representative from each ISAC district, plus one member of the ISAC Board of Directors.
- 11) ISAC reserves the right to verify any information provided in any application.
- 12) Scholarships will be awarded at the ISAC Spring Conference in March.
- 13) Scholarship winners have two years to use their award. During those two years, they may apply to the Scholarship Committee for an extension of the time limit. The Scholarship Committee shall make a recommendation to the ISAC Board of Directors on whether to allow the extension of the time limit.
- 14) It is a requirement of the finalists for this scholarship to participate in an interview (early to mid February) with the Selection Committee or you may be disqualified for the award.
- 15) Applications must be submitted online at this URL: <https://forms.gle/MBPuNzLWNnmnSaP98>.
- 16) References and transcripts must be submitted via mail or email:
ISAC Education Foundation, 5500 Westown Parkway, Suite 190, West Des Moines, IA 50266-8202 or kcook@iowacounties.org.

Applications must be submitted by 11:59 pm on November 30, 2025.

The Honorable 2025 ISAC Golden Eagle, Grant Veeder

As a Golden Eagle recipient, the main word referenced for this prestigious award is “Service.” Former Black Hawk County Auditor, the Honorable Grant Veeder exemplifies this word in every sense. He *served* the residents of Black Hawk County for more than 30 years with distinction and unwavering commitment, he *served* on the ISAC Board with thoughtful leadership, he *served* on the NACo Board bringing Iowa’s perspective to the national stage, and he *served* on the ISACA Board advancing county administration standards throughout the state.

Advocacy, integrity, and support form the foundation of Grant’s professional identity. Throughout his distinguished career, he approached his responsibilities with enthusiasm and dedication that never diminished over time. What truly sets Grant apart is his remarkable ability to work beyond partisan boundaries. Regardless of political affiliation or side of the aisle, he continually strived to do what was in the best interest of those he represented, placing public service above politics. In every meeting and conversation, Grant thoughtfully considered issues from multiple perspectives, consistently presenting well-reasoned and respected viewpoints that earned him admiration from colleagues across the political spectrum.

It’s often said that certain people enter our lives at precisely the right moment, and this certainly held true in my experience. I have had the great fortune of working with Grant for the past 12 years. He was the one who encouraged me to take a leadership role within Iowa State Association of County Auditors (ISACA) and supported me every step of the way. He has truly been one of my biggest advocates and mentors. I regularly turn to Grant for advice, guidance, and value his friendship immensely. His passion for local government is sincerely inspiring. Many of his peers look to him as a trusted resource, which is why he has served as a mentor to numerous auditors over the years. We collectively turn to Grant for guidance, especially when navigating the complexities of the Iowa Code.

Grant’s influence extends well beyond Iowa’s county lines through his significant contributions to the National Association of Counties (NACo), an organization he is profoundly passionate about. Throughout his distinguished tenure on the NACo Board, Grant represented Iowa with remarkable effectiveness on various committees and led insightful roundtable discussions, particularly on critical election matters where his expertise proved invaluable. His ability to articulate complex governance issues and propose practical solutions earned him recognition as a thought leader among his national peers.

Former Adams County Auditor Becky Bissell and I had the privilege of attending the NACo Legislative Conference with Grant—an enlightening experience under his mentorship. We quickly discovered that his reputation for excellence extends well beyond Iowa’s borders. Everyone at NACo recognizes Grant Veeder and admires his passion, professionalism, and of course, his memorable limericks. It was truly inspiring to witness the respect he commands in national circles and how effectively he advocates for county government interests at the federal level.



Amanda Waske
Ringgold County Auditor
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The Honorable 2025 ISAC Golden Eagle, Grant Veeder

Grant Veeder embodies the finest qualities of public service leadership and represents the gold standard to which all county officials should aspire. His unwavering commitment to county government, combined with his willingness to mentor others and advocate for sound governance principles, makes him a true Golden Eagle.

The impact of Grant's work will continue to resonate through county government for years to come through the policies he helped shape and the professionals he mentored. I cannot think of a more deserving candidate for this recognition. His selection is an honor not only for his remarkable individual contributions but also affirm the values of dedicated public service that ISAC champions.

*There once was a man who could rhyme,
Limericks he wrote all the time.
Oh so sharp and bright,
As an Auditor he got it right,
A hero, respected, sublime!*



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- Litigation
- Special Assessments
- Utility Issues



*Miracle League Field at Cedar River Park
City of Waverly*

ISAC Preferred Vendor of the Month: Murphy Tractor

Building Trust, Powering Progress: Murphy Tractor's Ongoing Partnership with Iowa Counties

At Murphy Tractor & Equipment Co., our dedication to Iowa communities goes beyond just supplying equipment—it's built on decades of trust, service, and a shared goal of strengthening the infrastructure that keeps our counties moving forward. As the Preferred Vendor of the Month for September, Murphy Tractor is proud to stand with ISAC and county leaders across the state. Our mission remains simple: provide reliable, high-performance equipment and steadfast support to those shaping Iowa's future—on the roads, fields, work sites, and in the communities where we live and work.



Tony Pearce
Des Moines Branch Manager
Murphy Tractor & Equipment Co.
www.murphytractor.com

Deep Iowa Roots

With branches in Sioux City, Fort Dodge, Waterloo, and Des Moines, along with coverage in ten counties from our Omaha location, Murphy Tractor is well-positioned to meet Iowa's full range of construction equipment needs. But for us, it's more than just logistics—it's personal. John Deere's construction manufacturing plants in Davenport and Dubuque serve as daily reminders that our Iowa neighbors build the machines we sell and service. These aren't faceless pieces of equipment; they're the work of hardworking Iowans who take pride in powering progress from the ground up. This local connection is what motivates our team to deliver not only machines, but also meaningful partnerships, making you an integral part of our mission.

More Than a Vendor—A Partner

We believe in doing more than just business with Iowa's counties. We stand beside you, whether that means bringing the right equipment, sponsoring training sessions, or providing guidance to maximize field performance. A clear example of this commitment is our ongoing support of the Iowa Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP) Motor Grader Training Program, a collaborative effort hosted by the Iowa State University Institute for Transportation. This August, we once again supplied John Deere motor graders and technical support for this vital training, which gives county operators the skills and knowledge they need to operate safely, efficiently, and confidently. The program not only ensures compliance but also enhances the capabilities of Iowa's operators, making a real-world difference in their work. Trainings like these—held at Camp Dodge National Guard Base—combine classroom instruction with hands-on field experience. From moldboard pitch and blade articulation to roadway crowning and pre-trip inspections, participants get comprehensive instruction that makes a real-world difference. We're proud that Murphy Tractor helps keep Iowa's operators not just compliant—but truly capable.

Investing in Tomorrow

Counties across Iowa are facing growing challenges: aging infrastructure, limited budgets, aging operators, and the need to do more with less. At Murphy Tractor, we see these not as obstacles—but opportunities to lean in, listen closely, and offer real-world solutions. Through our expansive product line, cutting-edge service network, and ongoing support, we help counties make the most of every dollar invested in equipment. Whether it's helping a secondary roads department select the right motor grader for road maintenance or outfitting snowplow trucks with JDPATH, our team is dedicated to pairing equipment with purpose. And, we don't stop at the sale. Our technicians, parts teams, and field reps are ready to ensure machines run smoothly, safely, and for the long haul. It's this commitment to after-sales service that has earned us the trust of dozens of Iowa counties—and it's a trust we work hard to keep.

ISAC Preferred Vendor of the Month: Murphy Tractor

Community-Focused. Always.

Murphy Tractor doesn't just serve counties—we're part of them. Many of our employees live in the same cities as our customers. Our kids go to the same schools. We attend the same county fairs, Friday night football games, and community clean-up days. This shared investment makes us even more motivated to deliver not just great equipment—but genuine relationships. We're also always looking for new ways to improve our communities. Whether sponsoring local events, participating in career days to inspire future technicians, or lending equipment to support training and education, we believe community involvement is a responsibility, not an add-on. We hope our commitment to community involvement inspires you to contribute to the growth and prosperity of your communities.

Looking Ahead

As we continue to grow our presence in Iowa and beyond, one thing won't change: our dedication to partnership over transactions. The best business is built on service, honesty, and shared success. That's why we're proud to be an ISAC Preferred Vendor and honored to serve Iowa's counties today—and for years to come. From all of us at Murphy Tractor & Equipment Co., thank you for the trust you place in us. We're honored to power your progress, one mile, one machine, and one partnership at a time. You can always count on us to prioritize our partnership with you over any transaction.

For more about Murphy Tractor and our full lineup of John Deere equipment and service offerings, visit www.murphytractor.com.

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!

Completion of the FY 2025 County Annual Financial Report

The Department of Management (DOM), in partnership with ISAC, hosted an informational webinar on Thursday, September 4, to present an overview of the process to complete the FY 2024-2025 Annual Financial Report(s) (AFR). Counties complete a report on the same basis as they budget (CASH versus GAAP) and all counties must complete a GAAP AFR. Reports are completed and submitted via the same DOM online system in which counties complete budget, amendments, and submit valuations.



Carrie Johnson
Fiscal and Policy Analyst Senior
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New Requirement

While the report is mostly unchanged from prior years, there was an additional page added to the GAAP report to comply with the requirements of HF 718 passed a few years ago. The legislation requires a full list of debts owed by the county during the fiscal year. This new page within the GAAP report looks similar in nature to the Long-Term Debt Schedule of the county budget forms.

Since all counties complete a GAAP report, this page was added to the GAAP AFR. In summary, the county will report:

- Amount of issue
- Purpose of the debt
- Project(s) funded by debt
- Approval via election or board vote
- Whether inside of non-voted issuance thresholds for General Corporate Purpose
- Date of issuance

Based on the information submitted via this report, DOM is required to issue a report on bond issuance to the General Assembly each January 15.

The “Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances – Actual and Budget” page from the forms must be published in the prescribed format no later than **December 1** in one or more newspapers that meet the requirements of Iowa Code § 618.14. Counties who budget on a CASH basis, publish this page from the CASH report. Those that budget on a GAAP basis, publish this page and only complete a GAAP report. For CASH basis counties, the GAAP report is completed and submitted online by **December 1** — no publication of the GAAP report is required.

Penalty For Late Reports

When referring to the annual financial report, Iowa Code § 331.403, subsection 4 reads in part: “...report must be filed prior to the publication and adoption of the county budget under 331.434 for the fiscal year beginning July 1, following the date such report(s) are due. If such report(s) are not filed pursuant to the requirements of this section, DOM shall not certify the county’s taxes back to the county auditor under § 24.17.”

In other words, the county must complete the Annual Financial Report to be able to submit a budget and for DOM to be able to certify county taxes.

Get Ready, Iowa! September is National Preparedness Month

Every September, communities in Iowa get involved in National Preparedness Month. This month is all about being ready for emergencies and working together as a community. Activities during this month include putting together emergency kits, going to safety classes, and making emergency plans. The Iowa Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEM) will share helpful tips on social media, focusing on four key themes: Be Aware, Make a Plan, Build a Kit, and Get Involved.



Allie Bright
Public Information Officer
Iowa Department of Homeland Security and
Emergency Management
allison.bright@iowa.gov

Steps to Preparedness

Be Aware

In Iowa, emergencies like floods, power outages, and hazardous spills can happen. Knowing about these risks and planning ahead can help you be better prepared. Looking at past events can teach you how to prepare for future ones.

It's important to have a way to get alerts when emergencies happen. Here are some ways you can stay informed:

- Make sure your mobile phone has Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA) turned on.
- Sign up for the Alert Iowa notification system, which is used by counties across Iowa to send weather and safety alerts to residents. You can find out if your county participates in Alert Iowa and sign-up at alert.iowa.gov.
- Buy a NOAA weather radio, which is another reliable tool that can keep you informed even when other communication methods fail.

Local communities can work with their county emergency managers to learn more about utilizing Alert Iowa to message their community.

Make a Plan

Planning can make a big difference. County emergency managers create plans to protect communities, and you can do the same for your home. Decide how you will communicate with your family, where to evacuate if needed, and keep important information in a safe and easy-to-reach place. Also, make sure your home and belongings are protected against possible disasters.

Build a Kit

Communities can purchase emergency supplies in advance to aid in response and recovery efforts. Individuals can also purchase supplies for their households. First responders often assist injured or vulnerable people first after a disaster. Having an emergency kit with three to seven days' worth of essentials, such as food, water, and first-aid supplies, can be a lifeline if help is delayed.

Get Involved

Want to do more? Consider taking a CPR or first aid class, or find out about volunteer opportunities in your community. Neighborhoods can work together to organize training sessions or a community preparedness fair.

Learn More

For more details on how Iowans can take steps towards becoming prepared, learn more about the hazards facing Iowa, preparedness actions you can take, and how to get involved, visit ready.iowa.gov. Follow HSEM on social media — Facebook: facebook.com/IowaHSEM and X: X.com/IowaHSEM.



SIGN UP TODAY!

Lead the Change: Prioritize Leadership This Fall with the High Performance Leadership Academy

In today's fast-paced world, change is the only constant. While many organizations merely react to change, the most successful ones **lead** it. This requires a proactive approach that inspires teams, fosters collaboration and effectively navigates transitions. A strong foundation in change management is crucial for any professional looking to make a lasting impact.

The public sector, in particular, is experiencing a period of unprecedented transformation. Leaders are grappling with major shifts like the integration of AI into daily operations, the push for more resilient infrastructure and the need to deliver efficient services that put our residents at the center.

This landscape is the reason why NACo and the Professional Development Academy are proud to announce a five-year extension of our partnership to serve county leaders. Together, over the next five years, we'll serve 10,000 more county leaders seeking courses in cybersecurity, AI and leadership.

Be a part of this renewed partnership by joining the final cohort of the 2025 High Performance Leadership Academy, kicking off Sept. 15.

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No. 1

In Iowa by number of transactions in 2023*

No. 1

In Iowa by par amount & number of transactions for the past five years*

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2025-2026 Calendar

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)

January 2026

29 Statewide Supervisors Meeting
(Embassy Suites Des Moines Downtown)

February 2026

21-24 NACo Legislative Conference
(Washington, D.C.)

March 2026

11 ISAC Legislative Reception
(Hilton Des Moines Downtown)
12-13 ISAC Spring Conference
(Veterans Memorial Community Choice Credit
Union Convention Center, Des Moines)

July 2026

17-20 NACo Annual Conference and Expo
(Orleans Parish/New Orleans, Louisiana)

August 2026

19-21 ISAC Annual 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.

2025 ISAC Preferred Vendors

Endorsed Elite Preferred Vendors

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

Elite Preferred Vendors

Community State Bank
Murphy Tractor and Equipment Co.
Wellmark Blue Cross Blue Shield of Iowa

Endorsed Platinum Preferred Vendor

Iowa Public Agency Investment Trust
(IPAIT)

Platinum Preferred Vendors

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MidAmerican Energy
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Schneider Geospatial
Summit Carbon Solutions
Tyler Technologies

Gold Preferred Vendor

Cost Advisory Services, Inc.
Cott Systems
CTC Disaster Response
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ISG
Piper Sandler
Purple Wave Auction, Inc.
Speer Financial, Inc.
U.S. Imaging, Inc.
Vanguard Appraisals, Inc.

Ziegler CAT

Silver Preferred Vendors

ITC Midwest
JP Morgan
Martin Gardner Architecture
MercyOne
UMB Bank

Endorsed Preferred Vendors

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(NACo)
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Professional Development Academy

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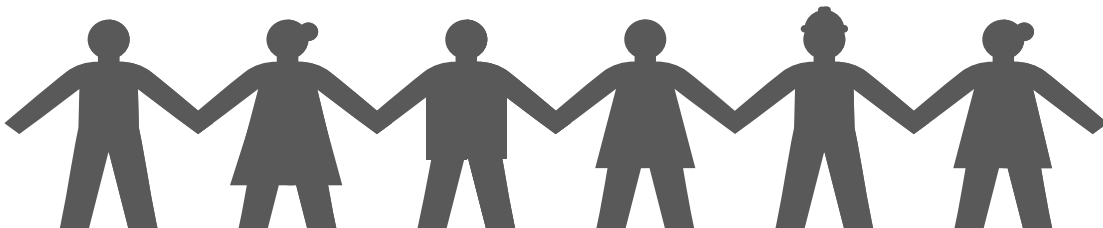
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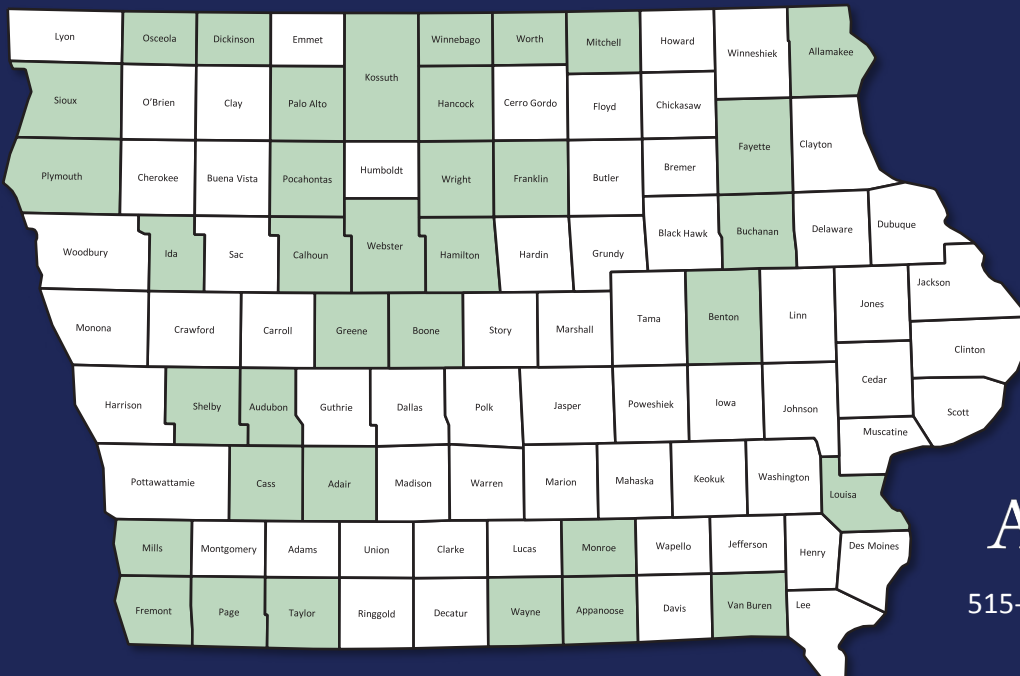
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