

IOWA HOUSE REPUBLICANS

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IowaHouseRepublicans.com

Appropriations

Final Revenue Numbers for Fiscal Year 2025 Released

The non-partisan Legislative Services Agency released the official revenue numbers for Fiscal Year 2025, showing a bigger than expected reduction in state revenue thanks to the second year of the pass through entity tax (PTET). For the year, General Fund revenue came in at \$8.9392 billion. This is \$816.6 million lower than what the state took in in FY 2024, or a reduction of 8.4 percent.

The FY 2025 actual total was \$192 million less than what was projected when the 2025 legislative session ended. Back in May, the adjusted REC estimate for the year was \$9.1312 billion.

The pass through entity tax is paid by partnerships and S Corporations and other business pass-through entities. Previously, tax on this income was paid by partners at the individual income tax level. The PTET creates a voluntary election for a partnership or S corporation to be subject to Iowa income tax at the entity level and was applied retroactively beginning on or after January 1, 2022.

Due to the retroactive application of the PTET in FY 2024, the state's coffers received net PTET payments of \$862 million for fiscal years 2022, 2023, and 2024. While PTET was still a positive to the state in Fiscal Year 2025, the net receipts from it were \$175 million. This means the vast majority of the reduction in General Fund revenues comes from the \$687 million decline in net PTET revenue from FY 2024's level.

The final FY 2025 report does contain good news that will surprise those who watch state revenue. Even with the January 2025 implementation of reducing personal income tax rates to 3.8 percent, net personal income tax revenue to the state actually grew in Fiscal Year 2025. The state collected an additional \$43 million in personal income tax payments after refunds, which is a 1.1 percent increase over the previous year. Net sales and use tax collections were also higher, growing by 1.0 percent for the fiscal year. Corporate income taxes, which were also reduced during FY 2025 came in \$40 million lower than FY 2024's level.

(Contact: Brad Trow 1-3471)

Agriculture

IDALS Secretary Naig Announces 12 Grants to Support Iowa Specialty Crop Production

On Thursday, October 9, 2025, the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS) issued a press release in which Iowa Secretary of Agriculture Mike Naig announced that IDALS has awarded Specialty Crop Block Grants to 12 projects across the state. The goal of the program is to enhance the competitiveness of Iowa-grown fruits, vegetables, nuts, flowers, honey and other specialty crops through research, education and market development.

Inside This Issue:

| | |
|--------------------------|----|
| Appropriations | 1 |
| Agriculture | 1 |
| Commerce | 3 |
| Economic Growth | 7 |
| Education | 8 |
| Environmental Protection | 9 |
| Health & Human Services | 10 |
| Labor | 11 |
| Natural Resources | 11 |
| Public Safety | 13 |
| State Government | 16 |
| Transportation | 17 |
| Veterans Affairs | 17 |
| Ways & Means | 18 |

Annual funding for the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program is authorized by the Farm Bill and provided through a partnership with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). Iowa's allocation this year amounted to nearly \$370,000. The following organizations, with the following projects, received 2025 Specialty Crop Block Grant funding:

Iowa State University

Tackling Grapevine Viral Infections in Iowa: Advancing Detection and Understanding Virus Prevalence in Cold-Hardy Cultivars

Iowa State University

Advancing Strawberry Production in Iowa: Evaluation of New Cultivars for Yield and Disease Resistance

Practical Farmers of Iowa

Farmer-led Education for Growing, Packaging and Marketing Leafy Greens Year-Round in Iowa

Practical Farmers of Iowa

Creating Education and Networking Opportunities for Beginning Specialty Crop Farmers

Iowa State University

Investigating Nitrogen in Vine/Wine Quality

Iowa Specialty Crop Growers Association

2026 Iowa Specialty Crop Growers Conference

Iowa State University

Efficiency of Alternative Products for Replacing Sulfites in Wine

Iowa Wine Growers Association

Iowa Wine Growers Association Annual Conference

Iowa State University

Digital Content in Commercial Vegetable Educational Programming: Expanding Reach and Impact

Iowa Agriculture Literacy Foundation

Reading Across Iowa with Specialty Crops

Lutheran Services in Iowa

Expanding Access and Consumption of Lenga-Lenga as Iowa's New Superfood

Choose Iowa

Promoting Horticulture through the Choose Iowa Website and Online Directory

Projects in 25 Counties Receive Cost-Share Grants Through the Renewable Fuels Infrastructure Program

On Tuesday, October 7, 2025, the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS) issued a press release in which Iowa Secretary of Agriculture Mike Naig announced that the Iowa [Renewable Fuels Infrastructure Program \(RFIP\)](#) Board recently approved an additional 48 grants, totaling more than \$1.86 million, to support new and expanded biofuel infrastructure projects. These cost-share investments help drivers save money by providing expanded access to lower cost and cleaner burning homegrown biofuels like biodiesel and E15 (Unleaded 88). The grants were awarded by the RFIP Board during its quarterly meeting on September 16, 2025. The 48 approved

projects are located in 25 different counties and total \$1,864,344.37 in state cost-share. A complete [list of the projects, sorted by county, is available here](#)

Since the cost-share grant program began in 2006, IDALS has invested more than \$65 million toward expanding renewable fuels infrastructure within Iowa. This has been matched with approximately \$275 million by Iowa convenience stores and fuel retailers. These ethanol investments are also helping more Iowa fuel stations come into compliance with the [E15 Access Standard](#). Iowa is the first state to enact an E15 Access Standard, which requires most fuel retailers to offer E15 by January 1, 2026. The law was passed by the Iowa Legislature and signed by Governor Reynolds in 2022. For those convenience stores and fuel stations that need assistance coming into compliance, IDALS can provide cost-share funding through the RFIP. With additional cost-share funding available, the Department welcomes [grant applications](#) to assist more fuel stations in improving and upgrading infrastructure. Applications are available at iowaagriculture.gov/IRFIP and the deadline for consideration at the next quarterly meeting is 4:30 p.m. on December 5, 2025.

(Contact: Lew Olson 1-3096)

Commerce

Open Enrollment For Health Insurance, Iowa Counselors Here to Help

Medicare

The Medicare annual open enrollment period runs through December 7, 2025 for 2026 coverage.

There are many resources available within the Iowa Insurance Division to help Iowa's seniors find the right plan for them. To learn more, click [here](#).

To find a local counselor to help you personally, click [here](#).

Health Care Marketplace

For Iowans purchasing their health insurance through the exchange, individual health coverage begins on November 1 and runs through January 15, 2026. Iowans can begin previewing sample premium amounts for individual ACA-compliant health insurance plans through this link: https://data.iowa.gov/stories/s/7rtq-dygg?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery. During open enrollment, Iowans may call 1-800-318-2596 or visit healthcare.gov for information regarding enrollment and to calculate any applicable tax credits.

The following was provided by the Iowa Insurance Division on September 30th:

Iowa Insurance Commissioner Doug Ommen urged Iowans to plan carefully for the upcoming year — while also underscoring the urgent need for Congress to fix the ACA's structural flaws.

“The enhanced subsidies in the American Rescue Plan Act and the Inflation Reduction Act that Congress used to mask these problems are expiring at the end of 2025, and the true cost of the ACA coverage will once again be exposed,” Commissioner Ommen said. “We cannot continue down this path. Iowans need the individual health insurance market to work — but it cannot work under a law that is structurally broken.”

In 2025 alone, federal taxpayers will spend an estimated \$630 million on advanced premium tax credits (APTCs) in Iowa for less than 112,000 Iowans. Ommen stressed that pouring money into subsidies has not solved the underlying problems.

“Money alone won't fix this,” Ommen said. “We've spent hundreds of billions nationally to paper over the ACA's flaws, but the design itself is broken. Without reform, the ACA will fail the very people it was supposed to help — farmers, small business owners, and early retirees who need affordable options in the individual market. An Iowa

couple that must pay the full bill may simply not be able to afford to pay nearly \$20,000 for coverage on a silver plan — the cost of unsubsidized coverage. That is not a sustainable system.”

Why Premiums Are Rising

Carriers have filed 2026 rate increases ranging from 12.6% to more than 25%. This is reflective of the changes to the enhanced subsidies under the federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), medical inflation and increased utilization. In 2026, the APTCs levels will also revert back to the levels originally available under the ACA, resulting in increased premium levels for those who are eligible for APTCs and making subsidies unavailable for those who have income at or above 400% of the federal poverty level (FPL).

For example, a family of four with two 28-year-old adults and two 4 year old children making \$63,978.50 (199% of FPL):

- In 2025, the family of four would pay a max of 1.96% of their income which equals \$101.41 monthly.
- In 2026, the family of four would pay a max of 6.47% of their income which equals \$344.95 monthly.

For another example, a couple, both age 55, making \$95,175 (450% of FPL):

- In 2025, the couple would pay a max of 8.5% of their income which equals \$651.53 monthly.
- In 2026, the couple would pay the whole premium without APTCs which equals \$1,658.80 monthly.

Ommen warned that the ACA's structural flaws will once again push healthier Iowans out of the ACA market as the price paid is no longer reflective of their health risk, leaving behind a sicker, more expensive risk pool. “We saw this movie before in 2017 and 2018 when the market nearly collapsed. Without reform, we risk déjà vu all over again.”

The ACA's Structural Flaws

Ommen highlights three persistent structural flaws Congress must address in reforming the ACA:

- **Federal subsidies (APTCs) based only on income.** This ignores age and actual health risk, which distorts the market.
- **The federal subsidy cliff at 400% of FPL.** A single dollar of additional income can cause families to lose all financial assistance. This is extremely problematic as Iowans estimate what they expect their income for the year to be before the year starts. This not only creates a disincentive for families to earn more during the upcoming year but can also force them to repay thousands of dollars in premium tax credits if their income unexpectedly increases.
- **Flawed age-banding.** Age banding sets limits on how much more older adults can be charged compared to younger adults. The ACA requires a 3:1 ratio, rather than the more actuarially sound 5:1 ratio. For example, if a younger Iowan's full premium is \$200 under the ACA's 3:1 structure, the premium for an older Iowan cannot exceed \$600. Enhanced APTCs have further distorted this balance. Because subsidies cap consumer contributions at a percentage of income, the practical effect has often been to flatten premiums across ages — making the ratio closer to 1:1 in reality. This ignores the very real differences in health risks between younger and older populations. The result is predictable: younger, healthier Iowans exit the market, while older, higher-risk enrollees remain — worsening the overall risk pool.

Although not an ACA structural flaw, the enhanced APTCs based on income under ARPA and the IRA have caused nationwide issues of fraud because the \$0 premium plans enabled scammers to enroll individuals into these plans without their knowledge or consent. This has resulted in negative tax consequences for those individuals unknowingly receiving APTCs and allowed carriers to receive APTCs for individuals who, because they did not know they were enrolled in the ACA plan, did not use the healthcare benefits of that plan. These fraudulent enrollments have been fully funded by Iowans and other federal taxpayers. Any reform implemented by Congress should consider the negative impact of fraud related to these \$0 premium plans.

"These flaws aren't minor glitches — they go to the heart of how this law functions," Ommen said. "Only Congress can fix them. Iowa has been clear: we are not giving up on the ACA. It serves a necessary purpose. But it must be repaired."

Insurers Providing ACA-compliant Coverage to Iowans

Six insurers will offer ACA-compliant individual plans in Iowa for 2026 through [healthcare.gov](https://www.healthcare.gov): Avera Health Plans, Iowa Total Care (AmBetter), Medica, Oscar, UnitedHealthcare Plan of the River Valley, and Wellmark Health Plan of Iowa.

- **Medica:** All 99 counties.
- **Wellmark Health Plan of Iowa:** All 99 counties.
- **Avera Health Plans – 7 counties:** Clay, Dickinson, Emmet, Lyon, O'Brien, Osceola, Sioux.
- **Iowa Total Care – 58 counties:** Adair, Appanoose, Audubon, Benton, Boone, Buchanan, Butler, Cass, Cedar, Cerro Gordo, Cherokee, Chickasaw, Clinton, Crawford, Davis, Decatur, Dubuque, Fayette, Floyd, Franklin, Fremont, Hancock, Hardin, Henry, Ida, Jackson, Jasper, Jefferson, Keokuk, Kossuth, Lee, Linn, Louisa, Madison, Mahaska, Marion, Mills, Monona, Monroe, Montgomery, Page, Palo Alto, Polk, Pottawattamie, Ringgold, Scott, Shelby, Sioux, Tama, Taylor, Union, Van Buren, Warren, Washington, Wayne, Winnebago, Woodbury, Worth.
- **Oscar – 75 counties:** Adair, Adams, Appanoose, Audubon, Benton, Black Hawk, Boone, Bremer, Buchanan, Buena Vista, Butler, Calhoun, Carroll, Cass, Cedar, Cerro Gordo, Cherokee, Chickasaw, Clarke, Clayton, Clinton, Dallas, Decatur, Delaware, Dubuque, Fayette, Floyd, Franklin, Greene, Grundy, Guthrie, Hamilton, Hancock, Hardin, Harrison, Howard, Humboldt, Ida, Iowa, Jackson, Jasper, Jefferson, Jones, Keokuk, Kossuth, Lucas, Madison, Mahaska, Marion, Marshall, Mills, Mitchell, Monona, Monroe, Montgomery, Palo Alto, Plymouth, Polk, Pottawattamie, Poweshiek, Ringgold, Sac, Scott, Shelby, Sioux, Tama, Union, Van Buren, Wapello, Warren, Wayne, Winnebago, Woodbury, Worth, Wright.
- **UnitedHealthcare Plan of the River Valley – 17 counties:** Adair, Adams, Audubon, Cass, Clarke, Decatur, Fremont, Guthrie, Harrison, Mills, Montgomery, Page, Pottawattamie, Ringgold, Shelby, Taylor, Union.

Where Can I Get Help Deciding?

Local insurance agents, assisters and Iowa's navigators are available to help Iowans review which insurance plan may best fit their needs. Iowans can find local help by visiting <https://www.healthcare.gov/find-assistance/>.

Given the ACA's structural flaws with federal subsidies provided solely based on income and the subsidy cliff at 400% FPL, Iowans may want to include their accountant(s) or other type of financial planner(s) in discussions when making their health coverage choice.

The Iowa Insurance Division is also warning consumers to be wary of health insurance fraud. "Insurance is complicated, especially with all of the changes happening in the ACA market," Ommen said. "Scammers often attempt to take advantage of folks when there are changes in law or how consumers can purchase insurance coverage. It's important for Iowans that need health coverage to talk with a licensed insurance agent to make sure the coverage fits the individual needs of that consumer and their family."

Other Coverage Options

Iowans should also consider whether employer coverage, short-term limited duration plans (STLD), [Farm Bureau](https://www.healthcare.gov) plans, direct primary care arrangements, or other non-ACA options better fit their needs. Licensed insurance agents and navigators are available to help consumers weigh their choices at <https://www.healthcare.gov/find-assistance/>.

- For individuals purchasing their own health coverage
 - Short-term Limited Duration Plans.

- Recent federal changes to the enforcement of short-term limited duration plans allow the sale of these plans for up to three years in duration consistent with Iowa regulations. See Bulletin [25-05](#) for more information.
 - Non-insurance health coverage options that include:
 - A health benefit plan sponsored by a non-profit agricultural organization such as the [Farm Bureau Health Plan](#).
 - Direct Primary Care which can provide certain health coverages in exchange for monthly or yearly fees to providers.
 - Limited Benefit Plans which cover specific medical conditions or procedures and only provide a limited amount of reimbursement.
 - Health Care Sharing Ministries in which members contribute monthly to cover the healthcare expenses of other members based on shared religious or ethical beliefs but there is no guarantee claims will be paid.
- For those who are looking to get health coverage through their employer.
 - Nearly half of all Iowans receive coverage through their employer. Check with your employer to see if health insurance coverage is available to employees.
 - If you leave your job or are terminated you may be eligible for [Continuation of Health Coverage \(COBRA\)](#) under federal law.
 - Multiple Employer Welfare Arrangements (MEWAs) are an employee welfare benefit plan, or any other arrangement which is established or maintained for the purpose of offering or providing any benefit to employees of two or more employers as defined in section 3 of the federal Employee Retirement Income Security Act, 29 U.S.C. section 1002, paragraph 40. Iowans can [view more information about MEWAs at: https://iid.iowa.gov/regulated-entities/regulated-benefit-plans/mewas-ahps](#).
- For those looking to utilize government health coverage
 - Certain Iowans are likely eligible for Medicare and should [contact SHIIP](#) to help get enrolled in Medicare during the Annual Enrollment Period (AEP) for Medicare which runs from October 15 to December 7 if they are:
 - 65 years of age and older.
 - Disabled and receive Social Security or Railroad Retiree disability benefits for 24 consecutive months.
 - Have a diagnosis of ALS or Lou Gehrig’s Disease.
 - Have a diagnosis of end-stage renal disease (permanent kidney failure treated with dialysis or a transplant).
 - Certain Iowans may be eligible for Medicaid [based on health conditions or income levels](#) and has three programs for those receiving coverage:
 - Iowa Medicaid’s managed care program called [IA Health Link](#).
 - Iowa’s [Medicaid Fee for Service program](#).
 - Iowa’s [Hawk-I Program](#) for those uninsured children of working families.
 - Active-duty service members, veterans and their families may be eligible for health benefits through the federal government. Visit the [U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs](#) to find out about available options.

A Call for Reform

“Iowa needs a functional individual health insurance market and the ACA is not sustainable in its current form,” Ommen concluded. “Congress must step in. We cannot expect Iowa families to shoulder impossible costs, nor can taxpayers continue to subsidize hundreds of billions on a broken structure. We need reform that creates affordability, sustainability, and a market that actually functions like insurance.

(Info from the Iowa Insurance Division)

(Contact: Natalie Ginty 5-2063)

Economic Growth

Iowa Energy Center Awards Nearly \$2.3 Million in Grants

The Iowa Energy Center (IEC) Board awarded nearly \$2.3 million to eight projects through the IEC Grant Program. The competitive grant opportunity, funded by gas and electric utilities across the state, enables eligible applicants to pursue projects that provide a benefit to Iowa ratepayers and align with one of the key focus areas of the Iowa Energy Plan. These areas include technology-based energy research and development, energy workforce development, support for rural and underserved areas, biomass conversion, natural gas expansion in underserved areas, electric grid modernization, alternative fuel vehicles, and carbon management.

| Organization | Project Name | Grant Award |
|------------------------|--|-------------|
| Iowa State University | Enhancing Iowa's Energy Resilience Through Anaerobic Digestion-Based Microgrids | \$255,680 |
| Iowa State University | Artificial Intelligence (AI) Assisted Robotic Mapping of Underground Infrastructure | \$300,001 |
| Iowa State University | Development of New Ultra-Low-Cost, Ultra-High-Performance, All Solid-State Sodium Batteries using All Iowa Resources for Storage of Renewable Iowa Wind Energy | \$458,743 |
| Iowa State University | Fatigue Failure Mitigation in Aluminum Conductor Steel Reinforced (ACSR) Conductors of Power Grids via Advanced Peening Technologies | \$300,000 |
| Terenc, LLC | Distributed Energy Resource Management System for Rural Electric Cooperatives and Municipal Utilities | \$256,509 |
| Iowa State University | Implementing a GIS Tool for Enhancing Gridline Resilience to Natural Hazards | \$296,905 |
| Iowa State University | CyMath: K12 and College Math Tutoring as a Springboard to Strengthen Statewide Iowa Energy Workforce | \$99,999 |
| Iowa State University | Data-Driven Modeling, Prediction, and Mitigation of Electrification Impacts in Iowa Cold Weather | \$300,000 |
| Total IEC Grant Awards | | \$2,267,837 |

Education

How Do We Protect Our Students and Teachers in Our Schools?

Over the past few years, House Republicans have heard from teachers and other school employees about a startling amount of violence taking place in our schools. This violence includes students against students and students against teachers. Teachers have come to legislators with horrific stories of what they, or those they are close to, must deal with while trying to teach students.

In 2023, House Republicans championed an initiative to protect teachers. [HF 604](#) was aimed at protecting teachers and empowering them in the classroom. The bill authorized the Office of the Ombudsman to investigate complaints by licensed practitioners for instances involving violence in the classroom or on school property. If a teacher makes a complaint to the Ombudsman, the school cannot take disciplinary action against them for filing the complaint. Legislators were told teachers did not feel like they could go to their superintendents without facing some sort of blowback. Some teachers expected punishment for reporting what was happening at their school. Along this same vein, schools must now provide a copy of the code section relating to a teacher's immunity from civil or criminal liability for use of reasonable physical contact with a student if it's reasonable under the circumstances and involves situations described above.

The bill outlined a better reporting system for violence or threats of violence. The classroom teacher is required to report those incidents to the principal or lead administrator of the school within 24 hours of the event. The teacher may also contact the parent or guardian of the student involved. The principal or lead administrator is required to notify the parent or guardian of the students involved on both sides within 24 hours of receiving the report from the classroom teacher. This requirement came from parents who told legislators stories of never finding out their child was involved in something and if they did learn of it, it was through the grapevine.

Time and again, House Republican members heard about students who were committing violent acts were hardly disciplined. They weren't suspended. They weren't expelled. The cycle would repeat itself. HF 604 requires the schools to adopt and publish grade-appropriate policies that detail how a student may be disciplined. The policy must include strategies that are designed to correct the student's behavior; parent or guardian conferences, counseling sessions, or mental health counseling if appropriate; compliance with special education law including federal laws (an IEP meeting is required if the student who committed or threatened the violence has an IEP); escalating levels of discipline for repeated instances of threatened or committed violence; and discretion to select the appropriate level of discipline based on the severity which includes suspension, permanent removal from class, expulsion, or placement in an alternative learning environment. To view the model policies created by the Department of Education click [here](#).

But why do Iowans continue to hear about violence in the classroom against teachers? Are districts not following the policies? Do teachers still feel unsupported by their administration? Are parents not taking ownership over helping their child? All great questions! An article in the *Corridor Business Journal* published on September 5th brought this issue to the forefront yet again. In the article, the author writes about his wife's experience as a teacher and explains why she decided to no longer be in the classroom.

“Unfortunately, Aspen’s teaching career abruptly stopped in February 2025. She took leave after an attempted assault at the school by a former student. She had previously been assaulted by this same student twice in December 2024; one involved a headlock during her planning time and one involved strangulation while teaching in front of her first-grade class.”

That is jarring and cannot be allowed in our schools. The article states that the district implemented a safety plan where she kept her door locked during the school day because the student was stalking her and fixated on hurting her. But, there was an unplanned fire drill where the student saw the teacher from across the playground, broke free from his teacher, and attempted to attack her.

The article talks about some stats from the Iowa City School District specifically since this is where the incidents happened. These are also available in this report [here](#). Office discipline referrals (ODRs) for 2023-2024 were up more than 82% from 2021-2022. In 2023-2024 there were 13,375 ODRs. In the same report, the district shows there have been zero, yes ZERO, student expulsions in the last five school years. That's not all, in 2019 the district was found by OSHA to have failed to protect teachers, paraeducators, and substitutes at an elementary school from violent student outbursts and were fined.

House Republicans will continue to work with teachers to make classrooms safe again.

(Info from Iowa Department of Education, and the [Corridor Business Journal](#))

(Contact: Kristin Rozeboom 1-3015)

Environmental Protection

ISU Extension and Outreach Programming Focused on Improving Electric Grid Resilience

On Monday, October 13, 2025, Iowa State University (ISU) Extension and Outreach issued a press release by noting that Iowans are no strangers to weather that tests their communities. Tornadoes, flooding, drought and hailstorms all leave their mark. But the widespread destruction of the 2020 derecho forced many towns to look more closely at what can be done to limit the fallout of future high-impact events. As part of its strategic plan, ISU Extension and Outreach identified a new focus area: adaptive and sustainable natural and built environments. One of the first projects in that priority area centers on a key piece of disaster management — strengthening the resilience of communities' electrical systems. That effort has taken shape in "Powering Through: A Community Toolkit for Electrical Resilience in Iowa," developed by Luke Seaberg, community development specialist, and Esther Crompton, communications specialist, in collaboration with Anne Kimber, director of the College of Engineering's Electric Power Research Center.

The 12-chapter toolkit leads communities through the process of creating and beginning to implement a resilience strategy. It includes sections on forming a strong planning team, engaging stakeholders, categorizing critical infrastructure, planning and carrying out solutions, and identifying external funding to offset costs. It also explores creative approaches such as local backup generation with solar, battery storage or diesel, and building microgrids to help keep the power on during and after disasters. This July, the project welcomed its inaugural cohort of participating communities: Panora, Bloomfield/Davis County School District, Danville, Atlantic, Grinnell and Greenfield. Each community brings its own stage of readiness, with different needs and challenges, but all share a willingness to plan ahead.

Over the next nine months, local resilience committees will meet with facilitators, including Seaberg, who will guide them through the toolkit while providing education, technical assistance, strategic support and funding suggestions and she observed--“We’re really excited to bring this work out to communities across Iowa. Our team members include people who have worked with both large investor-owned utilities and smaller municipal utilities, on commercial solar projects, in community and economic development, in science communication and in local government. During the toolkit’s development we also had the opportunity to talk with state and federal emergency management professionals, power systems engineers, first responders and academic researchers studying resilience across various disciplines.”

Funding for the toolkit and pilot comes from a grant to the Electric Power Research Center from the Iowa Economic Development Authority’s Energy Office. The funds serve as a pass-through from the U.S. Department of Energy’s

Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, supported by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. For more information about the toolkit and future cohorts, contact Seaberg at seaberg@iastate.edu or Crompton at ecrompt@iastate.edu.

(Contact: Lew Olson 1-3096)

Health and Human Services

Mental Health Annual Spending Reaches \$1.28 Billion in Iowa

House Republicans have made mental health a priority by passing significant legislation over the last many years. These bills include efforts to expand access to mental health services for all ages, create a sustainable, long-term funding system, provide training to help schools address student mental health needs, and increase the mental health workforce throughout the state.

The below chart shows that the total amount spent in taxpayer dollars towards mental health services in Iowa in fiscal year 2024 (July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024) was over \$1.277 billion.

| SFY2024 Total Expenditures By Funding Source | | | | |
|--|----------------|----------------|---------------|------------------|
| FUNDING SOURCE | ADULT | CHILD | UNKNOWN AGE | TOTAL |
| Medicaid | \$ 811,512,845 | \$ 291,196,857 | \$ - | \$ 1,102,709,702 |
| MHDS Region | \$ 58,459,046 | \$ 8,229,612 | \$ 48,947,131 | \$ 115,635,789 |
| MHBG | \$ 3,265,603 | \$ 3,939,442 | \$ - | \$ 7,205,045 |
| MHBG, COVID-19 Relief Funds | \$ 148,052 | \$ 134,768 | \$ - | \$ 282,820 |
| MHBG, ARPA Funds | \$ 4,244,855 | \$ 1,250,877 | \$ - | \$ 5,495,732 |
| MHBG, BSCA Funds | \$ 7,460 | \$ 7,460 | \$ - | \$ 14,921 |
| MHI | \$ 31,299,071 | \$ 14,238,828 | \$ - | \$ 45,537,899 |
| TOTAL | \$ 908,936,933 | \$ 318,997,843 | \$ 48,947,131 | \$ 1,276,881,908 |

This does not include any of the below appropriations that the legislature has made over the last two years which amounts to an additional \$67.5 million annually when combined with federal matching funds.

- Provided \$9.65 million increase of funding and employees to specialize the Independence Mental Health Institute to behaviorally complex youth and the Cherokee MHI to acute and forensic adults.
- \$4.8 million to establish 9 psychiatry residencies through the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics, with a focus on training at state facilities, including the mental health institutes, Eldora State Training School, and Woodward Resource Center.
- The FY 2025 HHS Budget (HF2698) provided \$2.38 million in increased state funding towards mental health Medicaid rates.
- \$750,000 for new ChildServe buildings to care for children with autism.
- \$369,000 in state general fund for enhanced rates to Psychiatric Medical Institutions for Children to care for the most complex children in our state.
- HF2673 provided \$3 million from the regional incentive fund for the 988 call line.
- \$28.6 million from the Opioid Settlement fund

House Republicans will continue to monitor progress in expanding access to mental health treatment throughout the state, and are committed to evaluating additional funding needs in the future.

(Contact: Natalie Ginty 5-2063)

Labor

Release of September's Labor Force Data Delayed Due to Federal Shutdown

Iowa's news release and its corresponding labor force data for the month of September, originally scheduled for release on Thursday, October 16, will be postponed due to the ongoing federal government shutdown.

Iowa's statewide report relies on federal data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the Census Bureau, and the U.S. Department of Labor, and therefore can't be constructed during the shutdown.

IWD will release further details, including a revised release date, once the government is re-opened and reports are able to be put together.

(Info from IWD)

New Fraud Scheme Targeting Unemployment Claimants Who May Have a Lien

A newly identified scheme is targeting unemployment benefits claimants with fake letters that attempt to lure them into providing banking information to fraudulent actors.

The scheme's letter attempts to appear as an official notice from the state that is demanding a payment on a lien or debt owed. These letters are fraudulent. The phone numbers listed on the letter are of the bad actors and are not from IWD. [View an example of a fraudulent letter.](#)

If any claimants or employers have questions or want to make a payment on a lien with IWD, please contact the agency **using only the following information:**

- *For Claimant Overpayments:* 1-800-914-6808
- *For Employer Collections:* 888-848-7442 option 3

For more information, visit the [reporting fraud page](#). You can also report suspected fraud to UIFraud@iwd.iowa.gov or on iowaworks.gov.

(Info from IWD)

(Contact: Kristin Rozeboom 1-3015)

Natural Resources

DNR Notes that Iowa's Archery, Early Muzzleloader Seasons are Underway

On Tuesday, October 14, 2025, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) issued a press release observing that Iowa's archery deer season began October 1, and while the weather was more in line with the Iowa State Fair than deer season, hunters have been out in their tree stands and as of Tuesday morning, reported harvesting more than 5,000 deer.

Roughly 70,000 Iowans climb into their tree stands each fall, harvesting an estimated 20,000 deer in 2024. Archery season is the longest of Iowa's deer seasons, offering hunting opportunities from October 1st through January 10, 2026; with a 16-day temporary closure for the regular gun seasons beginning December 6, 2025.

Also open is the early muzzleloader season that has a quota of 7,500 any deer licenses. The early muzzleloader season is for Iowa residents only, and closes on October 19, 2025. Hunters reported harvesting more than 2,500 deer during the 2024 early muzzleloader season.

Many hunters will be targeting acorn rich areas as the oaks had a strong production year. Deer are more active in the low light hours of the early morning and late evening.

Archery hunters spend a lot of time in a tree stand, and because of that, the Iowa DNR has partnered with them to collect information on the wildlife they see as part of the bowhunter observation survey. The bowhunter observation survey has been conducted each year since 2004, collecting population information on deer, turkeys and select furbearers.

Iowa's deer population varies across the state. In Western Iowa, the herd has seen a significant population decline over the past decade plus. The DNR is working to reverse that trend through regulation changes to reduce doe harvest while still offering hunting opportunities. In Central Iowa, the population is considered stable with some pockets where the herd has declined due to recent hemorrhagic disease outbreaks in recent years. Eastern Iowa has a stable to increasing population, especially in east central region where antlerless tags were added to increase doe harvest. Hemorrhagic disease has been exceptionally mild this year, with only 16 total suspect reports in the state. The lack of presence of the disease following years of back-to-back severe outbreaks should help some of the impacted areas to recover. Information on deer management, chronic wasting disease response plan, deer program reports and more is available online at www.iowadnr.gov/deer

Hunters may sign up as a deer donor with the Iowa Deer Exchange at www.iowadnr.gov/deer then scroll down to Iowa's Deer Exchange Program link. There, donors can provide their information on what they are willing to donate. The database creates a map and table with information deer donors and deer recipients can use to get connected. Participants requesting venison far outnumber those willing to donate. There is no cost to participate. It is illegal to sell wild fish and game in Iowa. The Iowa DNR, the Food Bank of Iowa and 31 meat lockers are participating in the Help Us Stop Hunger program for 2025. Hunters are encouraged to contact a participating locker before they harvest a deer to see if the locker has any additional drop off instructions.

DNR--Iowa's Pheasant Season is Imminent

On Tuesday, October 14, 2025, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) issued a press release commenting that phone calls began as soon as the annual pheasant survey hit the internet. Hunters from around the state and across the Midwest wanted to know "Where's the best place to hunt?" "What do you expect hunting pressure to be?"

Excitement in the hunting community is due to the jump in pheasant numbers, thanks to a string of mild winters and cooperative springs. The statewide average of 28 birds per route is the highest since 2005. Regionally, the northwest region was the highest since 2005; northeast region was the highest since 1998; west central similar to last year; east central highest since 2007; south central highest since 2017; and southeast, highest since 2020.

There are pockets of good bird numbers in each region, but good numbers is relative. For example, in the southwest region, the average count was eight birds per route, which is double from 2024. The Iowa DNR has resources available to hunters online at www.iowadnr.gov/pheasant, including a hunting atlas identifying all the public lands open to hunting, information on private lands enrolled in a habitat improvement program that allows public access (IHAP), the August roadside survey, and a link to the 100th anniversary of pheasant hunting in Iowa page, that includes a link to the Pheasants Forever online store and more.

Pheasant season

October 25, 2025, through January 10, 2026

Youth only pheasant season – Iowa residents only, age 15 or younger

October 18-19, 2025

Public Safety

Background on the Deployment of the National Guard by the President

Currently there is a national debate regarding President Trump's deployment of additional law enforcement and specifically the National Guard to cities like Washington D.C., Memphis, Chicago and Portland. The President and his administration explain that it is about addressing violent crime and unsafe neighborhoods and protecting those enforcing immigration laws. Not to mention organized and often violent riots outside federal law enforcement buildings.

Many of the President's opponents claim it is vast federal overreach to deploy the National Guard and possibly invoke the Insurrection Act.

With that in mind, are the President's opponents correct? Have previous presidents invoked the Insurrection Act and/or deployed the National Guard for civil unrest or rampant criminal behavior?

In **September 1962**, President John F. Kennedy intervened to enforce a federal court order admitting James Meredith, the first Black student to the University of Mississippi, amid fierce resistance from Mississippi Governor Ross Barnett and segregationist protesters. This led to violent riots on September 30–October 1, resulting in two deaths, hundreds injured, and widespread property damage. To restore order and protect Meredith, Kennedy invoked the Insurrection Act of 1807, federalized the Mississippi National Guard, and deployed federal troops including units from the U. S. Army's 2nd Infantry Division and 101st Airborne Division. The operation marked one of the largest domestic military mobilizations in U.S. history up to that point.

Gov. Barnett objected to the federalization of the Mississippi National Guard stating in a Sept. 13 televised address, "I now call on every public official and every citizen of our state to join with me in refusing to permit this unlawful federal interference with the sovereign rights of Mississippi."

On September 25th he followed that up with the following statement, "The federal government has no right to tell the state of Mississippi what to do with its schools or its people. This is a state matter, and we will not bow to the tyranny of federal judges or troops."

And finally, on September 29 he stated, "The action of the President in seizing our National Guard is a direct assault on the sovereignty of this state. It is an attempt to dictate by force the policies of Mississippi, and we will resist this aggression with every means at our disposal."

Barnett's quote on September 13 is documented in the Jackson Clarion-Ledger (September 14, 1962).

The September 25 quote is cited in An American Insurrection by William Doyle (2001).

The federalization response (September 30) is recorded in The New York Times (October 1, 1962).

Kennedy's response was massive. He mobilized over 31,000 personnel, though not all were actively engaged on campus at once. Here's a breakdown based on historical records:

Federal Marshals arrived first (September 30). National Guard federalization and initial Army Military Police personnel followed that night. Full reinforcements (troops from the 2nd Infantry Division and 101st Airborne Division) reached Oxford by early October 1. Troops remained on campus for weeks to ensure stability.

This force ultimately succeeded in desegregating Ole Miss, allowing Meredith to attend classes starting October 1, though federal protection continued through his 1963 graduation. The event was a pivotal moment in the civil rights movement, highlighting federal authority over state segregation.

Interestingly, James Meredith twice ran as a Republican for Congress and worked for conservative U.S. Senator Jesse Helms as a policy advisor.

Five years earlier, in **September 1957**, President Dwight D. Eisenhower deployed federal troops to Little Rock, Arkansas, to enforce the desegregation of Central High School following the Supreme Court's 1954 *Brown v. Board of Education* ruling. The intervention was in response to Governor Orval Faubus's use of the Arkansas National Guard to block nine black students (the Little Rock Nine) from entering the school, sparking mob violence and state defiance of federal authority. Eisenhower invoked the Insurrection Act of 1807, federalized the Arkansas National Guard, and sent U.S. Army troops to restore order and ensure the students' safety.

Eisenhower's response involved both federalized National Guard units and regular U.S. Army troops, with a total deployment of approximately 1,200 personnel (200-300 federalized National Guard troops and just under 1,000 troops from the 101st Airborne Division) directly involved at Central High School, though additional forces were mobilized for support.

After the Supreme Court's decision, Gov. Faubus framed federal enforcement of *Brown v. Board of Education* as the source of unrest rather than his own defiance. Faubus was quoted "I respectfully suggest that the Supreme Court and the federal government have placed an impossible burden on the states. Your insistence on forcing this issue will lead to violence and chaos, for which the federal government must bear responsibility."

Federalized National Guard units took over security duties through the school year, with a reduced presence by May 1958.

Other instances include the following:

1963: University of Alabama Desegregation

Governor George Wallace's "stand in the schoolhouse door" attempted to block the enrollment of Black students Vivian Malone and James Hood at the University of Alabama, defying a federal court order. Wallace stated on June 11, 1963:

"The unwelcomed, unwanted, unwarranted, and force-induced intrusion upon the campus of the University of Alabama today of the might of the central government offers frightful example of the oppression of the rights, privileges, and sovereignty of this state by officers of the federal government."

*The June 11 statement at Foster Auditorium is recorded in *The Stand in the Schoolhouse Door* by E. Culpepper Clark (1993) and preserved in newsreel footage from CBS News.*

President Kennedy invoked the Insurrection Act on June 11, federalizing the Alabama National Guard to enforce desegregation. Approximately 100–200 Alabama National Guardsmen were mobilized to escort the students and ensure compliance.

1965: Selma Voting Rights Protests

After "Bloody Sunday" (March 7, 1965), when Alabama state troopers attacked civil rights marchers on the Edmund Pettus Bridge, President Lyndon B. Johnson invoked the Insurrection Act to federalize the Alabama National Guard and deploy federal troops to protect the Selma-to-Montgomery march (March 21–25, 1965).

Approximately 1,900 Alabama National Guardsmen, 100 U.S. Army troops, 1,600 Air National Guard personnel, and 50 FBI agents, ensured the march proceeded safely.

1967–1968: Urban Riots

- 1967: Detroit Riot
 - Racial tensions sparked a major riot in Detroit, killing 43 people and overwhelming local police. President Lyndon B. Johnson invoked the Act on July 24, 1967, to deploy federal troops and federalize the Michigan National Guard. Approximately 4,700 paratroopers from the 82nd and 101st

Airborne Divisions, plus 2,000 Michigan National Guardsmen were deployed. Tanks and armored personnel carriers were present on city streets. Order was restored by July 27.

- 1968: Riots After Martin Luther King Jr.'s Assassination
 - King's assassination on April 4, 1968, triggered riots in over 100 cities, including Washington, D.C., Chicago, and Baltimore. Even cities like Minneapolis and Kansas City saw the deployment of troops to control riots. Over 20,000 federal troops and National Guardsmen across cities, including 13,600 in Washington, D.C. alone (e.g., 82nd Airborne and D.C. National Guard).

1992: Los Angeles Riots

President George H.W. Bush invoked the Act on May 1, 1992, to deploy federal troops and federalize the California National Guard after Governor Pete Wilson's request. After the acquittal of Los Angeles police officers in the beating of Rodney King, six days of riots ensued with 63 people killed and massive property destruction.

Approximately 4,000 U.S. Army troops and Marines (from the 7th Infantry Division and 1st Marine Division) and 6,000 California National Guardsmen were deployed, and order was restored by May 4, with troops withdrawing shortly after.

2025: National Guard Deployments

In contrast, President Trump deployed roughly 500 National Guard troops to Chicago to protect federal immigration facilities and protect ICE personnel. Due to a court order, no National Guard troops are currently deployed in Portland.

About 2,000 National Guard troops were deployed to Washington, D.C. in August to help local law enforcement. Roughly 200 National Guard troops have been deployed in Memphis for the same reasons.

The President has not invoked the Insurrection Act despite damage to federal facilities and injuries and attacks on federal personnel.

The disagreement between state and local officials in Chicago and Portland is over immigration policy and law. On Oct 9, the *Washington Examiner* editorialized the issue with the following, "Federal law is clear that states have no sovereign right to set their own immigration policies. When former President Barack Obama refused to enforce immigration laws, former Arizona Gov. Jan Brewer signed a state law that made it a crime for illegal immigrants to be in Arizona without registering with the federal government. The Supreme Court held that the policy violated the Constitution's supremacy clause, which gives the federal government the highest authority over certain policy areas, including immigration.

The Biden administration invoked the same precedent when it dismantled razor wire and floating barriers that Gov. Greg Abbott (R-TX) erected to stem the flow of illegal immigrants into Texas. Biden sued Abbott to remove the barriers and make it easier for illegal immigrants to get into the U.S., and he won. Abbott was forced to remove the barriers, and Illegal immigrants swarmed in."

Tips for a Safe Halloween

Halloween is fast approaching and there will be countless little ones dressed in the best costumes trick-or-treating. Keeping kids and adults safe during this time of year is easy if you keep in mind these tips from Safe Kids (<https://www.safekids.org/halloween>)

Walk Carefully

- When crossing the street use traffic signals and crosswalks and always look left, right, and left again.
- Put electronic devices down, keep your head up and walk, don't run, across the street.
- Always walk on sidewalks or paths. If there are no sidewalks, walk facing traffic.

- Watch for cars that are turning or backing up.

Dress for a Safe Night

- Decorate costumes and bags with reflective tape or stickers.
- Choose face paint and makeup instead of masks, which can obstruct a child's vision.
- Carry glow sticks or flashlights to help everyone see and be seen by drivers.
- Make sure your costume is the right size to prevent trips and falls.

Drive Extra Careful

- Slow down and be especially alert in residential neighborhoods.
- Take extra time to look for kids at intersections, on medians and on curbs.
- Enter and exit driveways and alleys slowly and carefully.
- Get rid of any distractions and be aware of your surroundings. Remember, Iowa is now a hands free state for electronics when driving.
- Be especially alert for kids during trick-or-treat hours.

(Contact: Amanda Wille 1-5230)

State Government

Election Day Preparedness

It is roughly three weeks until election day, Tuesday, November 4, and it is important that Iowans are prepared to cast their ballots in their city-school elections. The ability to vote and make one's voice heard is one of our most valued rights.

How to Register to Vote

If you are not already registered to vote or have moved since the last time you voted there are several easy ways to register. If you have a driver's license or state issued ID card you can register online through the [Iowa DOT website](#). Additionally, you can register to vote through the mail by filling out and returning your completed [voter registration form](#) to your county auditor's office. You can register in person at your county auditor's office or on election day at your polling location. Voter registration applications are due to the county auditor by **5:00 PM Monday, October 20**. To legally register to vote you must be a U.S. Citizen, an Iowa resident, and be 18 years old on election day. Individuals who register to vote will need to verify their citizenship status before they receive their ballot.

Absentee Ballots and Early Voting

Iowa's absentee voting period has begun and absentee ballots are now being mailed to voters who have already submitted a request. Registered voters can still submit a written application in their County Auditor's office or submit a completed [Absentee Ballot Request Form](#) via mail to the County Auditor's office. In order to request an absentee ballot, the voter must provide their name, date of birth, their residential address, Iowa driver's license/ID number, or their four-digit Voter PIN. Absentee ballot requests must be received by the County Auditor's office by **5:00 pm Monday, October 20**. You can find your County Auditor's information [here](#) or for any other questions regarding registering to vote or absentee ballot requests can be found at <https://voterready.iowa.gov/>. Additionally, Iowans can vote early in person until Monday November 4 at their county auditors office.

Find Your Polling Place

There is a chance that your polling location could have changed since the last time you voted or the location for the city-school elections is different than the general election. If you are planning to vote in person on election day, the county auditor must finalize polling locations 20 days before the election. Make sure to double check where your polling location is [here](#).

(Contact: Jason Covey 1-3626)

Transportation

Recreational Trail Grants Submitted for Transportation Commission Approval

At its monthly workshop on Monday, the Iowa Transportation Commission revealed the list of successful applicants for funding from the State Recreational Trails Program projects. Nine different projects have been submitted to the Commission for approval at an upcoming meeting, committing over \$3.1 million to trail projects in Fiscal Year 2026. The grant program was created in 1988 with the purpose of developing and maintaining recreational trails and trail-related facilities for both motorized and non-motorized trail users. This year, \$3.23 million was available thanks to the \$2.5 million RIIF appropriation and remaining unused funds from previous projects. This funding is available to cities, counties, state agencies, local governments, and nonprofit organizations through an annual application-based program. 22 communities submitted applications to the Department of Transportation for project funding, requesting nearly \$11.6 million in grants.

These are the localities submitted to the Commission for funding this year:

Dickinson County for the Clay County Connection Phase 3, connecting trails in Clay County with the Iowa Great Lakes Trails system \$295,000

City of Des Moines to rebuild a portion of the Neil Smith Trail in Birdland Park \$200,000

Page County for the Wabash Trace Rapp Park Connector Trail, which will connect the trail with the city of Shenandoah \$285,000

City of Waukee to connect Raccoon River Valley Trail with the city's Heart of the Warrior Trail, including a tunnel under Hickman Road \$500,000

Dubuque County to replace a 100 year old timber bridge on the Heritage Trail \$170,250

City of Cedar Rapids to connect the Grant Wood Trail to the Cedar Valley Nature Trail \$200,000

Pottawattamie County Conservation Board to extend the Railway Highway Trail from Weston to Underwood \$500,000

Warren County Conservation Board to repave a portion of the Great Western Trail \$543,200

City of Laurens to construct the Prairie Restoration Trail around Laurens \$433,927

(Contact: Brad Trow 1-3471)

Veterans Affairs

Iowa Air National Guard Facts

The Iowa Air National Guard is an arm of the Air Force under state control and has two wings in Iowa.

The 132nd Wing is located in Des Moines. The 132nd contains 185 fulltime military personnel and 636 drill status guardsmen. This location has a focus on next generation manned and unmanned missions.

The 185th Air Refueling Wing is located in Sioux City. The 185th have 187 fulltime military personnel and 699 drill status guardsmen. There are 8 assigned aircraft that have over 3,000 hours.

(Contact: Natalie Ginty 5-2063)

Ways & Means

Iowa Department of Revenue Publishes Guidance on Sports Wagering Withholding

Senate File 605 requires taxes to be withheld from winnings from sports wagering in circumstances when federal income tax is withheld from those winnings. The new law is effective January 1, 2026. Iowa Code chapter 99F provides regulation on gambling games and sports wagering. Iowa Code section 99F.1(29) defines “sports wagering” as “the acceptance of wagers on an authorized sporting event or sports-related event by any system of wagering as authorized by the commission.”

Federal law requires sports wagering winnings which exceed \$600 and are at least 300 times larger than the wager to be reported on a Form W-2G, as with other gambling winnings. For winnings which exceed \$5,000, and are at least 300 times larger than the wager, the payor is required to withhold income tax.

Taxpayers who participate in sports betting should expect to see state taxes withheld from their winnings, in addition to federal income taxes, when applicable. However, even with winnings from sports betting withheld, a number of variables may impact whether the amount withheld reflects the full amount of taxes owed on those winnings. Taxpayers who are required to file an individual income tax return must still report the winnings from gambling including sports wagering received during the year.

Sportsbooks that provide a platform for taxpayers to place sports wagering bets and which pay out winnings to taxpayers are already required by federal law to withhold on qualifying winnings, as described above. When the requirement to withhold federal income taxes from sports wagering winnings is met, sportsbooks must also withhold state income taxes at a rate of 3.8% of winnings, as with other gambling winnings. If Iowa withholding is required, the withholding agent must register with the Department for Iowa withholding. The amounts withheld from sports wagering winnings must be remitted to the Iowa Department of Revenue.

(Contact: Kristi Kiouss 2-5290)