



NEWS & INFORMATION

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High-speed Internet availability continues to expand across Iowa

Iowans' access to high-speed Internet service continues to grow according to the latest statewide survey conducted by the Iowa Utilities Board (IUB). The IUB's sixth survey report shows high-speed Internet service is available in about 94 percent of Iowa's communities, an increase of two percent since the previous survey report in 2006. The full report is available online at www.state.ia.us/iub.

This latest report finds the number of rural communities where at least one type of high-speed Internet technology is largely available has increased from 918 (95 percent) in 2006 to 925 (96 percent). Non-rural communities with access rose from 226 (84 percent) to 231 (86 percent) during the same period. This growth of high-speed Internet availability in Iowa exceeded the industry projections in the 2006 report. Communities with populations of less than 2,500 are generally categorized as rural in the IUB assessment reports, but some smaller communities with local telephone calling areas tied to larger population bases may be listed as non-rural.

Three hundred fifty-three service providers of various high-speed Internet technologies provided responses for the sixth survey, including local exchange carriers, cable companies, wireless companies, and satellite providers. More Iowans have access to some form of high-speed Internet service today because of the expansion of options such as Digital Subscriber Line, cable-modem, wireless, and/or satellite technologies.

The survey reports have indicated continuing growth in the availability of high-speed Internet in Iowa. Only 31 percent of Iowa communities reported high-speed Internet service availability when the first assessment was made in October 2000. That initial report assessed conditions for deploying high-speed Internet technologies and identified strategies to ensure access to high-speed service in both rural and non-rural areas of Iowa.

By May 2003, the share of communities with available high-speed Internet service had grown to 68 percent. The December 2004 report indicated that 72 percent of Iowa communities had high-speed Internet access, and that number increased to 92 percent at the time of the next report in May 2006.

All six reports are available electronically on the IUB Web site.

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