CALL TO ORDER

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS FROM THE CHAIR

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

OFFICE OF BROADBAND UPDATES
  o Connect Illinois Grant Program
  o Digital Equity Package
  o Working Groups (Smart Cities, Rural Innovation, Digital Equity & Inclusion)

STAKEHOLDER UPDATES
  o Computer Equity Network | Andrea Lindsay, PCs for People
    Dr. Jaison McCall, PCs for People
  o FCC Precision Agriculture Task Force | Heather Hampton Knodle

ILLINOIS BROADBAND MAP DEMO

FEDERAL UPDATES | Gigi Sohn, Georgetown Law Center, Benton Institute for Broadband & Society

PUBLIC COMMENT

NEXT MEETING – SEPTEMBER 15, 2021
Infrastructure
• Connect Illinois Broadband Grant Program

Digital Equity
• Illinois Connected Communities
• Broadband READY (Regional Collaboration for Adoption + Digital Equity)
• Digital Navigator Program
• Connect Illinois Computer Equity Network
• Program Summary
  • Grant to support broadband infrastructure that meets or exceeds state goals

• Grant Amount
  • Up to $5M; $50M available statewide

• Four Categories
  • Broadband Access
  • Broadband Innovation
  • Urban Broadband
  • Broadband Equity

• Application Deadline
  • April 12, 2021
$50M state + $65M nonstate match = $115M investment

26,000+ new/improved connections to homes, farms, biz, community anchors

28 projects, 18 different grantees (17 providers + one local government)

39 applications; 37 applications were complete and/or responsive to NOFO

Strong cross-section of provider representation
Between Application Deadline + Award Announcement:
• Merit Review
• Mapping Review

Milestones
• April 12 | Application Deadline
• April 26 | Rd 2 Proposal Map Posted
• May 24 | Mapping Review Inquiry Deadline
• TBD | Rd 2 Award Announcement
Governor Pritzker is committed to establishing Illinois as a leader when it comes to technology and innovation. Access to broadband is a critical component of staying ahead of the curve and will improve the lives of families, entrepreneurs, farmers and other Illinoisans who rely on high-speed broadband for everything from healthcare to education.
Governor Pritzker launched a statewide initiative in August 2019, Connect Illinois, to expand broadband access across the entire state. Connect Illinois includes a capital investment from Rebuild Illinois, the creation of a Broadband Advisory Council and Broadband Office, and a new program that will provide all Illinois public K-12 students access to high-speed broadband at no charge. The initiative also includes a $400 million broadband grant program and a $20 million capital program for the Illinois Century Network, a high-speed broadband network serving K-12 and higher education institutions, among others.

The first round of funding was announced in June 2020. Please see more information on the announcement. The second funding round is accepting applications until April 12, 2021. More information available here.

For more information on the Connect Illinois launch, click here.

Illinois Broadband Grant Program

Rebuild Illinois, the Illinois infrastructure program, includes $400 million to the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity for a statewide broadband deployment grant program. This appropriation will begin to expand access to reliable, high-speed internet service statewide. According to the USDA, fully utilizing digital technologies within the agriculture industry could create approximately $47 to $65 billion annually in additional gross benefit for the U.S. economy.

Illinois Century Network

Rebuild Illinois includes $20 million for the Illinois Century Network (ICN), to repair and expand the broadband network for schools, refresh aged components of the network and expand the existing network, with a focus on the K-12 portion.
Mapping Review

The Illinois Office of Broadband is currently reviewing Round 2 Connect Illinois grant applications. To assist this effort we've created the Connect Illinois Round 2 Proposals layer within the [Grant Eligibility Map] that includes the proposed deployment footprint and a brief description for each project.

Before Connect Illinois broadband grants are awarded, applicants will have an opportunity to challenge the accuracy of the Grant Eligibility Map. Likewise, incumbent broadband providers will be allowed to challenge the eligibility of a grant application on the basis of current available broadband service or near-term planned broadband deployment.

Between now and 5pm on Monday, May 24, we're asking Connect Illinois stakeholders to reconcile these mapping layers against their own broadband service data and/or deployment plans. For instance, should any area of the map include proposed Connect Illinois broadband deployment AND understate existing service levels, we want to hear about it!

Specifically, please provide the Office of Broadband with shapefiles and/or specific location addresses that you can demonstrate have service at or above the program speed thresholds of 25/3 Mbps and/or 100/20 Mbps, respectively. Information to this end should be submitted to broadband@illinois.gov with the subject heading "Broadband Mapping: [and a brief area description].

This "mapping review" begins a conversation between the Office of Broadband and the Connect Illinois stakeholder. No awards will be made without an opportunity for dialogue on the mapping and service levels in question. The Office of Broadband is committed to making this process as user-friendly and transparent as reasonably possible, and we intend to learn and apply what we can from the processes introduced during the first round of the Connect Illinois grant program. To this end, we welcome all feedback as we seek to improve and refine this process moving forward.
• Planned Timeline
• Expected Funding
• Anticipated Approach
  • Similarities to Rds 1 + 2
  • New characteristics
Infrastructure
• Connect Illinois Broadband Grant Program

Digital Equity
• Illinois Connected Communities
• Broadband READY (Regional Collaboration for Adoption + Digital Equity)
• Digital Navigator Program
• Connect Illinois Computer Equity Network
• Local Broadband Planning + Capacity Building
• Program Summary
  • Broadband Steering Committee
  • Digital Divide Elimination Plan | access, adoption + utilization
  • Collaborate with statewide computer refurbishing & redistribution network
  • 50 hrs of consultant/facilitator time; best practice curriculum
• Grant Amount
  • Up to $15,000 per community; $150,000 available statewide
• Application Deadline
  • March 8, 2021
ILLINOIS CONNECTED COMMUNITIES 2020 AWARDS

• Partnership among the Illinois Office of Broadband, the Benton Institute for Broadband & Society, and local philanthropy. Designed to engage a first-year cohort of communities through best practice curriculum and expert consultation.

• The initial cohort includes four school districts, two community-based organizations, two local governments, two county-level organizations, and two economic development groups:
  - Brown County School District 1
  - City of Harvey
  - Housing Authority of Champaign County
  - Leadership Council Southwestern Illinois
  - Mattoon School District 2
  - McKinley Park Development Council
  - Mercer County Better Together
  - Neighborhood Network Alliance
  - Palatine School District 15
  - Park Forest-Chicago Heights School District 163
  - Region 1 Planning Council
  - Village of Flanagan

• Each Illinois Connected Community will have completed a community-driven, broadband strategic plan that articulates the community’s broadband vision and identifies an action plan for progress toward improved broadband access in the areas of community and economic development, education, civic engagement, healthcare, agriculture, and more.
CONNECT ILLINOIS DIGITAL EQUITY
BROADBAND READY PROGRAM

• Regional Engagement for Adoption + Digital Equity (READY)
• Program Summary
  • Drive broadband collaboration for engagement, evaluation, planning, and progress at regional level
  • Align local and regional efforts toward shared goals in broadband access, adoption, and utilization
  • Promote immediate community technology expansion
  • Integrate Connect Illinois Computer Equity Network + Digital Navigator capacity

• Grant Amount
  • Up to $50,000 per region

• Project Timeline
  • Spring/Summer 2021
BROADBAND READY PROGRAM

APPROACH

• A two-phased approach
  • Two initial cohorts
  • Establish baselines
  • Annual updates
• Fundamentally, the program seeks to
  • Shorter-term broadband access expansion
  • Longer-term advances in broadband access, adoption + utilization
  • Leverage infrastructure investment to drive economic prosperity
Regional Engagement for Adoption + Digital Equity (READY) Program:

• Balance shorter-term broadband access expansion with longer-term engagement
• Add context + contour to the current Office of Broadband access mapping
• Identify digital inequities + opportunities through regionwide collaboration with:
  • Access (IOB Mapping)
  • Adoption (ACS)
  • Utilization

In addition to evaluating current conditions + next steps in digital equity + inclusion, the program will seek scalable and/or replicable best practices in broadband utilization, ranging from economic development innovation to telehealth to remote learning.
• Program Summary
  • Promote digital equity + inclusion through “Digital Navigator” capacity:
    • Identify + map digital inequities
    • Identity digital inclusion assets
    • Identify digital inclusion programming gaps

• Award Amount
  • Communities will receive technical assistance valued at $10,000

• Application Deadline
  • Recurring
BROADBAND ADVISORY COUNCIL
WORKING GROUPS

Initial
• Access
• Economic Development
• Education
• Technology
• Telehealth

Proposed
• Digital Equity + Inclusion
• Smart Cities
• Rural Innovation
Connecting the Heartland

**WHAT IT IS**

Heartland Forward is launching *Connecting the Heartland* – a multi-pronged, multi-state advocacy campaign in America's Heartland to **boost internet availability, boost internet speeds, boost adoption rates and boost participation in online services** that are key to opportunity. Working with partners who share our vision, we will accelerate progress in the Heartland by strategically focusing our collective resources to support efforts to bridge gaps preventing states and municipalities from realizing their goals of universal connectivity.
Connecting the Heartland

UNDERLYING GOAL
Make sure American families in the Heartland have the high-speed, affordable internet service necessary for full participation in life in the digital age.

SPEED IS CRITICAL. As internet service is expanded, it must meet today’s essential remote needs: participating in school and completing homework; accessing healthcare services; searching for, training for, and doing a job online.

AFFORDABILITY IS CRITICAL. Half of people who do not use high-speed internet say it’s because the service is too expensive.

UTILIZATION IS CRITICAL. A high-speed connection can be a catalyst for equity by providing a lifeline to education, healthcare, economic opportunity and civic engagement, but only if users know how to access and participate in online services.
PCs for People is a nonprofit that provides affordable computers, mobile internet, and tech support / training to income-qualified individuals.

National organization with locations in Colorado, Minnesota, Ohio, Maryland, and Kansas City... and now Illinois!
Nearly 60% of our recipients have never owned a computer before and over 80% do not currently have one at home.

Social Enterprise model, nominal fee for technology ($30-$150)

Computer + Internet Access + Digital Literacy and Support

Workforce Development
Illinois Response

• Connect Illinois Computer Equity Network

• Metro East launch in October 2020 – support from Illinois COVID-19 Response Fund to serve southern 41 counties

• Cook County launch in January 2021 to serve northern counties

• Additional statewide online order & shipping capacity
Metro East Hub

- Warehouse facility and retail store in Belleville
- Over 30 distribution events to-date
- Retail store grand opening April 9, 2021
- Thousands of devices distributed in Southern Illinois to-date
Cook County Hub

• Warehouse facility in Oak Forest

• Hiring now!

• Looking for combined warehouse + community space for long-term use

• Distribution partnerships beginning May 2021
Technology Recycling Services

• We are also a secure IT asset disposition company, providing secure, sustainable, e-waste reuse and recycling

• Recycling partnerships with businesses, government agencies, nonprofit agencies, and schools.

• Providing NAID AAA certified data sanitization

• Zero landfill policy

• Free pick up and disposition of most items (computers, networking equipment, peripherals, etc.)

• Community Impact Report
Technology Distribution

- Community access at digital inclusion hubs: Metro East now open, Cook County in later 2021
- Online shipping statewide
- Pop-up events – “curbside express” + “back to normal”
- Distribution partnerships: libraries, schools, community organizations, local government, affordable housing
Remote Sign-up, Local Pickup

EVENT REGISTRATION

Choose an event below. You do not have to be a current student or associated with the host site, but you must meet our eligibility criteria. You will be able to choose from the products displayed. You will be contacted to confirm the details of your pickup once your registration is complete.

Test Event

This is a pickup event

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Site</th>
<th>Best Library</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Address</td>
<td>3126 St Clair Ave NE Cleveland, OH 44114</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Event Date</td>
<td>9/1/2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Last Day to Register</td>
<td>8/21/2020</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Products</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Internet</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laptop</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Do you need to apply for financial aid (availability is limited)?
- Yes
- No
Contact Info

Dr. Jaison K.D. McCall, Metro East Executive Director
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FEDERAL BROADBAND EFFORT
OVERVIEW

Consolidated Appropriations Act

• $2.3T overall investment
• $7 billion to improve connectivity in the U.S.
• Extension of CARES Act spending deadline to December 31, 2021
Education Stabilization Fund (U.S. Department of Education) - $81.8B

- Majority of funds distributed directly to K-12 and Higher Education Institutions via formula-grants.
  - $54.3 billion for Elementary and Secondary Schools
  - $21.1 billion for Higher Education
- New appropriation of $4 billion for Governor’s Emergency Education Relief Fund, per CARES Act.
- Allowable uses include addressing student broadband access and connectivity gaps.
- $2.75 billion reserved for Emergency Assistance to Non-Public Schools program.
Connecting Minority Communities Pilot Program (NTIA) - $285M

- Establishes an Office of Minority Broadband Initiatives to expand access to broadband internet access and digital opportunities in HBCU communities & Hispanic-serving institutions.

- Promote initiatives for broadband access and digital opportunities for anchor communities and develop recommendations to rapidly expand deployment of broadband to unserved minority-serving institutions and anchor communities.

- Funding will support HBCUs and other minority-serving education institutions, including partnerships with minority-owned businesses, to expand broadband capacity and use at the school and in the surrounding community, including by assisting students to afford broadband service.
Emergency Broadband Benefit Program (FCC) - $3.2B

• Temporary, emergency broadband benefit to aid low-income Americans access broadband.
• Up to $50 monthly subsidy for broadband subscription.
• Up to $100 one-time subsidy for a low-cost device such as a computer, laptop, or tablet.
• Program expires six months after COVID-19 pandemic passes or funding expires.
• Participation is voluntary for broadband providers.
• Similar but expanded eligibility requirements to Lifeline; Pell grant recipient, free and reduced lunch, layoff/furlough, Lifeline National Verifier/NLAD, or qualifies for an existing privately-funded low-income program.
Emergency Broadband Benefit

The Emergency Broadband Benefit is an FCC program to help families and households struggling to afford internet service during the COVID-19 pandemic. This new benefit will connect eligible households to jobs, critical healthcare services, virtual classrooms, and so much more.
About the Emergency Broadband Benefit

The Emergency Broadband Benefit will provide a discount of up to $50 per month towards broadband service for eligible households and up to $75 per month for households on qualifying Tribal lands. Eligible households can also receive a one-time discount of up to $100 to purchase a laptop, desktop computer, or tablet from participating providers if they contribute more than $10 and less than $50 toward the purchase price.

The Emergency Broadband Benefit is limited to one monthly service discount and one device discount per household.

Who Is Eligible for the Emergency Broadband Benefit Program?

A household is eligible if a member of the household meets one of the criteria below:

- Has an income that is at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines or participates in certain assistance programs, such as SNAP, Medicaid, or Lifeline;
- Approved to receive benefits under the free and reduced-price school lunch program or the school breakfast program, including through the USDA Community Eligibility Provision in the 2019-2020 or 2020-2021 school year;
- Received a Federal Pell Grant during the current award year;
- Experienced a substantial loss of income due to job loss or furlough since February 29, 2020 and the household had a total income in 2020 at or below $99,000 for single filers and $198,000 for joint filers; or
- Meets the eligibility criteria for a participating provider’s existing low-income or COVID-19 program.

When Can I Sign Up for the Benefit?

As of May 12, 2021, eligible households will be able to enroll in the program to receive a monthly discount off the cost of broadband service from an approved provider. Eligible households can enroll through an approved provider or by visiting https://getemergencybroadband.org.

Check out the Broadband Benefit Consumer FAQ for more information about the benefit and please continue to check this page for program updates.
Stay Connected

The Emergency Broadband Benefit Program - Helping people stay connected during the COVID-19 pandemic
American Rescue Plan

- $1.9T
- $10B in state block grants for broadband (Capital Projects Fund)
- $170B to K-12 schools, colleges & universities
  - reopen & operate safely
  - facilitate remote learning
- $7.2 for Emergency Connectivity Fund + E-Rate Expansion

Accessible, Affordable Internet for All Act

American Jobs Plan
QUESTIONS?

Matt Schmit | Chair
Illinois Broadband Advisory Council
Director | Illinois Office of Broadband
Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity
broadband@Illinois.gov
NEXT MEETING
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15
ADJOURNMENT