

Iowa Geospatial Infrastructure

A County GIS Service Bureau - Why It's Needed

BENEFITS TO COUNTIES PARTICIPATING IN IGI

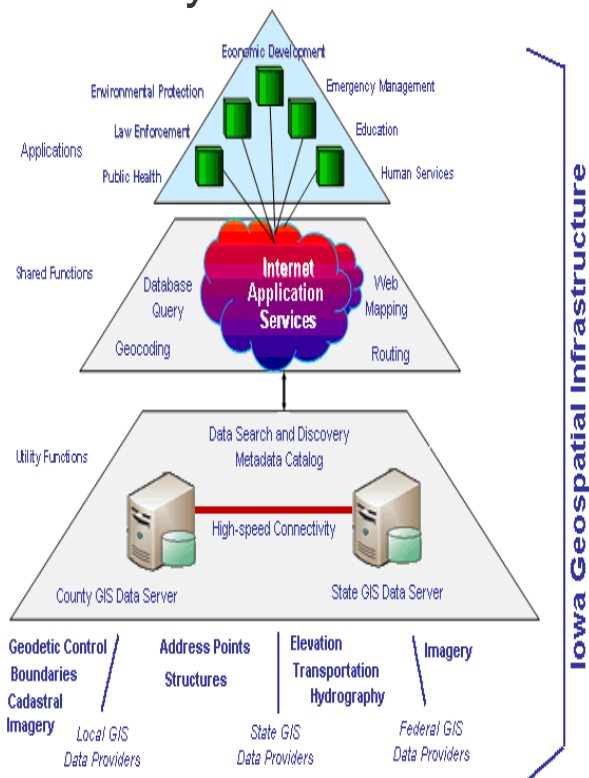
Cost avoidance for not needing a web server - \$10,000/yr.

Cost avoidance for joint aerial ortho-photography acquisitions – data costs - \$20,000/yr.

Cost avoidance for contracting, managing contracts and data management for aerial ortho-photography projects - \$10,000/yr.

Using IGI elevation contours (from lidar) for surveying and design in county road department - \$10,000 to \$90,000/yr.

Reduction in time spent answering questions, finding data, finding locations – varies by department from 5 hours/yr to 500 hours/yr, ~ \$10,000/yr total



IGI Services to Participating Counties

- Coordination of Joint Aerial Ortho-photography Acquisitions
- GIS Training for County Staff (roads, health, conservation, etc.)
- Web Applications, Data Hosting and Online Mapping
- GIS Technical Assistance

The Iowa Geospatial Infrastructure is a community of GIS data providers, service bureaus and technology that delivers GIS framework data layers to any user for any purpose. County GIS programs will provide critical GIS framework layers to IGI, including aerial ortho-photography, parcel and city boundaries and geodetic control. In order to facilitate the collection, transformation and loading of county data layers into seamless statewide layers, a county GIS service group is needed to ease the flow of data to IGI and in return, provide assistance back to county GIS programs to maintain the data and to expand its use within the counties. While a few larger counties are using GIS technology in all or most of the offices that can use it, others either don't have the resources or expertise to apply GIS to such areas as public and environmental health, human services, conservation or other departments. IGI services can help take knowledge from one county, say in using GIS for economic development and help others to get started using it for that purpose.

The County GIS Service Bureau (CGSB) will provide GIS coordination and other services to counties participating in IGI. The CGSB is paid for by the state in exchange for access the county GIS data layers that are loaded into statewide coverages. The CGSB will maintain a data server and collect county agency GIS layers such as geodetic control (benchmarks), city and county boundaries, aerial ortho-photography and cadastral data (land ownership boundaries) into IGI. The CGSB data server will be connected to and mirrored with the State GIS Service Bureau's data server. During emergencies such as the 2008 floods and tornadoes, the CGSB will provide critical support to county emergency operations. While participation in IGI is totally voluntary, counties will benefit greatly by joining this partnership.

STRATEGIC BENEFITS OF IGI

Johnson County

Assessor: "... would like to have easy access to parcel information from adjacent counties so I could check values of adjacent properties. I do not go to the trouble to do this with current capabilities. Many counties don't have a good web presence. A universal interface would be helpful. Real estate, insurance, bankers, appraisers experience the data in a chopped-up fashion currently. I see the greatest benefit for statewide parcel data being to the private sector."

Black Hawk County Public Health Dept.:

"...many of our projects are multi-county but we don't have map data for adjacent counties. The county does inspections of 1800 restaurants in 9 counties but we only have maps for Black Hawk."

CGSB – How It Works

State funding for the County GIS Service Bureau will provide for 4 staff positions: a county IGI program manager, an ortho-imagery coordinator, a GIS web programmer and system administrator, and a GIS training specialist. This core group of GIS professionals will support the collection and distribution of IGI framework layers from county agencies and work with participating county governments to enhance their GIS programs through data creation projects, training and application development. The county IGI program manager will work with the approximately 20 counties that do not currently have GIS to create cooperative programs with other nearby counties or organizations to start a GIS program together. That position will also work with existing county GIS programs to get their data into IGI and coordinate services back to those counties. The ortho-coordinator will work with counties, the state and federal agencies to cooperate on regional and statewide acquisitions, possibly leading up to participation in the federal program, **Imagery for the Nation**. The Web programmer will build GIS web services and applications needed by counties to serve information to the public. The GIS training specialist will help participating counties to use GIS in all aspects of county government business functions.

CGSB – Costs

1) County GIS Service Bureau Costs

- County IGI Coordinator
- Web Developer/System Administrator
- Ortho-imagery Coordinator
- GIS Training Specialist

Salaries and Benefits \$260,000/yr

Travel and Training \$25,000/yr

Equipment, Software, Supplies \$100,000/yr

TOTAL Yearly Operating Costs \$385,000/yr

2) Ongoing Data Projects – The CGSB will coordinate framework data projects to help counties get data into IGI, upgrade if needed, and assist in maintenance efforts.

- Benchmark maintenance program - \$50,000/yr
- Maintenance program for city and county boundaries, and parcel databases - \$250,000/yr

TOTAL COSTS \$685,000/yr for CGSB and county data projects

CGSB costs are paid by the state.

Participating IGI counties still contribute funding to joint aerial orthophoto acquisitions, but at a reduced rate, depending on the project. If Imagery for the Nation is funded by the federal government, an average cost based on size for a typical county would be \$5,000 per year.

Warren County Economic

Development: "...a statewide data system would be helpful for land use planning and development and for coordination between multiple jurisdictions. Being able to consolidate info all into one map instead of taping them together would be great."

Story County Planning and

Zoning: "...with statewide data our department could give an analysis back to property owners sooner. We have a case of a wind farm coming in where they need to notify property owners in a ¼ mile radius around the property. As it is a multi-county area, this may take a lot of time. Previously we have not notified beyond county boundary but this is bad practice. We would appreciate a shared service agency as budgets are in decline or stagnant."



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