

The deployment and adoption of high-speed internet services and information technology has resulted in enhanced economic development and public safety for Illinois' communities, improved healthcare and educational opportunities, and a better quality of life for the State's residents. Continued progress in the deployment and adoption of high-speed internet services and information technology is vital to ensuring that Illinois remains competitive and continues to create business and job growth.

The High-speed internet Services and Information Technology Act (Public Act 95-684) authorizes the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) to enlist a non-profit organization to implement a comprehensive, statewide high-speed internet deployment strategy and demand creation initiative. This strategy will encourage and support the partnership of public and private sectors in the continued growth of high-speed internet and information technology for the State's residents and businesses. *The goals of the Illinois high-speed internet deployment strategy include:*

- Ensuring that Illinois residents and businesses have access to affordable and reliable high-speed internet service;
- Improving technology literacy, computer ownership, and high-speed internet use among residents and businesses;
- Establishing local technology planning teams to plan for improved technology use;
- Establishing and sustaining an environment that facilitates high-speed internet access and technology investment.

Achieving the goals of this initiative will require a determined effort between the public and private stakeholders, with *The Partnership for a Connected Illinois, Inc.* as the coordinating entity. The lead public stakeholders in this initiative include the Governor's Office, DCEO, and the Illinois Broadband Deployment Council.

Under the name of Broadband Illinois *The Partnership for a Connected Illinois* is organized around the three areas of: data collection, improved internet access and adoption.

DATA COLLECTION – Broadband Illinois is responsible for developing an independently-verifiable statewide inventory and map of existing broadband services and capabilities. Industry-standard geographic information system tools are being used to assemble this data, which will be made available to the general public electronically via the Internet. Collecting this fundamental data will better enable broadband stakeholders to identify areas of need and opportunity.

IMPROVED INTERNET ACCESS – Our approach to improving high-speed internet access involves two major components. First, Broadband Illinois is in the process of establishing a network of regional *eTeams*. The job of each regional *eTeam* is to develop a technology growth plan that encompasses the current and future needs of all relevant sectors in the community.

Second, Broadband Illinois.org is working with high-speed internet providers and technology companies to encourage deployment and use, especially in underserved areas, by aggregating local demand in a way that will encourage providers to deploy.

ADOPTION – For Broadband Illinois, "adoption" is driven by the requirement to increase broadband awareness and use at all levels. Our Broadband Illinois capacity-building efforts are designed to inform governmental agencies, schools, libraries, healthcare facilities and businesses of the many uses of broadband. Broadband Illinois events are designed to convene broadband stakeholders throughout the state, including the Governor's Broadband Deployment Council and ARRA awardees of Federal broadband stimulus funding. Through convening these and other stakeholders, Broadband Illinois hopes to develop a statewide effort to improve broadband and to help make the case that **Better Broadband Leads to Better Lives.**



Impact. Broadband is the pathway to better lives in Illinois. Often referred to as high-speed internet, Broadband is the key to economic growth, improved medical care, educational opportunities and safer communities. Partnership for a Connected Illinois is working with public and private entities to bring Broadband to every corner of Illinois. Broadband investment will make Illinois competitive and improve our quality of life in the following ways:

Tele-Medicine and Tele-Healthcare



Broadband can save lives and lower costs by bringing specialists and medical monitoring equipment to your community and your home. Rural areas are benefiting from technological innovation.

Civic Engagement



Broadband can increase public access to government information and provide new ways for citizens to participate in their democracy and community.

Government Performance



From city hall to the U.S. Capitol, government can be more efficient and transparent, and better serve the American people by relying more on broadband.

Energy & the Environment



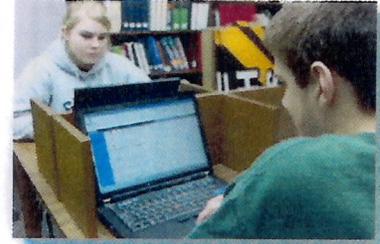
Broadband will bring next-generation energy solutions and unleash energy innovation in homes and businesses. Businesses and consumers will be able to reduce power consumption through a modernized power grid, thereby saving energy and helping the environment.

Public Safety



Broadband will help save lives and make our communities safer. Emergency personnel can respond more quickly and medical personnel can transmit vital information, thereby saving lives and making our communities safer.

Education



Broadband investment will help eliminate regional disparities in education and help Illinois lead the world in educational innovation by supporting 21st century teaching and learning. Our universities will have the capability to reach more students and lead the world in research.

Economic Opportunity



Broadband enables American businesses, workers and communities to think big and grow bigger. Investment in broadband makes our communities and state more attractive to companies that depend on technology. Broadband means new markets, new opportunities and more jobs!

broadbandillinois.org
- Connecting Illinois Communities -

Partnership for a Connected Illinois
413 West Monroe Street,
Springfield, IL 62704

Phone: 217-886-4228

E-mail: info@broadbandillinois.org



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Get Involved

Sign up to help improve broadband in your area and throughout Illinois.

- It's like to know more
- It'd like to be an volunteer

Sign up

We will send you information on ways you can get involved

Twitter

News Update: Missouri Telephone Co to receive \$22.8 million from the USDA for rural broadband expansion

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We are currently accepting applications for our Broadband Connect Illinois grant. Go to <http://www.broadbandconnectillinois.org> for more information. #BroadbandConnectIllinois #BroadbandConnect

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Better Broad Better Lives.

Partnership for a Connected Illinois

417 West Monroe Street
Springfield, IL 62702
Phone: (217) 388-4444
Fax: (217) 213-4544
www.broadbandillinois.org

Impact news

ECONOMY & JOBS

This week on the Illinois Channel: Graham Richard discusses broadband's impact on the economy of a community.

EDUCATION

This week on the Illinois Channel: SU President Glenn Fogel shares insights on how broadband may shape higher education in Illinois.

HEALTH

Connect Living

Program to get seniors online

ECONOMY & JOBS

Construction firm hired for broadband project

ECONOMY & JOBS

Library technology grants aimed at jobs

EDUCATION

ArtI

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Help get broadband in your area

We're recruiting volunteers to validate broadband speeds and coverage, organize local meetings, and publicize this effort where they live. [Learn more >](#)

Share why broadband is important to you

First name

Email address

ZIP code

(Optional) Share why broadband is important to you.

To see carriers, type an address or zip code above or click the map below (see bigger map).

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Connecting Illinois Communities

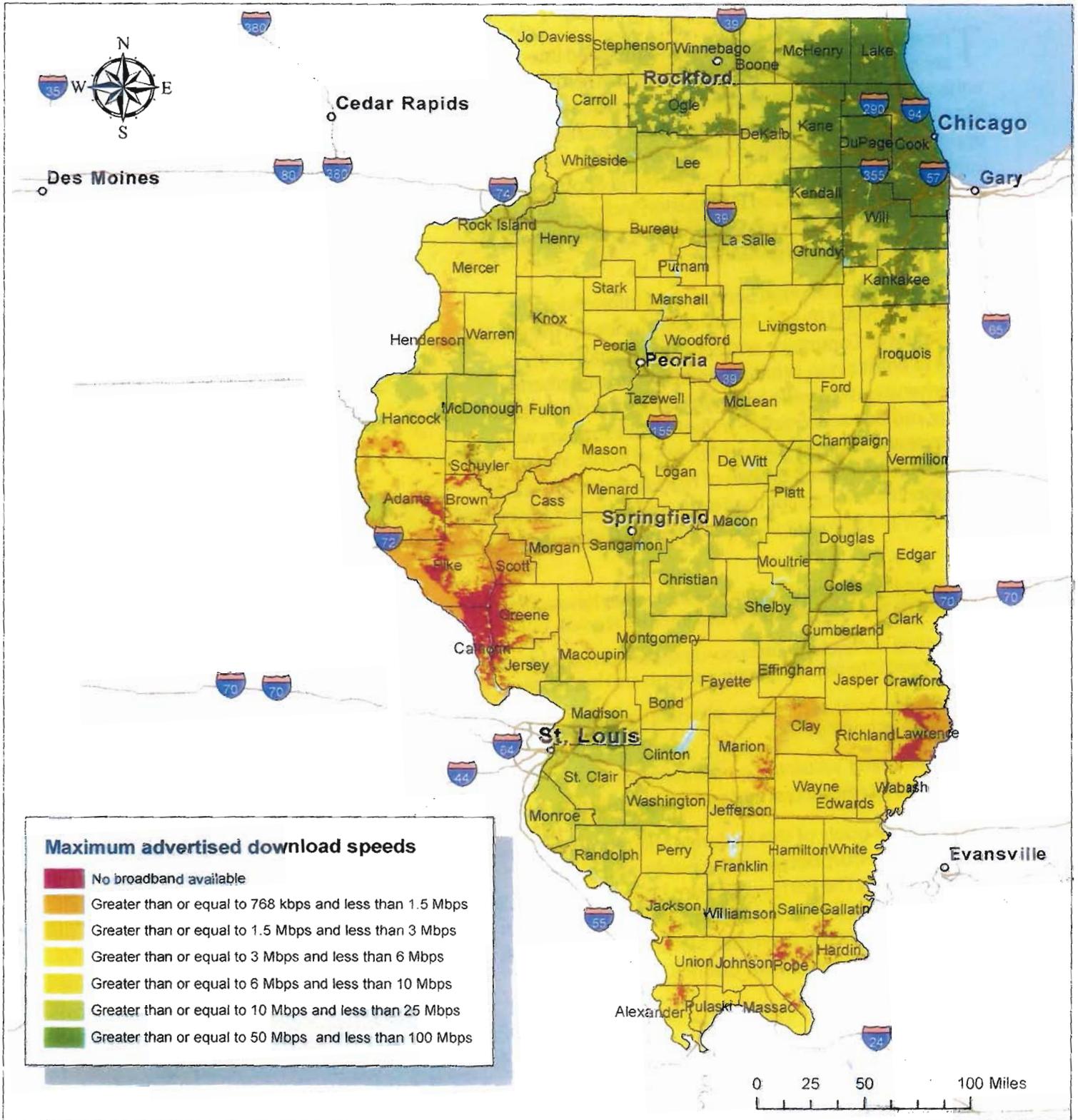
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Illinois Broadband Coverage



broadband



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