

2020 ISAC Top Priorities

Iowa State Association of Counties

COVID-19 Pandemic Response and Maintenance of Vital County Services

County officials and employees in Iowa's 99 counties are on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic response by providing vital services to Iowa's citizens. Counties provide local public health, emergency management, public safety, mental health, roads and bridges, criminal justice, elections, and so much more. Since March, counties have expended millions of dollars on pandemic response and experienced millions more in lost revenue. Counties are good stewards of taxpayer money and have built reserves that will allow them to weather some of these unprecedented challenges, but as increasing expenditures and decreasing revenues continue, they look for partnership from the Iowa Legislature and the Governor to maintain the vital services on which all Iowans depend.



Fund Iowa's Mental Health and Disability Services Regions

Iowa counties ask the Iowa Legislature to provide financial assistance to Iowa's mental health and disability services regions this legislative session. The COVID-19 pandemic has brought new challenges to counties and MH/DS regions that were already financially stressed. Long-term, sustainable funding is needed now more than ever to provide stability in our mental health delivery system. The time is NOW to fund mental health services for Iowans.

Direct and Flexible CARES Act Funding to Iowa Counties

Iowa counties call on the Governor and Iowa Legislature to include county officials in all decision-making processes that determine the distribution of CARES Act and subsequent supplemental federal funding for COVID-19 response efforts. It is important for counties to receive direct and flexible funding to maintain vital services. An ISAC report that details the financial impact of the pandemic on county budgets is summarized on the reverse of this handout and available in full at www.iowacounties.org.

Maintain the Property Tax Backfill

Iowa counties request the Iowa Legislature keep its promise and fully fund the commercial/industrial property tax backfill. The backfill replaces lost revenue due to the legislatively imposed rollback on taxable property valuation. Any decrease in backfill funding would result in a burden shift to local residential and farm property taxpayers.

Local Government Liability Protection

Iowa counties ask the Iowa Legislature to provide liability protections to counties like those afforded to private employers related to the COVID-19 pandemic response. Counties are statutorily mandated to provide vital services to the public and should be provided liability protection when acting in capacities that require interaction with the public. Liability protection would be provided so long as the county did not act negligently and is making reasonable efforts to comply with public health guidelines.

ISAC members are elected and appointed county officials from all 99 counties.

We represent 16 affiliated associations. Representatives of these affiliates make up our Legislative Policy Committee and our Board of Directors.

Mission promote effective and responsible county government for the people of Iowa.

Vision principal, authoritative source of representation, information and services for and about county government in Iowa.



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IOWA COUNTIES PROVIDE



Emergency Management



Public Health



Public Safety



Mental Health/
Disability Services



Elections

COVID-19 RESPONSE

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IOWA COUNTIES PROVIDE



Emergency Management



Public Health



Public Safety

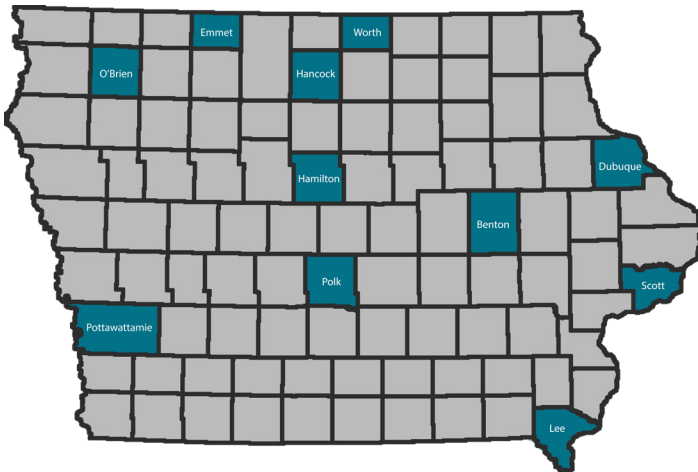


Mental Health/
Disability Services



Elections

COVID-19 RESPONSE



COVID-19 Financial Impacts on Iowa Counties

ISAC published a report in May 2020 that is a sample of 11 Iowa counties with a total population of over 960,000. They individually represent diverse populations, budgets, and geographical locations. Data was entered by county employees and officials through a survey that was distributed and compiled by the Iowa State Association of Counties (ISAC). ISAC is a non-partisan, private, non-profit corporation whose members are elected and appointed county officials and employees from all 99 counties.

Total Fiscal Impact^(*11 sample counties, March and April 2020)

Additonal Expenditures	\$5.8 million
Lost Revenue	\$10.4 million
Total Impact	\$16.3 million

COVID-19 Related Expense Highlights

Courthouse/IT	\$1.2 million
Public Health	\$978,375
Emergency Mgmt	\$690,455
Public Safety	\$406,981
Auditor/Elections	\$217,693
Engineer	\$28,257
Conservation	\$12,434

COVID-19 Lost Revenue Highlights

Local Option Sales Tax	\$1.1 million
Conservation	\$1.0 million
Gaming Revenue	\$922,895
Road Use Tax	\$833,500
Treasurer	\$547,252
Engineer	\$354,202
Interest Income	\$228,500
Public Health	\$208,000
Recorder	\$158,385
Community Services	\$132,900
Public Safety	\$125,975