



The *Illinois Connected 2024* summit brings together experts and stakeholders from fields such as law, economics, engineering, computer science, public administration, data science, social sciences, and more. Participants include academics, industry professionals, government officials, and representatives from nonprofit organizations across the state and beyond.

Summit organizers invite submissions for the May 10, 2024, Research Workshop, including research papers, posters, panel discussions. Among topics of interest, this workshop will focus on emerging and best practices measuring broadband and digital equity gaps, goals, and gains.

Submissions Overview:

Research Papers and Posters: We are looking for abstracts of research that is in progress or recently completed. Authors of selected papers will be asked to present their full papers at the conference in dedicated sessions. This format is suitable for research that has been completed or is near completion. Poster presentations offer a valuable opportunity for authors to receive detailed feedback and engage in-depth discussions about their work with conference attendees.

Abstracts should be no longer than 500 words and final papers no longer than 15 pages total.

Panel Discussions: Proposals for panel discussions on topical issues related to broadband and digital policy are welcome. If your proposal is accepted, you will coordinate with the Program Committee to organize the panel.

Submissions, comments, or questions can be directed to broadband@illinois.gov.

Illinois Connected 2024 is committed to fostering a diverse, equitable, and inclusive environment promoting free expression of ideas. We aim to host an event where responsibility, integrity, intellectual freedom, and equality of respect and opportunity are emphasized.

Important Dates:

- Call for Submissions: Accepted on rolling basis until April 12, 2024
- Notification of Acceptance: Authors will be informed by April 19, 2024
- Final Papers for Online Publication: July 1, 2024

The Illinois Broadband Lab, a cross-sector collaboration between the Illinois Office of Broadband and University of Illinois, is teaming up with the National Digital Inclusion Alliance (NDIA) to host the leading annual interdisciplinary event focused on broadband, digital equity, and Internet policy in the Midwest.

Topics of Interest:

We encourage submissions on a broad range of topics related to broadband and digital policy, including but not limited to:

- Aspects of broadband access, adoption, and use
- Broadband access data collection, mapping, and geanalytics
- Digital equity data collection, demonstration of need, and progress tracking
- Broadband finance and community-driven collaboration and public-private partnerships
- Digital equity program design, impact, and sustainability
- Advances in alternative technologies for broadband access
- Comparative analysis in digital literacy curriculum
- Use cases in distance learning, precision agriculture, telehealth, and smart city apps
- Spectrum management and policy
- Cybersecurity challenges and solutions
- Privacy, data security, and digital trust issues
- Social aspects of communication and internet policy, including emerging technology
- Digital economy and policy frameworks, including for social media platforms
- Broadband criticality and resilience

We invite submissions from all relevant disciplines, sectors, and perspectives to ensure a comprehensive discussion on the current and future state of broadband and digital equity.

Full Summit Schedule:

Research Workshop participants are encouraged to explore the full three-day summit agenda, including the complementary summit dinner and reception on Thursday, May 9.

Wednesday, May 8 (1-5pm)	Thursday, May 9 (all day)	Friday, May 10 (9am-12pm)
<p>Interactive Workshops for digital equity community</p> <p><i>Community Digital Navigators:</i> Training and peer exchange</p> <p><i>Digital Program Managers:</i> Digital program content and funding</p>	<p>Best Practice Programming</p> <p>Cross-Over Plenary Sessions: Workforce Development Access, Adoption & Use</p> <p><i>Breakout Sessions:</i> Digital Equity Broadband Deployment</p> <p>Evening Dinner & Reception</p>	<p>Interactive Workshops for local governments, providers, and researchers, and practitioners</p> <p><i>Broadband Deployment:</i> Local Finance and partnership; Resources and opportunities for the BEAD Program</p> <p>Research: Understanding needs and measuring impacts</p>

Illinois Connected 2024 is taking place at the Sheraton Grand Chicago Riverwalk. Discounted room rates are available while hotel block vacancies last. Summit registration waivers are available for accepted panelists and presenters.