

*Nancy L. McConathy Public Library District  
21737 Jeffery Avenue  
Sauk Village, IL 60411  
(708) 757-4771*

March 9, 2010

Assistant Secretary  
National Telecommunications and Information Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
Washington, D.C. 20230

RE: Letter of Support for the Illinois Century Network Broadband Stimulus  
Funds Application

Dear Sir:

The Nancy L. McConathy Public Library District is located in Sauk Village, Illinois. Our current population is 10,411. The economic downturn has hit Sauk Village residents very hard. In January, 12% of the homes in our community were in foreclosure. It has been estimated that 14% of our residents are in the ranks of the unemployed. More and more of our library patrons are using the library computers as there chief source of internet access.

Our phone lines are over 50 years old. As much as I dislike whining, AT & T is not willing to replace the old lines. What this means to our residents is a T-1 line that does not function in the rain, or when the snow is melting or when the humidity is high. The old phone lines short out from the moisture in the ground and we usually wait for over 24 hours for repairs to be made. Our residents deserve better quality but, we cannot afford it.

When we apply for e-rate, no one ever bids on internet service for our community. Poor communities tend to be a turnoff to the larger corporations. AT&T remains our carrier because they have existed in our town since its beginning. AT&T is here but as I have pointed out, their lines are in need of update and replacement---an issue they have no plans to address.

A fiber network would allow our patrons to better access the internet. The connection would be equal to that found in the wealthier communities. The fiber network would help erase the "digital divide" that exists when tax

dollars are not available to provide the high speed access that everyone has a right to enjoy.

Please feel free to contact me for further assistance in the advancement of the State of Illinois application for Broadband stimulus funding.

Sincerely,

*Nanette Wargo*  
Nanette Wargo  
Director



Metropolitan  
Library  
System

March 15, 2010

Assistant Secretary  
National Telecommunications and Information Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
Washington, D.C. 20230

Re: Letter of Support for the Illinois Century Network Broadband Stimulus Funds Application

Dear Sir,

The Metropolitan Library System (MLS) is a membership-based organization serving over 500 academic, public, school, and special libraries in Chicago and in the suburban communities of Cook, DuPage and Will counties. Established in 1966, MLS provides the leadership and resources necessary for our member libraries to succeed in their individual missions. MLS collaborates with the Illinois State Library, other library systems, and local libraries to create a seamless statewide network of information and resources for the people of Illinois.

The 80 libraries that participate in the SWAN shared catalog would reap the most benefits from the ICN fiber project, by providing a fast, reliable network that all library patrons utilize. The greater the bandwidth available, the quicker large amounts of information can be accessed, and over time, the shared catalog continues to grow, and more and more data is available.

Without the middle mile installation, there is not even the opportunity for the last mile to be installed. The ICN fiber project is the stepping stone for libraries and library patrons to utilize the highest level of access available at this time.

MLS strongly supports the ICN fiber project, and feel free to contact me if I can be of any assistance in advancing the State of Illinois' application for broadband stimulus funding.

Sincerely,

Alice Calabrese-Berry  
Executive Director  
630.734.5146  
calabrese@mls.lib.il.us



The Public Library of Springfield

March 16, 2010

Assistant Secretary  
National Telecommunications and Information Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
Washington, D.C. 20230

Re: Letter of Support for the Illinois Century Network Broadband Stimulus Funds Application

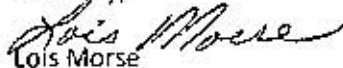
Dear Sir,

Lincoln Library would like to submit a letter of support for the Illinois Century Network (ICN) Broadband Stimulus funds. Lincoln Library, the Public Library of Springfield, IL serves a community of approximately 114,000 with over 36,000 registered card holders.

The ICN fiber project would benefit the library's use of internet services with expanded bandwidth. ICN currently provides a free service that the library could not afford to have or maintain. As technology has changed over the years with graphics and applications that require greater bandwidth, it has become more difficult to access and interface with the applications due to maximum usage of currently available bandwidth. Currently, the library budget has been reduced and staff laid off due to reductions in funding. Many of the computer users either do not have computers or cannot afford the resources and applications that the library has available. With the higher capacities that the new ICN fiber network will be able to offer, Lincoln Library will be able to keep step with the advancements of technology. The library will be able to continue to offer its' customers the ability to use the internet in a timely and efficient manner to access graphics, media, applications, and other informational resources.

If I can be of any assistance in advancing the State of Illinois' application for broadband stimulus funding, please contact me at 217-753-4900 x221 or [loism@rpls.lib.il.us](mailto:loism@rpls.lib.il.us).

Sincerely,

  
Lois Morse

Assistant Director





6725 Goshen Road | Edwardsville, IL 62025  
618.656.3216 | Fax: 618.656.9401  
[www.lcls.org](http://www.lcls.org)

Monday March 8, 2010

Assistant Secretary  
National Telecommunications and Information Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
Washington, D.C. 20230

Re: Letter of Support for the Illinois Century Network Broadband Stimulus Funds Application

Dear Sir,

I work for the Lewis & Clark Library System (LCLS), a regional multi-type library System in southwestern Illinois. My organization serves academic, public, school, and special libraries by offering delivery of inter-library loan items, a shared library catalog for many community libraries, consulting on a variety of topics, webhosting, group purchases, grant development, and continuing education for librarians of all types. We cover 11 counties in Illinois, which range from rural and agrarian areas to the Illinois side of the St. Louis metropolitan area. In this area, there are approximately 160 libraries, who serve a population of about 677,000 people. As the Technology Development manager for LCLS, I work directly with libraries to incorporate the use of technology that helps them meet their communities needs. In that capacity, I see an increasing number of libraries whose T1 or DSL connections (which seemed jaw-droppingly fast 5 years ago) are swamped by the connectivity needs of their patrons. While many librarians would benefit immensely from expanded broadband and fiber connectivity, very few can afford to expand their current (and unfortunately, inadequate) internet connections. What's more, many rural libraries are too far from the current infrastructure of the Illinois Century Network (ICN), which leaves them with the unenviable limitation of what rural DSL or WISP service can provide.

Those libraries that have access to the ICN must pay connectivity fees to the local telco, and those libraries who are not connected to the ICN must negotiate their rate with whatever service exists in their area. Both of these growing problems could be abetted by an expanded ICN infrastructure, which would shorten the distance to libraries that separates their Points of Presence, and offer ICN service to an expanded number of rural libraries.

As library use continues to surge against the backdrop of the struggling economy, it's hard to ignore the problem of bandwidth limitations in libraries. Job seekers are making use of libraries both to find jobs, and to acquire new skills via the Internet. It's the librarian's job to help patrons realize their goals, and it's my job to make sure that the librarians have the tools and training they need. With this grant, we could make great strides toward providing libraries with the broadband connections they need and deserve.

If you have any questions at all about LCLS or our member libraries, please don't hesitate to get in touch with me via e-mail ([kevinbecker@lcls.org](mailto:kevinbecker@lcls.org)) or by phone (618.656.3216).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Kevin Becker'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name 'Kevin' and last name 'Becker' clearly legible.

Kevin Becker

Lewis & Clark Library System





March 16, 2010

Assistant Secretary  
National Telecommunications and Information Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
Washington, D.C. 20230

Re: Letter of Support for the Illinois Century Network (ICN) Broadband Stimulus Funds Application

Dear Sir,

The La Grange Park Public Library District, which is located in suburban Chicago and serves a population of 13,295, is writing to express its support of the Illinois Century Network's broadband stimulus grant application. The potential benefit of the ICN fiber project is great; it will provide both middle mile transport on the network and last mile transport to the Library and the residents of its district, La Grange Park, IL.

The ICN is proposing in its grant application to provide greater bandwidth for its members, which includes our Library District. Currently, the Library provides WiFi access and personal computers for use in the Library. Users of the Library's services, District residents, as well as Library staff, have been experiencing problems when downloading items and accessing services and sources available through the Library's website and online catalog. We are barely able to meet current bandwidth demand, let alone future bandwidth demand, given that usage of our electronic materials and services is soaring. The proposed improvement in the ICN's middle mile line proposal is critical to our Library District and its residents/customers.

The Library, with its many budget constraints, depends on the services provided by the ICN. Funding is not available to use other carriers/service providers due to the prohibitive cost. Service to Library District users is greatly impacted due to limited bandwidth. Compromised service affects all age groups of Library users, especially the elderly, which is a high percentage of the population, and the many unemployed, who are using the Library to prepare resumes and job applications.

With the higher capacities that the new ICN fiber network will be able to offer, access to the Internet, will be improved. As a result, Library District residents and staff will benefit. The La Grange Park Public Library District will be able to enrich service to its residents/customers. More specifically, funding the ICN's proposal will enable the Library District to enrich electronic information services to the community. The greater access provided through the ICN project will also have an impact on economic development within the community of La Grange Park; for example, by helping the unemployed seek and find jobs.

If I can be of any assistance in advancing the State of Illinois' application for broadband stimulus funding, please contact me by e-mail at [dixie@lplibrary.org](mailto:dixie@lplibrary.org). Thank you for your consideration of the ICN project.

Sincerely,

Dixie M. Conkis  
Executive Director





3/8/2010

Assistant Secretary  
National Telecommunications and Information Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
Washington, D.C. 20230

Re: Letter of Support for the Illinois Century Network Broadband Stimulus Funds Application

Dear Sir,

The Indian Prairie Public Library District, serving 44,000 residents in all of Willowbrook, most of Darien, parts of Burr Ridge, and several unincorporated areas, provides Internet access, database research computers, and free Wi-Fi to our visitors. Our community depends upon the library as a vital and trusted resource for achieving personal goals and enhancing quality of life. With welcoming, state-of-the-art service, the library is an essential center of learning, inspiration, and community pride. We support the State of Illinois' broadband stimulus grant application, so they can continue to improve the essential framework for providing quality connectivity. This will allow us to enhance our current service and meeting the needs for increasing growing bandwidth needs to access information over the Internet.

It is critical in the near future to have a middle mile to our organization and for our customers to have greater bandwidth available. I have had many challenges over the last couple years trying to meet the demands of our users need for faster and reliable Internet service. We currently monitor our bandwidth usage and we have to limit usage to accommodate all user needs which, in high use periods, often slows down connectivity.

We are using our local broadband service in addition to our current T1 line connection in order to meet our Internet users demand and to keep costs low. With this service provider we have been able to increase our bandwidth but the connection speeds are not guaranteed or reliable as our current T1 connection. This unreliability is a disadvantage for people to whom Internet access is critical when so many vital requirements are done on line such as job applications, Medicare/Medicaid forms, tax forms, and Public Aid applications. Many of our customers are elderly or low-income that do not have Internet access available elsewhere.

If Illinois receives funding for increasing broadband, our customers would be better able to access information and utilize more resources. We will be able to offer a reliable and dedicated amount of bandwidth for our 44,000 residents with the higher capacities that the new ICN fiber network would provide.

If I can be of any assistance in advancing the State of Illinois' application for broadband stimulus funding, please contact me at 630-887-8760, ext. 257 or by email at [stovall@indianprairielibrary.org](mailto:stovall@indianprairielibrary.org)

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ann Stovall", written in a cursive style.

Ann Stovall

Head of Technical & Computer Services

# Huntley Area Public Library District

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11000 Ruth Road, Huntley, Illinois 60142 • 847-669-5386 • Fax (847) 669-5439  
[www.huntleylibrary.org](http://www.huntleylibrary.org)

March 18, 2010

Assistant Secretary  
National Telecommunications and Information Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
Washington, D.C. 20230

Re: Letter of Support for the Illinois Century Network's Application for the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program

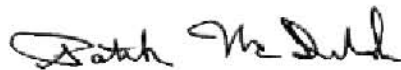
Dear Sir,

Please accept this letter in support of the Illinois Century Network's Application for the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program.

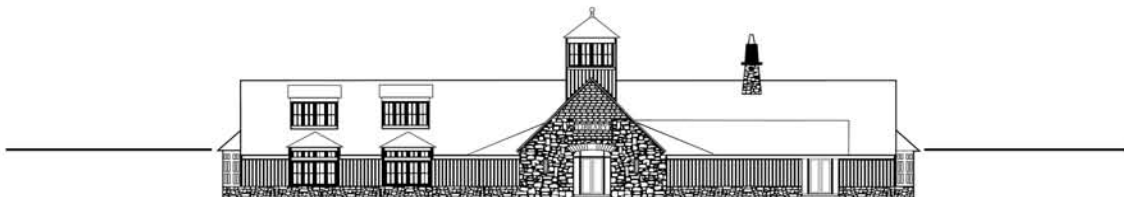
The Huntley Area Public Library, located approximately 50 miles northwest of Chicago, serves a population of approximately 50,000 people. Increases in bandwidth and expansion of the ICN fiber network would enable us to better serve our communities Internet and information needs. Given the cost of these upgrades, the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program support is essential for these upgrades to occur.

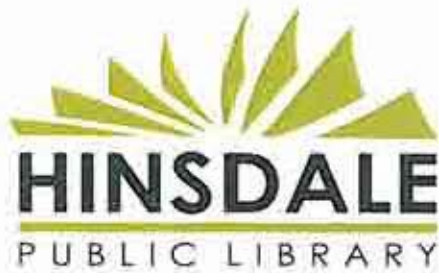
If I can be of any assistance in advancing the Illinois Century Network's application, please contact me at (847) 669-5386, extension 11 or by email at [pmcdonald@huntleylibrary.org](mailto:pmcdonald@huntleylibrary.org).

Sincerely,



Patrick McDonald  
Library Director





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March 15, 2010

Assistant Secretary  
National Telecommunications and Information Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
Washington, D.C. 20230

Re: Letter of Support for the Illinois Century Network Broadband Stimulus Funds Application

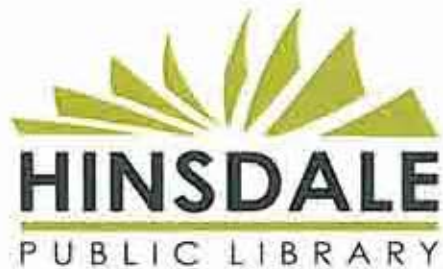
Dear Sir,

I am Jeff Lewandowski, IT Coordinator for Hinsdale Public Library in Hinsdale, Illinois, and I wish to express the importance of increasing fiber connectivity in the state of Illinois. The State of Illinois' broadband stimulus grant application will be a great benefit to libraries and other local and state agencies. ICN's fiber implementation would be a major advancement in telecommunications infrastructure, and would allow communities to have access to high-speed broadband at reduced costs.

Our Library serves a community of about 19,000 people, covering roughly 18 square miles. The people in our community utilize the Library's ICN connection and bandwidth to capacity. We have computers available for the public that are always in use, and people who bring their own laptops and mobile devices to access the wireless network. Either way, they connect to the Library's network and they are using network resources and bandwidth provided by ICN.

As previously mentioned, the community uses the ICN connection to the full extent. Sometimes the connection is at capacity and the network slows down and users are unable to access email applications and other essential online resources. This will make it easier for those conducting online job searches, completing online job applications and communicating with potential employers. If the grant is successful ICN would be able to provide fiber connectivity services at reduced costs for state and local organizations. This would increase availability to online resources to the communities.

Although fiber may be available in the surrounding area, the prices of fiber connectivity are well above anything the library can afford - especially in this economically challenging time. A majority of those who come into the library and use the internet services do not have access to such resources outside of the library.



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In addition, fiber connectivity will allow for more innovative services and applications and help the Library maintain its status as a community destination for years to come.

If I can be of any assistance in advancing the State of Illinois' application for broadband stimulus funding, please contact me at 630-986-1976 x213 or by email at

Sincerely,

Jeff Lewandowski  
Information Technology Coordinator  
Hinsdale Public Library  
20 E. Maple Street  
Hinsdale, IL 60521  
630/986-1976 ext. 213





## Herrin City Library

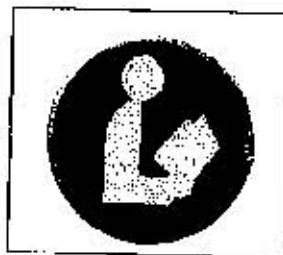
120 North 13<sup>th</sup> Street  
Herrin IL 62948-3233

Tel: (618).942.6109

Fax: (618).942.4165

Mr. Michael Keepper - Library Director

Email = [keepper@shawls.lib.il.us](mailto:keepper@shawls.lib.il.us)



9<sup>th</sup> March 2010

Assistant Secretary  
National Telecommunications and Information Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
Washington, D.C. 20230

Re: Letter of Support for the Illinois Century Network Broadband Stimulus Funds Application

Dear Sir,

I wish to express our support for the State of Illinois' Broadband Stimulus Grant Application. The Herrin City Library is a municipal public library serving the community of Herrin, Illinois (population 11,298) in Southern Illinois. We are primarily a rural area and we rely a great deal on the Illinois Century Network (ICN) to provide us with the "middle mile" broadband transport with their ICN Fiber Project. The Herrin City Library provides the only public access to "free" Internet Access and "free" WiFi hotspot location. There are a great many people who can not afford either a computer and/or internet access. The Herrin City Library serves up to 50 people a day with Internet Access. We need the continued services of the Illinois Century Network.

ICN is especially critical in providing the "middle mile" and the "last mile" of broadband transport. We would like to add more Internet Access stations for use by the public. Adding more computers means we will need to have access to greater bandwidth. ICN has plans to provide more bandwidth, so funding is necessary to help improve the ability of the ICN to deliver more Internet bandwidth.

The choices are limited in Southern Illinois and none provide broadband access as affordably as the ICN does to the Shawnee Library System area of Southern Illinois (the southern-most 31 counties of Illinois). The Herrin City Library operates on a very tight budget and ICN provides the best and cheapest access to broadband width. The area has high levels of unemployment due to the recession and half of the children in the Herrin Schools are enrolled in the Free Lunch Program. Herrin residents rely on the Herrin City Library for access to computers and the Internet. ICN provides the access. Therefore, we support without reservations the ICN in requesting Broadband Stimulus funding.

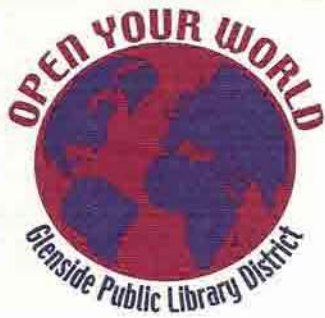
If I can be of any assistance in advancing the State of Illinois' application for broadband stimulus funding, please contact me at 618.942.6109 or by email at [keepper@shawls.lib.il.us](mailto:keepper@shawls.lib.il.us)

Sincerely,

Michael Keepper

Library Director - Herrin City Library





## Glenside Public Library District

25 EAST FULLERTON AVENUE, GLENDALE HEIGHTS, IL 60139

630 • 260 • 1550 phone 630 • 260 • 1433 fax

[www.glensidepld.org](http://www.glensidepld.org)

SERVING GLENDALE HEIGHTS AND GLEN ELLYN COUNTRYSIDE

March 8, 2010

Assistant Secretary

National Telecommunications and Information Administration

U.S. Department of Commerce

Washington, D.C. 20230

Re: Letter of Support for the Illinois Century Network Broadband Stimulus Funds  
Application

To the Assistant Secretary:

This letter is in support of the State of Illinois' broadband stimulus grant application. We are a public library serving 33,889 residents. Due to the wide range of incomes in our library area, we have many residents who rely on the library for their Internet access. It is a very diverse community in the Chicago west suburban area with more than 22 languages spoken. The ICN fiber project would be of great benefit to us by augmenting bandwidth available at a more reasonable cost. Current cost recovery charges are prohibitively expensive for us to add bandwidth to our ICN connection.

The ICN fiber project will allow for ICN to throw out their current cost recovery model and put in place one that is much more flexible and with lowered costs. This will allow us to expand past our 8mbps connection without having to pay thousands more per month. This is essential to us because our current bandwidth is insufficient to meet community demand for internet access. We easily utilize 100% of our connection every day when the public most wants access.

The benefits provided by this expansion of bandwidth will have immediate tangible results. Our patrons will have a higher quality of service through faster connections, and we will also be able to serve more patrons simultaneously. On the staff side, we will have additional resources available that will result in less network congestion. This will result in boosting staff productivity.

Thank you for giving this letter your consideration. If I can be of any assistance in advancing the State of Illinois' application for broadband stimulus funding, please contact me at 630-260-1550 or [ghdadmin@glensidepld.org](mailto:ghdadmin@glensidepld.org).

Sincerely,

GLENSIDE PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT

*Kathryn Schueman*  
Kathryn Schueman, Team Administrator



270 North Grove Avenue  
Elgin, Illinois 60120  
847-742-7411 [www.gailborden.info](http://www.gailborden.info)

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9 March 2010

Assistant Secretary  
National Telecommunications and Information Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
Washington, D.C. 20230

Re: Letter of Support for the Illinois Century Network Broadband Stimulus Funds Application

Dear Sir,

On behalf of the Gail Borden Public Library District, I am pleased to support the application for a State of Illinois broadband stimulus grant. Gail Borden Library, located in Elgin, Illinois, serves nearly 134,000 residents of Elgin and South Elgin, portions of Bartlett, Hoffman Estates and Streamwood, as well as unincorporated areas east and west. In addition to the main facility in central Elgin we have one branch library on Elgin's far west side.

Our diverse population has grown from the 2000 Census figure of 34.3% Hispanic with 23.7% of the population born outside of the U.S. Estimates for 2010 indicate these numbers may double. Currently, over 42% of the U-46 school district is socially or economically disadvantaged. Further, according to the seasonally unadjusted figures released by the Illinois Department of Employment Security, unemployment in Elgin as of December 2009 was reported to be 15% or 8,772 individuals out of work and actively seeking new employment. The new numbers don't reflect people who are working part-time, people who have given up looking for a job, or those who have fallen off the unemployment compensation rolls. These individuals come to the library for access to computers and training.

It has been reported that 96 percent of school districts now have teachers who assign homework that "requires use of the Internet." Once school closes for the day, students without Internet access at home mostly get it from public libraries, which see their busiest hours in the late afternoon. According to the American Library Association, half of all American teenagers have used a library machine to gain access to the Internet.

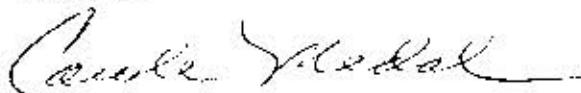
As libraries use their resources to subscribe to more Internet-based content, it only makes sense that we ensure there are adequate delivery mechanisms in place. We subscribe to a plethora of full-text resources, citation databases, electronic journals, etc. We depend on inbound Internet access to allow our users to reach our online catalogs and electronic resources from their homes and offices. Libraries today spend a significant portion of their annual budgets on subscriptions to Internet based content. With such a big investment, it's strategically important for institutions to provide sufficient bandwidth for these services. Higher capacities from a new ICN fiber network will be a great advantage to us as we strive to serve our community.

The need for additional bandwidth as well as higher speeds continues to grow. With an increase in demand for audio and video streaming, webinars and teleconferencing, come requests for not only improved access but reliability. For these reasons, middle mile access is critical to Gail Borden Library and its customers.

As responsible stewards of taxpayer dollars and in service to a population with a high need for public computers, Gail Borden Library strives to provide strong and reliable Internet service at a reasonable price. Without a high capacity network, strong infrastructure and reliable bandwidth, our customers would be at a strong disadvantage as they strive to overcome the digital divide. And, as budgets shrink, organizations look for economical ways to provide continuing education. Webinars are becoming commonplace. Certain voice and video applications simply won't function if they don't have reliable bandwidth and low latency.

Internet access and reliable, adequate bandwidth are crucial issues for libraries. If I can be of any assistance in advancing the State of Illinois' application for broadband stimulus funding, please contact me at 847-429-4699 or by email at [cmedal@gailborden.info](mailto:cmedal@gailborden.info).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Carole Medal", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Carole Medal  
Executive Director  
and President, Illinois Library Association



# ELK GROVE VILLAGE PUBLIC LIBRARY

March 16, 2010

Assistant Secretary  
National Telecommunications and Information Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
Washington, D.C. 20230

Re: Letter of Support for the Illinois Century Network Broadband Stimulus Funds Application

Dear Sir or Madam,

The Elk Grove Village Public Library supports a population of over 33,000 with a patron base of almost 41,000. Located in Elk Grove Village, IL, the Library is adjacent to Chicago's northwest city limits near O'Hare International Airport approximately 22 miles from Chicago's Loop, is situated in both Cook and DuPage counties, and covers 10 square miles. Included within the Village is one of the largest consolidated industrial parks in North America with over 3,600 businesses employing over 90,000 people. Given the fact that the businesses within our industrial park rely heavily on the library, ICN is a crucial partner with the Elk Grove Village Public Library.

The Elk Grove Village Public Library serves both businesses and citizens. We have close community ties to the Elk Grove Chamber of Commerce, The Village of Elk Grove, the Greater O'Hare Association and Alexian Brothers Hospital. We offer subscription databases that provide needed information to businesses and consumers who otherwise could not afford them. We also provide WiFi access and wired Internet, and our annual Internet usage continues to grow exponentially, often maxing out our current bandwidth allocation.

With the higher capacities that the new ICN fiber network offers, the Library will be able to better serve our businesses and patrons with quicker access to the Internet including our subscription databases. We will no longer be forced to deny Internet access to anyone in need due to the lack of sufficient bandwidth.

If I can be of any assistance in advancing the State of Illinois' application for broadband stimulus funding, please contact me at 847-439-0447 ext 225 or by email at [jakenned@egvpl.org](mailto:jakenned@egvpl.org).


Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jody A. Kennedy".

Jody A. Kennedy  
Network Systems Support Dept Head

1001 Wellington Ave, Elk Grove Village, IL 60007  
847.439.0447 | 847.439.0475  
<http://www.egvpl.org>

*Eldorado Memorial Public Library District*

1001 Grant Street  P. O. Box 426  
Eldorado, IL 62930-0426

(618) 273-7922

FAX (618) 273-4402

March 9, 2010

Assistant Secretary  
National Telecommunications and Information Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
Washington, D.C. 20230

Re: Letter of Support for the Illinois Century Network Broadband Stimulus  
Funds Application

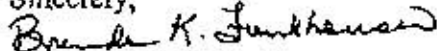
Dear Sir,

The Eldorado Memorial Public Library District is very pleased to support the State of Illinois' broadband stimulus grant application.

The Eldorado Memorial Public Library is located in Eldorado, IL in deep southeastern Illinois. The library serves 7,672 residents and covers over 100 square miles. The Illinois Century Network fiber project would greatly benefit our library and our rural community. It would bring improved technology to this economically distressed area and open a path for better business opportunities.

We look forward to participating in this vital program. If I can be of any assistance in advancing the State of Illinois application for broadband stimulus funding, please contact me at (618) 273-7922 or by email at [brendaf@shawls.lib.il.us](mailto:brendaf@shawls.lib.il.us).

Sincerely,



Brenda K. Funkhouser  
Library Director





March 19, 2010

U.S. Department of Commerce  
Washington, D.C. 20230

Re: Letter of Support for the Illinois Century Network (ICN) Broadband Stimulus Funds Application

Dear Sir or Madam,

DuPage Library System (DLS) supports Illinois Century Network's application for Round 2 BTOP (Broadband Technology Opportunities Program) funding. This funding will enable ICN to build a fiber optic backbone and to expand broadband connectivity to K12 schools, higher education, libraries, museums, health care agencies, local and state government, public safety agencies, and other institutions throughout Illinois.

DuPage Library System is one of nine regional, multitype library systems in Illinois that support local library services. It serves 132 member agencies in the western suburbs of Chicago, including academic, public, school, and special libraries in 383 facilities in parts of Cook, DuPage, Kane, Kendall, and Will counties.

DLS also administers Voices of Vision (VOV), one of four subregional libraries in Illinois working with the Illinois State Library Talking Book and Braille Service and the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. Voices of Vision serves visually and physically handicapped readers in twelve Illinois counties [Boone, Cook (except Chicago), DeKalb, DuPage, Grundy, Kane, Kankakee, Kendall, Lake, LaSalle, McHenry, and Will].

DLS, VOV, and many of our member libraries rely on ICN for high-speed telecommunications and connectivity to the Internet. ICN currently allows library constituents a baseline bandwidth of 8 Mbps at no additional cost beyond circuit costs. The cost-effective, reliable connectivity provided by ICN is critical for many DLS and VOV services, including:

- Communication with DLS members, VOV users, and other agencies and individuals through our websites, blogs, and email

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117 South River Street, Geneva, Illinois 60134-2274  
Telephone: 630 / 232-8437 Fax: 630 / 232-8437 <http://www.dupagelibrary.org>

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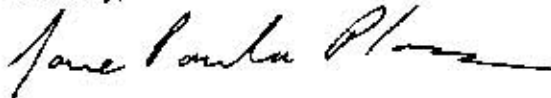
As Illinois regional library systems transition to a more cooperative model to reduce costs and improve services, DLS anticipates growth in bandwidth needs due to colocation of servers and even greater reliance on distance learning and unified communications.

Many DLS libraries are grappling with more immediate bandwidth needs. Because of the economic downturn, more and more Illinois citizens have turned to their libraries for information, education, and Internet access. The increase in library use, coupled with greater demand for bandwidth-intensive uses such as streaming audio and video, has made the ICN 8 MBps baseline inadequate for many DLS libraries. In many cases, libraries are unable to afford the additional bandwidth charges imposed above 8 Mbps.

BTOP funding will allow ICN to transition to a fiber optic network, thus increasing bandwidth capacity and reducing costs. With these changes, ICN could increase the baseline bandwidth offered to libraries and other constituents. This would help libraries to meet the information and education needs of Illinois citizens and students.

If DLS can be of any assistance in advancing the Illinois Century Network's application for broadband stimulus funding, please contact me at 630/232-8457 x204 or [j-plass@dupagels.lib.il.us](mailto:j-plass@dupagels.lib.il.us).

Sincerely,



Jane Paula Plass  
Director of Network Services

cc: Tom Sloan  
Executive Director  
DuPage Library System

Karen Odean  
Director of BPH Services  
Voices of Vision



Christopher F. Bowen  
Library Director

March 9, 2010

Assistant Secretary  
National Telecommunications and Information Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
Washington, D.C. 20230

Re: Letter of Support for the Illinois Century Network Broadband Stimulus Funds Application

Dear Sir,

I am very pleased to write this letter in support of the DCEO/ISL BTOP grant application. During a recent project to take a "Snapshot" of one day in the library, we received a number of comments like the ones below from patrons using library public computers:

*"This year being unemployed I found that I could look at job opportunities on the Internet... I have had the opportunity to take a class in PowerPoint and we learned all sorts of tricks about other programs."*

*"My family heavily depends on the library Internet access since we only have dial-up service at home, due to financial constraints. My son was here doing homework, my husband looked at magazine indexes, while I was doing word processing."*

In 2009 all of our 30 public computers were in use an average of 96.6% of the hours we were open. In addition we often have 20 or more patrons using their own laptops any given weekday. Most of these patrons are people using their own computers to apply for jobs, complete applications, etc.

There are times when the demand for bandwidth slows the entire library network to a crawl. We have taken what steps we can afford to provide sufficient bandwidth to support our patrons' use of the library networks, including subscribing to a business cable connection to supplement our two ICN T1 lines. However patron use continues to increase.

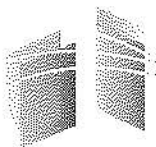
As the Internet becomes an increasingly important means of communication there is increased potential for the library to serve as a resource that could provide residents with video connections for interviews, education, meetings, and other purposes, as well as basic Internet access. Unfortunately providing sufficient bandwidth for these services is far beyond our capability without the support provided by the ICN. Providing the middle-mile infrastructure for State-wide broadband access is critical to enabling the Illinois Century Network to provide libraries, schools, and other institutions with the high speed Internet access that is essential to meet the needs of our residents who use these resources.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Bowen", written over a horizontal line.

Christopher F. Bowen  
Library Director  
Downers Grove Public Library





Des Plaines  
Public Library

1501 Ellinwood Street  
Des Plaines, IL 60016-4553  
847-827-5551 phone  
847-827-7974 fax

March 9, 2010

Assistant Secretary  
National Telecommunications and Information Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
Washington, D.C. 20230

Re: Letter of Support for the Illinois Century Network Broadband Stimulus  
Funds Application

Dear Sir,

I am writing to support the State of Illinois' broadband stimulus grant application. As the director of the Des Plaines Public Library I serve a community of 57,000, a suburb northwest of Chicago, just north of O'Hare International Airport. Our population is diverse, with a large percentage of immigrant families from Mexico, Poland, and Russia. The recession has affected our city with an unemployment rate of 9.1% and large deficits in both city and school district budgets, necessitating dramatic numbers of layoffs among staff and reduction of services for students and residents.

During this public financial crisis, people have turned to the public library for services. Individuals are using our computer services as never before (20% increase) and families are wisely stretching their dwindling budgets by using the library for educational entertainment (14% increase). We serve an ever-growing number of job seekers who need training to use a computer to apply online.

All of these increases have put pressure on our computer services. We are faced with difficult budget decisions to keep up with demand and to hold down budget increases. In fact, we were forced to reduce property tax revenue by 7.5% for 2010.

Receipt of broadband grant funding will accomplish much good in Des Plaines. We will be able to increase the number of computer stations for our patrons and keep up with the ever-growing demand for increased bandwidth capacity. In short, it will help get our residents back to work and provide financial relief for our families who are struggling.

If further information will assist in advancing the State of Illinois' application, please contact me at 847-376-2800 or [snorlin@dppl.org](mailto:snorlin@dppl.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sandra K. Norlin".

Sandra K. Norlin  
Library Director

Colona District Public Library  
911 1<sup>st</sup> Street  
Colona, IL 61241-9750  
309-792-0548  
Fax 309-792-2143

12 March 2010

Assistant Secretary  
National Telecommunications and Information Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
Washington, D.C. 20230

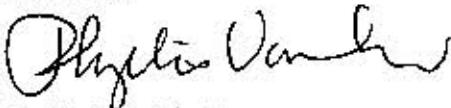
Re: Letter of Support for the Illinois Century Network Broadband Stimulus Funds Application

Dear Sir,

I am writing this letter to express our support for the State of Illinois' broadband stimulus grant application. We are a small public library which serves a population of about 6,700 individuals. Our Internet usage has been on the increase, both by the public and our own staff. So many online opportunities require high bandwidth, which is too costly for most of our patrons, and also places a strain on the precarious budget of our library.

If I can be of any assistance in advancing the State of Illinois' application for broadband stimulus funding, please contact me 309-792-0548 or by email at [pvonarb@colonalibrary.com](mailto:pvonarb@colonalibrary.com).

Sincerely,



Phyllis Von Arb, Director  
Colona District Public Library  
911 1<sup>st</sup> Street  
Colona, IL 61241



**City of Chicago**  
**Richard M. Daley**  
**Mayor**

**Chicago Public Library**

**Administration**  
**Mary A. Dempsey**  
**Commissioner**

**Board of Directors**  
**Jayne Carr Thompson**  
**President**

**Cristina Benitez**  
**Paul H. Dykstra**  
**Susan S. Hassan**  
**Melody L. Hobson**  
**Judith C. Rice**  
**Cherryl T. Thomas**  
**Christopher P. Valenti**  
**Julia Zhu**

**400 South State Street**  
**Chicago, Illinois 60605**  
**(312) 747-4300**  
**(312) 747-4314 (TTY)**  
**chicagopubliclibrary.org**

March 19, 2010

The Honorable Lawrence E. Strickling  
Assistant Secretary  
National Telecommunications and Information Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
Washington, D.C. 20230

Re: Letter of Support for the Illinois Century Network Broadband  
Stimulus Funds Application

Dear Assistant Secretary Strickling,

I write to you today to express my strong support for the State of Illinois' application for the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) stimulus grant application.

In my role as the Commissioner of the Chicago Public Library, I have seen how the growth in technology has created the so called "Digital Divide". I have also seen how libraries have become instrumental and critical in bridging the gap between those who have access and know how to use technology and those who do not. Last year 3.8 million patrons came to the one of our 79 locations across the City of Chicago to access to use our computers and networks. Over the last four years over 15 million patrons used the Chicago Public Library as their access point to digital content and the internet. The patrons of the Library come to our locations to benefit from training in the use of technology and guidance from professional librarians on the best sources on the worldwide web for reliable information. The combination of assistance from professional Librarians and rich digital resources has created a substantial increase in usage of the Library. Last year, the usage of the Library grew by 35%. During the same period the demand for network bandwidth, caused by the increasingly rich digital content, grew by over 120%.

The Chicago Public Library receives its network access to the internet from the Illinois Century Network (ICN) which is a state run agency serving over 8,000 institutions and organizations across the State of Illinois. Since the founding of ICN in the year 2000, the agency has been instrumental in enabling libraries, schools, hospitals and many other organizations across the state in making access to the internet

*Chicago Public Library: READ, LEARN, DISCOVER!*



The Honorable Lawrence E. Strickling  
Assistant Secretary  
National Telecommunications and Information Administration  
Page 2

dependable and affordable. The ICN has been an extremely successful venture that has earned the respect of its users. Without the ICN, many

Illinois institutions would not have been able to help in bridging the Digital Divide.

However, the demand for bandwidth has started to grow exponentially and the ICN is finding it more difficult to support the needs of its users. During the last four years the quality and richness of content accessed by the Chicago Public Library patrons has grown. Much more content is available in digital image format and even more content is available in video format. Training materials that used to be in text documents are available and delivered by video. Most newspapers, magazines and journals are now available as part of extensive databases. Music is now downloaded to the user's mp3 player. Audio books which used to be available in stacks of cassette tapes are now available for download.

The Chicago Public Library offers all the above digital content and more and all the content requires bandwidth. While a text website can be delivered at 5 kilobytes per second, a video stream will consume upwards of 300 kilobytes per second. The difference is extreme and the ICN seeks the assistance from this stimulus grant request to meet the needs of its 8,000 constituents.

The Chicago Public Library along with other libraries, schools and hospitals across Illinois rely on the ICN as their only source of bandwidth to the internet. In many cases the institutions do not have an alternative to ICN available. Often the commercial common carriers require substantial upfront build-out funding and monthly bandwidth charges which exceed limited budgets.

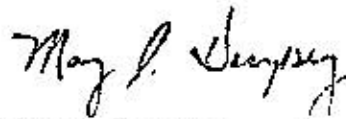
In the case of the Chicago Public Library, ICN services are worth approximately \$200,000 per year. If current trends continue, the Chicago Public Library will need to double its bandwidth in the next year and expects to have to double it again in three years. It is simply not possible for the Library to fund the network bandwidth without the assistance of the ICN.

The Honorable Lawrence E. Strickling  
Assistant Secretary  
National Telecommunications and Information Administration  
Page 3

Should the State of Illinois proposal not receive funding, then the citizens who have come to rely on the Chicago Public Library as their bridge over the Digital Divide will once again be facing a gap that they cannot overcome. However, if the State of Illinois grant request is funded, the Chicago Public Library will be able to continue to provide a rich set of technology and services that supports the information needs of citizens in Chicago and throughout the state.

On behalf of the Chicago Public Library, I respectfully request your favorable consideration of the State of Illinois Broadband stimulus grant application. If I can be of any assistance in advancing the State of Illinois' application for broadband stimulus funding, please contact me at 312-747-4090 or by email at [mdempsey@chipublic.org](mailto:mdempsey@chipublic.org).

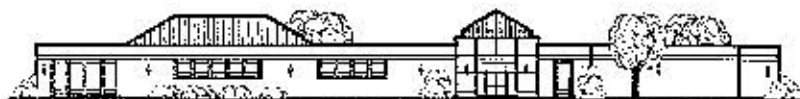
Sincerely,



Mary A. Dempsey  
Commissioner

# CHICAGO RIDGE PUBLIC LIBRARY

10400 SOUTH OXFORD AVENUE  
CHICAGO RIDGE, ILLINOIS 60415  
TELEPHONE (708) 423-7753  
FAX (708) 423-2758



March 10, 2010

Assistant Secretary  
National Telecommunications and Information Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
Washington, D.C. 20230

Re: Letter of Support for the Illinois Century Network Broadband Stimulus Funds Application

Dear Sir,

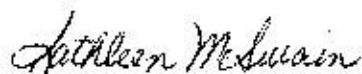
This letter is to show our support for the State of Illinois' broadband stimulus grant application. The Chicago Ridge Public Library provides invaluable service to 14, 127 residents in Chicago Ridge. Chicago Ridge is a south suburban community outside of Chicago. The speed and efficiency of the ICN in delivering middle mile and last mile service to our communities can only be enhanced through stimulus funding support.

The Chicago Ridge Public Library hopes to move forward to offer our patrons the full range of services available with Internet 2 technology. Expanded bandwidth at an affordable cost is essential to this library. Many of our patrons are struggling with job loss, and are financially strapped in this economy. Many of our patrons cannot afford to have a computer or Internet access in their home, and rely on the library for this service.

The ICN has provided excellent service in the past but needs additional funding in order to continue making progress in delivering high level service at a reasonable cost to communities in need.

Please feel free to contact to contact me at [kmcswain@chicagoridge.lib.il.us](mailto:kmcswain@chicagoridge.lib.il.us) or 708-423-7753.

Sincerely,



Kathleen McSwain  
Library Director



March 5, 2010

Assistant Secretary  
National Telecommunications and Information Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
Washington, D.C. 20230

Re: Letter of Support for the Illinois Century Network Broadband Stimulus Funds Application

Dear Sir:

The Champaign Public Library, which consists of the Main Library and the Douglass Branch, serves the city of Champaign, Illinois. The library is heavily used by our community of 75,254 residents: in 2009 an average of 2,300 people visited the library each day: 2,100 at the main library and 200 at the branch. The visitor count is growing and is averaging 2,800 visitors each day so far in 2010. In addition to Champaign residents, people from surrounding small towns and rural areas also make use of the library. Individuals of all ages, ethnic groups, and income levels can be observed in the library on any given day.

The Illinois Century Network (ICN) fiber project will provide improved Internet connectivity to the Champaign Public Library where the demand for high-speed, reliable Internet access is almost insatiable. No other local organization provides the public with free computers, Internet access, online resources, and staff who can provide assistance. This service is desperately needed, especially by low-income, minority, rural, and elderly populations who are most at risk of being left behind in this digital age.

There are 88 public computers at the Main Library and 10 public computers at the Douglass Branch Library. The branch will be remodeled in the next few months to create a public computer lab with 20 computers. Currently, the library's public computers are used by an average of 540 people per day: 480 at the main library and 60 at the branch. Wi-Fi is provided at the Main Library and at any given time an additional 75 to 125 people are using this connection. None of these figures include use of the library's 120 staff computers.

Due to the hundreds of daily computer users and the fact that so many resources are web-based, the library's current bandwidth of 10 mbps is often saturated. The library relies on the Internet for access to our online catalog; our website; various databases; online

reference services; email and document storage; and many software products. Community members use the library's connection for streaming video; downloading large images and attachments; audio and video webinars; filling out applications; VPN's; and email, among other things. Heavy use on our end compounded with heavy use of ICN can overload the system resulting in slow response time and user frustration.

One of our challenges is affording needed bandwidth of at least 20 mbps for the Main Library and affording a fiber connection for the Douglass Branch Library which has a T-1 connection that is completely saturated most of the day. Funding the Illinois Century Network Broadband Stimulus Funds Application will benefit the Champaign Public Library – and ultimately our community – by providing better Internet connection for the library through ICN at decreased cost. The result will be more bandwidth for the Main Library and establishment of a fiber connection and Wi-Fi at the Douglass Branch. This will allow community members faster and more reliable access to the online world which is critical to success in many aspects of life today, including conducting business, gaining employment, and furthering one's education.

If I can provide more information or assistance in support of this application, please contact me at 217-403-2040 or [mgrove@champaign.org](mailto:mgrove@champaign.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marsha Grove".

Marsha Grove  
Director



**Centralia Regional Library Dist.**

515 E. Broadway  
Centralia, IL 62801

Telephone:  
618-532-5222

Fax:  
618-532-8578

March 15, 2010

Assistant Secretary  
National Telecommunications and Information Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
Washington, D.C. 20230

Re: Letter of Support for the Illinois Century Network Broadband Stimulus Funds Application

Dear Sir,

Centralia Regional Library District supports Illinois Century Network in applying for the State of Illinois' broadband stimulus grant. The library district services over 31,000 residents. As seen all over the state of Illinois and nation as a whole, library use has surged with the economic downturn as people turn to their public libraries to borrow materials, use computers, and seek new employment opportunities. This additional use manifested itself last year with a state-wide average of a twenty four percent (24%) increase in the use of computers at public libraries. The need for high speed wireless access in ours and other rural communities is evidenced afterhours by an increase in traffic and temporary parking within proximity of a library to use the WIFI access on portable laptops.

Broadband in libraries provides opportunities for every community resident by providing job and career resources, school homework assistance, research database access and on-line government resources. Public libraries are the community centers where residents can utilize these services to enhance their lives.

On behalf of Centralia Regional Library District, I strongly support the effort of Illinois Century Networks to bring Broadband to our community.

Sincerely,



Joyce Jackson  
Director

## Wood Dale Library

520 North Wood Dale Road  
Wood Dale, Illinois 60191  
Telephone: (630) 766-6762  
Fax: (630) 766-5715  
[www.wooddalelibrary.org](http://www.wooddalelibrary.org)



March 19, 2010

Assistant Secretary  
National Telecommunications and Information Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
Washington, D.C. 20230

Re: Letter of Support for the Illinois Century Network Broadband Stimulus Funds Application

Dear Sir,

The Wood Dale Public Library District is pleased to express our support for the State of Illinois' broadband stimulus grant application. Our Chicago Suburban public library district provides library services to 11,868 library district residents. A recent survey indicates twenty-five percent of the population visits the Library each week utilizing our resources. Last year, we provided almost 25,000 Internet sessions to our residents.

Internet Service continues to be a growing need of our residents and has significantly impacted our technology services. During the past six years, the number of public Internet computers has increased from two computers to twenty-four computers. Due to public Internet Services negatively impacting the bandwidth required for our Library operations, the Library was forced to purchase additional bandwidth from a commercial provider to support the increase in bandwidth demand. The purchase of additional bandwidth negatively affects the amount of money we can spend on other necessary budget line items.

Each month, the Library provides more than 2,000 Internet sessions to our patrons. We also offer one-on-one computer instruction and computer classes. Many patrons tell us that due to the recession that have eliminated Internet Service in their home and they are dependent upon the Library to provide Internet Services so they can apply for a job, access unemployment information, and other social service agencies. Having a new ICN fiber network with higher capacities will allow us to more quickly assist patrons and meet their information needs.

If I can be of any assistance in advancing the State of Illinois' application for broadband stimulus funding, please contact me at 630-766-6762 X202 or by email at [ybergendorf@wooddalelibrary.org](mailto:ybergendorf@wooddalelibrary.org).

Sincerely,

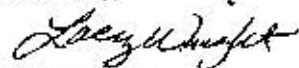
Yvonne R. Bergendorf, Director  
Wood Dale Public Library District

option. There is only one provider and they have no plans to increase service points in the near future, but of course, are adding customers daily, thus reducing available bandwidth to existing customers.

Our community is basically a blue-collar, middle class community but the library serves a large rural area and two additional smaller towns. As stated previously, the library is the only free Internet option for many people, who may own a computer, but can't afford Internet service. With the higher capacities that the new ICN fiber network will be able to offer, the library would be able to improve – and possibly expand – the Internet service it provides to the public. Library service to patrons searching for and checking out materials will improve as the speed of the connection to the central site will be faster, allowing the transactions to be processed in a more timely manner.

If I can be of any assistance in furthering the State of Illinois' application for broadband stimulus funding, please feel free to contact me at 217-672-3621 or by email at [barclaypld@yahoo.com](mailto:barclaypld@yahoo.com).

Sincerely,



Lacey Wright  
Library Director

**Other**



March 16, 2010

Assistant Secretary  
National Telecommunications and Information Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
Washington, D.C. 20230

Re: CIRBN

Dear Sir,

Afni is a provider of contact center solutions and receivables management services to many of the nation's largest companies. Afni is a privately-held company headquartered in Bloomington, Illinois with other facilities in Illinois, Arizona, Kentucky, Texas, Missouri, and Alabama. For decades, we have been developing customized solutions that help companies increase their revenue and build their customer relationships while minimizing expenses and improving their bottom line.

With over 700 employees in three different facilities in Bloomington, Illinois alone, Afni is a leader in the Bloomington-Normal business community. We recognize that it is quite costly to provide the necessary network services, to not only connect our three Afni locations with high speed fiber but also to connect to the Internet and partner networks alike. This is primarily due to lack of carrier competition and lack of a diverse product portfolio of high speed service offerings that are available in larger metropolitan areas. This keeps the last mile and local service prices high. High speed Ethernet access is not an option. That in turn has forced us to incur more expense with lower speed optical solutions. This also requires expensive optical network equipment, support, and components that contribute to higher costs to operate.

It is because of this Afni is in full support and is partnering with others for the proposed Central Illinois Regional Broadband Network (CIRBN). We feel this will meet our high speed Ethernet needs with a price point that will assist not only Afni but many other organizations in continued growth while attracting the companies and people to the area that will sustain its economic prosperity. We feel the reach CIRBN will have to our rural communities, schools, governments, healthcare, and commercial companies alike that today struggle with the lack of service or inflated service costs will have a long lasting positive impact to the central Illinois community as a whole. This will



# SAMI

*Responding to the Changing Needs of Students*

608 KINGSLEY SUITE A NORMAL ILLINOIS 61761  
PHONE 888 4600 FAX 888 4607  
[www.sami.com](http://www.sami.com)

February 22, 2010

Broadband Technology Opportunities Program  
Department of Commerce  
Washington, DC

Re: Central Illinois Regional Broadband Network Initiative

To Whom It May Concern:

SAMI is a property management company providing housing to approximately 2500 students from Illinois State University. SAMI will be an end user of the broadband network.

SAMI was the first property management company in the area to incorporate a connectivity network for our residents. Having been one of the pioneers bringing the internet to our residents we understand the importance of having a quality network for our college student residents.

Quality and reliable internet is a priority for our residents who are using it for their studies and classroom activities. It is our philosophy that the internet will continue to play a major role for the students at Illinois State University and therefore the reason we are focused on achieving and maintaining the best apartment internet connection.

We are excited about the opportunity this broadband will bring and fully support the CIRBN effort.

Sincerely,

Marc Elder  
General Manager  
[marc@sami.com](mailto:marc@sami.com)



December 30, 2009

Broadband Technology Opportunities Program  
Department of Commerce  
Washington, D.C.

To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf of the McLean County Chamber of Commerce, I am pleased to submit this letter of support for the Central Illinois Regional Broadband Network (CIRBN). Our Chamber represents more than 1,000 businesses in throughout McLean County with a mission of strengthening business by uniting organizations to promote and facilitate a healthy business climate.

For most businesses, high-speed internet is an integral part daily operation. In McLean County, most specifically for our rural demographic, access to true high-speed internet is limited which in turn represents difficulty for our members in levels of productivity and efficiency.

Additionally, broadband service is imperative for business expansion and retention let alone the opportunity to be competitive in business attraction into a down-state metro market.

On behalf of the business community within Bloomington/Normal and all of McLean County, I appreciate your consideration to CIRBN's proposal for the expansion of broadband technology to our communities.

Best regards,

Charles M. Moore  
Chief Executive Officer

210 S. East Street | P.O. Box 1586  
Bloomington, IL 61702-1586  
ph. 309.829.6344  
fax 309.827.3940

[www.mcleancochamber.org](http://www.mcleancochamber.org)





March 25, 2010

Lori Sorenson  
Chief Operating Officer  
Bureau of Communications and  
Computer Services  
State of Illinois Department of Central  
Management Services  
120 W. Jefferson Street  
Springfield, IL 63702

Dear Ms. Sorenson:

On behalf of National LambdaRail and Internet2, we are pleased to write in support of the proposal entitled "Illinois Broadband Opportunity Partnership East Central Region (IBOP-EC)" being submitted by the Illinois Century Network to the Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (NTIA BTOP).

This proposal will provide broadband connectivity to K12 schools, higher education, libraries, museums, health care providers, local and state government agencies, public safety organizations, and other community anchor institutions throughout the State of Illinois. The proposal's collaborations with fiber-based regional projects is likely to result in fiber-optic cabling connecting the state's community colleges and public universities by allowing ICN fiber to run through 42 counties. This will significantly increase connectivity speeds and extend connectivity to residents and anchor institutions not already connected to this infrastructure. The project is likely to facilitate economic growth in isolated geographic areas, job creation through project maintenance and construction, and enhance the availability of affordable broadband service throughout the state. This is likely to result in a significantly improved cyberinfrastructure that will allow ICN to reach additional anchor institutions, expanding critical access to advanced broadband services throughout the state while enabling new applications that are likely to benefit the entire area. The proposal clearly responds to BTOP priorities and will involve an experienced management team.

National LambdaRail and Internet2 have had a long and effective partnership with regional research and education networks such as ICN. Both organizations have been leaders in innovative deployments of advanced networking resources that are critical to enhancing the U.S. research and education agenda and positioning its leadership on a global scale. Through development of leading edge Internet technologies like dynamically provisioned bandwidth, end to end network performance monitoring systems, and network security, both organizations in partnership with regional networks like ICN provide focused support to meet the unique requirements of the research and education community.





By working together, this partnership of advanced research networks is particularly well suited to meet ambitious initiatives that are likely to have an impact on the American public, such as those offered by the NTIA BTOP.

Internet2 and National LambdaRail have actively collaborated with many regional networking organizations to advocate for a national broadband footprint whose impact would include linkages between all of the regionally funded BTOP programs within a comprehensive national fabric. In support of this effort, Internet2 and National LambdaRail are submitting a joint BTOP proposal to develop the United States Unified Community Anchor Network (U.S. UCAN) that will leverage their collective partnerships and expertise, and that will provide critical national resources to complement and enhance the viability of regionally funded BTOP projects like IBOP-EC.

We are pleased to offer our joint support of this important initiative.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Douglas E. Van Houweling".

Douglas E. Van Houweling  
President and CEO  
Internet2

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Glenn Ricart".

Glenn Ricart  
President and CEO  
National Lambda Rail



## INSTITUTO DEL PROGRESO LATINO

March 19, 2010

Assistant Secretary  
National Telecommunications and Information Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
Washington, D.C. 20230

Re: Letter of Support for the Illinois Century Network Broadband Stimulus Funds Application

Dear Sir,

Instituto del Progreso Latino would like to state its support for the State of Illinois' broadband stimulus grant application. Instituto's mission is to contribute to the fullest development of Latino immigrants and their families through training, education and employment that fosters full participation in the U.S. society. Having grown from a \$2 million agency in 2002 to a \$7.5 million agency today, Instituto runs a school for returning high school students, language training, job training and are opening a new health sciences career academy this fall. Instituto operates several computer labs and currently employs 350 computers in its system. It has received a \$12 million grant from the State to help construct an institutional center for the community. Within five years, the Agency is projected to have \$15 million in annual operations.

**Instituto serves 14,000+ families per year** - 5 strategically located service centers in Pilsen, Little Village and Back of the Yards, with satellite offices in Cicero; 94% of families are Latina/o immigrants; 84% have children who are U.S. citizens by birth

**Education is the primary purpose of Instituto** - 100% receive technology-based education; 99% of adult learners increase their fluency in English and/or literacy in Spanish; 75% eventually attain a General Equivalency Diploma; 35% eventually earn a Bachelor's degree; 25% eventually earn a Master's 98% of students graduate from Instituto's *Escalera* College Bridge Program; they achieve 100% recruitment into college.

**Instituto has a wide impact on the economy and policy** - 98% of Instituto's 43,000+ alumni are bilingual, bicultural and bi-national; many are civically active; 98% of engaged alumni achieve success: owning a small business, as professionals, as renowned artists, and/or as highly skilled and highly paid workers; 99% of Instituto's *Carreras en Salud* graduates double their earnings, average increase at \$20,000+; 1,790 hard working families received over \$2.8 million in tax refunds through Instituto's free tax preparation services; 98% of people completing Instituto's citizenship classes naturalize as U.S. citizens and vote

Instituto del Progreso Latino | 2570 S. Blue Island Ave | Chicago, IL 60608  
Tel: 773.890.0055 | Fax: 773.890.1537  
[www.idpl.org](http://www.idpl.org)



**Instituto also has strategic partnerships** - Instituto partners with the National Council of La Raza, PepsiCo and PepsiCo Foundation to administer and expand the college bridge program *Escalera: Taking Steps to Success*. *Escalera* was recognized as a "Best Practice" in the Winter 2007 issue of Corporate Philanthropist.

*Carreras en Salud*: A Chicago Bilingual Healthcare Partnership is a collaborative between Instituto, Association House of Chicago, Humboldt Park Vocational Education Center of Wilbur Wright College and the National Council of La Raza. In October, Carreras was awarded the 2007 National Exemplary Program in Workforce Development by the National Council for Continued Education.

**Manufacturing Works**: Chicago Workforce Center is a partnership with the City of Chicago's Mayor's Office of Workforce Development. Manufacturing Works is recognized as a leading model with features in the Aspen Institute's Sector Academy publication and Workforce Strategies Initiative website.

Media vignettes with Univision, Hoy Newspaper, and Comcast NewsMakers.

***The Benefits of the ICN fiber project would be great*** – The ICN Project benefits will provide Instituto with access to a private, more stable and faster network. The stability and speed will allow our organization to provide visual communication networks and access to more clients to be able to surf the internet and to access sites that would before require more bandwidth than Instituto would have access to. With the prior restrictions we could not have clients and students visiting the same sites at the same time. From the technical side, it will allow Instituto to freely set up its own network – this allows for redundancy in TCP/IP.

This will allow Instituto to be on par with Universities in providing stability and access while offering the services inexpensively to the communities Instituto serves. Instituto will be able to provide the same band width and the same access to many students and clients to websites at the same time. Instituto will be able to offer more on-line programs because of the high speed which will increase the scope of the organization's impact. With no interruptions or delays in the transmissions, no user will suffer and Instituto's network won't be affected even if students are surfing or engaged in on-line learning.

The advantage over other providers is the price; other provider services are cost prohibitive. The other providers also limit speed. Finally, the other providers offer up and down connectivity, that is, we'd be fine for three or four months then the system would go down with three or four days required for repairs to take place.

If I can be of any assistance in advancing the State of Illinois' application for broadband stimulus funding, please contact me at 773-890-0055 X 108 or at [Phillip@idpl.org](mailto:Phillip@idpl.org). Also please feel free to contact the Instituto IT Director, Marco Trujillo at 773-890-0055 X 261 or at [marco@idpl.org](mailto:marco@idpl.org).

Sincerely,



Phillip Hall

Chief Operating Officer

*Instituto del Progreso Latino*

[www.idpl.org](http://www.idpl.org)

# Education Service Network

---

## Premier Academy — Morris

1715 N. Division St. • Morris, IL 60450  
(815) 416-0377 • fax (815) 774-8969 • [www.educationservicenetwork.org](http://www.educationservicenetwork.org)

March 12, 2010



*Serving families,  
schools, and  
communities in  
Grundy, Kendall,  
and Will Counties*

ESN main office  
1320 Union St.  
Morris, IL 60450  
(815) 941-3134  
Fax (815) 942-5084

Premier Academy  
51 W. Jackson St.  
Joliet, IL 60432  
(815) 774-8969  
Fax (815) 722-3392

Premier Academy  
1715 N. Division St.  
Morris, IL 60450  
(815) 416-0377  
Fax (815) 774-8969

ESN Yorkville office  
403 W. Rega St.  
Yorkville, IL 60550  
(815) 553-4163  
Fax (815) 553-4152

*ESN is a program of  
the Grundy-Kendall  
Regional Office of  
Education and the  
Will County Regional  
Office of Education.*

Assistant Secretary  
National Telecommunications and Information Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
Washington, D.C. 20230

Re: Letter of Support for the Illinois Century Network Broadband Stimulus Funds  
Application

Dear Sir,

The purpose of this letter is to express our support for the State of Illinois' broadband stimulus grant application. The Education Service Network is a non-profit agency that provides educational and community services to Will, Grundy, and Kendall Counties in Illinois. Our 2 largest programs are alternative schools which primarily use internet-based curriculum. Thus the speed, cost, and reliability of the internet are critical to the Education Service Network.

Greater bandwidth would be a great benefit to our schools because we have 300 computers online at Premier Academy in Joliet and 100 computers online at Premier Academy in Morris. We have not been satisfied with the speed and the cost of our internet connections.

With an improved capacity of a new ICN fiber network, our students will save time when webpages load and when sending test answers over the internet.

If I can be of any assistance in advancing the State of Illinois' application for broadband stimulus funding, please contact me at [mleigh@educationservicenetwork.org](mailto:mleigh@educationservicenetwork.org) or 815-774-8914.

Sincerely,

Mark Leigh  
Technical Support Coordinator  
Education Service Network



March 24, 2010

Assistant Secretary  
National Telecommunications and Information Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
Washington, D.C. 20230

Re: Support for the Illinois Broadband Opportunity Partnership

The Illinois Emergency Services Management Association seeks to promote emergency preparedness and the ability to communicate through wireless means.

IESMA is an organization of local emergency management professionals around the state of Illinois at the local level that plan for, respond to, recover from and mitigate future emergencies. Having access to high speed internet in the rural areas of Illinois is a critical issues for our profession and for the safe response to emergencies in the State of Illinois. The Illinois Broadband Opportunity Partnership is seen as a key player in making broadband internet access available in the most rural part of the state.

Some in our community have access to DSL or Cable internet service, most do not. For these individuals and families, a \$50-\$70 monthly DSL or Cable internet connection is often unaffordable. For others, especially in rural and remote areas, high-speed broadband service is not available, except from satellite Internet Service Providers.

We understand that the IBOP fiber network will bring robust, high-speed Internet infrastructure to more parts of Illinois, and help make faster broadband available in more communities throughout Illinois.

We support this public-private effort because we believe that a national investment in Illinois' broadband network will have a significant impact upon online learning, health IT, enhanced 911, advanced research, and economic development, and Illinois' ability to implement that National Broadband Plan. It will also serve as the foundation for additional development and expansion in the future. These objectives, in turn, will improve the quality of life for all individuals across the state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'JP' or 'JW', written in a cursive style.

James W. Pitchford IPFM  
Chairman  
IESMA Communication Committee  
Past President IESMA 1993  
Coordinator Macoupin County EMA  
Carlinville, Illinois



IPEA • IMUA

3400 CONIFER DRIVE, SPRINGFIELD, IL 62711  
217-789-4632 / FAX 217-789-4642

March 24, 2010

Assistant Secretary  
National Telecommunications and Information Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
Washington, D.C. 20230

**Re: Support for the Illinois Broadband Opportunity Partnership**

The Illinois Municipal Utilities Association (IMUA) is a not-for-profit corporation functioning as a trade association for municipalities that own and operate their own electric, natural gas, water, wastewater and telecommunications systems in Illinois. It is composed of 65 municipalities, 57 associate members and seven affiliate members.

For many municipalities, existing middle mile network infrastructure is inadequate. As such, IMUA supports creating high-quality middle- and last-mile broadband options in every Illinois community. In particular, IMUA is committed to ensuring that communities have greater access to higher-speed Internet connects.

We understand that the IBOP fiber network will bring robust, high-speed middle mile network infrastructure to more parts of Illinois, and help make faster broadband available in more communities throughout Illinois, and will allow points of interconnection to IMUA last-mile providers and members.

We support this public-private effort because we believe that a national investment in Illinois' broadband network will have a significant impact upon online learning, health IT, enhanced 911, advanced research, and economic development, and Illinois' ability to implement that National Broadband Plan. It will also serve as the foundation for additional development and expansion in the future. These objectives, in turn, will improve municipalities across the state.

Sincerely,

Ronald D. Earl  
President & CEO  
Illinois Municipal Utilities Association

**PARTNERS IN DELIVERING  
EXCELLENCE IN UTILITY SERVICES.**

ILLINOIS MUNICIPAL ELECTRIC AGENCY  
ILLINOIS PUBLIC ENERGY AGENCY  
ILLINOIS MUNICIPAL UTILITIES ASSOCIATION  
[WWW.IMEA.ORG](http://WWW.IMEA.ORG)



301 North Washington St.  
Naperville, IL 60540

(630) 637-8000 Phone  
(630) 637-1975 Fax

March 15, 2010

Margaret A. Field  
Technology Coordinator  
DuPage Children's Museum  
301 North Washington Street  
Naperville, IL 60540

Assistant Secretary  
National Telecommunications and Information Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
Washington, D.C. 20230

Re: Letter of Support for the Illinois Century Network Broadband Stimulus Funds  
Application

Dear Sir,

The purpose of this letter is to express our support for the State of Illinois' broadband stimulus grant application. DuPage Children's Museum is a non profit organization. We have over 300,000 visitors a year. Our School Programs served more than 20,000 Illinois students last year. Illinois Century Network is very important to us. They provide us the support we could not afford if we had to go through the private sector.

The ICN fiber project could significantly improve the resources the ICN makes available to us. That in turn would allow us to improve the programs we make available to our visitors, and through our School Programs, to the students of Illinois.

If I can be of any assistance in advancing the State of Illinois' application for broadband stimulus funding, please contact me at 630-637-800 ext. 4360 or by email at [mfield@dupagechildrensmuseum.org](mailto:mfield@dupagechildrensmuseum.org).

Margaret A. Field  
Technology Manager  
DuPage Children's Museum

March 19, 2010

Assistant Secretary  
National Telecommunications and Information Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
Washington, D.C. 20230

CHICAGO  
VOLUNTEER  
LEGAL  
SERVICES

*Because equal access to  
justice is everyone's fight*

Re: Letter of Support for the Illinois Century Network Broadband Stimulus Funds Application

Dear Sir,

I am writing to express my support for the State of Illinois' broadband stimulus grant application. Chicago Volunteer Legal Services is a not-for-profit legal services agency. Our 2,900 volunteers provided free legal services to 17,427 low income people in the Chicago last year and more than 350,439 clients since we began in 1964. We protect children and elderly. We represent people fighting to keep their homes. We represent those that stand to lose the most.

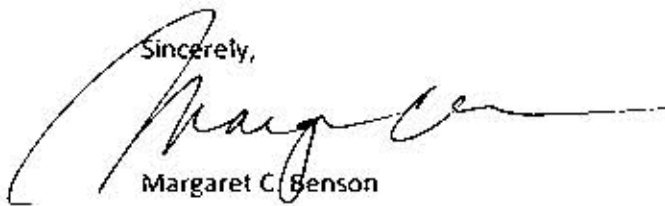
Illinois' Legal Needs Studies consistently report that only 20% of the legal needs of our State's indigent are being met. The constant challenge to meet these clients' legal needs means we must turn to technology solutions. In fact, we are currently undertaking a data base project that will revolutionize how we store and access data and how our constituents access that data and communicate with us. This project will mean more accessible legal services, but must be accompanied by greater bandwidth. To date, our operating budget does not allow access to the bandwidth that will be necessary to take full advantage of what technology can offer to those needy seeking legal help.

No other broadband service provider has been able to provide needed services to us at reasonable prices. Without ICN and this stimulus grant, Chicago's poor, elderly, and most needy will be denied access to justice.

With the higher capacities that the new ICN fiber network will be able to offer, more efficient legal services to poor and disadvantaged individuals and families over a broader area of Chicago.

If I can be of any assistance in advancing the State of Illinois' application for broadband stimulus funding, please contact me at 312-332-5542 or by email at [mbenson@cvs.org](mailto:mbenson@cvs.org).

Sincerely,



Margaret C. Benson  
Executive Director





CHICAGO BOTANIC GARDEN

March 12, 2010

Assistant Secretary  
National Telecommunications and Information Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
Washington, D.C. 20230

Re: Letter of Support for the Illinois Century Network Broadband Stimulus Funds Application

Dear Sir,

We are very hopeful that the recent State of Illinois' broadband stimulus grant could benefit our non profit Chicago Botanic Garden, located just north of Chicago. One of Chicago's 9 major cultural institutions since 1972 and managed by the Chicago Horticultural Society (which dates back to 1890), the Garden provides a living museum, including the School of the Botanic Garden, research and multiple programs, events and tours throughout the year, serving Midwest residents of nearly every age. The Garden is spread out over 385 acres, and suffers somewhat from an infrastructure standpoint of being at the end of local telecom services. There simply is no telecom fiber present in our area.

The Garden is the second most visited Garden in the nation, with over ¾ million visitors annually. We strive to blend technology and research and are attempting to bring the results to the public as well as its 50,000 members. With the rapidly increasing development and lowering costs of technology like wireless laptops and hand help devices, the demand to bring the technology to the people is out pacing our local infrastructure's ability to keep up.

As you may be aware, all local carries have to go through the local service. When we initially inquired just a few years ago, the cost to bring fiber to us was about ¼ millions dollars. The existing solution uses copper and converters that are prone to flooding and failure and outages.

If ICN, who has been our provider for many years, can provide these services through the State of Illinois' broadband stimulus grant to us, it would greatly increase our ability to serve the public and improve educational and research objectives that we provide.

If we can be of any assistance in supporting the State of Illinois' application for broadband stimulus funding, please contact me at 847 / 835-8234 or email [jtamraz@chicagobotanic.org](mailto:jtamraz@chicagobotanic.org).

Sincerely,

Jeff Tamraz

Manager of Client Operations

1000 Lake Cook Road Glenview, Illinois 60022 tel 847.835.5140 fax 847.835.4484 [www.chicagobotanic.org](http://www.chicagobotanic.org)

*One of the green treasures of the Forest Preserve District of Cook County*

# Cairo Women's Shelter, Inc.

P.O. Box 911 Cairo, IL 62914  
(618) 734-HELP  
FAX (618) 734-4367

## 24 HOUR HOT LINE

Alexander County 734-4357  
Massac County 524-4357  
Union County 833-4382

**RESIDENTIAL SHELTER**  
Domestic Violence Counseling  
Court Advocacy  
Children's Program  
Homeless Services



March 18, 2010

Assistant Secretary  
National Telecommunications and Information Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
Washington, D.C. 20230

RE: Letter of Support for the Illinois Century Network Broadband Stimulus Funds

Dear Sir,

This letter is written in support of the grant application for the State of Illinois Broadband Stimulus Grant application. The Cairo Women's Shelter is a small, rural not for profit who provides services in the four southernmost counties of Illinois which are Alexander, Massac, Pulaski, and Union. In FY'2009, we provided shelter and services to 459 adult and 160 child clients who experienced the trauma of domestic violence. Due to our location, Illinois Century Network is the only provider capable of providing the speed of internet access that is required for our contract compliance.

As an organization that depends primarily on state funding, we have experienced drastic deductions in funding which has had a significant impact on our service delivery. Because broadband delivers the technology crucial to our ability to stay in compliance with our contracts requirements, we struggle to pay for this service each month. Your funding of their application would be a tremendous help toward our ability to continue to receive quality, expanded technological support as well as possibly reducing the cost of this service so that we can continue to afford its use.

In summary, the Cairo Women's Shelter, Inc. is asking that you give priority consideration for funding the application submitted by the State of Illinois. Your funding of this grant would not only help this organization but truly enhance services for the people of rural southernmost Illinois who rely on programs like ours being available in their time of need. If I can be of further assistance in advancing the State of Illinois's application for broadband stimulus funding, please contact me at (618) 734-4357 or by e-mail at [cws@midwest.net](mailto:cws@midwest.net).

Sincerely,

  
E. Jeannine Woods, Executive Director

# Beck Area Career Center

*Optional Education Program  
Patti Miles, Principal  
6137 Beck Road  
Red Bud, Illinois 62278*

*Phone 618-473-2222 ext. 101*

*Fax 618-473-2292*

---

March 12, 2010

Assistant Secretary  
National Telecommunications and Information Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
Washington, D.C. 20230

Re: Letter of Support for the Illinois Century Network Broadband Stimulus Funds Application

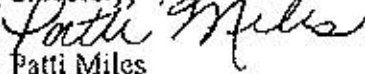
Dear Sir,

Please consider the Illinois Century Network Broadband Stimulus Funds application. We are a rural vocational center that serves about 350 students from a three county area. To be able to provide a greater bandwidth would allow us to increase our technology usage and use video streaming and new technologies to enhance our programs.

Many of the students we serve in this rural area are at risk of not graduating high school and our program is very important to them. Due to budget cuts, we are unable to receive these needed services at reasonable prices.

If I can be of any assistance in advancing the State of Illinois' application for broadband stimulus funding, please contact me at 618-473-2222 or by email at [pmiles@monroe.k12.il.us](mailto:pmiles@monroe.k12.il.us).

Sincerely,



Patti Miles

Principal/Technology Coordinator



912 North Linden Street, P.O. Box 670  
Bloomington, Illinois 61701  
www.apartment-mart.com  
Tel: (309) 827-8576 Fax: (309) 827-8578

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Broadband Technology Opportunities Program  
Department of Commerce  
Washington, DC

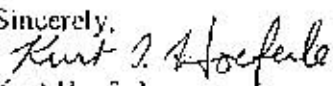
To Whom It May Concern:

Apartment Mart is a property management company in Bloomington, Illinois. We manage several apartment complexes in the community with a wide variety of tenants. Most of our complexes provide Internet access as an amenity.

We have a large population of Information Technology professionals who rent our apartments and work for some of the largest employers in the area. Frequently they work from their apartments via Internet VPN connections back to the businesses where they are contracted. It is extremely important that these connections are not only fast but reliable. The needs of our tenants have outpaced the Internet services currently available in our area.

The Internet services proposed by the Central Illinois Regional Broadband Network (CIRBN) would help our company attract new tenants and retain the ones we have. When occupancy rates are high there is also incentive for companies like ours to expand into new areas of the community which in turn creates new jobs.

We at Apartment Mart are very much in support of the CIRBN effort and are hopeful that the grant is successfully awarded to our community.

Sincerely,  
  
Kurt Hoefler  
President, Apartment Mart, Inc.



MAR-16-2010 08:31

Teleologic Learn

2176482479

P.003

**TELEOLOGIC LEARNING COMPANY**

114 SW Arch Street  
Atlanta, Illinois 61723  
United States of America  
phone 217-648-5077  
fax 217-648-2479  
www.teleologic.net

March 17, 2010

Assistant Secretary  
National Telecommunications and Information Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
Washington, D.C. 20230

Re: CIRBN

Dear Sir,

Teleologic Learning Company, located in Atlanta, Illinois designs and produces online training for a variety of clients, including government and private entities throughout Illinois and across the United States. Employees of Teleologic currently access the internet via our phone carrier, Verizon, Inc. using half a dedicated T1 line.

While the service provided by the bandwidth arrangement we have in place with Verizon is good, the monthly cost is very high for a small organization such as ours.

We have sought bids from alternate providers but have run up against similar, if not higher, costs.

Should Teleologic be able to secure lower access rates, it would help in our ongoing attempts to reduce overhead administrative costs and thereby help make our business more stable.

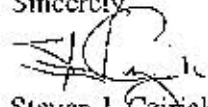
Please feel free to contact me directly should you have any additional questions, using the contact information noted above.

Sincerely,

William M. Thomas, CEO  
Teleologic Learning Company

allow all to focus on the core business values and allow for increased strategic investments for continued growth.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Czihak", written over a horizontal line.

Steven J. Czihak  
Chief Financial Officer  
Afni, Inc.

## **Last Mile 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Providers**



March 18, 2010

Assistant Secretary  
National Telecommunications and Information Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
Washington, D.C. 20230

Re: Letter of Support for the Illinois Century Network Broadband Stimulus Funds Application

Dear Sir,

We are a small independent Cable Operator which operates systems in Eastern Illinois and Southern Indiana. We have approximately 8,500 customers that could benefit from the proposed ICN fiber project. Our position would be to provide the last mile transport to these local communities. There are also other possibilities that would allow us to provide services to serve other communities as well.

Middle mile transport has been a particular challenge as we have tried unsuccessfully in the past to negotiate connectivity with providers at a reasonable cost.

I may be contacted at 812-895-7640 should I be able to provide any further assistance in advancing the State of Illinois' application for broadband stimulus funding. My email address is [mary.lafrate@avenuebroadband.net](mailto:mary.lafrate@avenuebroadband.net).

Thank you for your attention in this most important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary Lafrate". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mary" and last name "Lafrate" clearly distinguishable.

Mary Lafrate  
V.P. and General Manager



March 11, 2010

Assistant Secretary  
National Telecommunications & Information Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
Washington, D.C. 20230

Re: Support Letter for the Illinois Century Network Broadband Application

Dear Sir:

The ability to work in conjunction with Illinois Century Network and leverage their proven "middle-mile" capability with Conxxus' history of providing service to the rural areas of Central Illinois, becomes a public/private partnership that makes complete sense both in providing service and leveraging financial costs. We strongly support the ICN application and believe that their proposal and ours manage to achieve the goals set forth by both the President and NTIA.

ICN adds strong redundancy and well as presenting vital capacity and a potential cost savings for Conxxus' network. The combined strength of the ICN and Conxxus relationship will insure the greatest quality of performance for schools, libraries, public safety and healthcare facilities.

The combination of ICN's true "middle mile" service coupled with the Conxxus "middle mile" connection to all "Anchor Institutions" make for a public/private partnership that leverages each group's strengths. This partnership allows optimal maximization of stimulus funds.

Please be assured that if I can be of any assistance in advancing the State of Illinois' application for broadband stimulus funding, feel free to contact me at: (618) 498-6099 or my e-mail address: [barry@nowww.us](mailto:barry@nowww.us).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Barclay Goodwin".

Barclay (Barry) Goodwin  
President NOW Wireless & Manager Conxxus, LLC





INTELLIGENT  
computing solutions

16256 Crego Rd.  
De Kalb, IL 60115

(866) 323-2798  
Fax: (815) 756-3918  
<http://www.ics-il.com>

3/10/2010

Assistant Secretary  
National Telecommunications and Information Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
Washington, D.C. 20230

Re: Letter of Support for the Illinois Century Network Broadband Stimulus Funds Application

Dear Sir,

I own and manage a fixed wireless Internet Service Provider based in DeKalb, IL. Our current coverage currently includes an area limited to parts of DeKalb County, IL. We are a part of a recently funded middle mile project in DeKalb County. We currently serve approximately 30 customers and intend on at least doubling customer counts every year for the foreseeable future. We currently provide Internet and VoIP service. I would utilize the ICN network at minimum to purchase low cost Internet connectivity at a local POP, and at best to provide private connectivity from the carrier hotels in Chicago to various points throughout my greatly expanded network made possible by these low cost services. The network will grow organically and through acquisition enabled by the lower cost Internet access and low cost access to transport throughout the state for expansion.

We currently purchase expensive unreliable service, which makes it difficult to deliver services that our equipment is capable of. We currently offer 2 megabit service, but could easily provide 10 or 15 megabit service in rural areas if we had a cost effective, reliable connection to the Internet. In more confined subdivision settings, we may even be able to provide 40 meg service. Despite the relatively short distance to Chicago, the network latency is quite high – about 4x what it should be, and the jitter leaves something to be desired as well.

Despite our proximity to Chicago, we are in another LATA, so we had might as well be in the middle of Montana as far as traditional telco circuits are concerned. There simply isn't anything cost effective available traditionally. We purchase service via fixed wireless from another provider, but their network isn't constructed well, nor priced appropriately to provide next generation services. The DATA project will provide great connectivity within the county and provide an avenue to access the Internet at a cost of only 10% that I now pay. However, they don't provide connectivity all the way into Chicago where I can access a more diverse supply of carriers and services. The best rate I can find for T1s is around \$450 each. T3 service is still thousands of dollars. I currently pay \$250 for a guaranteed 1 megabit, burstable to 10 megs.

With the DATA project, within our county I'll have fiber access to the ICN network. The pricing estimates I've seen are only 10% of that of the DATA project and provide services I just can't obtain cost effectively via any other means. I will be able to provide at least 15 megabit service throughout my entire coverage area and will expand into new areas. I'll be better able to service enterprise customers with this connectivity into Chicago. I am entertaining the purchase



INTELLIGENT  
computing solutions

16256 Crego Rd.  
De Kalb, IL 60115

(866) 323-2798  
Fax: (815) 756-3918  
<http://www.ics-il.com>

of at least 2 other operators in this area. With the low cost access to a host of services, I'll be able to expand my high bandwidth goals throughout those networks as well.

The possibilities and benefits once I obtain cost effective access into Chicago are limitless. If I can be of any assistance in advancing the State of Illinois' application for broadband stimulus funding, please contact me at 815-909-3011 x200 or by email at [mhammett@ics-il.com](mailto:mhammett@ics-il.com).

Sincerely,

Mike Hammett

President

Intelligent Computing Solutions





March 12, 2010

Assistant Secretary  
National Telecommunications and Information Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
Washington, D.C. 20230

Re: Letter of Support for the Illinois Century Network Broadband Stimulus Funds Application

Dear Sir,

Fox Valley Internet would like to express our support for the State of Illinois' broadband stimulus grant application. Fox Valley Internet is in the business of delivering last mile broadband services to over 4000 residential and commercial customers in Northwestern Illinois. The ICN fiber project has the potential to bring lower cost bandwidth to the region allowing us to provide greater bandwidth at a lower price to schools and municipalities to local communities. At the same time the ICN fiber project has the potential for us to provide service to many customers that we currently can not reach due to a lack of middle mile providers.

In our current business the greatest cost and bottleneck is getting reasonable priced bandwidth to the area. While available in hubs like Chicago the cost to transport bandwidth to more rural areas is often cost prohibitive. The process to acquire and contract middle mile bandwidth could also be greatly improved with a project like this. With the rapid deployment nature of our wireless business, access to a middle mile provider will enable us to service needed area quickly and at a reasonable price-point.

In our territory, and many areas around us, a fiber network has not been built out which greatly reduces the opportunity to offer to offer reliable broadband services to rural residents and schools, businesses, and governments of local communities. Many locations are still dependent on high cost, low services of satellite solutions.

We are currently providing bandwidth to local community school districts allowing inter school communications as well as access to the Internet. The availability of additional middle mile bandwidth will allow us to increase availability and reliability to these communities.

We thank you for taking the time to consider this project. If we can be of any assistance in helping this move forward we would be happy to work with you. I can be contacted at the address, phone number, or email address listed below.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Diem'.

John Diem  
Co-Owner – Fox Valley Internet  
2585 Millennium Dr. - Suite G  
Elgin, IL 60124  
847-742-4623 x102  
[jwdiem@foxvalley.net](mailto:jwdiem@foxvalley.net)

March 18, 2010

Assistant Secretary  
National Telecommunications and Information Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
Washington, D.C. 20230

**RE: Letter of Support for the Illinois Department of Central Management Services/Illinois Century Network  
Broadband Proposal and the Illinois Broadband Opportunities Partnership**

Dear Sir:

This letter is in support of the Illinois Department of Central Management Services/Illinois Century Network BTOP grant application. For many years the ICN has been committed to meeting the connectivity needs of schools, libraries, colleges, universities, museums, and health care providers within the State of Illinois. Clearwave has had the distinct pleasure to partner with the ICN to provide last mile access to anchor institutions within our Southern Illinois region.

The lack of affordable access to connectivity resources within the state is severely limiting the educational and health care systems within our state. Both of our organizations have worked together to find solutions to the incredible challenge of meeting this increasing demand for bandwidth to our mutual customers. This is why we are in full support of IDCMS/ICN's application for funding to construct a statewide middle mile fiber network and the collaborative partnership between the other regional partners in the Illinois Broadband Opportunities Partnership. The ICN has proven their leadership abilities by putting together such a crucial partnership.

The ICN has been collaborating with us to develop the plan to build the interconnected statewide network within our region. We are fully committed to this partnership and look forward to further cooperation between our organizations as we work to expand broadband access throughout our state.

In closing, we are in strong support of the ICN's application and their efforts to lead the way in making ubiquitous broadband access a reality in Illinois. If I can be of any assistance in advancing the ICN's application for funding, please contact me at 618-294-8000 or email at [sriggs@clearwave.com](mailto:sriggs@clearwave.com).

Sincerely,



Scott Riggs  
President  
Clearwave Communications



March 8, 2010

Assistant Secretary  
National Telecommunications and Information Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
Washington, D.C. 20230

Re: Letter of Support for the Illinois Century Network Broadband Stimulus Funds Application

Dear Sir,

I am writing to express our company's enthusiastic support for the Illinois Century Network Broadband Stimulus Application.

Our company employs 22 individuals and is fast growing, entrepreneurial entity providing wireless broadband telecommunications services to the healthcare, education, manufacturing, retail, financial and other industries located in the Chicago area. We currently serve over 300 hundred enterprises within the region.

We believe that ICN's middle mile fiber expansion throughout Illinois offers new opportunities to grow our business and create new jobs at a time of economic distress specifically in areas outside of Cook County. The lack of economical middle mile fiber facilities throughout Illinois has deterred us from reaching customers in regions past our footprint in Cook County and has not allowed us to competitively offer last mile connectivity to all Illinois customers in need of greater Internet bandwidth.

Our desire is to utilize ICN's middle mile infrastructure to extend our broadband wireless point of presence to provide up to gigabit Internet and Intranet connectivity to businesses that have no other cost effective solutions. We believe this enables businesses throughout Illinois to better reach their customers and suppliers globally especially during periods when they are starting up new ventures to grow and enhance their individual business models.

We applaud the federal government's leadership in confronting this critical issue and we believe that the ICN – if funded and replicated – transforms the last mile industry, allowing us to provide cost effective fixed wireless broadband at speeds exceeding 100 Mbps.

Beyond immediate opportunities for our company or industry, we are also excited by the opportunity for ICN to strengthen the community by providing affordable advanced broadband services to educational institutions, large and small.

## *Business Only Broadband*

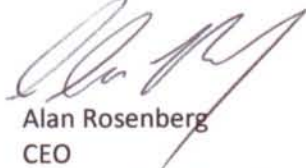
777 Oakmont, Suite 2000, Westmont IL 60559

Phone: 630-242-6801 | Fax: 630-986-2496

[www.bobbroadband.com](http://www.bobbroadband.com)

Thank you for your consideration of this important project. If I can be of any assistance in advancing the ICN's application for broadband stimulus funding, please contact me at 630-590-6004 or [Arosenberg@bobbroadband.com](mailto:Arosenberg@bobbroadband.com)

Sincerely,



Alan Rosenberg

CEO

Business Only Broadband



Volo Broadband  
822 Pioneer St.  
Champaign, IL 61820  
(217) 367-8656

Volo Broadband  
sales@volo.net

March 19, 2010

Assistant Secretary  
National Telecommunications and Information Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
Washington, D.C. 20230

Re: Letter of Support for the Illinois Century Network Broadband Stimulus Funds Application

To Whom It May Concern,

Volo Broadband is an internet service provider headquartered in Champaign, IL. We currently have over a thousand business and residential customers in the Champaign-Urbana metropolitan area, including the governments of the City of Champaign, the City of Urbana, the county government for Champaign County, and the Urbana Free Library. We have been providing service in this area for 9 years, and have been serving the aforementioned anchor institutions for 3-5 years. We hope to significantly increase, over the next 3-5 years, the number of anchor institutions for which we provide connectivity and we expect the ICN network to help make that possible.

The biggest challenge we face is affordable access to middle mile transport, particularly the ability to be multi-homed for maximum reliability. While we have been able to justify the significant cost of a circuit from Champaign to Chicago for our primary bandwidth feed, I do not foresee it being possible to justify such a cost, at current rates, for example for a feed to Indianapolis or St Louis that will only be used in emergencies. My primary hope from the ICN Fiber network is that it will permit rich fiber connectivity where currently that connectivity is sparse due to high cost.

Another aspect of the ICN Fiber network that is interesting to us is the ability to connect more public institutions more robustly to the internet. We currently service local anchors, but there are many other anchor institutions in more rural regions that we would like to service. I believe that this project will help make it cost-effective to offer better service in more rural areas, where schools and other anchor institutions usually have much less opportunity to access high-bandwidth connectivity.

Finally, the ICN fiber network will allow us to aggregate more customers using the middle-mile connectivity it will provide, and therefore improve our economy of scale. That economy of scale will be directly represented in our ability to offer lower prices to customers, including schools and other anchor institutions.

The ICN fiber network will fill a need that has existed for the entire time Volo has been in business—the need for a transport provider dedicated to bringing more bandwidth to the area, instead of rationing that bandwidth. When we have gone for quotes for a gigabit backbone feed, the prices have ranged from \$16000/mo to \$25000/mo. This high price means that only large corporations can afford guaranteed bandwidth. We expect the ICN fiber network to bring that cost closer to \$5000/mo, where it starts being economical to reduce or eliminate oversubscription of customer bandwidth, provide high-bandwidth connections that smaller businesses and nonprofit entities can afford, and make it possible for local providers to compete more effectively with Comcast and AT&T.

Feel free to contact me via phone at (217) 721-3893, or email at [peter@volo.net](mailto:peter@volo.net), if I can be of any assistance in advancing the State of Illinois' application for broadband stimulus funding.

Sincerely,

Peter Folk, CEO

Gargoyle Technologies, Inc DBA Volo Broadband