

Iowa Intelligence Fusion Center Wins Award

The Iowa Intelligence Fusion Center has received the 2010 Law Enforcement Partnership Award from the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) Operation of Iowa.

A fusion center is where federal, state and local law enforcement come together to provide resources, expertise, and information. The aim is to maximize detection, prevention, apprehension, and response to criminal and/or terrorist activity.

There are 72 fusion centers in the United States – one in each state and 22 major urban cities. Iowa's fusion center is located in the Department of Public Safety. Its mission is to lead and coordinate intelligence and homeland security efforts that protect Iowa, while upholding the constitutional rights of Iowa citizens.

There are six Regional Fusion Offices throughout the State of Iowa, which are maintained by city and county law enforcement officials.

Rural Safety Grants

U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack has said that 74 rural communities in 26 states are benefiting from \$33 million in funding assistance from the USDA Rural Development Communities Facilities Program. The funding comes from the federal Recovery Act.

The money helps finance essential community facilities such as child care centers, hospitals, medical clinics, assisted-living facilities, fire and rescue stations, police stations, community centers, public buildings, and transportation.

In Iowa, Fonda will receive a grant to purchase emergency services equipment and a new tanker truck. In Cantril, a grant will be used to purchase a new pumper truck. Villisca will be able to purchase a new ambulance.

Grants are available to public bodies, non-profit organizations, and federally recognized Indian tribes. More information about USDA Rural Development can be found at www.rudev.usda.gov/recovery.