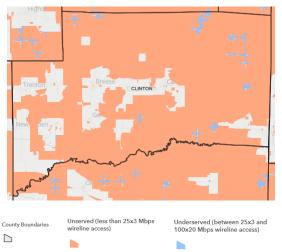
## Current Status of Broadband in Clinton County



Households with wireline broadband access

e Willinois Broadband Lab

#### **Broadband Availability**



#### (Cable, DSL, and Fiber technologies) 2,980 (20.9%) 613 (4.3%) 10,665 (74.8%) 0 Unserved (less than 25/3 Mbps) Underserved (between 25/3 & 100/20 Mbps)

Households with wireline + fixed wireless broadband access, but unconfirmed latency (speed): 141 (1%) households are unserved, 3,451 (24%) are underserved and 10,665 (75%) are served.

#### Illinois Office of Broadband Programs

The *Connect Illinois Broadband Grant Program* is a best-practice approach to combine federal, state, and local funds with provider match contribution – (1) to expand fully-scalable broadband access to homes, businesses, and community anchors most in need and (2) to ensure continued access well into the future.



#### **Collaborative Projects**

- Public<sup>1</sup> Wi-Fi hotspots: 3
- ACP enrollment rate<sup>2</sup>: 24 %
- Low-cost devices distributed (FY 2022): 5
- Illinois Connected Communities Grants: 1
- Accelerate Broadband Infrastructure Planning Program: 1
- READY lead: Southern Illinois University Edwardsville

- \$1.5B+ through State, ARPA, and IIJA to promote consistency, ensure efficiency & align *Rebuild Illinois*, *Capital Projects Fund*, and *BEAD* program funding
- 50+ communities engaged in local planning & capacity building support (Connected Communities, Accelerate Illinois & Broadband Breakthrough programs)
- Regional Engagement for Adoption + Digital Equity (READY) program for ongoing community & stakeholder support through inclusive regional teams
- **Connect Illinois Computer Equity Network** launched in 2020 to source, refurbish, and distribute computers to households in need throughout Illinois

Broadband Adoption Statistics (ACS 2021 5-year estimates)

- Smartphone dependent households: 7%
- Cellular Data dependent households: 9%
- Households without a computing device: 10%
- Households without an internet subscription: 14 %

Grant-funded Project	Impact <sup>4</sup>	Grant (\$)
SPECTRUM-CHARTER 4-HUEY	93 anchors	\$107,416

To learn more or to get involved, visit https://dceo.illinois.gov/connectillinois or contact broadband@Illinois.gov

3. Devices distributed by the Computer Equity Network & PCs for people statistics includes the number of devices distributed in the County

<sup>1.</sup> Confirmed institutional public Wi-Fi hotspots tracked beginning April 2020 as part of immediate pandemic response 2. ACP enrollment rate as of October 2022. Number of eligible households. ACP Eligible Households includes number of households at/below 200% of the Federal poverty level + those who receive Medicaid or govt medical assistance, Supplemental Security Income, Public Assistance, or SNAP benefits

# Federal BEAD and Digital Equity funding aligns with Connect Illinois programs, adding impact to existing work



Two new grant programs for states provide a generational opportunity to close the digital divide in Illinois!

### The Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program

- Allocates \$42.45B focused on broadband infrastructure deployment to all states
- Illinois is expected to receive an estimated \$1B+ on top of other funding sources
- States must prioritize funds for:
  - 1. Unserved service projects
  - 2. Underserved service projects
  - 3. Connecting community anchor institutions
  - 4. Installing Wi-Fi infrastructure within residential buildings
  - 5. Data collection
  - 6. Broadband adoption
- States must coordinate with local stakeholders in the planning process
- States must extend access to ALL unserved locations

Timeline	Feb 2023	Aug 2023	Dec 2023	Q4 2024
of BEAD	Launch Local	BEAD 5-Year	BEAD Initial Proposal Due	BEAD Final Proposal Due & Release of Full Funding
Program	Coordination & Planning Initiative	Action Plan Due		

## The Digital Equity Programs

- Provides \$2.75B for digital literacy, computer access, and internet adoption initiatives via formula-based and competitive grants to states
- Example use of funds:
  - Develop, implement, and oversee comprehensive digital equity plans
  - Make awards to other entities to help in developing digital equity plans
  - Improve the online accessibility and inclusivity of public resources
  - Implement digital equity plans and digital inclusion activities
  - Provide digital literacy and skills education to covered populations

Timeline	Feb 2023	Dec 2023	Q1 2024	Q4 2024
of DE Programs	Launch Local Coordination & Planning Initiative	DE Action Plan Due	State Capacity Grant Release	DE Competitive Grant Application Due

To learn more about local coordination, outreach, and engagement efforts for the statewide BEAD and Digital Equity planning, visit <u>https://broadband.uillinois.edu/</u>