

**Partnership for a Connected Illinois**  
2014 Quarter 2 Supplemental Information

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**Data Collection**

- Submitted the ninth round of data updates to NTIA for use in the National Broadband Map. 166 carriers were included in this round, with 39 providing updates to the coverage area and/or speeds, and with six providers participating for the first time.
- Updated BroadbandIllinois.org with round nine data for each carrier, county, and to populate the Broadband Find & Request tool.
- Updated carrier and county maps on BroadbandIllinois.org with the latest data collected from providers.
- Used new data to update the "Find Broadband" and "Request Broadband" tools on the website, with the "Find" tool being used 1,141 times during the second quarter and the "Request" tool being used 108 times.
- Provided information to the Illinois Commerce Commission for use in their Annual Report to the General Assembly.

**Capacity Building**

- Attended the NTIA State Broadband Initiative meeting, joining the other state programs to discuss the work each state does as relates to broadband data and planning.
- Engaged with representatives from the Office of the Governor and Central Management Service on planning for technology improvements among the least connected schools in Illinois.
- Facilitated a meeting of the full Broadband Deployment Council, which was hosted in Springfield, Chicago, and via teleconference.
- Participated in the annual Schools, Hospitals, and Libraries, and Broadband Coalition conference, which focused on:
  - Up-to-date analysis of all the "hot" issues affecting community anchor institutions, including E-rate Reform, ConnectED, Rural Broadband Experiments, Wireless Broadband, Community Broadband Planning, Digital Inclusion and Broadband Adoption;
  - Cross-sector interactions and networking among community anchor institutions, broadband providers, BTOP awardees, and the broadband industry that can foster partnerships and collaboration;
  - Access to the key federal policy-makers;
  - Presentations about innovative and successful broadband projects around the country involving community anchor institutions (including "best practices");
  - Financial and other sustainability strategies for broadband projects of all kinds.
- Participated in the Illinois Science and Technology Coalition's Illinois Innovation celebration at the Governor's Mansion. This event showcased innovation leadership throughout the state, including in technology dynamism.
- Participated in the monthly call hosted by the Illinois Emergency Management Agency regarding First Net deployment in Illinois.
- Collaborated with other entities on broadband access, usage, and deployment in furthering the vision of Better Broadband, Better Lives. These entities include, but are not limited to Abgov Solutions, Association House, Blue 1647, Bluebird Network, Centers

for Digital Inclusion, Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, Illinois Technology Association, Illinois Telehealth Task Force, In-Site Solutions, Man-Tra-Con, Metropolitan Community Health Centers, National Telecommunications Information Association, PDNS Multi-Service Broadband Network, Village of Hoffman Estates, and World Business Chicago.

#### **Technical Assistance**

- Executive Director Phil Halstead served as the keynote speaker at the Mountain Connect Conference in Colorado. Colorado views the Illinois State Broadband Initiative as a model program for implementing broadband mapping, planning, and education on a statewide basis.
- Held the April Chicagoland Broadband Communities Meetup. This event brought together more than two dozen broadband enthusiasts. Thomas Coats of Central Management Services presented on the state's broadband strategy. Jon Gant of the Center for Digital Inclusion discussed evaluating the social and economic impact of broadband initiatives.
- Hosted the May Chicagoland Broadband Communities Meetup. Featured presenters were Fitz Miller, Director of Telecommunications and Network Infrastructure for Cook County, discussing Cook County Broadband Initiatives, and Craig Settles, national industry analyst, discussing Broadband and Economic Development strategies from around the country.
- Held the June Broadband Meetup in Chicago, which was telecast online around the state. Jeff Kling from In-site Solutions discussed building sustainable revenue streams for municipal networks. PCI board member and Technology Access TV CEO Bruce Montgomery discussed tools for community building.
- Had 7,758 unique visitors to BroadbandIllinois.org, PCI's website, who visited an average of 3.68 pages while on the site during the second quarter.
- Resumed use of social media as communication outlet to the public with regular posts and interaction on Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn, seeing a growth of up to 14% in those connecting with PCI, with posts reaching up to 1,000 connections.
- Served on the Illinois Eliminate the Digital Divide committee.
- Collaborated with Smart Communities on their broadband planning and needs.