

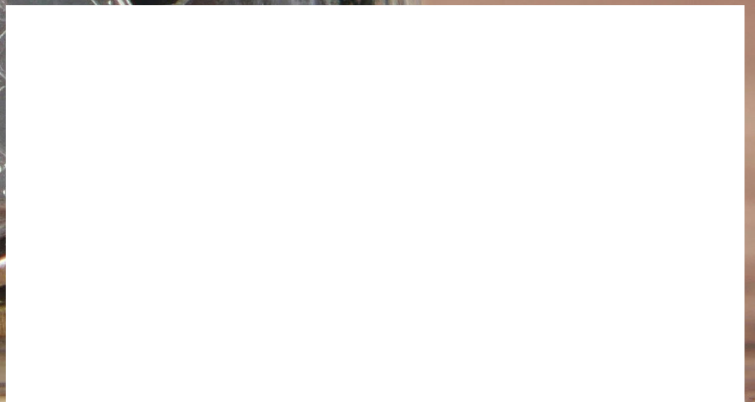
# The Iowa County Magazine



**July 2026**

**Preferred Vendor of the  
Month: Nationwide**

**Behind the 99:  
Tell Your Story!**





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LANDSCAPING PROJECT. YOU'VE ONLY  
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**HYDRAULIC HOSE,** LEAVING YOU WITH 5  
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# The Iowa County

July 2026 \* Volume 55, Number 6

The Iowa County: The official magazine of the  
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.

#### ISAC OFFICERS

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Dylan Young - IT DevOps Manager

**\*\* 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.

# Nationwide: Helping Workers Prepare for a Dignified Retirement

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Many workers feel anxious about and unprepared for retirement despite being enrolled in a retirement plan.

In his new role as President of Nationwide Retirement Solutions, Kevin Jestice sees the company taking on a leadership role in dispelling workers' unease about their retirement readiness.

His strategic vision is founded on answering this fundamental question: "How do we help Americans save for, prepare for, and thrive in a dignified retirement?"

Jestice feels that Nationwide, which is celebrating its centennial anniversary in 2026, is uniquely qualified to take on this leadership role, thanks to its deep roots in Main Street America.



Kevin Jestice  
President  
Nationwide® Retirement Solutions

"We have a connection to everyday Americans, and that affects the way we deliver on our company mission, which is to protect people, businesses, and futures with extraordinary care.

In our retirement business, we do that by serving and protecting most people's greatest asset from what is now their greatest fear: running out of money before they run out of time." A recent Nationwide Retirement Institute survey found that 74% of Americans fear outliving their financial resources.

"We see Americans live on paychecks – not off a large sum of money in an account – and fewer are covered by a defined benefit plan than before, which leads to concern about steady, reliable income in retirement," Jestice says.

He adds that a Nationwide survey found 58% of employees are worried that market volatility would cause them to outlive their retirement savings, and 88% wish their retirement plan offered a monthly source of income that would last for life.

## How plan sponsors can help calm employees' fears

As a plan sponsor, you are uniquely positioned to influence better outcomes through plan design, education, and access to income focused solutions through partnership with your plan provider.

"There are three important things participants need to do: Enroll in the plan, save enough in the plan, and invest their savings properly," Jestice says.

"If we help them do those three things really well, it will set most of them up for a dignified retirement." He says plan sponsors play a crucial role in making it easy for participants to do those things.

"It sounds easy, right? But saving enough, that's really difficult, particularly with the challenges I mentioned," Jestice says. "That's where education is key. When plan sponsors partner with Nationwide to educate participants on how to get the most out of their plan, we begin to see positive decisions concerning their retirement savings and investments."

Then, it's important to help participants protect their retirement income.



# Nationwide: Helping Workers Prepare for a Dignified Retirement

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To help determine whether their participant base needs a protected retirement income solution, Jestice suggests that plan sponsors start with the basics. “Ask employees whether they expect to have enough guaranteed income, be it through a pension or Social Security, to cover their essentials in retirement,” Jestice says. “To do that, employees need education on what the essentials in retirement are.” These are fixed expenses in retirement (e.g. groceries, utilities) and making sure there is enough guaranteed income to cover them will help employees sleep at night.

If a plan sponsor feels their employees may not have enough guaranteed income to cover these essentials, then it may be worth exploring ways through the retirement plan to help close the gap such as offering lifetime income funds that can be added to the plan’s investment lineup.

Before adding a retirement income solution, Jestice encourages plan sponsors to investigate what solutions are available. You need to have a clear understanding of the product guarantees and expenses, whether annuitization is required versus maintaining full liquidity, and optional features such as spousal protection.

Participant experience is also a major consideration. “Is education provided? Are there income planning tools?” Jestice asks.

## **How Nationwide helps plan sponsors be retirement heroes**

Jestic says Nationwide has multiple [in-plan lifetime income solutions](#) in the market, both through plans for which Nationwide is the recordkeeper and on the platforms of several other recordkeepers.

“As an enterprise, we’re an insurer, a fund manager, and a recordkeeper, so we have multiple capabilities we can bring to sponsors and their participants,” Jestice says.

Jestic adds that Nationwide’s solutions are institutionally priced and prioritize full participant liquidity, “We can give people access to a reliable, dependable income stream in retirement in a variety of ways with a variety of solutions while making sure that, ultimately, the participant experience is simple and flexible.”

To help your participants feel ready for retirement income, email [plansponsorinfo@nationwide.com](mailto:plansponsorinfo@nationwide.com).

*Adapted from an article originally published at [planadviser.com](https://planadviser.com).*



# HELP US BRING “BEHIND THE 99” TO LIFE

## TELL YOUR STORY TODAY!

We're excited to continue building momentum for ISAC's "Behind the 99" campaign, and we need your help to tell the story!

Counties across Iowa play a vital role in supporting residents every day, but many of these impactful stories go untold. That's where you come in! We're looking for testimonials that highlight how county services make a difference in your community. From public safety and

infrastructure to health services, parks, and beyond, if you have a story, insight, or example to share, we encourage you to submit a testimonial and help showcase the important work happening across Iowa's 99 counties

Your stories will help us shine a light on the people and programs working behind the scenes to keep Iowa strong. We appreciate your time and willingness to contribute!

**Neighbors  
Serving  
Neighbors**

**Interested in sharing your story?**

**Submit a video or written testimonial for the "Behind the 99" campaign at,  
[iowacounties.org/behindthe99](http://iowacounties.org/behindthe99).**





# TOBACCO Program



## *I-STEP Chapter at Davenport Central High School*

The Tobacco Program is able to start a group called Iowa Students for Tobacco Education & Prevention (ISTEP). ISTEP chapters are led by students and supported by adults who want to step up and take action against tobacco in their local communities.

With the help of school staff, an ISTEP chapter was formed at Central High School. Students are given the opportunity to become peer leaders and help to bring awareness of the harms of vaping to other students to help decrease vape use. ISTEP students attend the annual ISTEP Summit, where they can learn initiatives being done across the state and bring ideas back to Central! Being a part of ISTEP helps students to grow in leadership, support peers to make positive decisions, and drive change in school.

### PROGRAM SERVICES:

- Quitline Iowa
- My Life My Quit
- Policy development
- Health education & support in schools, workplaces, communities, etc.
- Tobacco Free QC
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# Strengthening Flood and Drought Preparedness Across Iowa

## New Weather Stations Improve Flood and Drought Preparedness

The Iowa Flood Center (IFC) is continuing to expand its network of hydrologic weather stations (hydrostations) throughout Iowa, with the goal of deploying one in each of Iowa's 99 counties. With the help of a Community Project Funding (CPF) award championed by Iowa's 3rd District U.S. Representative Zach Nunn, the IFC received \$500,000 through the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

With this funding, the IFC is collaborating with the Iowa Geological Survey (IGS) to expand the hydrostation network across 18 counties in southwest Iowa. The expansion supports the current network of 53 hydrostation locations across the state and is made possible by CPF support from U.S. Representatives Ashley Hinson and Marriannette Miller-Meeks. The hydrostations provide data on wind speed and direction, soil moisture and temperature, ground water levels, and precipitation. The network provides robust and uniform data to support flood and drought monitoring and forecasting. The data are collected in real-time and upload every 15 minutes to the publicly available Iowa Flood Information System (IFIS) online web platform. IFIS provides enhanced flood monitoring and data visualizations communicated through an interactive, map-based flood forecast system. IFIS tools help to lessen flood impacts by providing individuals, community leaders, agencies, and decision-makers with reliable information to reduce flood impacts and protect lives, property, and critical infrastructure.

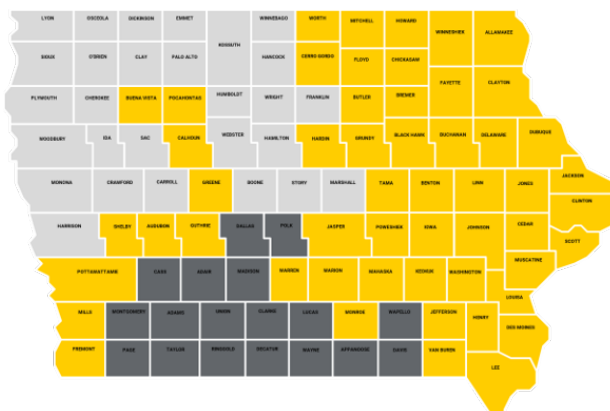


Figure 1. A map of Iowa shows all 99 counties, highlighting those with existing hydrostations in yellow and marking counties ready for next deployment in dark gray.

IFC and IGS staff are also developing a pilot version of an Iowa Drought Information System, a separate system built off the successful IFIS framework, to make data on soil and drought conditions across the state publicly available.

## Development of an Advanced Flood Warning System

The IFC will expand its flood monitoring network upon receiving \$1.75 million from the Iowa Economic Development Authority through the state's Community Development Block Grant disaster recovery funds. The investment will support the development of new flash flood forecasting tools and the fabrication and installation of new stream sensors and hydrostations across northwest Iowa, which was heavily impacted by severe flooding in the summer of 2024.



Figure 2. Several bridge sensors being constructed and prepped for deployment.

With the expanded instrumentation network, the IFC will monitor hydrologic conditions such as stream levels, soil and drought conditions, wind speed and direction, and precipitation levels. The network expansion will include 15 new hydrostations and 36 new stream sensors. The new IFC stream sensors will complement the U.S. Geological Survey's network of more than 140 stream gages. IFC's stream sensor upgrades include more modern technology to enhance reliability and improved battery systems that perform more consistently during extreme cold and heat.

IFC stream sensors attach to bridges and use ultrasonic technology to measure river stage height. Data from these



# Strengthening Flood and Drought Preparedness Across Iowa

sensors, along with hydrostation observations, are transmitted in near real time to IFIS. This instrumentation provides decision-makers with accurate hydrologic measurements to inform planning and operations during extreme weather events, such as heavy rainfall on saturated soils.

Northwest Iowa experienced a historic flash flood event in June 2024, when some locations received more than 15 inches of rain over a two-day period, exceeding a 1,000-year rainfall event. As extreme precipitation events become more frequent and intense, the need for a robust and resilient monitoring network continues to grow.

To address this need, IFC is developing a flash flood forecasting system for the region by leveraging in-house expertise and data from its expanding network. These tools will enhance early warning capabilities, providing communities with more lead time to prepare for and respond to rapidly developing flood events.

## Updated Iowa Flood Information System (IFIS)

The IFC has updated its flagship online IFIS web application. The new IFIS integrates publicly available weather and flood models into a single accessible system. The modernized platform enhances user experience, improves navigability, and introduces new visualizations for flood and drought information. This makes complex data easier to understand and more actionable for decision-makers and the public.

Enhanced information supports flood response and preparedness, helping communities, emergency managers, agencies, farmers, and the public prepare for changing conditions. IFIS integrates the numerous weather and flood models generated by agencies such as the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), The National Weather Service (NWS), and the National Water Center (NWC), combining the data into one cohesive platform. Centralizing all critical data during severe weather events enables faster decision-making and raises confidence and community support.

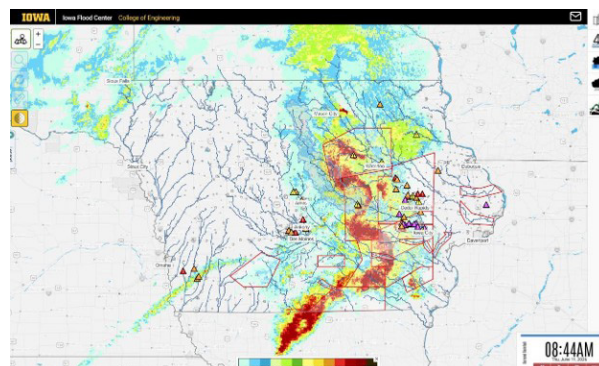


Figure 3. The upgraded IFIS showing rainfall conditions, flood alerts, and NWS severe weather alerts.

The new IFIS will maintain all previously integrated key resources, such as river level data, flood alerts, and flood inundation maps for Iowa communities. New features that enhance decision-making include:

- Expanded river and stream forecasts informed by new modeling tools from NOAA's NWC models, which show current and future river conditions across the state;
- Real-time weather alerts from the NWS, including watches, warnings, and advisories;
- Snow and winter conditions, like measurements of snow depth, melting, and snow-water equivalent; and
- Soil moisture and drought information, allowing users to track ground conditions from dry to saturation.

The updated IFIS can be accessed at [iowafloodcenter.uiowa.edu/new-ifis](https://iowafloodcenter.uiowa.edu/new-ifis).

## Background of the IFC

The Iowa Flood Center is part of the University of Iowa and was established by Iowa legislators in 2009 following the devastating floods of 2008. The flood event highlighted the need for better flood information, forecasting, and risk communication across Iowa. Today, the Iowa Flood Center is proud to serve as the only academic research center in the nation devoted solely to flooding that is helping to advance Iowa's flood resiliency.



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2

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3

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4

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Eligible for ISAC members only. Offer applies to current and new Amazon Business accounts.

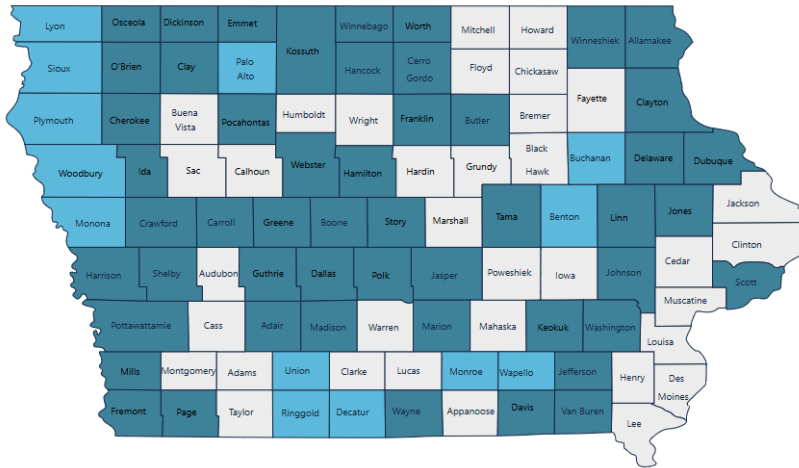


# ISAC 99-County Tour Reaches Halfway Point!

**Counties Visited: 51**

**Counties Scheduled: 13**

**Counties Not Visited: 35**



# ISAC June Board Meeting Minutes Summary

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## Thursday, June 18, 2026

President Linda Zuercher called the meeting to order, led the Pledge of Allegiance, and introductions and announcements were given.

The meeting minutes of the February 19, 2026, ISAC Board of Directors meeting and the ISAC Spring Conference General Session from March 12, 2026, were both approved unanimously.

The Board reviewed the ISAC Group Benefits Program (IGBP) Board of Directors meeting minutes from January 21, 2026, and the Iowa Counties Technology Services (ICTS) Board of Directors meeting minutes from February 19, 2026, for informational purposes.

The Board jumped ahead in the agenda to do Board Committee Updates before the audit firm arrived.

Beth Manley and Lynsey Pierce discussed two letters of support that the Letter of Support Committee approved. The first was from Iowa State University to help with a county-specific finance visualization tool. The second was from DHT Consulting & Training for an Iowa HHS Opioid Settlement Funds grant that would support coordinated, effective, and equitable use of opioid settlement funds across all 99 counties.

Manley gave one update from the Litigation Committee. She gave an overview and history of the Boggess v City of Waterloo case, which the Litigation Committee voted to participate in August of 2025. Beth reported that the Iowa Supreme Court issued an unfavorable decision on May 1<sup>st</sup>.

Jose Garcia from McGowen, Hurst, Clark & Smith (MHCS), P.C. introduced the FY 2026 audit of ISAC that will start in August. ISAC staff stepped out of the room to allow for a closed session.

The Board approved unanimously to recess the ISAC Board of Directors and convene the ISAC Group Benefits Program (IGBP) Board of Directors at 9:30 am. The meeting minutes from the January 21, 2026, IGBP Board of Directors meeting minutes were approved. Jose Garcia from MHCS, P.C. introduced the audit of IGBP that will begin in August for FY 2026.

The Board approved unanimously to adjourn the IGBP Board of Directors and convene the Iowa Counties Technology Services (ICTS) Board of Directors at 9:40 am. The meeting minutes from the February 19, 2026, ICTS Board of Directors meeting minutes were approved. Jose Garcia from MHCS, P.C. introduced the audit of ICTS that will begin in August for FY 2026.

Beth Manley shared an update with the Board on the ICTS Bylaws. The update was the removal of references to 'regions' and any requirements related to 'regions' within the bylaws. The changes to the ICTS Bylaws were approved as presented.

Brandi Kanselaar gave an update on the Community Services Network (CSN). The focus will be marketing CSN as a county tool and not a mental health tool. There is a CSN Focus Group that will decide on the FY 2028 licensing fees and do other research to find the right funding model.

The Board approved unanimously to adjourn the ICTS Board of Directors and reconvene the ISAC Board of Directors at 10:00 am.

Courtney Biere talked about the NACo 100% Committee and the two meetings they have had so far this year. She outlined the items the Committee will be working on in the coming months to connect with NACo non-member

# ISAC June Board Meeting Minutes Summary

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counties. Rachel Bennett shared with the ISAC Board the nominations that the Golden Eagle Committee received this year. The Committee recommended Dan Cohen be the 2026 Golden Eagle. The Board unanimously approved Dan Cohen to receive the 2026 Golden Eagle, which will be presented at the ISAC Annual Conference in August.

Andrea Woodard, Beth Manley, and Brad Holtan gave an Affiliate Engagement Presentation. Each affiliate's legal status, affiliate leadership, and participation in ISAC were shared with the Board.

Brad Holtan discussed the April 2026 financial report and Quarterly Investment report. The financial report and quarterly investment report were approved unanimously.

Holtan shared information on the Amazon Association Business Program. ISAC will partner with Amazon as of July 1 to provide two free years of an Amazon Business Prime account to all 99 counties.

Beth Manley presented updates to the ISAC Employee Handbook. The updates included staff access to personnel files and mileage reimbursement within the travel policy. The Board and staff had discussion about requiring car insurance for ISAC staff. ISAC will begin an annual process for gathering car insurance from employees. The updates to the ISAC Employee Handbook were approved as presented.

Manley gave an update on Open Meetings Training and that she completed the application with the Iowa Public Information Board (IPIB) to become certified trainers. She is hoping to hear back soon so ISAC can start providing this service to county members.

Lynsey Pierce gave an update on the Opioid Settlement Funds Program. She has been working with NACo and the Michigan Association of Counties to better expand the opioid resources and data on the ISAC website.

Courtney Biere talked about the upcoming 2026 NACo Annual Conference taking place in New Orleans, LA in July. Kelsey Sebern shared the agenda and theme for the 2026 ISAC Annual Conference in August and went through the board scenario for the event. Biere gave an update on the 2026 ISAC Board Retreat taking place in Clayton County at the end of September.

Jacy Ripperger gave an update on the Behind the 99 Campaign. Megan Hurd and Makala Kafer from PolicyWorks joined the meeting to share more details about what the goal of the campaign is, the tools available to county members from the campaign, and ways for the Board to participate in the campaign and share the information.

Andrea Woodard gave an update on the Government Relations Team and its strategy going forward, in the interim and for the next legislative session. Lucas Beenken gave a brief review of the 2026 Legislative Session and an update on the Legislative Policy Committee (LPC) timeline in preparation for the 2027 Legislative Session.

Woodard discussed the makeup of LPC and how the Chair rotates each year to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President from the ISAC Board. She discussed wanting to add a permanent Vice Chair from the ISAC Board to LPC to have consistency. She asked for the Board's input and how they wanted to add that individual. The Board approved unanimously to appoint Carissa Sisson to be the permanent Vice Chair of LPC.

Andrea Woodard gave an Executive Director Update. The items covered were the Board Dashboard, 99 County Tour Update, 2026 Roadmap to the Future Update, Rebrand and Website Update, and ISAC Organizational Chart Update.

The Board unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting at 2:53 pm.



# 2026 Calendar

## July 2026

- 8 ICEA Golf Outing  
(Veenker Memorial Golf Course, Ames)
- 9 ICEA Mid-Year Meeting  
(Gateway Hotel, Ames)
- 15-17 ICA Summer Seminar  
(Hotel Fort Des Moines)
- 17-20 NACo Annual Conference and Exposition  
(Orleans Parish, New Orleans, LA)
- 22 Property Tax Webinar - NCO Series  
(Zoom)

## August 2026

- 9-14 NCRAAO Conference  
(Dickinson, ND)
- 19-21 ISAC Annual Conference  
(Veterans Memorial Community Choice Credit  
Union Convention Center, Des Moines)

## September 2026

- 15-18 ISSDA Fall Jail School  
(Holiday Inn Des Moines Airport)
- 30-10/2 ISAC Board of Directors Retreat  
(Clayton County, IA)

## October 2026

- 5-7 ISAA Fall School  
(Holiday Inn Des Moines Airport)
- 7-8 Fall IEHA Conference  
(FFA Enrichment Center, Ankeny)
- 13-16 IAAO Conference  
(Calgary, Canada)

## November 2026

- 18-19 ISAC Board of Directors Meeting  
(ISAC Office)

## December 2026

- 2-4 80th 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](mailto:ksebern@iowacounties.org).

### 2026 ISAC Preferred Vendors

#### Endorsed Elite Preferred Vendors

County Risk Management Services, Inc.  
representing IMWCA  
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#### Elite Preferred Vendors

Community State Bank  
Murphy Tractor and Equipment Co.  
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#### Endorsed Platinum Preferred Vendor

Iowa Communities Assurance Pool (ICAP)  
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#### Platinum Preferred Vendors

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Henry M. Adkins and Son  
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ReGov  
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#### Gold Preferred Vendor

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**Waterloo Fiber System — City of Waterloo**  
Photo courtesy of Elliot Tensen Photography



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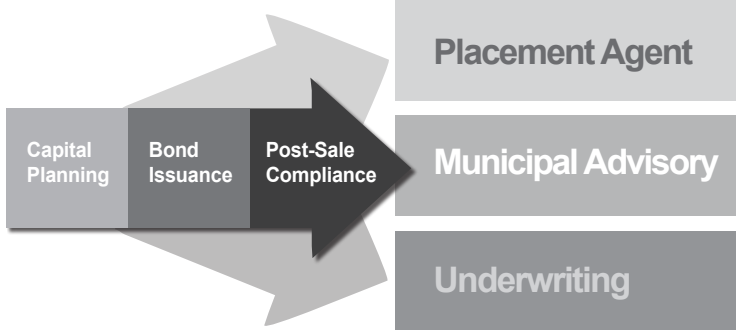
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## Health Program

- Early release of renewal rates
- Experience and wellness discounts
- Multiple networks and plan designs
- 31 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
- 31 member counties



## Complimentary ISAC Benefits

- Wellness program with Accident plan
- Employee Assistance Program
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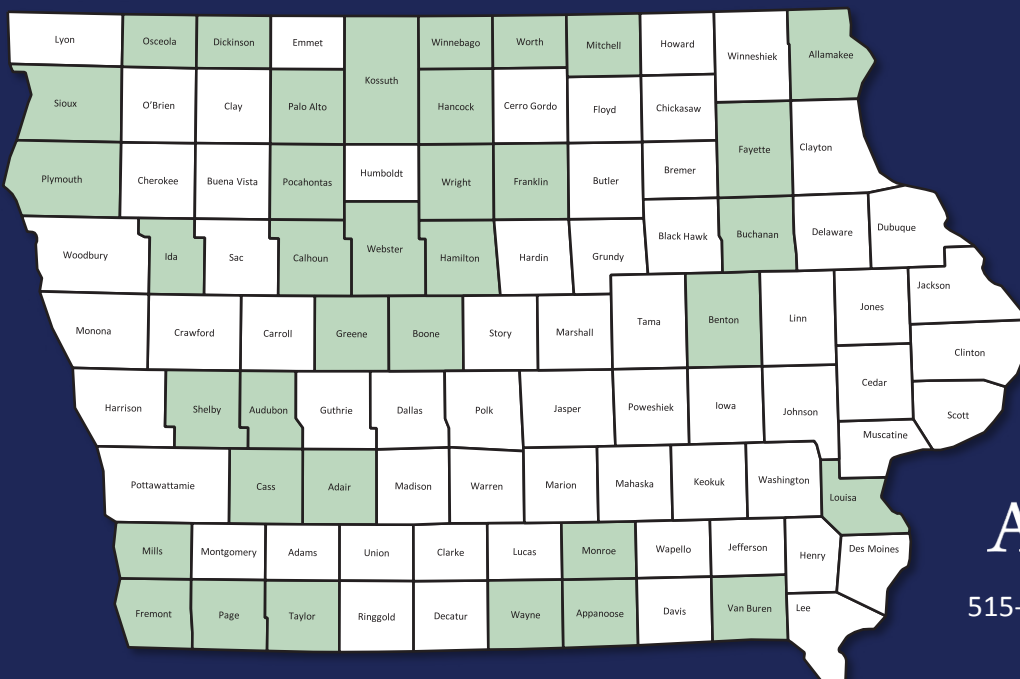
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