BROADBAND ADVISORY COUNCIL
MEETING AGENDA

- Call to Order
- Introductory Remarks from the Chair
- Approval of Minutes
- Federal Updates
- Office of Broadband Updates
  - Connect Illinois Grant Program
  - Digital Equity Programming + Collaboration
    - Illinois Connected Communities
    - Computer Equity Network | Andrea Lindsay, PCs for People
    - Heartland Forward | Abby Ottenhoff
    - Broadband READY
  - Illinois Broadband Lab
- Working Groups
  - Digital Equity & Inclusion | Amy Huffman, National Digital Inclusion Alliance
  - Smart Cities | Denise Linn Riedl, City of South Bend, IN
  - Rural Innovation | Matt Dunne, Center on Rural Innovation
- Public Comment
- Next Meeting – December 8, 2021
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.
“DRIVE-UP WI-FI” MAP
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The first round of funding was announced in June 2020. The second funding round is accepting applications until April 12, 2021.

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.
Federal Funding

- Infrastructure + Jobs Act
- American Rescue Plan Act
- Consolidated Appropriations Act
FEDERAL BROADBAND FUNDING
OVERVIEW

Consolidated Appropriations Act
- $7B for broadband
- Emergency Broadband Benefit (FCC)
- Broadband Infrastructure Program (NTIA)
- Connecting Minority Communities Pilot Program (NTIA)
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.
Broadband Infrastructure Development Grants (NTIA) - $288M

- Broadband infrastructure projects in primarily rural areas that do not conflict with areas already funded through other state and federal sources.
- Eligible applicants are partnerships between state or political subdivision and fixed broadband providers.
- Coordinate with Illinois Office of Broadband
- Project must be completed within twelve months (some exceptions).
- State of Illinois submitted a “covered partnership” application in August
  - $29M grant + $29M Connect Illinois match + $6M local provider contribution = $65M total investment
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.

• NOFO is posted

• Applications due November 2021
American Rescue Plan Act

- $170B to K-12 schools, colleges & universities
  - reopen & operate safely
  - facilitate remote learning
- $7.2B for Emergency Connectivity Fund + E-Rate Expansion (FCC)
- $3.4B Community Development Block Grants (HUD)
- $10B for Capital Projects Fund (Treasury)
  - Block grant program for states
  - $254M for Illinois
- Coronavirus State + Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (Treasury)
  - $195B to states
  - $65B to counties
  - $46B to metro cities
  - $20B to local governments
Infrastructure Investment + Jobs Act (Pending)

• $65B for broadband

• Four complementary components:
  • Infrastructure | appropriation to states ($42.5B)
  • Affordability | $30/mo subsidy program ($14.25B)
  • Universal service | recommitment to access and adoption
  • Digital inclusion and equity | training and literacy funding ($2.75B)

• Broadband an eligible expense under the larger $350B for state and local governments
Infrastructure
- Connect Illinois Broadband Grant Program

Digital Equity | Programming + Collaboration
- Illinois Connected Communities
- Broadband READY (Regional Engagement for Adoption + Digital Equity)
- Connect Illinois Computer Equity Network
- Heartland Forward | EBB Awareness + Illinois Connection Corps ...
Program Summary
• Grant to support broadband infrastructure that meets or exceeds state goals

Grant Amount
• Up to $10M; $350M available statewide

Four Categories
• Broadband Access
• Broadband Innovation
• Urban Broadband

Application Deadline
• Rolling review + grant awards
• Local Broadband Planning + Capacity Building

• Program Summary
  • Broadband Steering Committee
  • Digital Divide Elimination Plans | access, adoption + utilization
  • 50 hrs of consultant/facilitator time; best practice curriculum

• Grant Amount
  • Up to $15,000 per community

• Application Deadline
  • Rd 3 NOFO coming Winter 2021-22
ILLINOIS CONNECTED COMMUNITIES

• 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:

ROUND 1
- 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

ROUND 2
- City of Carrollton
- City of Waukegan
- Community Builders (Chicago)
- Fairmont City
- Greater Peoria Economic Development Council (Tazewell County)
- Internet Freedom for McHenry County
- North Chicago CUSD 187
- The Center: Resources for Teaching and Learning/Latinx Digital Leaders Now (DLN)
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 programming + identify best practices, key digital indicators

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

• Project Timeline
  • 1st Cohort: 2021
  • 2nd Cohort: 2022 | NOFO posted through Oct 3, 2021
ILLINOIS BROADBAND LAB

Collaboration on broadband data, mapping, research, and publication driven by the Illinois Office of Broadband, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, University of Chicago, and Benton Institute for Broadband & Society

EXPLORE ILLINOIS BROADBAND
ILLINOIS BROADBAND LAB

Collaboration on broadband data, mapping, research, and publication driven by the Illinois Office of Broadband, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, University of Chicago, and Benton Institute for Broadband & Society

EXPLORE ILLINOIS BROADBAND
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QUESTIONS?

Matt Schmit | Chair
Illinois Broadband Advisory Council
Director | Illinois Office of Broadband
Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity
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ADJOURNMENT