Agenda

- IDEC Context – 5 min
- Community Broadband Planning Overview – 15 min
- Computer Tech Center Overview – 10 min
- Hannah Miller with Carlinville Public Library – 10 min
- Illinois Digital Equity Capacity Grant (IDEC) Resources – 5 min
- Q&A – 10 min

Objectives

- Understand **IDEC** project types: Computer Tech Centers and Community Broadband Planning

- Explore examples of successful grant-funded plans

- Learn about **IDEC** and project planning resources

Illinois Digital Equity Capacity Grant (IDEC) Overview

Illinois Broadband Team

The IOB was founded in 2019, yet is now one of the 50 state broadband offices tasked with **carrying out $1B+ in federal broadband infrastructure and digital equity programs**

➢ Connect Illinois Broadband Grant Program (2020 - 2024)
➢ Broadband Equity Access & Deployment (BEAD) Program (2024 - 2029)
➢ Digital Equity Act Capacity Grant (2024 - 2029)

Illinois Office of Broadband

Grants Management	Compliance	Community Engagement	Policy
• Grants Manager • Asst. Grants Manager (3) • Fiscal Liaison	• Compliance Manager	• Community Engagement Manager (3)	• Policy Analyst • Illini Science Policy Scholar

Illinois Broadband Lab at the University of Illinois System

• Mapping & Data
• Regional Engagement
• Digital Navigator Network

Digital Equity and Inclusion

Digital Equity: The condition in which individuals and communities have the information technology capacity that is needed for full participation in the society and economy of the United States.

Digital Inclusion: The activities that are necessary to ensure that all individuals have access to and the use of, affordable information and communication technologies such as:

- Reliable broadband
- Devices
- Digital skills training
- Tech support
- Privacy and cybersecurity

When we use the word equity, we accurately acknowledge the systemic barriers that must be dismantled before achieving equitable outcome for all.
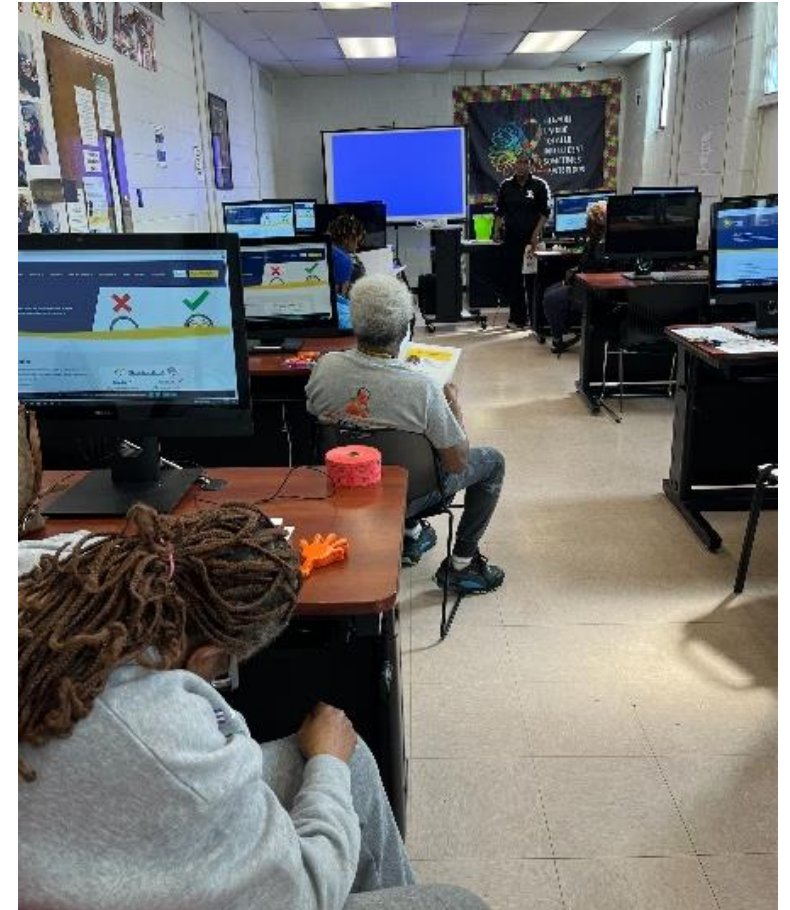
Illinois State Digital Equity Plan

The **2021 Digital Equity Act** provides over $30 million to Illinois to implement the State Digital Equity Plan (SDEP). The goals of the plan are to ensure that all people and communities have the skills, technology, and capacity needed to reap the full benefits of our digital economy. Core Activities of the SDEP include:
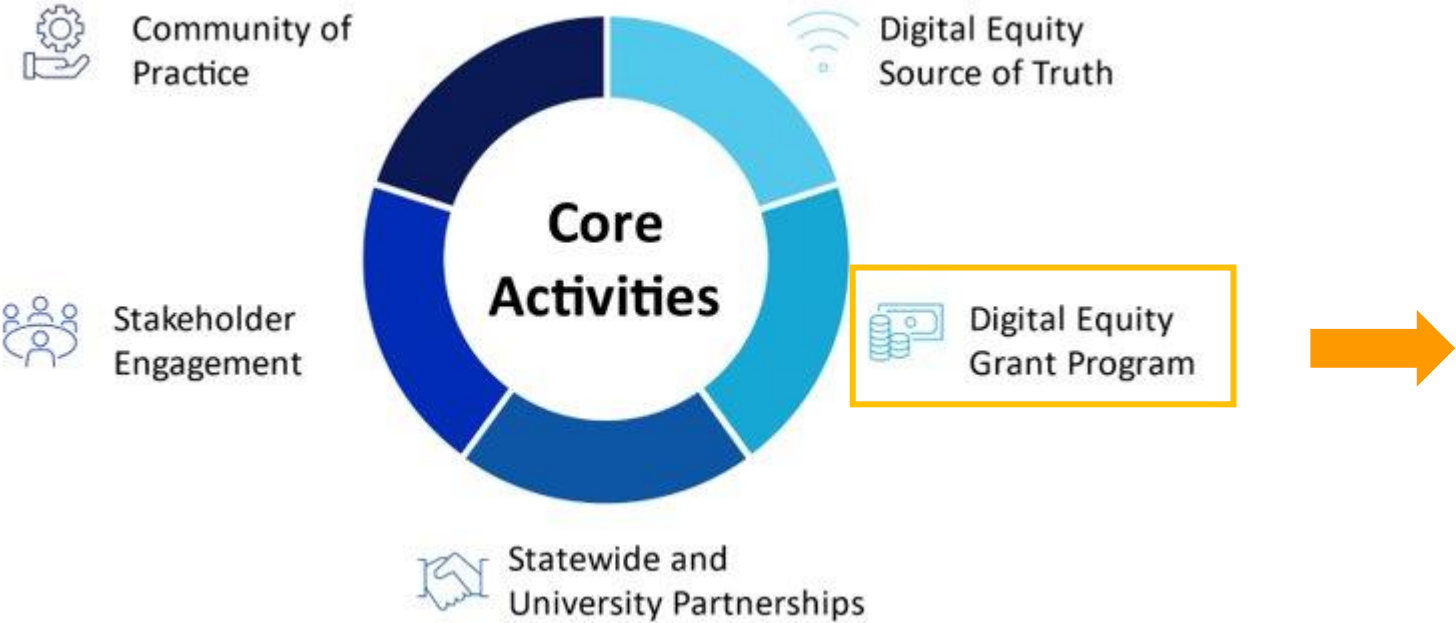
Creating a statewide **Digital Equity Grant Program (IDEC)** is one of the Plan's Core Activities

State Digital Equity Plan Vision

- Ensuring universal access to high-speed broadband that is affordable, reliable, and fully scalable for residences, businesses, and community anchor institutions (CAIs) across Illinois by 2030.

- Leveraging new and existing resources to advance the adoption of internet use through targeted digital-inclusion strategies and sustainable broadband-equity outcomes to help communities identify and address current gaps in broadband equity.

- Empowering all Illinoisans to use and participate fully in an increasingly digital economy and society.

ILLINOIS STATE DIGITAL EQUITY PLAN

Digital Equity Act Programs
Illinois Office of Broadband
March 2024

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JB Pritzker, Governor

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS SYSTEM

NTIA Requires Prioritization of Covered Populations

Low-income households	Incarcerated individuals	People with disabilities	Racial and ethnic minorities
Aging populations	Veterans	Rural inhabitants	People with language barriers

80% of Illinoisans are part of these identity groups and communities disproportionally impacted by digital inequity
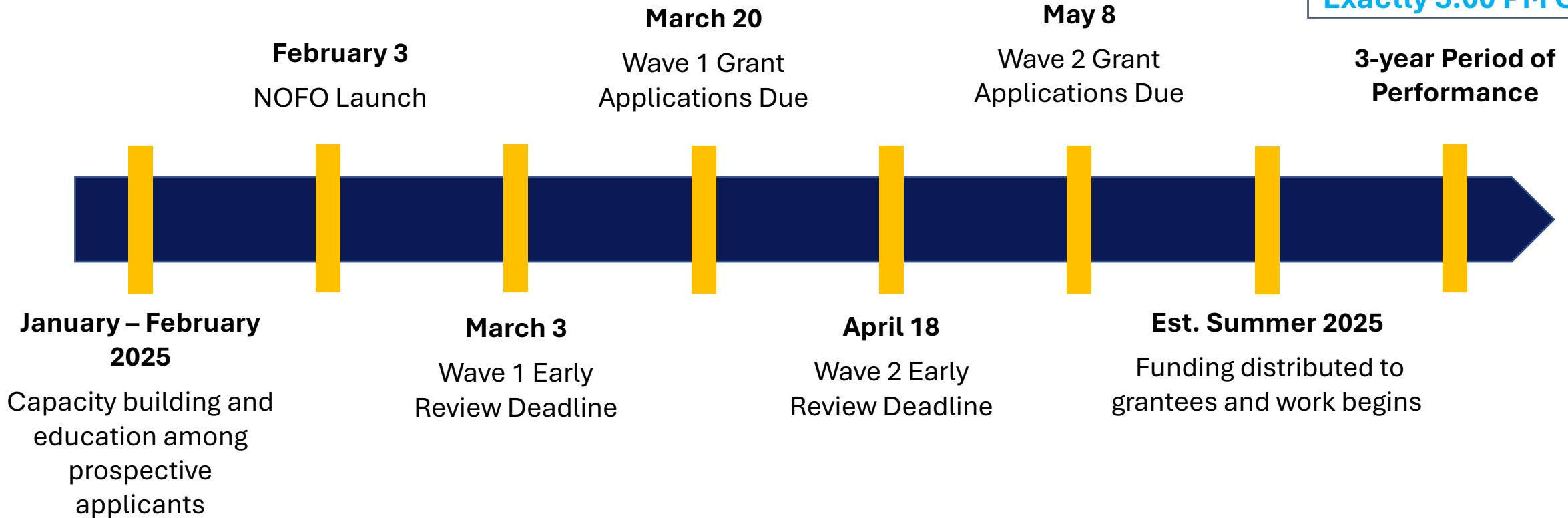
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Timeline and Funding for State Digital Equity Grant Program

All Deadlines Are At Exactly 5:00 PM CST

February 3
NOFO Launch

March 20
Wave 1 Grant Applications Due

May 8
Wave 2 Grant Applications Due

3-year Period of Performance

January – February 2025
Capacity building and education among prospective applicants

March 3
Wave 1 Early Review Deadline

April 18
Wave 2 Early Review Deadline

Est. Summer 2025
Funding distributed to grantees and work begins

Total amount of funding expected to be awarded is up to $13,500,000. Awards will range from $30,000 to $300,000 on an annual basis, for a three-year term.

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Grant Waves

- Applications for this opportunity must be submitted by 45 calendar days from application opening for Wave 1 and 45 calendar days from the opening of the Wave 2 application window.

  - Additional focused outreach will be conducted following Wave 1 to ensure representation in regions and Covered Populations

- Applications that are not selected in Wave 1 will carry over to Wave 2 for evaluation.

- IDEC aims to support programming statewide, with a consideration for geographic diversity and awards made proportional to the regions with high portions of Covered Populations.

All Deadlines Are At Exactly 5:00 PM CST

March 3
Wave 1 Early Review Deadline

March 20
Wave 1 Grant Applications Due, Wave 2 Open

April 18
Wave 2 Early Review Deadline

May 8
Wave 2 Grant Applications Due

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Eligible Entities

A **foundation, corporation, institution, or association** that is a not-for-profit entity and not a school.

A **partnership** between any of the entities described above.

An **Indian Tribe, an Alaska Native entity, or a Native Hawaiian organization**

A local **educational agency**

Entities that carry out **workforce development programs**

Political subdivision, **agency** including those supervising adult education and literacy activities or for providing public housing

Community anchor institution, meaning a public school, housing authority, library, healthcare provider, higher education institutions and other nonprofit or community support organizations.

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IDEC Project Types

Digital Literacy and Skill Building	Classes, workshops, coaching, or other learning opportunities to help Covered Populations build digital skills.
Device Distribution	Distribution of devices, including laptops, computers, tablets, or other devices that address barriers faced by Covered Populations.
Digital Navigator(s)	Member of a community trained and designated to help Covered Populations enroll in high-speed internet service, navigate technology challenges, obtain devices, and find digital skill building opportunities.
Computer Center	Establish, improve, or expand community spaces with no-cost access to computers and the internet.
Local Broadband Planning	Resources for communities to create their own roadmaps to expanding broadband connectivity. This includes defining their access goals, assessing market and consumer dynamics, engaging internet providers, and exploring public-private partnerships and funding options.

One application may cover one or more project type.
Please refer to NOFO for details on each project type.

Application will require...

- Demonstrated Community Need and Service of Covered Populations

- Capacity of the Eligible Applicant

- Quality of the Proposal, including Alignment to State Digital Equity Plan

  - Particular Alignment Topics Noted in the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO, page 10) and Program Application

- Support from the Community

- Budget

- Plan for Sustainability

Local Broadband Planning

Local Broadband Planning	Resources for communities to create their own roadmaps to expanding broadband connectivity. This includes defining their access goals, assessing market and consumer dynamics, engaging internet providers, and exploring public-private partnerships and funding options.

What do we mean by Local Broadband Planning?

- The state of your community and its needs

- The physical scope of broadband access

- Coordination with local governments, infrastructure providers, and other community organizations

- Create a unified plan to meet the needs of your community

Broadband Feasibility Study

Work with local agencies, contractors, internet service providers or planning firms to gather data, survey your community, facilitate community conversations, and create a plan to serve your residents

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Local Broadband Planning

Local Broadband Planning

Resources for communities to create their own roadmaps to expanding broadband connectivity. This includes defining their access goals, assessing market and consumer dynamics, engaging internet providers, and exploring public-private partnerships and funding options.

Local broadband planning projects, also known as broadband feasibility studies, should aim to:

- Define a community vision and goals for digital equity, with clear objectives for the feasibility study.

- Identify planned team members and other relevant stakeholders (i.e., community members, institutions, public/private sector).

- Assess demographic, broadband-related need, and current broadband availability/access.

- Conduct data and asset mapping.

- Obtain commitment/support from local government and develop a plan for continuous community engagement and support.

- Study available internet service provider options.

- Establish a clear timeline for progress.

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Local Broadband Planning

A Broadband Feasibility Study evaluates the availability and quality of broadband Internet service provided in a given community.

The Broadband Feasibility Study is used to generate a report that is used to provide recommendations to local leaders on how to improve the **quality, availability, affordability and adoption** of broadband service.

- the current state of broadband infrastructure
- the estimated capital and operational costs of improving access and connectivity
- financial viability of planned or proposed projects.

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Local Broadband Planning

The key components of a Broadband Feasibility Study include:

- Broadband Audit (Asset Mapping)

- Broadband Performance Data (Internet Speed Testing)

- Customer Satisfaction (Online Surveys)

- Demographic and Spatial Analysis

- Existing Competitive Landscape Assessment (Local ISP availability)

- Stakeholder Interviews

- Pricing and Financial Analyses

- Network Recommendations

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Anthony Grant
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McLean County, Illinois

Accelerate Access
McLean County
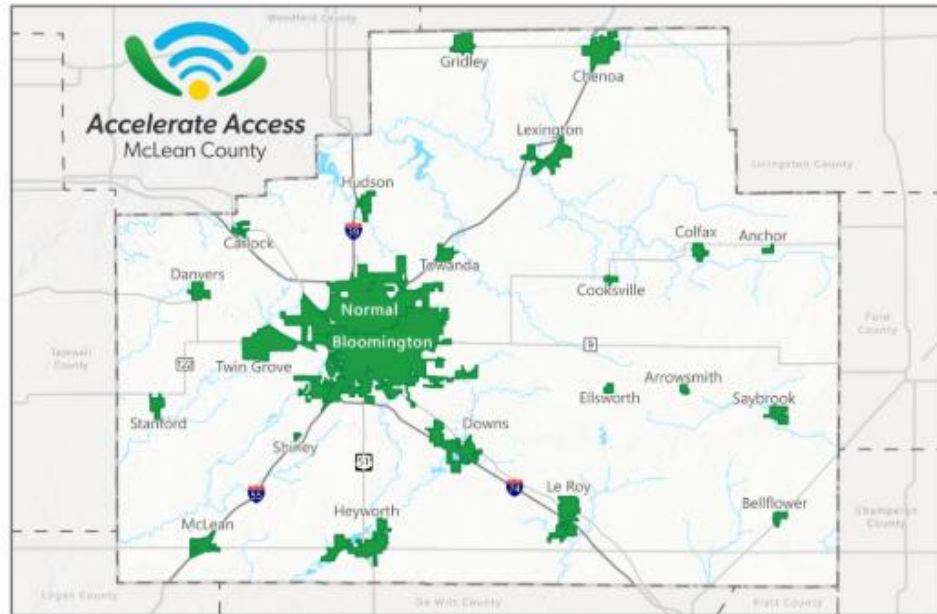
Priority Strategy Overview

1. Continue outreach to local internet service providers

2. Continue development of mapping resources for ISP's

3. Conduct a feasibility study to build a framework for AAMC's work

4. Explore a variety of opportunities to secure funding

5. Locate and improve processes related to permitting for the development of a high-speed network

Computer Technology Center Projects

| Computer Center | Establish, improve, or expand community spaces with no-cost access to computers and the internet. |

Computer centers should provide **access** to computers, **internet connectivity**, and **support** for using computers.

Funding can be used to **acquire or update equipment** for a computing center, and fund expenses required to manage this space.

Applicants should demonstrate **need for computing center** in community and demonstrate **level of commitment and appropriate skills to manage the computer center** over time.

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Computer Technology Center Projects

Establish
NEW lab or tech center in a new place.

Improve
Replace aging devices, update software, etc., allowing your current center to provide up-to-date or better functionality to a comparable number of clients.

Expand
Provide more and/or better devices, increase center footprint, provide more or different functionality, etc. for an increased number of clients.

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Computer Technology Center Projects

Consider the unique NEEDS of those you serve

- **Flexible spaces** to support people with mobility challenges

- **Accessibility devices and software** to support those with low vision or blindness, hearing challenges, low dexterity, etc.

- Settings and software that **can be changed to the user's preferred language**

- **Comfortable or ergonomic seating** for long-term projects or classes that can accommodate people regardless of size or mobility

- **Lighting options** that reduce eye strain and improve visibility for screens and projected material

- **Open at times that work for your clients**, consider afternoons, evenings, and weekends

- **Cleaning and maintenance plan** ensuring that your space will be clean and safe for clients

- **Privacy!** If providing space for telehealth, legal counseling, one on one classes, etc., consider options for private spaces.

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Computer Technology Center Projects

Promotion and Outreach
How will you let your target audience know about your new space?

IT Maintenance and Troubleshooting
How will you manage software updates, cybersecurity, and troubleshooting issues?

User Behavior
Many CTCs institute policies and procedures to address issues like food and beverages in the space, unruly people, or accessing NSFW material in a public area.

Personal Information
Consider how involved your staff will be when handling personal information. How will your staff be trained to interact with this information ethically?

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Hannah Miller
Director
Carlinville Public Library

CARLINVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Serving a rural community of 5,710 in South Central Illinois. 25.2% poverty rate

22,200 patrons through the doors in FY2023

1,500 public access computer sessions using 5 public access computers

BECAUSE...

Patron computers were over 10 years old.

We couldn't hold computer classes without closing the computer lab to the public for that time.

Kids had to bring their own devices to Stop-Motion Animation Club because we couldn't provide them.

WE ASKED FOR:

* 8 new desktop computers for patron use

* 6 laptop computers to use for digital literacy classes and programs

*8 iPads to use for digital art programs

*Lockable charging cart to store laptops and iPads

COMMUNITY TECH CENTER

EIGHT TOTAL PATRON COMPUTERS-
incl. two in Genealogy Room
one in Children's Area

ALL ASUS NUC 14
MINI WITH WINDOWS 11
WITH DEEP FREEZE, SECURE
NETWORK, AND OTHER
PATRON PROTECTIONS

LAPTOPS FOR CLASSROOM USE

SHINY, BRAND NEW LAPTOPS...
WE JUST GOT THESE ON FRIDAY!
Looking forward to using them for the 'COMPUTER BASICS' class on February 19th!

WHAT'S NEXT FOR CPL? ...

Digital Literacy class offerings start **February 19th** with 'Computer Basics'!

*Continue hosting classes once or twice a month into late 2025, then assess how they're going

*Start offering weekly 'office hours' for one-on-one tech help in March

*Publicize Stop-Motion Animation Club again- This time, kids don't need to bring their own device!

*Add a digital art class for kids this summer

...exciting things at Carlinville Public Library!

Digital Equity Resources

Illinois Office of Broadband [Website](#)
    Digital Equity Act
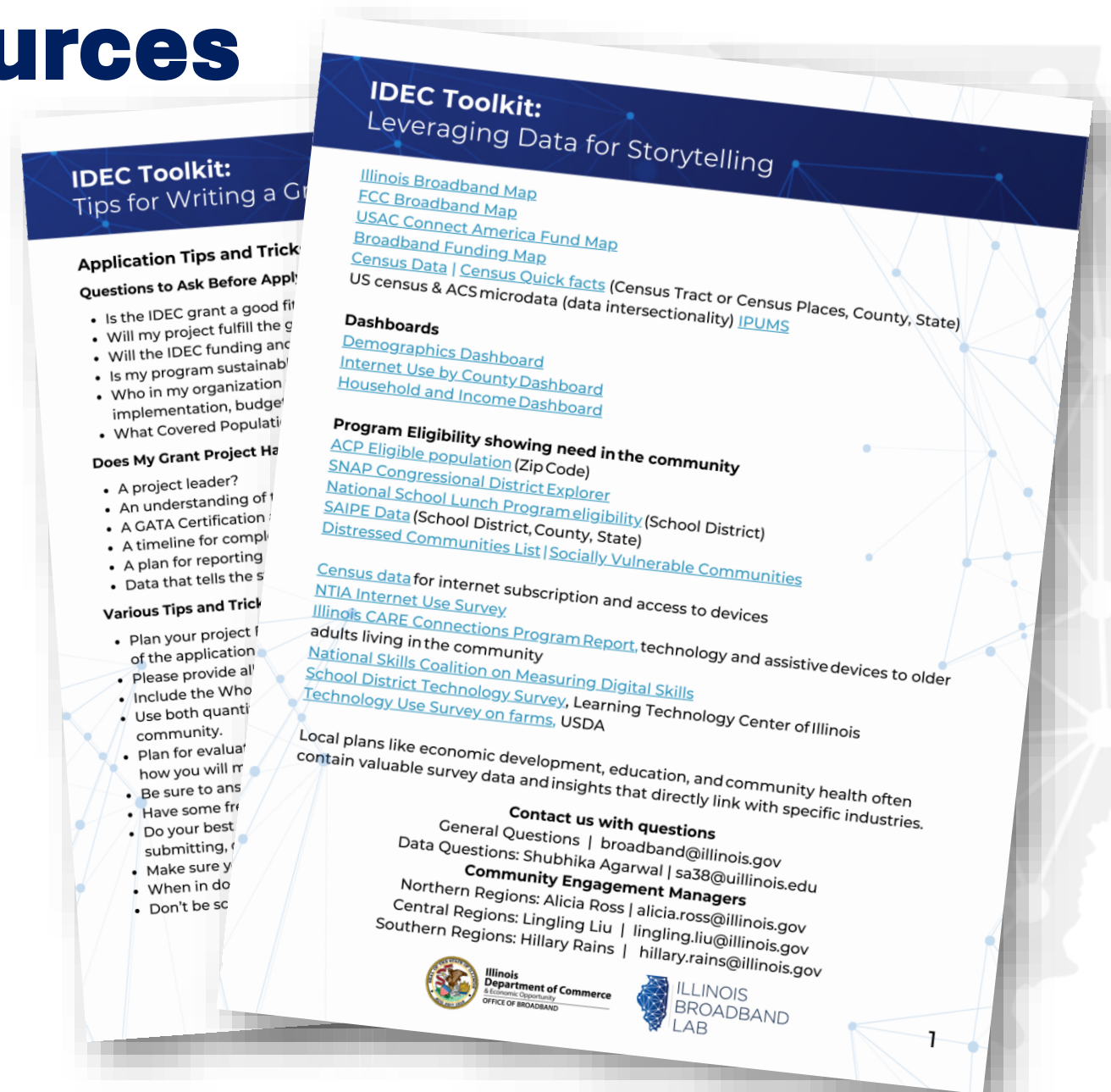   Illinois Digital Equity Capacity
    Previous Webinars
    How to Write a Great Grant
Application

Illinois State Digital Equity Plan

Illinois Broadband [Newsletter](#)
and [Partner Sign Up](#)

IDEC Toolkits   ⟶

IDEC Toolkit:
Tips for Writing a G...

Application Tips and Tricks

Questions to Ask Before Apply...
- Is the IDEC grant a good fi...
- Will my project fulfill the g...
- Will the IDEC funding and...
- Is my program sustainab...
- Who in my organization...
  implementation, budget...
- What Covered Populati...

Does My Grant Project Ha...
- A project leader?
- An understanding of t...
- A GATA Certification ...
- A timeline for compl...
- A plan for reporting...
- Data that tells the s...

Various Tips and Trick...
- Plan your project ...
  of the application...
- Please provide all...
- Include the Who...
- Use both quanti...
  community.
- Plan for evalua...
  how you will m...
- Be sure to ans...
- Have some fr...
- Do your best...
  submitting, ...
- Make sure y...
- When in do...
- Don't be so...

IDEC Toolkit:
Leveraging Data for Storytelling

[Illinois Broadband Map](#)
[FCC Broadband Map](#)
[USAC Connect America Fund Map](#)
[Broadband Funding Map](#)
[Census Data](#) | [Census Quick facts](#) (Census Tract or Census Places, County, State)
US census & ACS microdata (data intersectionality) [IPUMS](#)

Dashboards
[Demographics Dashboard](#)
[Internet Use by County Dashboard](#)
[Household and Income Dashboard](#)

Program Eligibility showing need in the community
[ACP Eligible population](#) (Zip Code)
[SNAP Congressional District Explorer](#)
[National School Lunch Program eligibility](#) (School District)
[SAIPE Data](#) (School District, County, State)
[Distressed Communities List](#) | [Socially Vulnerable Communities](#)

[Census data](#) for internet subscription and access to devices
[NTIA Internet Use Survey](#)
[Illinois CARE Connections Program Report](#), technology and assistive devices to older adults living in the community
[National Skills Coalition on Measuring Digital Skills](#)
[School District Technology Survey](#), Learning Technology Center of Illinois
[Technology Use Survey on farms](#), USDA

Local plans like economic development, education, and community health often contain valuable survey data and insights that directly link with specific industries.

Contact us with questions
General Questions | broadband@illinois.gov
Data Questions: Shubhika Agarwal | sa38@uillinois.edu
Community Engagement Managers
Northern Regions: Alicia Ross | alicia.ross@illinois.gov
Central Regions: Lingling Liu | lingling.liu@illinois.gov
Southern Regions: Hillary Rains | hillary.rains@illinois.gov

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Upcoming Webinars and Office Hours

IDEC Office Hours: Tuesdays at 10:00 am, Fridays at 2:00 pm

Project Areas: Digital Navigators: Friday, February 14, 11:00 am:

Find all upcoming events and grant deadlines on the Illinois Office of Broadband [Events Calendar!](#)

Get support and stay in the know!

Not sure where to start? Email **broadband@illinois.gov**

For questions, guidance, or to schedule a guest presentation, contact your **Illinois Office of Broadband Community Engagement Manager**:

- Northern Region: alicia.Ross@illinois.gov, 217-720-8149
- Central Region: lingling.Liu@illinois.gov, 217-720-7718
- Southern Region: hillary.Rains@illinois.gov, 217-720-4768

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View our website dceo.illinois.gov/broadband and other helpful links

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