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Tuesday, Nov. 16, 2021

## Today's headlines:

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## Biden signs Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act

President Joe Biden signed the \$1 trillion bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act late Monday. The bill unlocks funds for transportation, broadband and utilities nationwide. Key pieces of the legislation that may affect hospitals and health systems include:

- More than \$21 billion to expand broadband.
- More than \$1.3 billion to bolster cybersecurity efforts.

Click [HERE](#) to see the breakdown of funding.

The so-called \$3.5 trillion “human infrastructure bill” that expands social safety nets has not yet passed. IHA will update members of any movement on the bill.

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## IHA advocacy team weekly preview

The IHA advocacy team activity and meetings this week include:

- A meeting with the Iowa Association of Business and Industry discussing IHA's 2022 legislative priorities including workforce initiatives.
- IHA's Maternal Health Interim Workgroup meeting today reviewing questions from the advocacy team's recent legislative meetings and work on a maternal health strategic plan.
- Iowa Department of Human Services mental health planning and advisory council on Wednesday. Click [HERE](#) for the agenda that includes council's 2022 legislative priorities.

Follow-up stories will be included in the Saturday edition of IHA Today.

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### **Hospital co-location guidance issued by CMS**

On Friday, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services issued its revised final guidance for hospitals co-locating with other hospitals or health care facilities. The guidance provides increased flexibilities when entering in co-location partnerships and took effect Friday, Nov. 12. The guidance says:

- Hospitals can be co-located with other hospitals or health care providers.
- When co-located with another hospital or health care facility, each entity must demonstrate its compliance with applicable Medicare and Medicaid requirements.
- The agency provides clarity about requirements for shared space, staffing arrangements, and contracted services and emergency services.
- The policies do not apply to critical access hospitals because of applicable distance and location requirements specific to critical access hospitals.

Click [HERE](#) to read more.

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### **Reminder: PRF reporting grace period ends Nov. 30**

Providers who received one or more provider relief fund (PRF) payments exceeding \$10,000, in the aggregate, during the first payment-received period were required to report their use of funds by Sept. 30. The Department of Health and Human Services is observing a 60-day grace period to help providers who failed to meet the first reporting-period deadline come into compliance.

The PRF Reporting Portal will close 10:59 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 30. Noncompliant providers who fail to submit a completed report may be subject to further enforcement actions such as repayment or other debt-collection activities.

To get started, providers must register in the [PRF reporting portal](#). Technical assistance resources like updated FAQs and user guides are listed on the [PRF reporting webpage](#). Real-time assistance is available by calling the provider support line at 866-569-3522; for TTY, dial 711.

Hours of operation are 8 a.m. to 10 p.m., Monday through Friday.

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### **Office hours available for feedback about ASPR regional emergency preparedness**

The office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response will hold office hours so stakeholders can ask questions and offer feedback about guidelines for regional health care emergency preparedness and response systems.

Office hours are:

- 2-3 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 18. Click [HERE](#) for access.
- 10-11 a.m. Friday, Nov. 19. Click [HERE](#) for access.

ASPR recently held a webinar about the guidelines. Information about the guidelines

can be found [HERE](#). Audio files and transcripts will be made available in the coming days [HERE](#).

## 16 complete IHA Advanced Leadership Academy

Congratulations to the 16 participants for completing the 2021 Advanced Leadership Academy. This year's cohort had a busy final week, each of them presenting and holding their final session in person. Each academy participant has been working on projects for their organizations and presented them by livestream Tuesday, Nov. 9. You can watch participants' presentations [HERE](#). Then on Veterans Day, they held their final meeting in person at the [VA Central Iowa Health Care System](#) in Des Moines.

The Advanced Leadership Academy is designed to equip hospital leaders on leadership succession tracks with the skills and knowledge to engage in operational factors in their positions. Participants in the program are nominated by their hospital CEOs.

Members met virtually for three of the four sessions. Each session featured subject matter experts as well as a guest CEO. The final meeting included:

- David Stark, CEO of [UnityPoint Health – Iowa Methodist Medical Center](#) - his leadership journey and lessons learned.
- Toni Boyles, CEO, A Place in Time Training, Topeka, Kansas - Dealing with Conflict.
- Todd Linden, former CEO of [UnityPoint Health – Grinnell Regional Medical Center](#) - CEO, Board and Medical Staff Relations.
- Lisa Radtke, former CEO of [Winneshek Medical Center](#) - Connecting to Purpose and a Health Care Redesign.
- Tour of the [VA Central Iowa Health Care System](#) with CEO Gail Graham.

Nominations are now being accepted for the 2022 academy. Hospital leaders are encouraged to consider the academy as a resource to vet future leaders, build bench strength and support further growth of emerging leaders. Nominations are due **Feb. 18, 2022**. Click [HERE](#) to access the nomination form.





## Thank you to the 2021 Iowa Hospital Heroes

IHA and Iowa hospitals are grateful to our hospital staff who ensure Iowa's hospitals provide quality care day in and day out. Eleven heroes were recognized at IHA's 2021 Virtual Annual Meeting, and each will be highlighted in IHA Today. This issue features Lisa Kouri, director of materials management and housekeeping, from [St. Anthony Regional Hospital and Nursing Home](#) in Carroll. Thank you to all the 2021 heroes and hospital staff for your work and compassion.

If you have someone you want to nominate as a hospital hero, take note for next year's recognition at the 2022 IHA Annual Meeting, Oct. 4-6. **Click [HERE](#) to submit nominations by Friday, April 29, 2022.** Email [Craig Borchard](#) at IHA with questions.

## Lisa Kouri

Director of Materials Management and Housekeeping  
St. Anthony Regional Hospital and Nursing Home, Carroll

Besides managing the hospital's materials management and housekeeping services and ensuring the availability of necessary supplies during pandemic, Lisa also oversaw the construction of a new regional cancer center. She coordinated with contractors in a time of great uncertainty and ended the project on time and under budget.



## NewsStand

### Iowa news

- [Iowa's nursing home staff COVID-19 vaccination rates have improved but still lag behind the national average](#)
- [MercyOne North Iowa cancels nonemergency surgeries](#)
- [COVID Recovery Iowa offers counseling for employees and employers](#)

### National news

- [Cleveland Clinic mandates COVID-19 vaccination](#)
- [New clues to the biology of long COVID-19 are starting to emerge](#)
- [COVID-19 makes spotty resurgence in the US before Thanksgiving](#)

Click [HERE](#) to read daily NewsStand postings.

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## Upcoming events

- [Surprise Billing Requirements](#): Wednesday, Nov. 17
  - [IHA Leadership Development Program](#): Wednesday, Nov. 17, 2021 - Wednesday, April 6, 2022
  - [Can't Pour From an Empty Cup: The Crisis in Nursing and Pandemic Care](#): Tuesday, Nov. 30
  - [Governance and Accountability for the Rising Costs of Health Care Information Technology](#): Thursday, Dec. 2
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## Hospital jobs site connects hospitals with qualified candidates

Are you looking for qualified health care professionals for your Iowa hospital? [HospitalCareers.com](https://www.hospitalcareers.com) can help. This website connects thousands of nurses, providers and other hospital jobseekers with Iowa hospitals each year and is a main resource for jobseekers looking for work in health care.



Your resource for Iowa hospital and health system jobs.

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