Broadband READY

January 19, 2024

ILLINOIS BROADBAND LAB

BROADBAND READY 2024

January Call

AGENDA

- Welcome & READY Program Introduction - 5 min.
- Statewide Digital Equity Plan – 25 min.
  - Submitting Public Comments & Breakout – 10 min
- BEAD Mapping Challenge Process – 10 min.
- Questions & General Discussion – 10 min.

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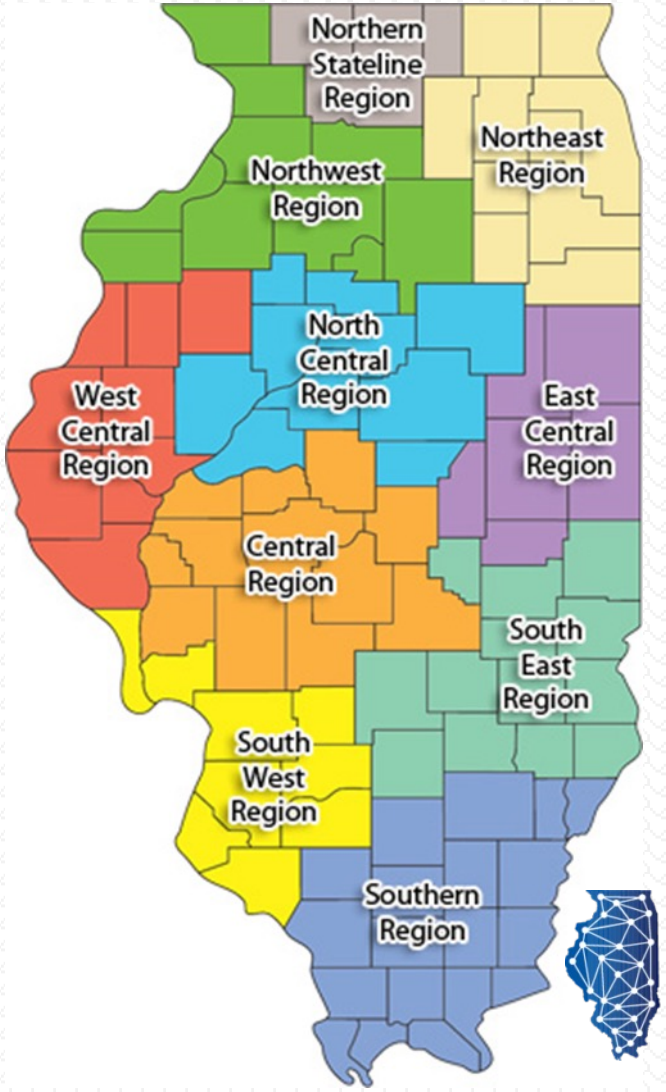
BROADBAND READY PROGRAM

Broadband Regional **E**ngagement & **A**doption for **D**igital Equity (**READY**)

- Broadband Regional Engagement for Adoption + Digital Equity (READY) grants are provided to qualified regional entities statewide to explore opportunities for equitable advances in the areas of broadband access, adoption, and utilization.
- The program is designed to identify current digital inequities as well as next steps in **creating a digital inclusion ecosystem through regional collaboration.**
  - Seeks to provide scalable solutions for broadband utilization across all 10 Illinois economic development regions.
- The program was designed as a forerunner to provisions included in the Digital Equity Act, signed into law as part of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, and serves as a foundation for Office of Broadband work in Digital Equity + Inclusion."



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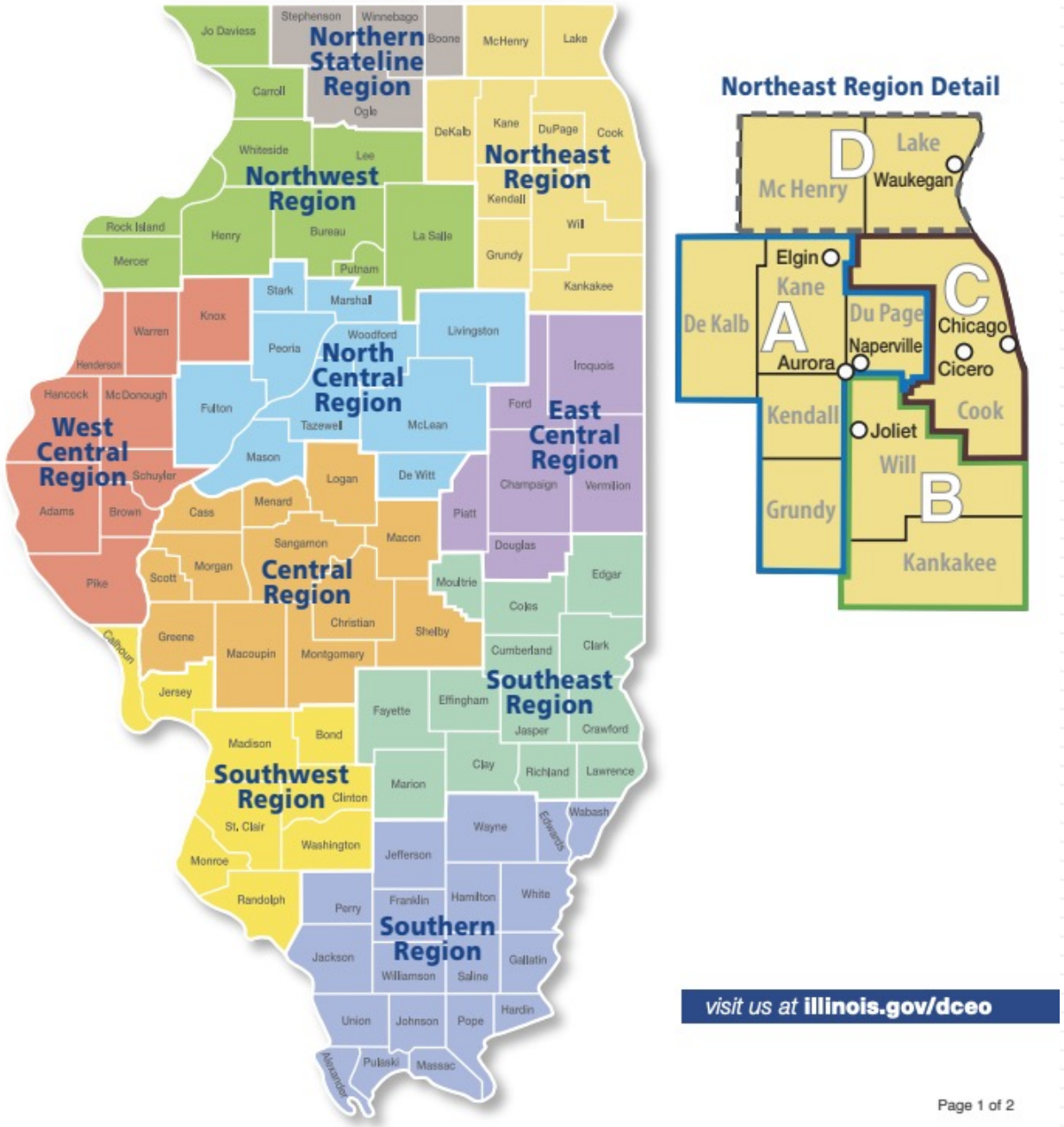


https://dceo.illinois.gov/content/dam/soi/en/web/dceo/smallbizassistance/regionspecificassistance/documents/ilecdevregionmap.pdf

•Region 1 (Central (12 counties)) - Cass, Christian, Greene, Logan, Macon, Macoupin, Menard, Montgomery, Morgan, Sangamon, Scott, Shelby Counties.

•Region 2 (East Central (6 counties)) - Champaign, Douglas, Ford, Iroquois, Piatt, Vermilion Counties.

•Region 3 (North Central (10 counties)) - De Witt, Fulton, Livingston, Mc Lean, Marshall, Mason, Peoria, Stark, Tazewell, Woodford Counties.

•Region 4 (Northeast (10 counties)) - Cook, De Kalb, Du Page, Grundy, Kane, Kankakee, Kendall, Lake, Mc Henry, Will Counties.

•Region 5 (Northern Stateline (4 counties)) - Boone, Ogle, Stephenson, Winnebago Counties.

•Region 6 (Northwest (10 counties)) - Bureau, Carroll, Henry, Jo Daviess, La Salle, Lee, Mercer, Putnam, Rock Island, Whiteside Counties.

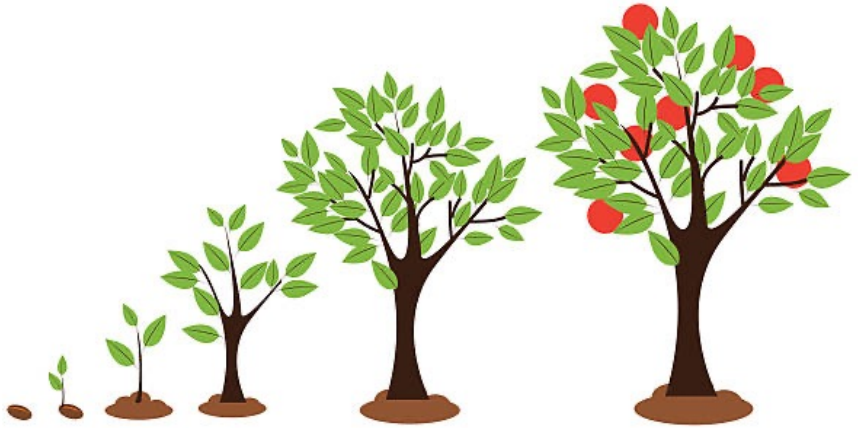
•Region 7 (Southeastern (13 counties)) - Clark, Clay, Coles, Crawford, Cumberland, Edgar, Effingham, Fayette, Jasper, Lawrence, Marion, Moultrie, Richland Counties.

•Region 8 (Southern (19 counties)) - Alexander, Edwards, Franklin, Gallatin, Hamilton, Hardin, Jackson, Jefferson, Johnson, Massac, Perry, Pope, Pulaski, Saline, Union, Wabash, Wayne, White, Williamson Counties.

•Region 9 (Southwestern (9 counties)) - Bond, Calhoun, Clinton, Jersey, Madison, Monroe, Randolph, St. Clair, Washington Counties.

•Region 10 (West Central (9 counties)) - Adams, Brown, Hancock, Henderson, Knox, Mc Donough, Pike, Schuyler, Warren Counties.

Scope of Work Drilldown



Meeting Attendance

- Monthly Statewide Cohort Meeting
- Monthly Regional Meeting
- (Suggested) Other IBL/State Calls & Programming (ACP, Digital Equity, Webinars)

Digital Equity Impact Project

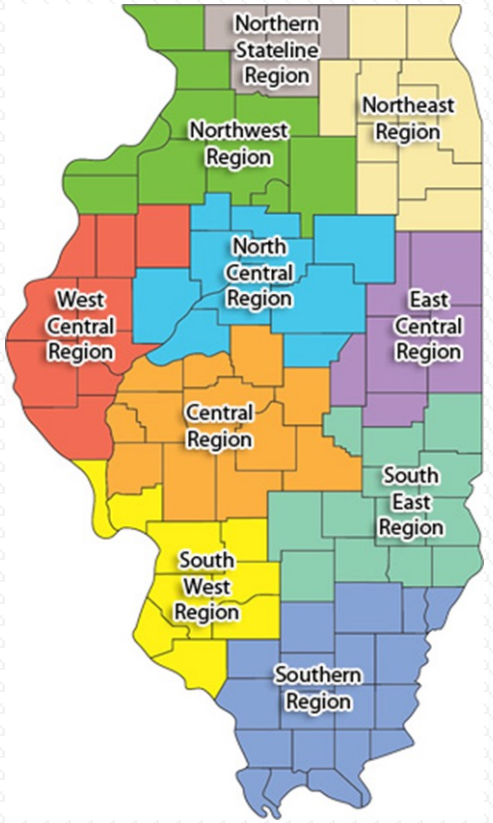
- Proposed Project
  - Developing Digital Literacy Curriculum
  - Wi-Fi Hotspot or Device Distribution
  - ACP Outreach Events & Other Affordability Initiatives

Regional Digital Equity Coalition Building

- Hosting a Regional Stop as Part of Reunion Tour for the State Digital Equity Plan **January 2024**
- Bi-directional Communication on State BEAD and DEA Implementation

BROADBAND READY
Meetings Calendar

- Meeting monthly with **Regional** READY team & IBL staff.
  - Example: Southwest Team meets First Wednesdays at 10am
- Meeting monthly with **Statewide Cohort READY program**
  - Third Fridays of the Month, 1-2pm
  - Next Meetings:
    - **Friday February 9h, 1-2pm**
      - *Note: Net Inclusion Conference Feb 13-15, 2024*
    - *March 15th, 1-2pm*
- Optional Team Leads: Meeting regularly for progress check-ins with Illinois Broadband Lab (IBL) READY program managers.
- Optional for All: Joining regular statewide broadband access and digital equity learning convenings (e.g. Statewide Digital Equity Coalition, ACP Outreach Call, Broadband Advisory Council meetings, IBL webinars, etc.).



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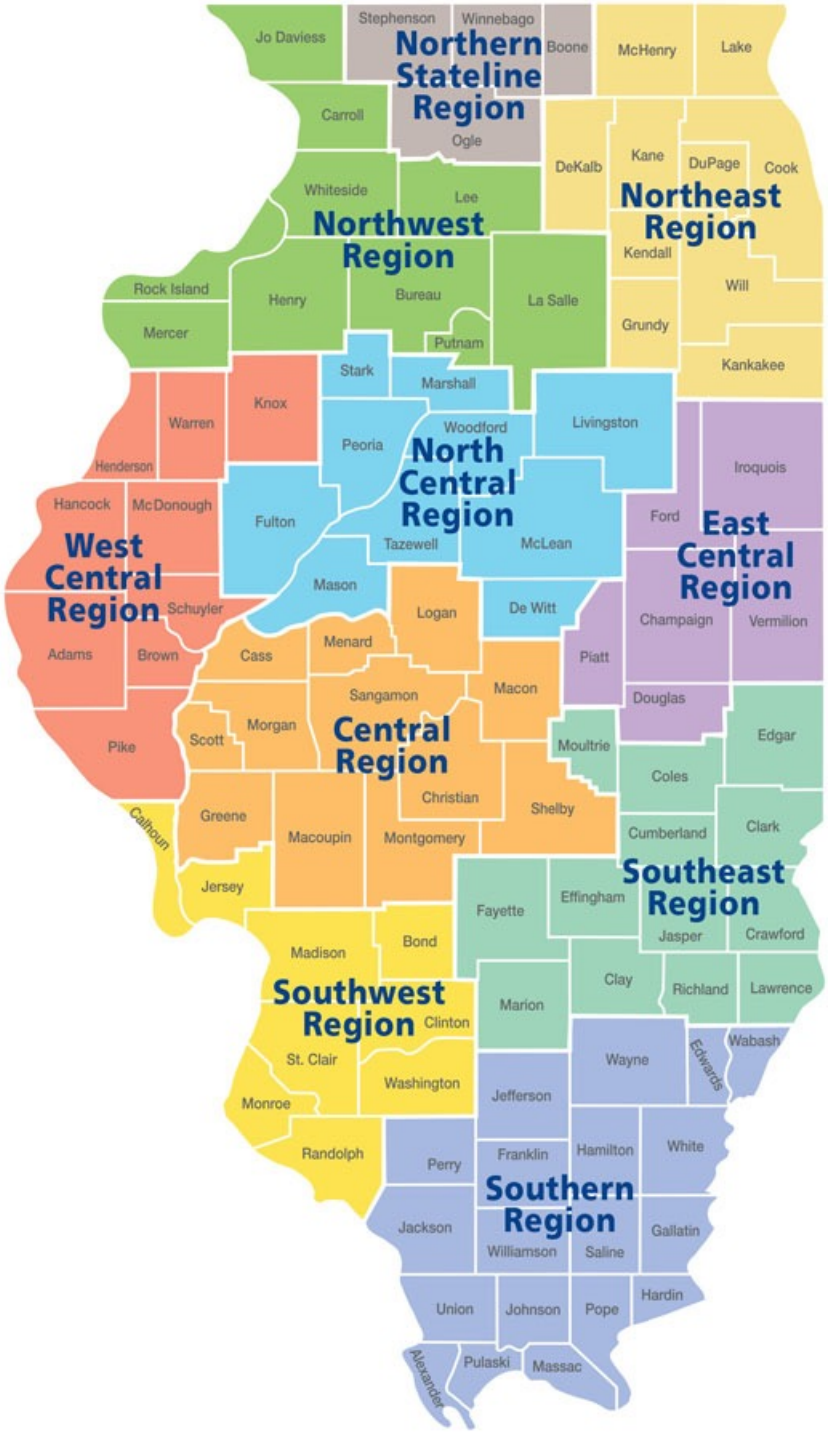
Regional Meeting Times

- Central (UIS) | 1st Wednesday 1-2pm
  - Feb 7 | 1-2pm
- East Central (UIUC) | 1st Thursdays 3-4pm
  - Feb 1* | 3-4pm (though Jan 30 in-person meeting)
- North Central (ISU) | 2nd Friday 11-12pm
  - Feb 9* | 11-12pm
- Northeast, Northern Stateline, Northwest | 2nd Tuesday 2-3pm
  - TBD
- Southeast (EIU)| 3rd Monday 2-3pm
  - Feb 25* | 2-3pm
- Southern (SIU-Carbondale) | 1st Monday 9-10am
  - Feb 5 | 9-10 am
- Southwest (SIU-Edwardsville) | 1st Wednesdays 10-11am
  - Feb 7 | 10-11am
- West Central (WIU) | 2nd Monday 1-2pm
  - Feb 12 | 1-2pm

*Subject to change due to conflicts



Illinois Broadband Lab
Meetings Calendar

ILLINOIS BROADBAND LAB

- ACP Outreach – Monthly Call
  - 3rd Thursday 11-12pm
  - Next Call: Feb 21 | 11-12pm
- Illinois Monthly Digital Equity Updates (Formerly: Statewide Digital Equity Call)
  - 1st Fridays 1-2pm
  - Next Call: Feb 2, 2024 | 1-2pm
- Chicago ACP Meeting
- Chicago Digital Equity Coalition
- Illinois Broadband Advisory Council (Quarterly Meetings)

Questions? Email: IllinoisBroadbandLab@Uillinois.edu

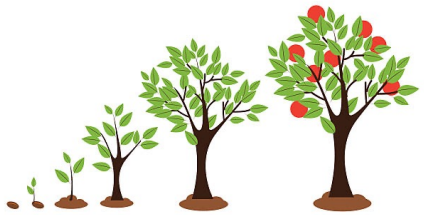
BROADBAND READY PROGRAM

Short-Term (Now-Feb 2023)

- Establish Team Leads & Rosters, & Meeting Schedule
- Complete Grant Agreements
  - Signed MOUs or IGAs
  - Budget
  - Scope of Work
- Reunion Tour Participation (Jan)
  - Date, Time, Location
  - **Outreach assistance, regional engagement**

Mid-Term (March – June 2024)

- Enact/Progress Digital Equity Impact project
- Grow Your Team
  - County & Regional Collaboration
- Participate in select programming with other IBL programs through statewide, regional, or sub-regional convenings
- Data gathering around Digital Dashboard & Digital Equity Asset Mapping



BROADBAND READY
Regional Roster Construction

- READY Team Leads
  - READY Team Lead – Principal Investigator
  - Co-Principal Investigator
  - Digital Navigator or Lead for America Fellow
- Regional Economic Development
  - Regional Planning Council Member
  - Illinois Extension Member
  - DCEO Team RED Member

- IBL/IOB Program Participant
  - *Illinois Connected Communities*
  - *Accelerate Illinois*
    - *Broadband Breakthrough*
  - *Connect Illinois Infrastructure Grant Program Recipient*
- Sector-Specific
  - Education Member
  - Health Member
  - Agriculture Member
  - Business Member
  - Library Member
  - Housing Member
  - Covered Populations Representative
  - Workforce Development Member

Draft State Digital Equity Plan has been released!

https://dceo.illinois.gov/connectillinois/federal-broadband.html

Digital Equity Plan Discussion Friday January 5

Today's Agenda

= Group Discussion & Recharge

Introductions

State Digital Equity Plan

- Unpacking the Plan
- Regional Findings
- Breakout & Discussion

- Submitting Comments

BEAD Challenge Process

Regional Updates & READY

Closing

- Announcements & General Discussion

Digital Equity is the condition in which individuals and communities have **sustained access and the capabilities for productive use** of information technology that is needed for full participation in the society and economy of the United States

Digital equity is the target outcome of federal broadband funding

"Digital equity is necessary for civic and cultural participation, employment, lifelong learning, and access to essential services."

A stakeholder engagement process that includes underrepresented populations is required to access funds

"Achieving digital equity is a matter of social and economic justice and is worth pursuing."

Background: The Digital Equity Act of 2021 provides funding across two digital equity programs

Created by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, the Digital Equity Act Programs provide funding to promote digital inclusion and advance equity for all

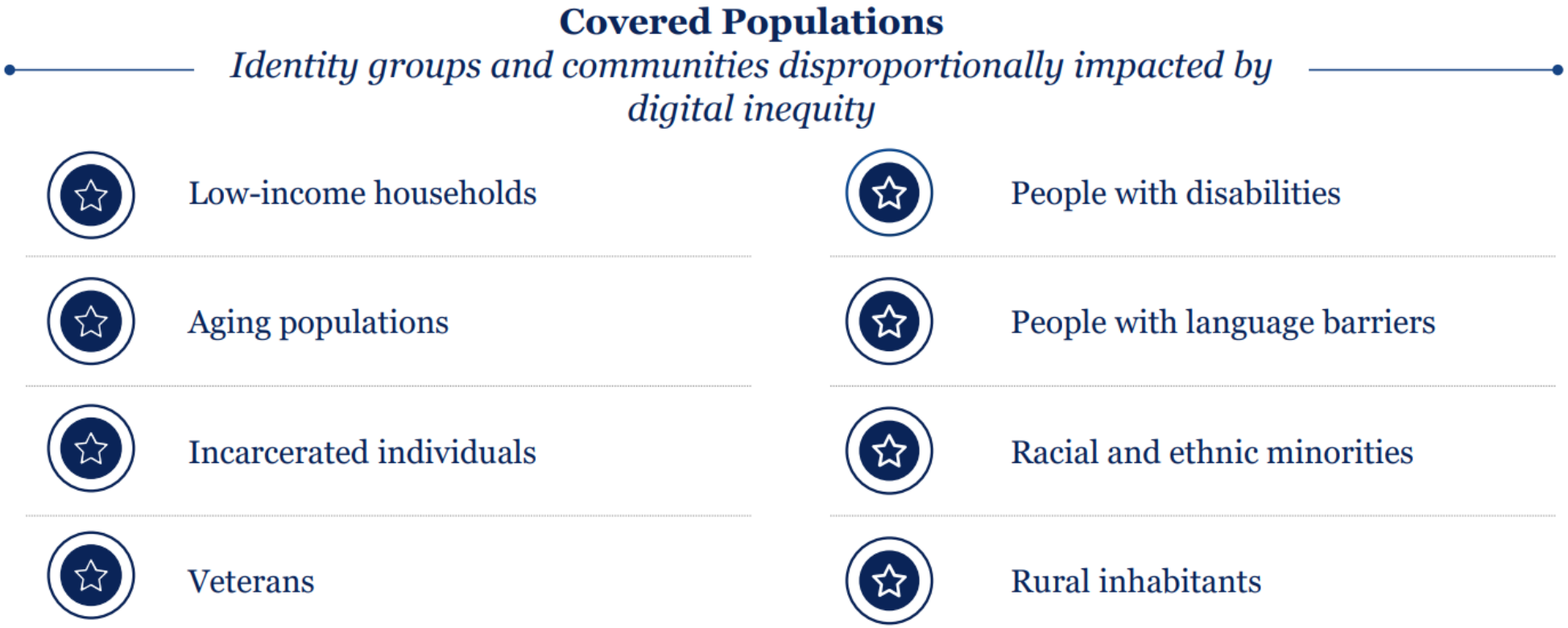
Funding program	Description	Primary focus	Project funding administered by	Timeline
1. Digital Equity State Capacity Grant Program	**~$1.44B[1]** In funding for digital inclusion plans activities	Executing the State Digital Equity Plan (SDEP) by implementing digital equity initiatives (e.g., access to digital literacy training)	State governments	Applications in early-mid 2024
2. Digital Equity Competitive Grant Program	**~$1.25B[2]** In funding to promote digital inclusion and broadband adoption activities	Facilitating digital inclusion activities (e.g., workforce development programs) as well as broadband adoption and affordability that benefits covered populations	Federal government (NTIA)	Applications in mid-late 2024

State of IL expects to receive $30M to $35M from the Digital Equity State Capacity Grant Program[3]

1. ~$1.5B allocated in total for the DE State Capacity Grant Program; $60M for State Planning Grants (FY22), and $1.44B for State Capacity Grants (FY22 – FY26); 2. <= 10% of fund towards evaluation activities; <= 10% towards administration activities; 3. Estimated based on award formula outlined in Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (US Senate H.R. 3684, Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act)

Source: US Senate H.R. 3684, Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act

The Digital Equity Act of 2021 identifies eight “Covered populations”



Covered populations have **historically been unable to fully engage in the digital economy—**gaps in broadband adoption and device access persist between covered populations and their non-covered peers

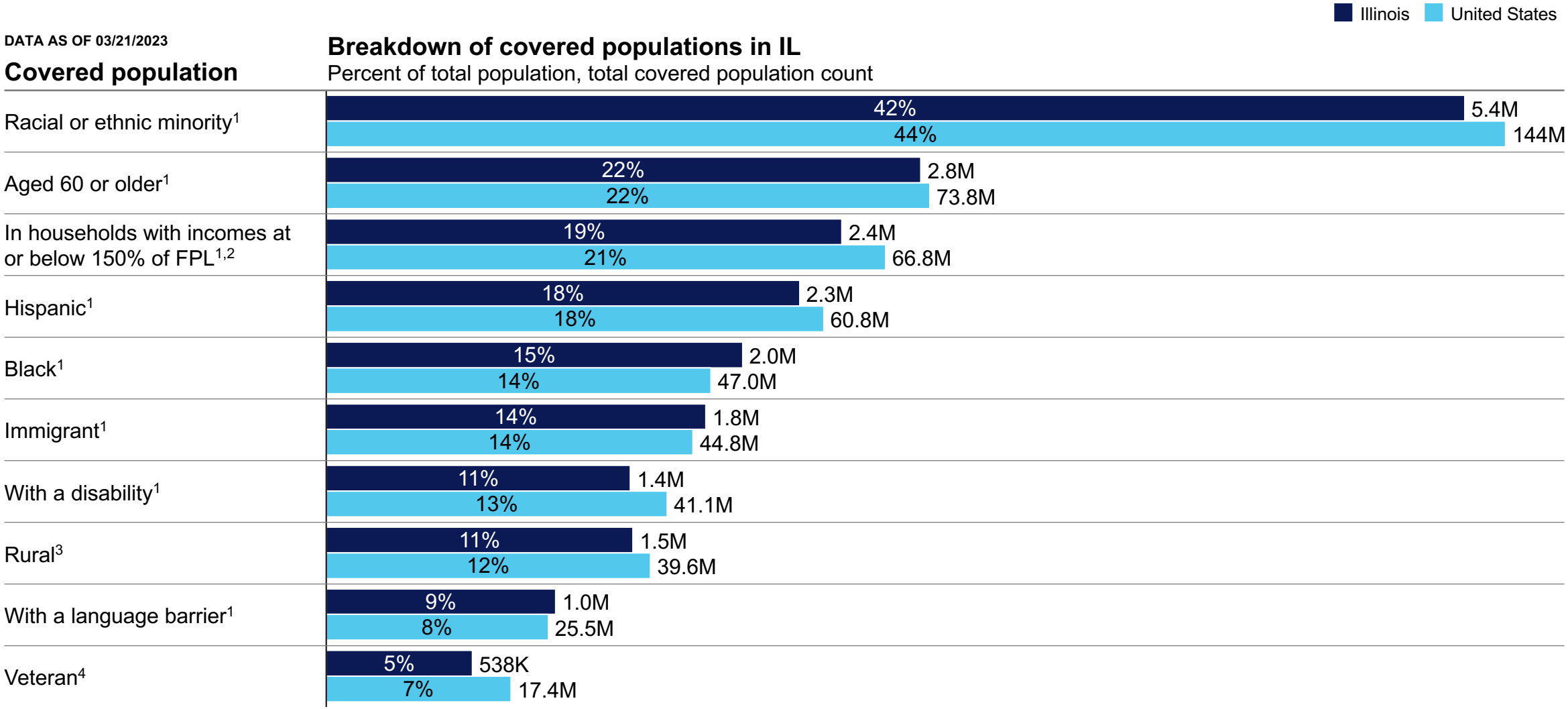
*Adopted from NTIA

Breakdown of covered populations in IL compared to national averages: ~5.4M (42%) racial or ethnic minorities and ~2.7M (21%) below 150% of the federal poverty line

DATA AS OF 03/21/2023

Breakdown of covered populations in IL

Percent of total population, total covered population count



1. US Census 2021 ACS 5-year data (Table DP05); Digital Equity Act Population Viewer ; 2. Federal Poverty Line; 3. US Census 2021 ACS 5-year data, Based on OMB; 4. definition of rural: a “micro area (urban core of 10,000-49,999 people)” or a county “outside of a metro or micro areas“; 5. US Census 2021 ACS 5-year data (Table DP02), Based on the total civilian population over 18 years and over

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The listening tour spanned all 10 regions and engaged 1250+ stakeholders

Sessions were held across the state from March to June 2023

Residents

24 in-person listening sessions[1]

2 webinars

Local Organizations & Non-Profits

22 in-person listening sessions[2]

2 webinars[2]

Local Government

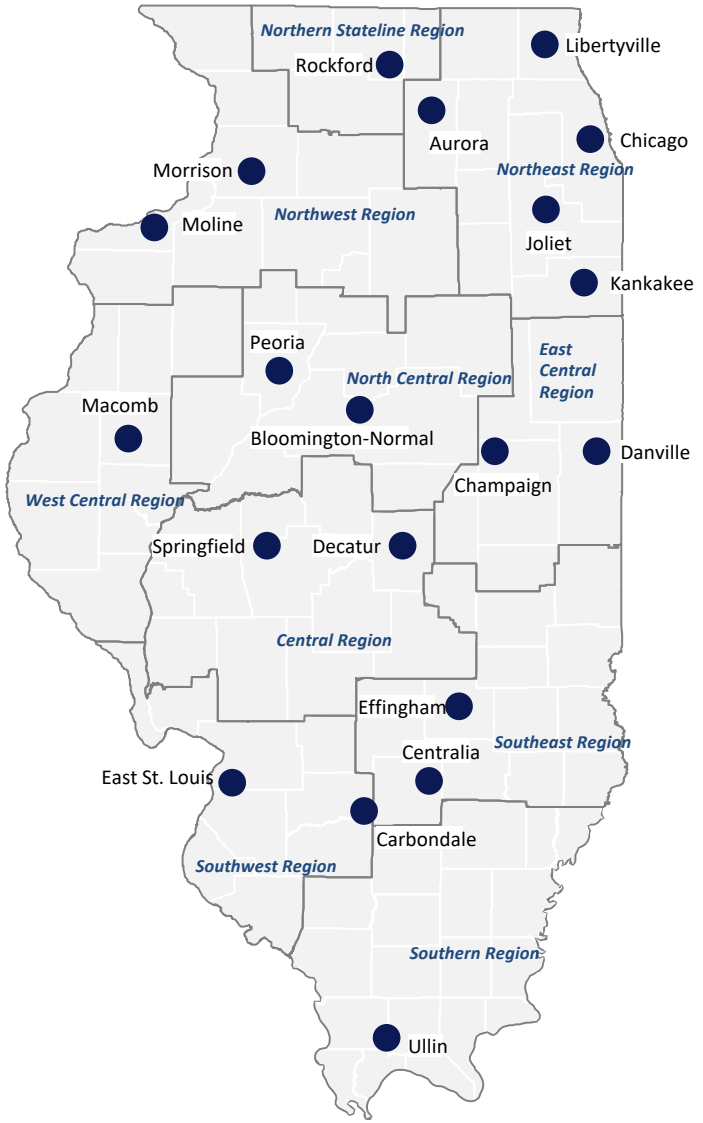
19 in-person listening sessions

2 webinars

Internet Service Providers

Numerous listening sessions

2 webinars



1256

attendees

1168 for in-person sessions

88 for virtual sessions

40+

organizations represented

55+

listening sessions[1]

20 cities visited

1 Includes 18 combined resident and local organization sessions
2 Includes the follow-up session with the Northwest Center Digital Coaches

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Listening tour findings, plus data analysis and research, led to the draft State Digital Equity Plan

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) requires each state to develop a digital equity plan, which will inform how the State Capacity grant program is crafted

- The State Digital Equity Plan, or “SDEP”, must align with certain **requirements from NTIA**
- It includes…
  - Findings and takeaways from the listening tours
  - Results from an asset mapping exercise
  - Goals
  - Strategies to achieve these goals
- NTIA requires every state to accept public comment on the plan
  - **Public comment period is open through January 31, 5 pm CT**
  - To submit a comment, visit: go.illinois.edu/DEPlanComments
- Following public comment, the state will **review and respond** to all comments, **incorporate** feedback in the plan, and submit to NTIA by Feb. 13th

Digital Equity Plan Guiding Principles

Strive for Equity Beyond Just Digital

Ensuring everyone has opportunities that meet their individualized needs.

Empower Communities

Using an inclusive and collaborative approach led by those most impacted.

Stay Accountable to the Vision and the Community

Using well-defined measures for success and transparent reporting

Deliver innovative solutions

Incorporating best practices and novel ideas

Focus on Community Benefits

Focusing on creating opportunities and dismantling barriers

Plan for Sustainability

Bridging short-term impact and long-term sustainable efforts

Source: Benton Institute Visions for Digital Equity Principles; IBL team

Birdseye View:
Digital Equity Plan Section Overview

Key sections	Subsections
1. **Executive Summary**	
2. **Introduction and Vision for Digital Equity**	• Vision • Alignment with Existing Efforts to Improve Outcomes • Goals and Objectives
3. **Current State of Broadband and Digital Inclusion**	• Asset Inventory • Needs Assessment
4. **Collaboration and Stakeholder Engagement**	• Coordination and Outreach Strategy
5. **Implementation**	• Implementation Strategy and Key Activities • Timeline
6. **Conclusion**	

Notes: Excludes Appendices

go.illinois.edu/SDEP

Vision for Digital Equity (Section 2)

Connect Illinois seeks to:

Ensure universal access to high-speed broadband that is affordable, reliable, and fully scalable for residences, businesses, and community anchor institutions (CAIs) across Illinois.

Leverage new and existing resources for adoption through targeted digital inclusion strategies and sustainable broadband equity outcomes to help communities identify and address existing broadband equity gaps

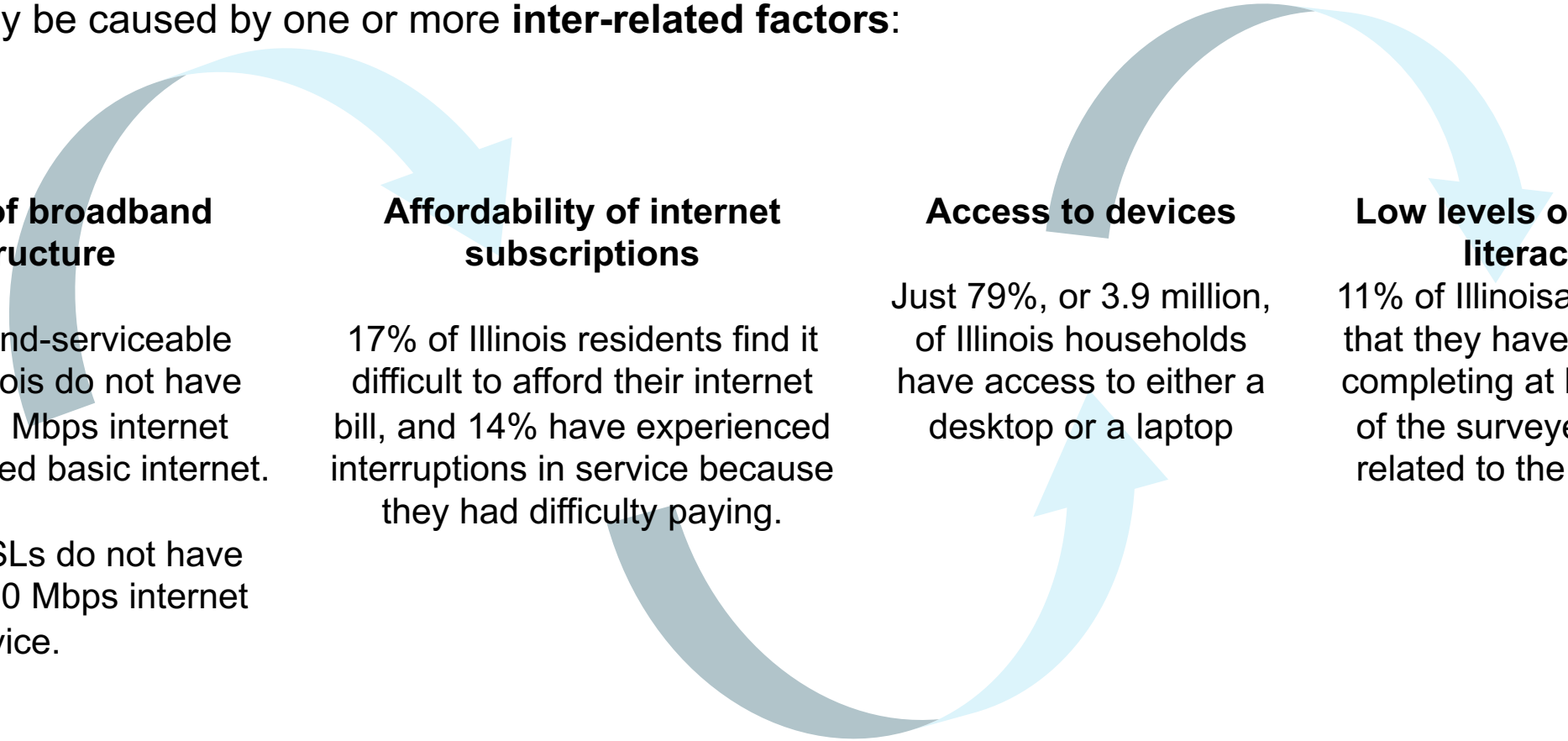
Empower all Illinoisans to utilize and participate fully in an increasingly digital economy and society.

(Page 13-14)

Current State of Broadband and Digital Inclusion (Section 3)

Today, 2.9 million Illinois residents in 1.3 million households lack a subscription to high-speed internet in their homes.

This gap may be caused by one or more **inter-related factors**:



Availability of broadband infrastructure

5% of broadband-serviceable locations in Illinois do not have access to 25/3 Mbps internet service, considered basic internet.

Some 4% of BSLs do not have access to 100/20 Mbps internet service.

Affordability of internet subscriptions

17% of Illinois residents find it difficult to afford their internet bill, and 14% have experienced interruptions in service because they had difficulty paying.

Access to devices

Just 79%, or 3.9 million, of Illinois households have access to either a desktop or a laptop

Low levels of digital literacy

11% of Illinoisans report that they have difficulty completing at least one of the surveyed tasks related to the internet

Summary statistics on broadband metrics and covered populations across the 10 regions of Illinois

Legend[1]

- Top 2 highest proportions
- Above population median
- Below population median

	Broadband metrics			Share of each covered population as a proportion of total regional population							
	Unserved	Broad-band adoption[1]	Access to devices	Income less 150% of FPL	Aging ind. (60+)	Veterans	Ind. with disabili-ties	Ind. with low English literacy	Racial & ethnic minorities[2]	Immi-grants	Rural
Northeast	1%	**76%**	**94%**	18%	21%	3%	10%	**42%**	**56%**	**19%**	0%
Northern Stateline	2%	**68%**	91%	23%	25%	6%	14%	15%	**30%**	8%	10%
Northwest	6%	63%	91%	20%	**28%**	6%	14%	10%	19%	4%	36%
North Central	6%	67%	92%	20%	24%	5%	12%	6%	16%	4%	24%
East Central	8%	65%	**92%**	**24%**	22%	5%	11%	**15%**	25%	**8%**	22%
Central	9%	63%	90%	21%	26%	6%	14%	4%	14%	2%	44%
West Central	6%	60%	87%	23%	**27%**	6%	15%	4%	11%	2%	46%
Southeast	**24%**	58%	90%	22%	26%	6%	**16%**	4%	6%	1%	**100%**
Southern	**23%**	49%	87%	**26%**	26%	7%	**19%**	5%	11%	2%	**67%**
Southwest	8%	**68%**	91%	18%	24%	**8%**	14%	4%	22%	2%	23%
Illinois average	**5%**	**72%**	**93%**	**19%**	**22%**	**5%**	**11%**	**9%**	**45%**	**14%**	**11%**

1. For broadband adoption and devices access: darkest color indicates lowest proportions, middle color indicates below state average, and light grey indicates above state average
2. Includes Black or African American, American Indian and Alaskan Native, Asian, Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander, Some other race, Two or more races, and Hispanic populations

Covered populations excluded: Justice-impacted individuals, LGBQT+ individuals, women, and rural residents; Units used for analysis: BSLs: unserved; Households: broadband adoption and access to devices; Individuals: all covered populations; Source: US Census 2021 ACS 5-Year, FCC Maps

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Across all regions, several key themes emerged that informed the Plan

AS SHARED BY PARTICIPANTS ACROSS LISTENING TOUR SESSIONS

Category	Topics	Insights from Listening Sessions
Deployment	Barriers related to geography and outdated technology	Residents shared that **outdated broadband infrastructure** can limit their access to reliable internet service, particularly in rural communities
	Financial and regulatory barriers	Residents and local organizations shared that providers regularly encounter barriers that can **disincentivize their expansion of broadband infrastructure**
	Competitive landscape	Many residents underscored the **lack of ISP competition in their communities** (e.g., only a single available provider), emphasizing the lack of customer agency over quality and price in a single-provider market
Access	Insufficient internet speeds and inconsistent service	Residents and local organizations emphasized that **limited bandwidth and latency issues can compound when multiple devices are online** – constraining daily activities

Source: Statewide listening tour

Across all regions, several key themes emerged that informed the Plan

AS SHARED BY PARTICIPANTS ACROSS LISTENING TOUR SESSIONS

Category	Topics	Insights from Listening Sessions
Affordability	Subscription and device affordability concerns	Residents and local organizations shared that **current broadband subsidies can be insufficient for underserved communities** and many residents who are eligible are still unaware of the programs Many – across residents, local orgs and ISPs -- **expressed concern that ACP may not last**, and are worried about the impact on families
Digital Equity	Lack of robust digital literacy programs and networks	Residents and local organizations underscored that **digital literacy programs can be insufficient for residents' daily technical needs**
	Constraints on economic growth and upward mobility	Residents shared that the lack of reliable internet can significantly **constrain economic activities and development opportunities** for both businesses and residents

Source: Statewide listening tour

Measures to ensure a sustainable, effective plan (1/2) (Section 4)

Strive to secure annual federal funding for the state:
Ensure annual fulfillment of the requirements of the Digital Equity Capacity Grant program

Identify and apply for other federal grants:
Build additional programs and expand impact beyond the State Digital Equity Capacity Grant

Work with local digital equity leaders to support action:

Obtain insight of experienced experts to ensure good use of funding and impact.

Partner with local organizations that have established relationships with covered populations:

Understand the importance of trust in digital equity work and leverage the influence of trusted organizations.

Source: Illinois State Digital Equity Plan

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Measures to ensure a sustainable, effective plan (2/2)

Encourage partners to provide matching funds in grant applications:

Ensure the longevity of individual programs by expanding the number of entities that have an interest in the program's success

Maintain and grow public-private partnerships:

Expand available resourcing and enhance the potential impact of the state's digital equity efforts

Consider offering low-interest loans:

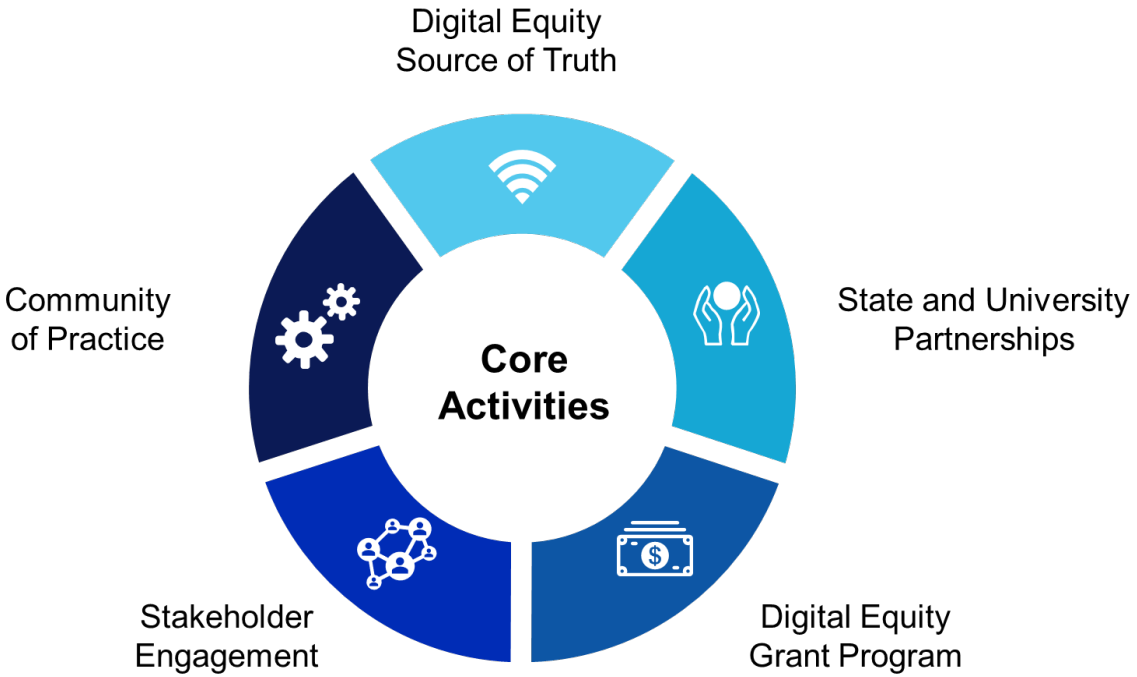
The IOB is considering this financing structure in addition to traditional grant awards to provide regenerative funding that can support even more programs across the state

Provide technical assistance to grantees:
Support grantees in troubleshooting and addressing challenges community organizations face to enable greater impact

Source: Illinois State Digital Equity Plan

Implementation (Section 5)

Achieving digital equity in Illinois will ultimately result from the collaborative work of thousands of leaders, practitioners, researchers, and program designers across the state, with guidance from experts across the nation.

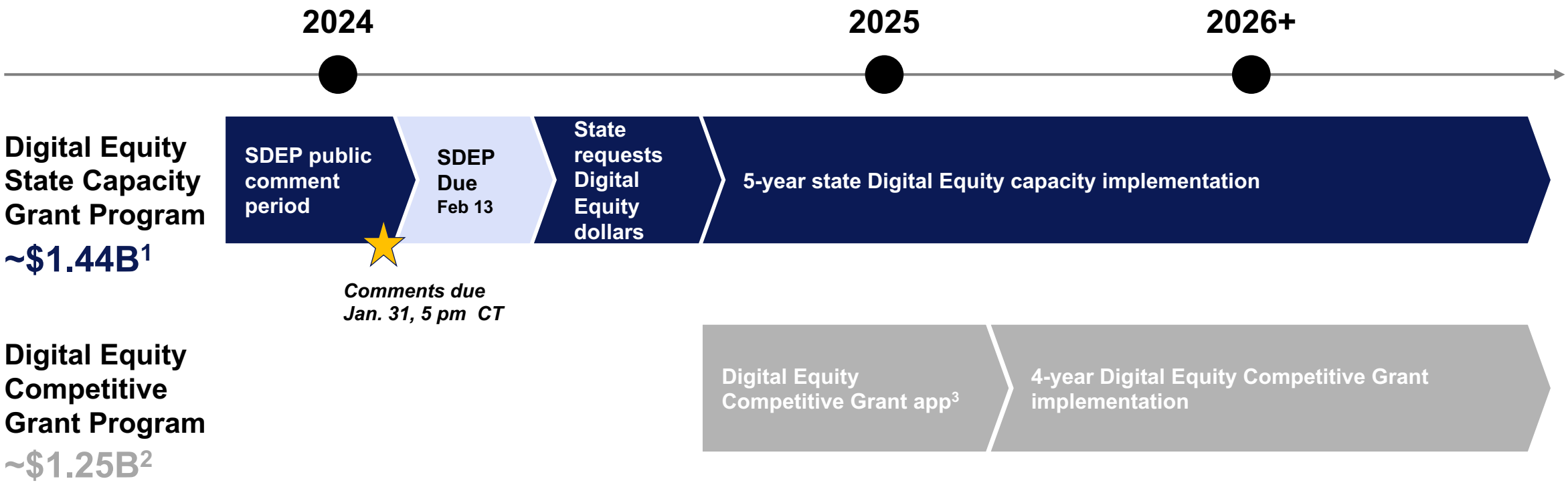


How we'll execute on these plans:

- ✓ Maintain and make available an Illinois digital equity data sets to serve as the common source of truth
- ✓ Lead select statewide programming and university partnerships
- ✓ Execute a state-wide digital equity grant program
- ✓ Conduct ongoing stakeholder outreach and engagement
- ✓ Support and sustain a digital equity community of practice

The state plans to submit the State Digital Equity Plan (SDEP) by Feb 13th – funds for implementation could be received in the Q4 2024

Timeline for Digital Equity Grant Programs



State of IL expects to receive $30M to $35M from the Digital Equity State Capacity Grant Program[4]

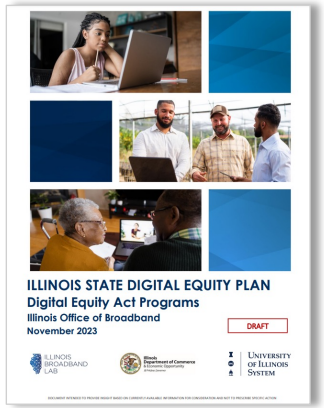
1. ~$1.5B allocated in total for the DE State Capacity Grant Program; $60M for State Planning Grants (FY22), and $1.44B for State Capacity Grants (FY22 – FY26); 2. <= 10% of fund towards evaluation activities; <= 10% towards administration activities; 3. Competitive grant program launches within one month of first capacity awards; 4. Estimated based on award formula outlined in Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (US Senate H.R. 3684, Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act)

Source: Digital Equity Act Programs Overview, US Senate H.R. 3684, Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act

State Digital Equity Plan

How you can weigh in

The State Digital Equity Plan is available for public comment until January 31, 2024

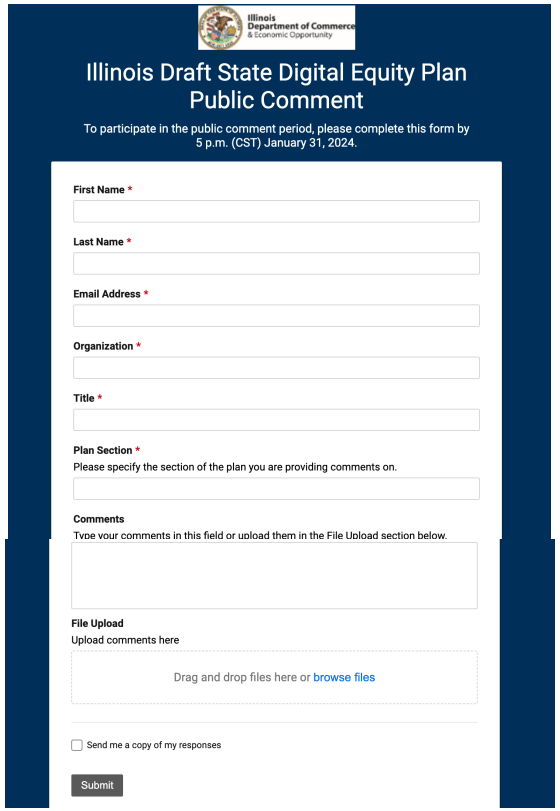


The SDEP is available to view at:

go.illinois.edu/SDEP

Public comments may be submitted at:

go.illinois.edu/DEPlanComments

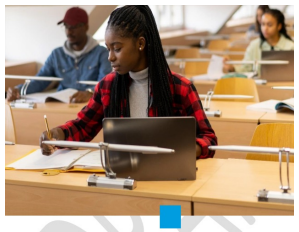


Tips

- Complete every field
- Identify which section your comment is applicable to
- Can provide criticisms & compliments (all feedback is good feedback).
- Due January 31, 2024 at 5 pm CT

1 Executive Summary

2 Introduction and Vision for Digital Equity



3 Current State of Broadband and Digital Inclusion

4 Collaboration and Stakeholder Engagement

5 Implementation

6 Conclusion

Public Comment Tips and Tricks

Suggestions to keep in mind:

- ✓ Support your comment with **substantive data, facts, and stories of lived experience**.
- ✓ **Identify the section number** within the DE Plan that you are commenting on
- ✓ Make **clear and concise** comments (there is no word limit
- ✓ **Suggest an alternative** if you disagree with an aspect and include an explanation and/or analysis of how the alternative might meet the same objective or be more effective.
- ✓ Include **pros, cons and trade-offs** in your comment. Consider different perspectives and respond with your own point of view with examples of how the proposal would impact your life and work.

Breakout Session

Public comments may be submitted at:

go.illinois.edu/DEPlanComments

10 minutes, Open Format

Guiding Questions

1. How will the takeaways from this presentation and the State Digital Equity Plan impact your work serving Illinoisans?
   - What's most important for you and/or the communities you serve? (infrastructure, literacy, adoption, affordability…)

2. What section do you plan to engage with further during the public comment process?
   - What do you like? What's missing?

What is the goal of the Broadband Equity Access and Deployment (BEAD) Program?

The BEAD Program awarded Illinois $1.04 billion to connect all unserved and underserved locations to broadband over the next 5 years

Ensure universal broadband coverage in the state, using fiber wherever possible

Prioritize access for unserved & underserved locations, community anchor institutions, and Wi-Fi equipment for MDUs[2]

Select sub-grantees to implement broadband within one year, and complete implementation within four years[3]

Improve broadband affordability through a low-cost broadband service option and middle-class affordability plan[4]

1. Page 14 of BEAD NOFO, on the definition of Priority Broadband Project
2. Page 33 of BEAD NOFO, on the allocation of grant funds
3. Page 65 of BEAD NOFO, on deployment deadlines and benchmarks
4. Page 42-46 of BEAD NOFO, on inclusion of affordability in the BEAD scoring criteria

Source: BEAD NOFO

Overview of Illinois Broadband Map Challenge Process

What is the purpose of the challenge process?

- Ensure the state's broadband map accurately reflects your home or organization's access to broadband
- Inform which locations are eligible for funding

Who can submit challenges?

- Units of local government, non-profit organizations, and internet service providers can submit challenges
- Individuals can participate through local governments or non-profits

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What can be challenged?

Each **location displayed on the map** can be challenged if characteristics such as availability, speed, or latency are **not correctly listed**

When will the challenge process be held?

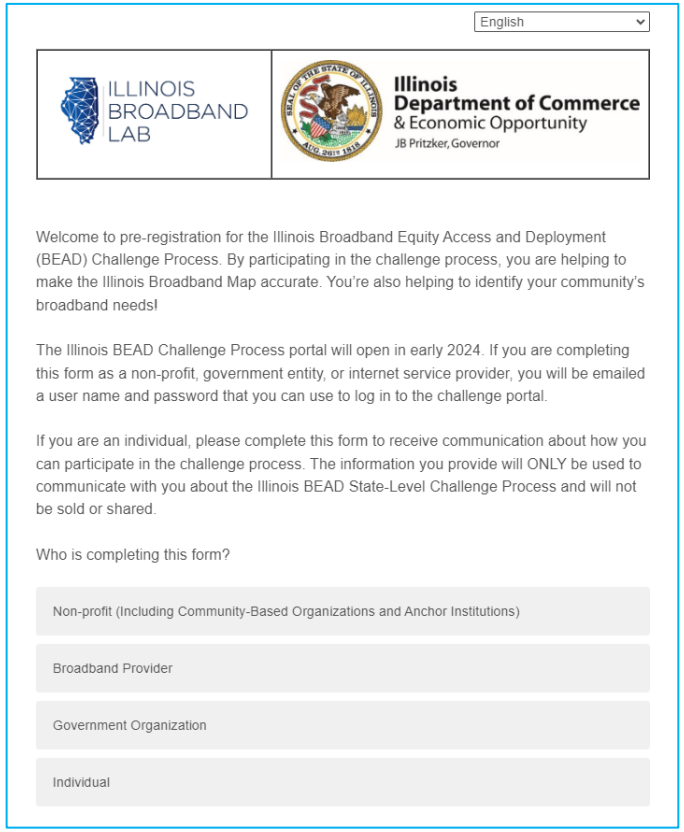
The challenge process will **start in the coming few weeks** and run for 2-4 weeks

Source: NTIA Challenge Process Guidance, Connect Illinois BEAD Initial Proposal Vol 1: Public Comment Draft

What will the challenge process look like?

Step 1:

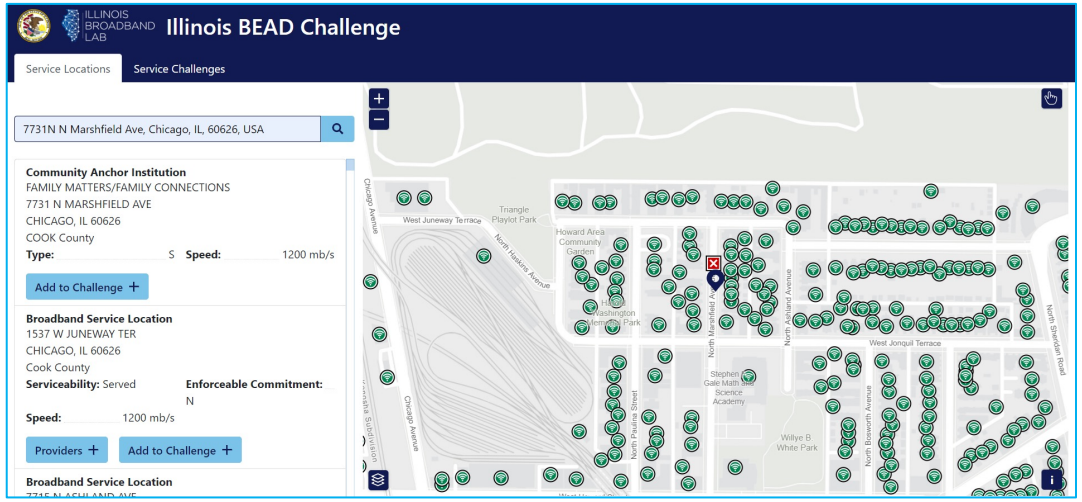
Pre-register



Now!

Step 2:

Select location or area to challenge on the map



January 22*

Step 3:

Submit evidence of challenge in the portal

Coming soon

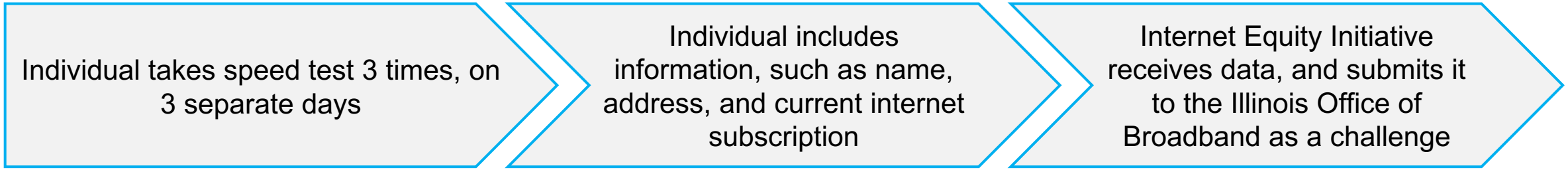
January 29*

**Dates pending final approval of Initial Proposal Volume I from NTIA*

How can individuals participate in the challenge process?

- Only eligible entities may submit challenges directly, including:
  - Non-profit organizations
  - Local government entities
  - Internet service providers
- **However, these entities can also submit challenges on behalf of individuals**
- A local non-profit called the Internet Equity Initiative, based out of the University of Chicago, has developed a tool that can be used by individuals to test their speed and latency, and then be submitted as a challenge

How it works:



Only you know what internet quality you get in your home, and communities where your experience may be different than what's reflected on the map. The more community members who participate, the more we understand broadband need and can ensure funding goes to where it's needed most.

Your role as a trusted local organization

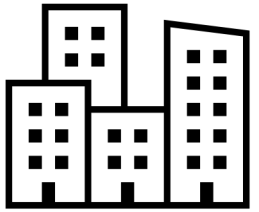
What you can do to empower residents to participate

We want to equip you to bring this information to members of your community, educate them on why the broadband map is important, and support them through the speed test process.

Get trained today, so you can train others tomorrow!

- ✓ **Share** the opportunity through social media
- ✓ **Print and distribute** one-pagers at events and meetings
- ✓ **Post** to bulletin boards in community spaces like grocery stores, laundromats, community centers, field houses, etc.
- ✓ **Train** members of your community on how to participate
- ✓ **Support** residents you have relationships or touchpoints with – show them how to check their current subscription, help them take a speed test

The important role of multi-dwelling unit residents



In some instances, an apartment building may be marked as connected to high-speed internet on the broadband map, when not all units are.

How can you correct the map?

Residents can take 3 speed tests over 3 days to document their reality, and potentially alter whether their building is eligible for funding to update broadband infrastructure.

- In a 2- to 15-unit building, at least 1 unit must participate
- In a 16- to 24-unit building, at least 2 units must participate
- In a building with 25 or more units, at least 3 units must participate

Will my participation have an impact on the map?

The entire building may be considered eligible for funding to improve broadband quality if:

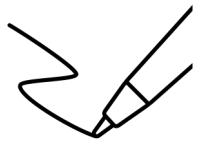
1) The median of three speed tests taken on three separate days delivers a result slower than 100/20 mbps or latency above 100 mbps, and
2) Units subscribe to a plan 100/20 mbps or higher

Speed Test Tool Instructions

Find the internet speeds your household currently subscribes to.

There will be a download and upload speed, labeled as megabits per second, or MBPS

(i.e., 100/20 mbps)



Write this down!

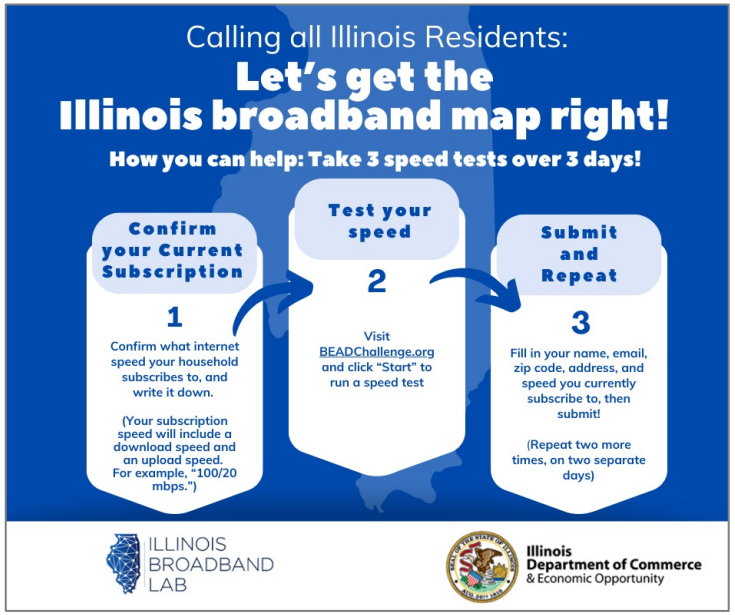
Where can I find my current subscription?

- Option 1: Log onto your account online or using your internet provider's mobile app
- Option 2: Call your internet service provider and ask what speeds you subscribe to

Community outreach materials downloadable at:

dceo.illinois.gov/beadchallenge

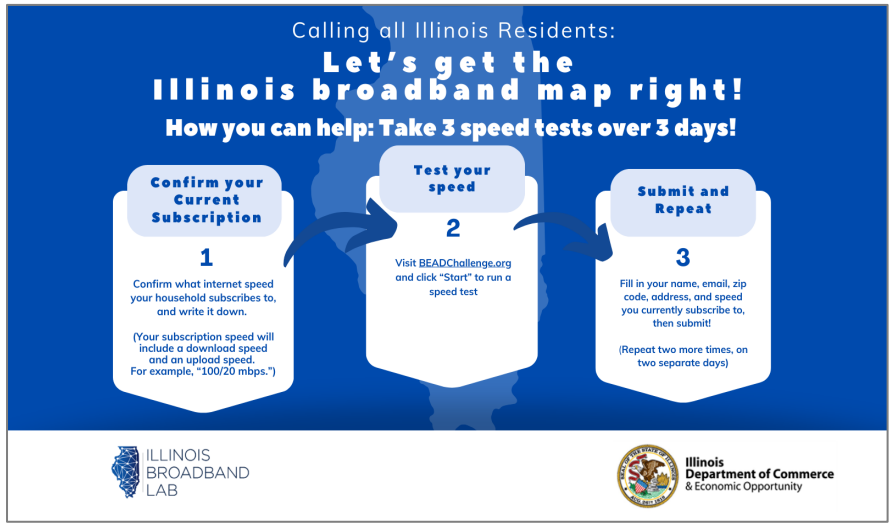
Facebook



Instagram

LinkedIn

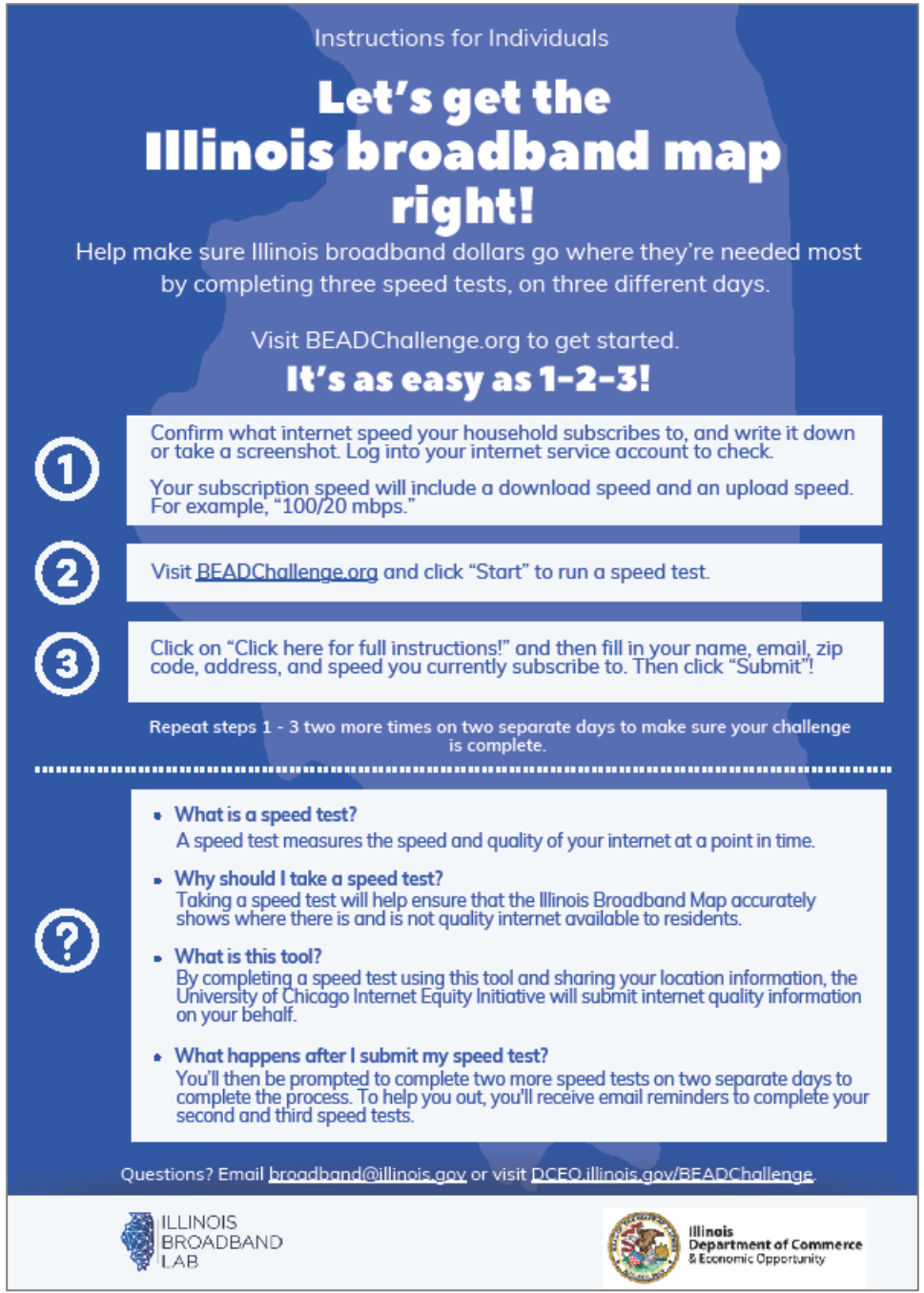
Twitter



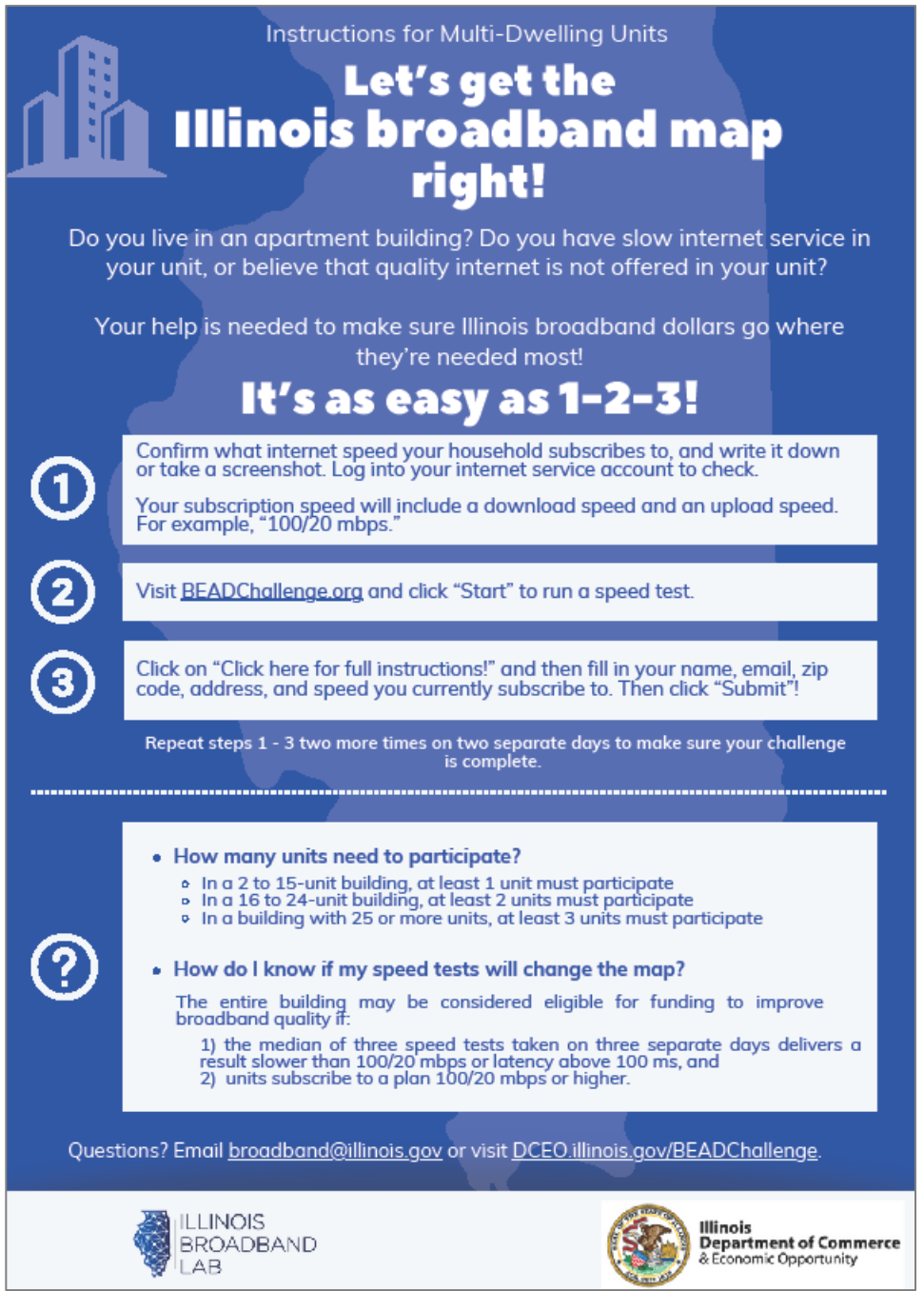
Download One-Pager:

dceo.illinois.gov/beadchallenge

One-Pager for Individuals



One-Pager for Residents of Multi-Dwelling Units

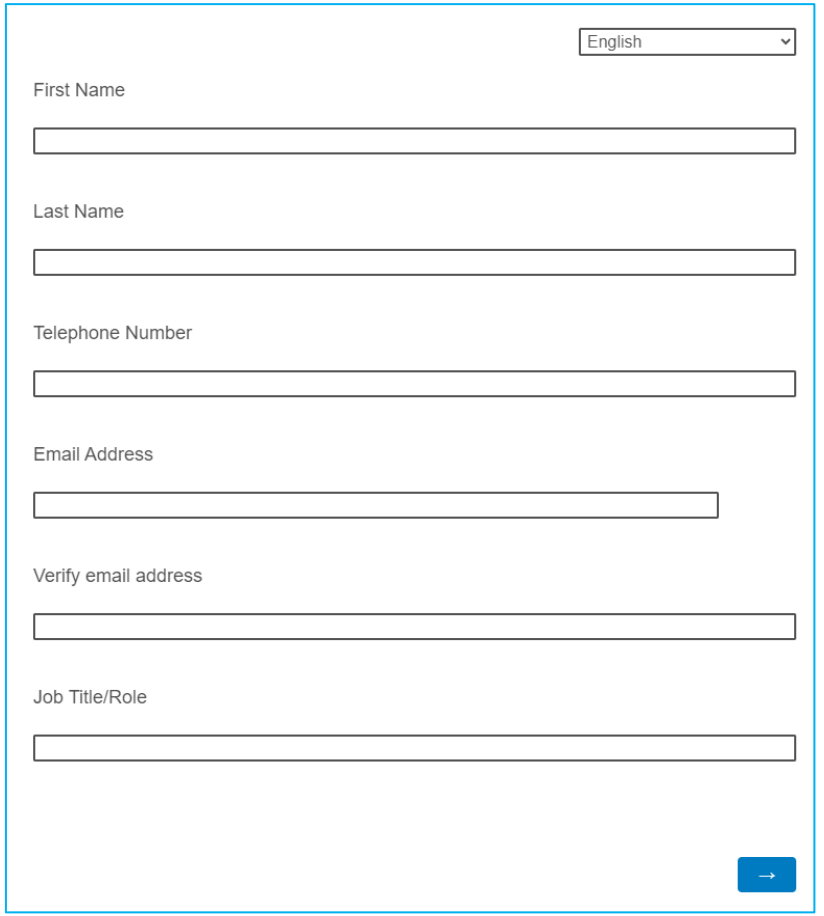


Non-profits, local gov, ISPs can submit challenges directly – but pre-registering for the challenge process online is required

Why is pre-registration required?

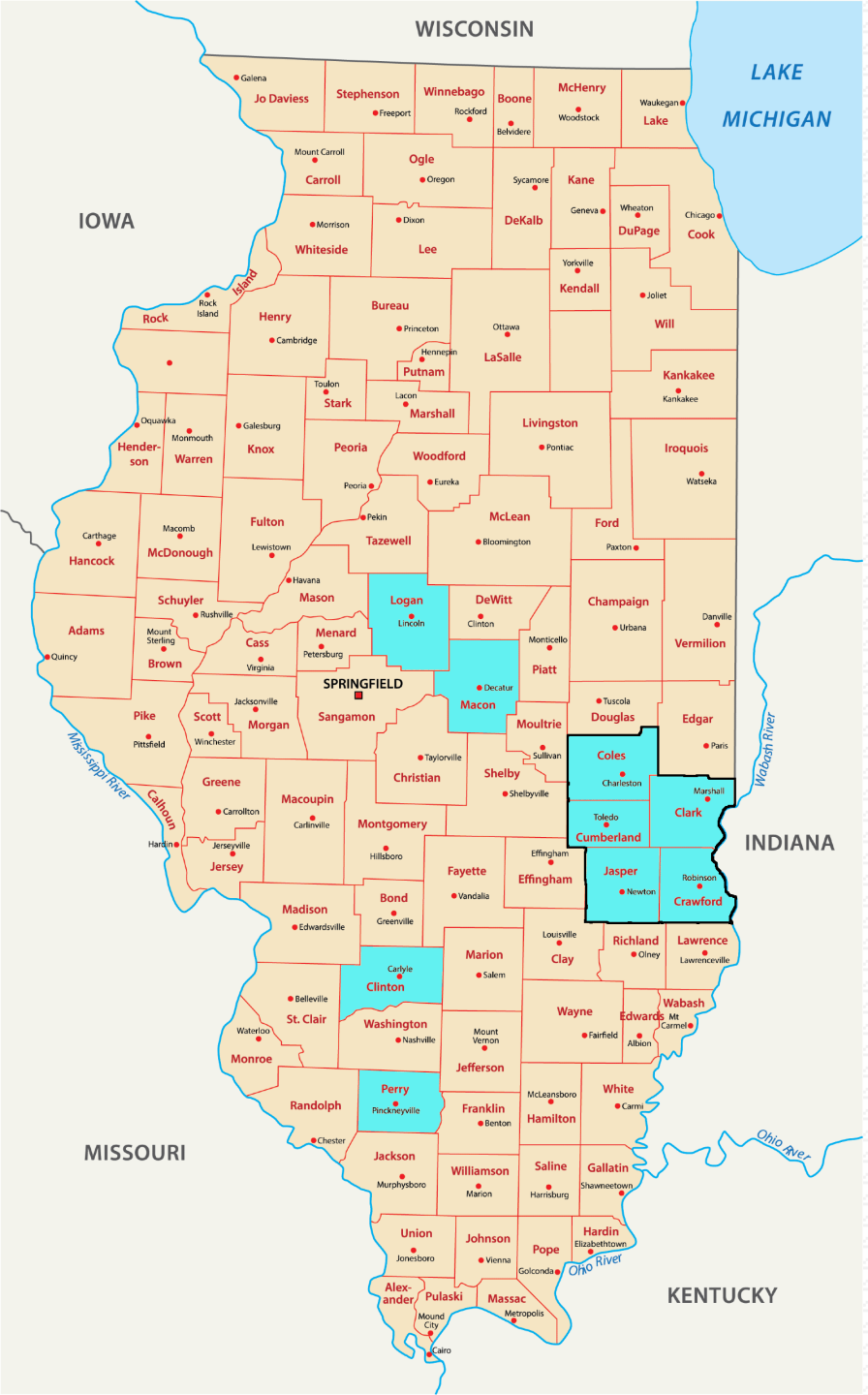
1) **Communications**: Receive up-to-date communication about the challenge process, including important dates, resources, and updates

2) **Identity Verification**: For a challenge to be submitted, the IOB needs to verify that the entity submitting the challenge is eligible



Sample screenshot from pre-registration form

It's an easy and quick way to make sure you're able to help ensure the broadband map is accurate. Click here to pre-register.



Broadband Breakthrough Update

Thursday mornings beginning Jan 4, 2024

Participating Counties

Clinton County (Southwest)
Cumberland and Crawford Counties (Joint effort) (Southeast)
Logan County (Central)
Macon County (Central)
Perry County (Southern)

Accepting applications for the second cohort. The deadline for applying is **January 30th.**

Email Bill Coleman
bcoleman@Benton.org

BROADBAND READY PROGRAM TEAM

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Announcements & Reminders

- BEAD Mapping Challenge Coming up in January!
  - Bookmark: DCEO.illinois.gov/BEADchallenge
  - Sign-Up for Webinars: https://registration.extension.illinois.edu/start/bead-challenge-process-lunch-and-learns
    - Wed Jan 24, Thurs Feb 1, Wed Feb 7, all at noon!
- DECK Program Wave 2 in Merit Review
  - Accepting applications until January 22!
    - https://dceo.illinois.gov/aboutdceo/grantopportunities/3170-2571.html
- Broadband Breakthrough still accepting applications until January 30!
  - Email bcoleman@benton.org
- Illinois broadband connections newsletter
  - Https://go.Illinois.Edu/illinoisbroadbandconnections
- In-Person Regional Engagement Tour Landing Page
  - https://broadband.uillinois.edu/community-engagement/broadband-ready-regional-digital-equity-engagement/
- Others?

ILLINOIS BROADBAND LAB

QUESTIONS?

Comments, concerns, feedback, observations?

illinoisbroadbandlab@uillinois.edu
mcbeath1@uillinois.edu

Next Meeting

February 9, 2024 at 1pm CT

ILLINOIS BROADBAND LAB