



STATE OF ILLINOIS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62706

Pat Quinn
GOVERNOR

October 14, 2009

U.S. Department of Commerce
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP)
1401 Constitution Ave, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Assistant Secretary Strickling:

As Chairman of the Illinois Broadband Deployment Council, one of my long-standing priorities is to improve the cost, speed and availability of world-class information and communication networks in rural, low-income and disadvantaged communities. I firmly believe that broadband progress made possible by the BTOP will hasten innovation in education, government, public safety, health care, economic and community development in Illinois. Seldom does one program offer such promise.

That's why we made an unparalleled state investment in Illinois' BTOP applicants. The "Illinois Jobs NOW!" public works plan, signed into law in July, designates \$50 million for state financial commitments to exceptional BTOP projects. We partnered with public universities to provide grant writing assistance to groups seeking to serve Illinois, and finally, in the interest of smart planning, we called on our state transportation and IT departments to install fiber optic duct (where it does not already exist) in all new public construction projects that open, bore, or trench alongside State-owned infrastructure.

More than 140 BTOP applications representing Illinois reinforce my respect for the wealth of broadband enthusiasm and expertise in our state. Each of these applicants was invited to provide information to an inter-agency review panel representing Illinois' infrastructure, commerce, education, health care and public safety agencies.

In light of the technology needs in our rural, urban and suburban Illinois communities, I highly recommend the applications listed on page two of this document. If funded, these projects will have an immediate and long-lasting positive impact on the economic recovery in Illinois.

While many Illinois applications not listed below displayed strong potential, our inter-agency review panel was very selective, and in some cases did not have enough information, to warrant a full recommendation. In the coming weeks and months, my staff and I are eager to ensure that every well-intentioned Illinois applicant, included here or not, has a fair opportunity to help transform the broadband landscape in Illinois.

I appreciate the size and the pressure of your historic charge to carry out this program. We in Illinois are grateful for the chance to work with you to maximize the public benefit of the BTOP. Please accept these recommendations as a signal of our willingness to cooperate in all future related efforts to achieve the ambitious broadband vision that President Obama, the U.S. Congress and I share.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pat Quinn".

Governor Pat Quinn

18 highly recommended Infrastructure projects (alphabetical order):

4SIWI LLC	4SIWI 5 County Expansion proposal
Aurora, Illinois	Aurora Municipal Broadband for Education, Economic Development, Healthcare and the Digital Divide
Blackhawk Hills Resource Conservation & Development	Blackhawk Hills Fiber Optic System
Board of Trustees of the University of Illinois	Urbana-Champaign Big Broadband - Below Ground (UC2B Middle Mile & Last Mile Infrastructure)
Carl Sandburg College	EduNet Wireless Wide Area Network Expansion
Central Management Services	Illinois Century Network BIG: Bringing Illinois Gigaspeeds
City of Highland	FTTx Broadband Service to Underserved of Rural Highland, IL
City of Rockford	Greater Rockford Area Fiber Optic System
DeKalb County Government	DeKalb Advancement of Technology Authority Broadband
Delta Communications, LLC dba Clearwave Communications	Southern Illinois Middle Mile
Gargoyle Technologies, Inc. dba Volo Broadband	Champaign County Broadband Backbone
Gargoyle Technologies, Inc. dba Volo Broadband	Champaign County Volo
Geneseo Communications, Inc.	Rural Illinois Community Connect
Illinois Rural Electric Cooperative	West Central Illinois Broadband
Norlight Telecommunications, Inc.	Rural High-Speed Ethernet Network - Southern Illinois
SmartChicago Broadband Infrastructure	SmartChicago Broadband Infrastructure
South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association	SSMMA Regional Broadband Connectivity Project
Tel-Star Cablevision Inc.	QCRB (Quad County Rural Broadband)

9 highly recommended Public Computer Center projects (alphabetical order):

B&J Computers Inc.	B&J Training Center
Board of Trustees of the University of Illinois	Urbana-Champaign Big Broadband Above Ground
Center of Higher Development	Connecting, Widening, and Strengthening Communities
Housing Authority of the City of Rock Island	One Stop Technology Centers
Illinois Rural Electric Cooperative	West Central Illinois Computer Centers
Lawndale Business and Local Development Corp.	Lawndale Network Training Centers
Lumity	Lumity Community Centers Of Excellence Program
SmartChicago Public Computer Centers	SmartChicago Public Computer Centers
Zion-Benton Public Library District	Steps to Success

4 highly recommended Sustainable Broadband Adoption projects (alphabetical order):

Board of Trustees of the University of Illinois	Urbana-Champaign Big Broadband Above Ground SBA
Board of Trustees of the University of Illinois Fire Service Institute	Broadband at the University of Illinois Fire Service Institute Learning Resource and Research Center
Connect SI Foundation, Inc.	Connect SI Content Development Team (CDT)
SmartChicago Sustainable Broadband Adoption	SmartChicago Sustainable Broadband Adoption