



## The DoIT Digest

Volume 5 Number 19

June 26, 2020

### This Week:

- **Illinois Youth Get Help from Technology**
- **Connect Illinois Makes Advancements During Year One**
- **CIO Council Discusses Federated Progress**

### Illinois Youth Get Help from Technology



DCFS has partnered with Microsoft to rapidly develop a communication solution for DCFS- involved youth socially isolated during the COVID-19 pandemic. These youth have not been in their typical environments with people who can be supportive and intervene on their behalf, putting them at risk of abuse and neglect. In the absence of face-to-face interactions and communication, the Microsoft solution provides three alternative channels of text, voice, and video chat. Each DCFS- involved youth who chooses will have a team built in the solution including the DCFS Worker and others (teacher, coach, counselor), who will be a strong support system for the youth. The team will have a shared area where the youth can post important events and achievements and the team can post

supportive remarks. The first release is scheduled for July 6, 2020. The solution will endure as a standard mode of communication beyond the pandemic.

### Connect Illinois Makes Advancements During Year One

DoIT and the Illinois Century Network (ICN) are leading our state's largest broadband expansion, a significant component of Governor Pritzker's Rebuild Illinois. Announced last August by Governor Pritzker, Connect Illinois will directly benefit education, telehealth and economic development, especially in the underserved areas of our state. The first year has seen considerable success in reaching out to K-12 schools and securing strong consortium participation to help drive down the cost of transport circuits and internet service. A total of \$420 million has been directed towards the expansion with \$20 million in capital funding for the ICN. Of the total to be invested, \$50 million will be allocated in state grants and \$65 million in required non-state matching grants provided by the internet service providers. Link to the full [press release](#).



### CIO Council Discusses Federated Progress

DoIT CIOs gathered together virtually this week for updates on how DoIT is executing on a federated approach to serving agencies. Several projects were highlighted that exemplify the blending of enterprise solutions with the unique requirements of agency services to ultimately better serve our Illinois residents.

### DoIT FYIs and Reminders



Governor Pritzker issued a [Proclamation](#) honoring June 19<sup>th</sup> as Juneteenth in the state of Illinois. Dating back to June 19, 1865, Juneteenth celebrates the emancipation of those who have been enslaved in the United States. Governor Pritzker will work with the Illinois General Assembly to pass a law establishing Juneteenth as an official state holiday. Link to the [Press Release](#).

[2020 State Scoop 50 Awards](#) voting closes on Monday, June 29th. DoIT is well represented by many people and programs. Vote early and often!