Erate - CMS has applied to USAC for authorization to expand our SPIN number to serve K12 and Library organizations. We anticipate our application will be approved very soon. Once approved, Illinois Century Network bandwidth purchases by K12 schools and libraries will be eligible for Erate reimbursement starting July 1, 2013.

Lighting Up Illinois

Contractors and ICN staff are continuing to work on lighting up Illinois and connecting communities across the state. Here’s a look at some of the communities and the anchor institutions that will soon be able to take advantage of extremely fast and affordable Internet services. These rural, underserved communities are the motivators to build an open access fiber network that will create opportunities for faster, more affordable broadband services. These communities will benefit from the resulting economic and educational opportunities for years to come.

Lincoln, Illinois

With a population of approximately 15,000, Lincoln is located along the Springfield to Bloomington I55 route. The fiber will directly connect Lincoln College which will also serve as an interconnection point for future fiber connections to other community anchors. ICN will also continue to work with the existing service providers, such as Frontier, to provide options for connecting other community anchors to the ICN backbone. During the month of October, the contractor will continue installing fiber along I55 from Atlanta towards Bloomington.

Jacksonville, Illinois

Work is wrapping up in this community located west of Springfield with a population of 25,000. South Jacksonville Elementary School will serve as the interconnection point for the community. More than a dozen Jacksonville community anchors are served by the ICN through last mile connections from AT&T, Frontier and Mediaco. Fiber work to the school is complete, but there’s quite a bit of work to be done along the Springfield to Quincy route. Crews have been working along I72 between Springfield and Jacksonville. As work moves to the West of Jacksonville construction will become more challenging due to the sub terrain rock near Quincy.

Decatur, Illinois

The City of Decatur is located along the Champaign to Springfield I74 route. As of this update, 77% of conduit has been buried along this 103 mile route. The contractor has completed the fiber in and around Decatur including extending the fiber to Richland Community College which will serve as an interconnection point for future fiber connects. The contractor is working to complete the Springfield end of the route. In addition to the College, the ICN serves more than a dozen community anchors in Decatur through last mile connections from AT&T and Comcast.