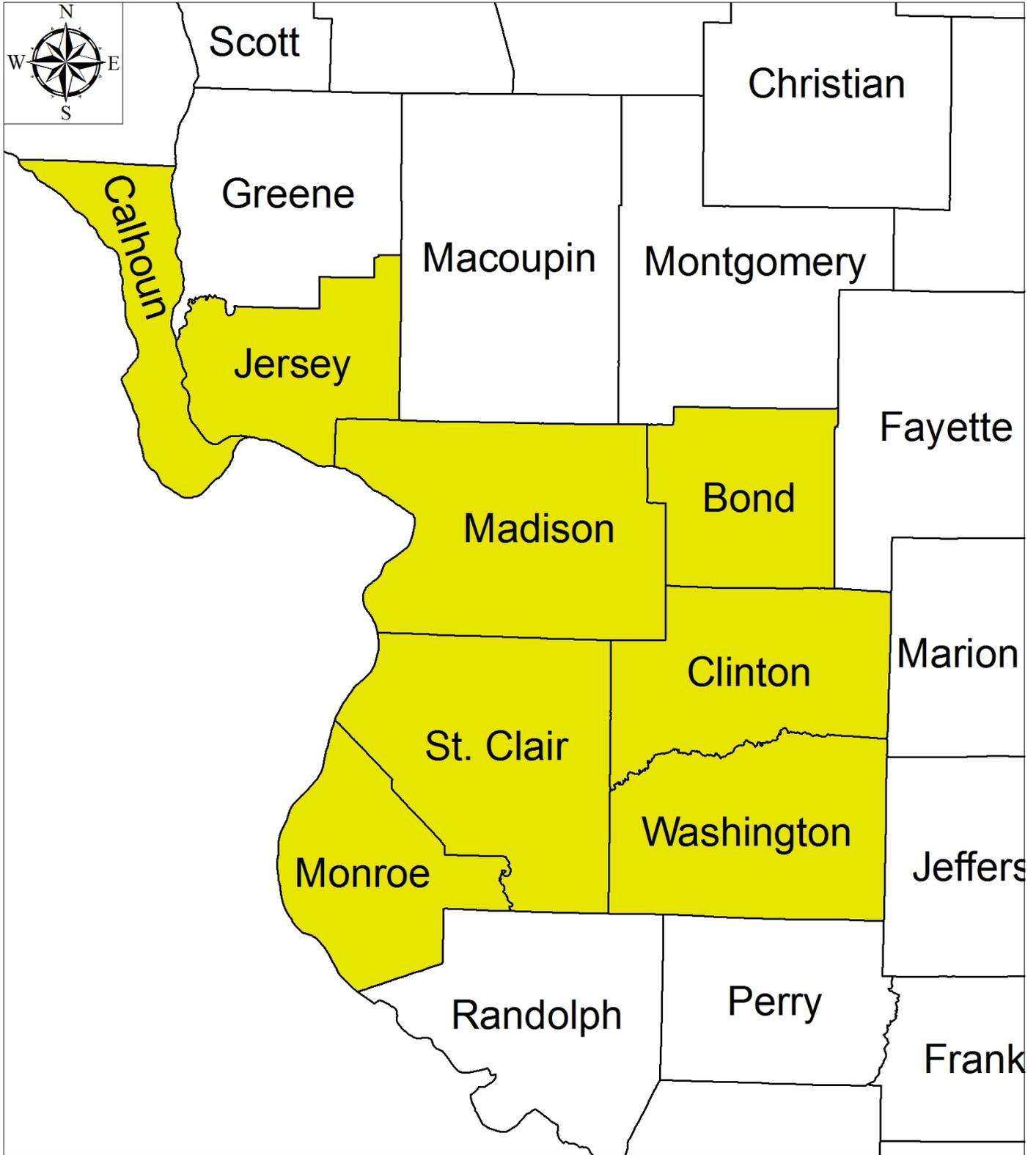




broadbandillinois.org eTeams

Southwest Central Region



This map was created by the Partnership for a Connected Illinois - January 31, 2012

0 10 20 Miles

Better Broadband, Better Lives

Many communities in Illinois are missing economic, educational, and other opportunities because they lack access to fast, affordable broadband internet service. Broadband is not a luxury; it is essential. Broadband enables:



Job creation—businesses grow by locating in areas with broadband.



Agriculture—farmers sell and manage their crops, and monitor weather forecasts.



Energy—the “smart grid” improves reliability and provides savings.



Education—students do homework and take courses online.



Public safety—faster and more efficient fire and police response relies on better broadband.



Government—broadband provides more accessible and transparent services to citizens.

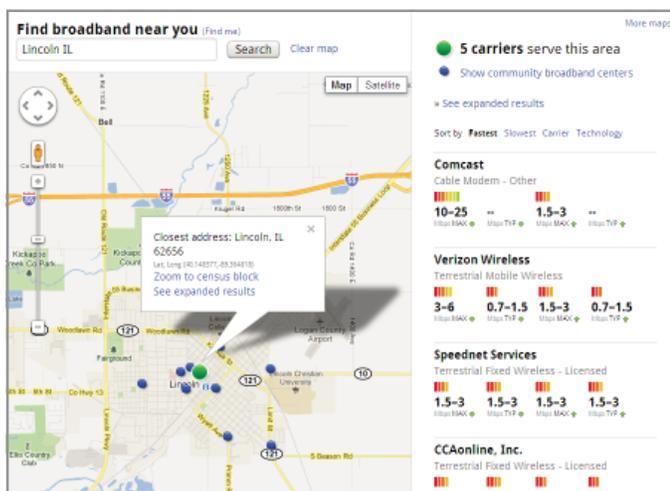


Healthcare—rural residents consult with doctors and specialists via internet video.



Family—video and audio conference with friends and relatives in distant places.

The Partnership for a Connected Illinois (PCI) collects data about broadband availability and works with local communities in Illinois to make broadband available throughout the state. At PCI’s website, broadbandillinois.org, you can find:



Service providers with internet availability in your area.

Community centers near you that may offer broadband access to the public (such as libraries and senior centers).

Maps, data, and research related to broadband coverage and demand.

Latest news and reports about broadband.

Stories about how broadband, or the lack of it, affects the lives of people like you. (Contribute your own story.)

Get involved

Broadband affects you and your community. You can help by contacting local officials, businesses, schools, and other institutions, or just by attending a meeting in your area.



How the Partnership for a Connected Illinois can help you get better broadband for your community

We can help you identify and organize local people and institutions who will benefit from better broadband, help build an organization to communicate with public and private parties, and offer advice based on successful efforts in other parts of Illinois.

Bringing better broadband to your community typically involves three steps:

1 Convening local interested parties

- Identify those who can benefit from getting new broadband access, current users who need faster speeds, and those who can supply and manage broadband systems (existing providers or newcomers).
- Pull together people who need to be involved, including those working in economic and job development, local government, education, healthcare, and business.

2 Connecting people to work together

- Form a local coalition.
- Facilitate meetings and share successes in other parts of Illinois, from communities like yours.
- Establish effective partnerships within the broader community.
- Draft a community plan with realizable technical and financing goals.

3 Collaborating to achieve plan goals

- Learn about, and get access to, an array of financing options.
- Provide training and advice on broadband technology and implementation.
- Pool resources with other communities near you.

Want Better Broadband, Better Lives?

To get started, email outreach@broadbandillinois.org, visit broadbandillinois.org, or call (217) 886-4553.

broadbandillinois.org

531 East Washington Street
Springfield, Illinois 62701

 facebook.com/broadbandillinois

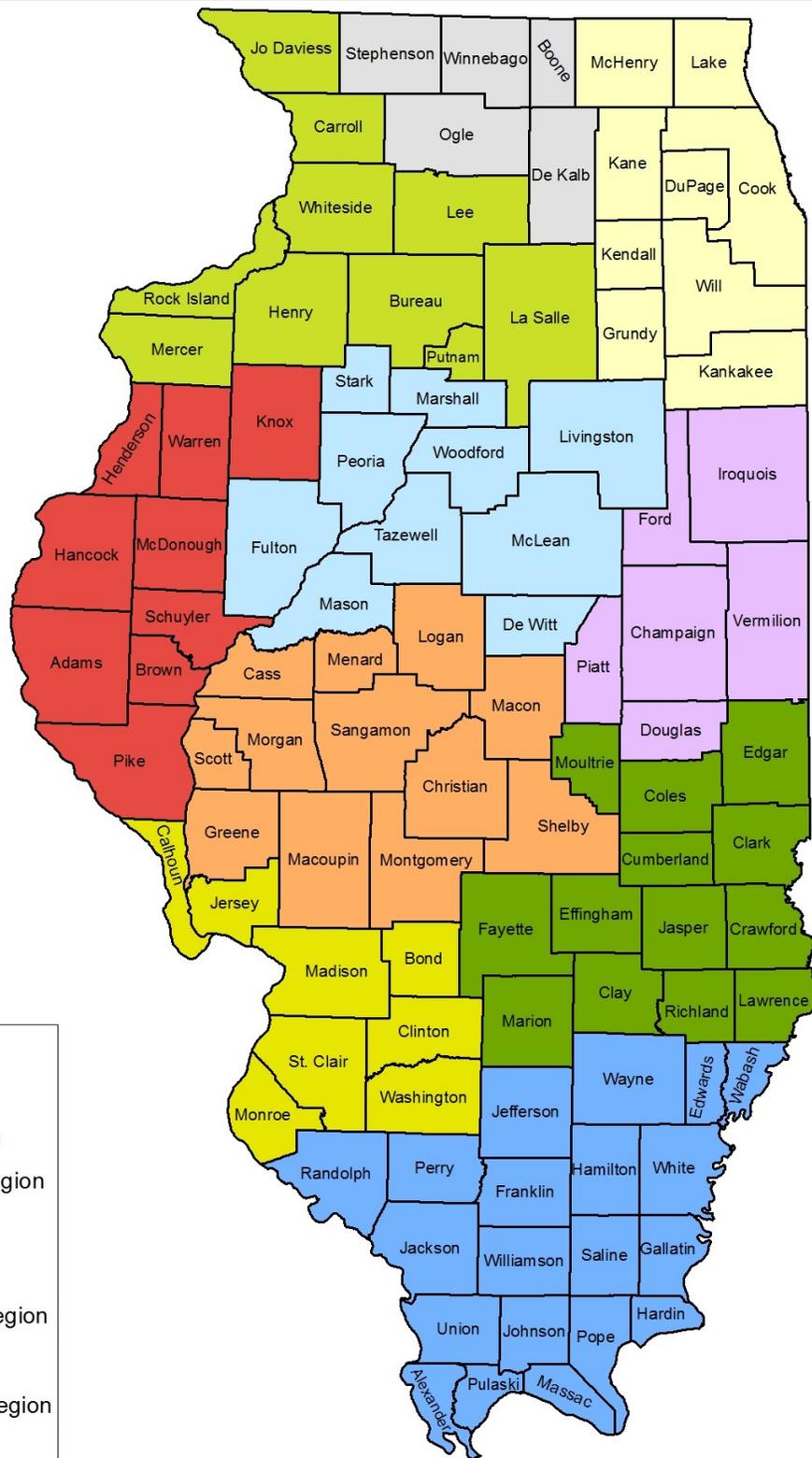
 [@brobandillinois](https://twitter.com/brobandillinois)

The Partnership for a Connected Illinois, Inc. (PCI), is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization based in Springfield, Illinois. Its missions are to ensure broadband access throughout the State of Illinois, maximize broadband's impact and use, and collect and publish broadband-related data, information, and research.

(1-12012011)



Statewide eTeam Map



- Central Region
- Chicagoland Region
- North Central Region
- Northeast Central Region
- Northern Region
- Northwest Region
- Southeast Central Region
- Southern Region
- Southwest Central Region
- West Central Region

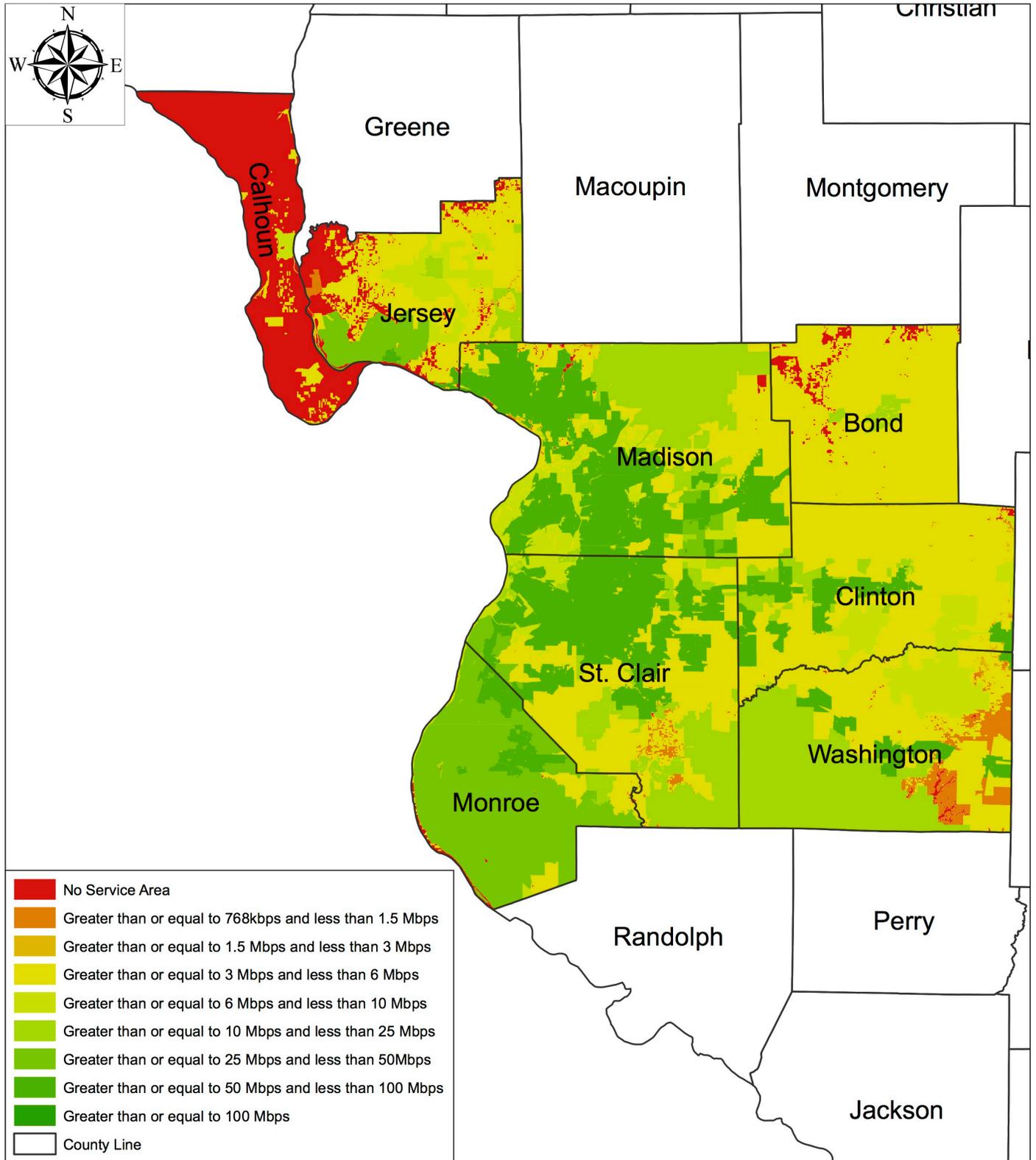
This map was created by the Partnership for a Connected Illinois - January 31, 2012

0 50 100 Miles



broadbandillinois.org eTeams

Southwest Central Region Speed Tiers



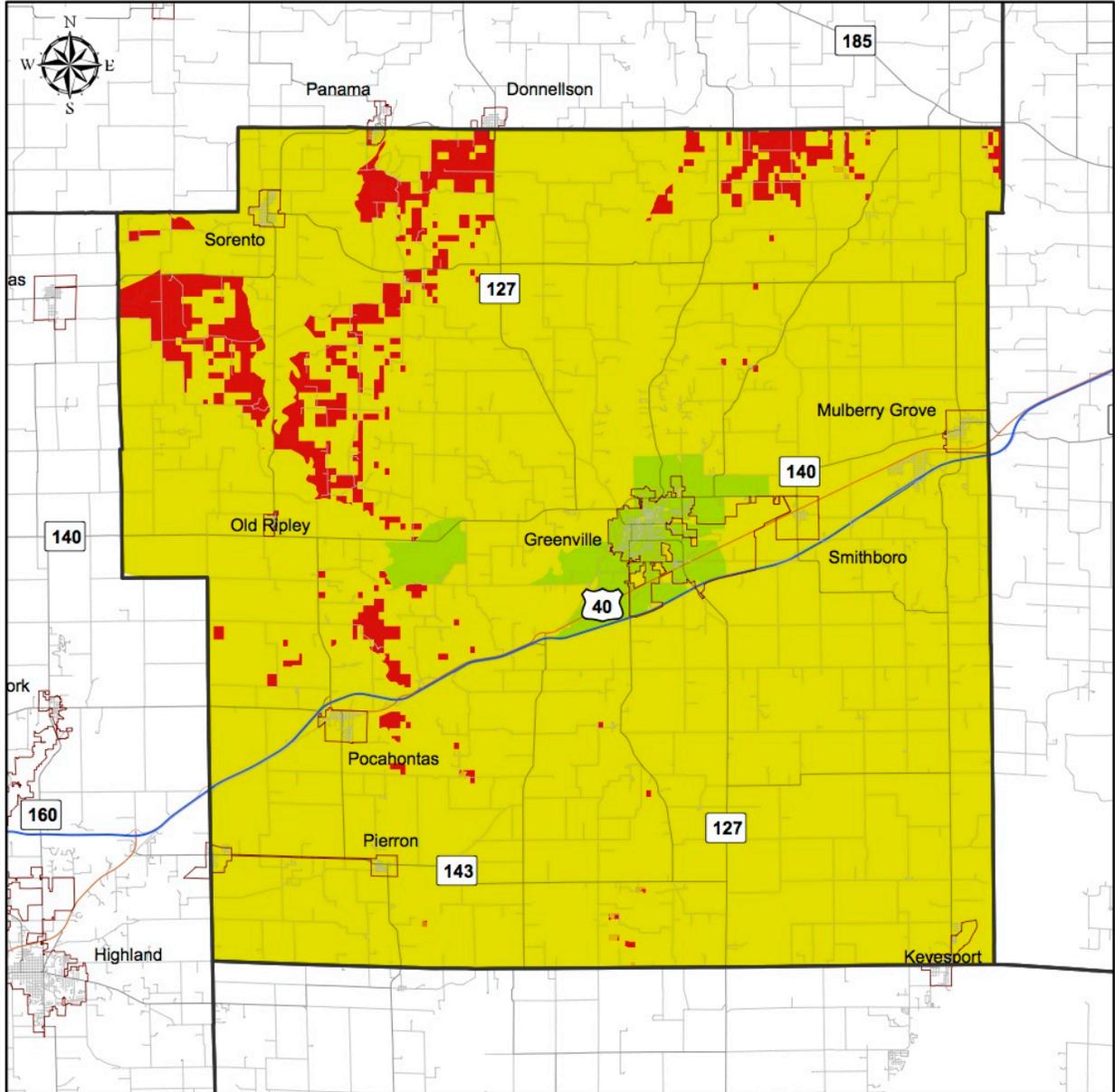
This map was created by the Partnership for a Connected Illinois - February 7, 2012





Bond County

Round Four – Data Current as of June 30, 2011



- | | |
|---|---|
|  No Service Area |  Greater than or equal to 10 Mbps and less than 25 Mbps |
|  Greater than or equal to 768kbps and less than 1.5 Mbps |  Greater than or equal to 25 Mbps and less than 50 Mbps |
|  Greater than or equal to 1.5 Mbps and less than 3 Mbps |  Greater than or equal to 50 Mbps and less than 100 Mbps |
|  Greater than or equal to 3 Mbps and less than 6 Mbps |  Greater than or equal to 100 Mbps |
|  Greater than or equal to 6 Mbps and less than 10 Mbps | |

Partnership for a Connected Illinois - February 17, 2012



broadbandillinois.org

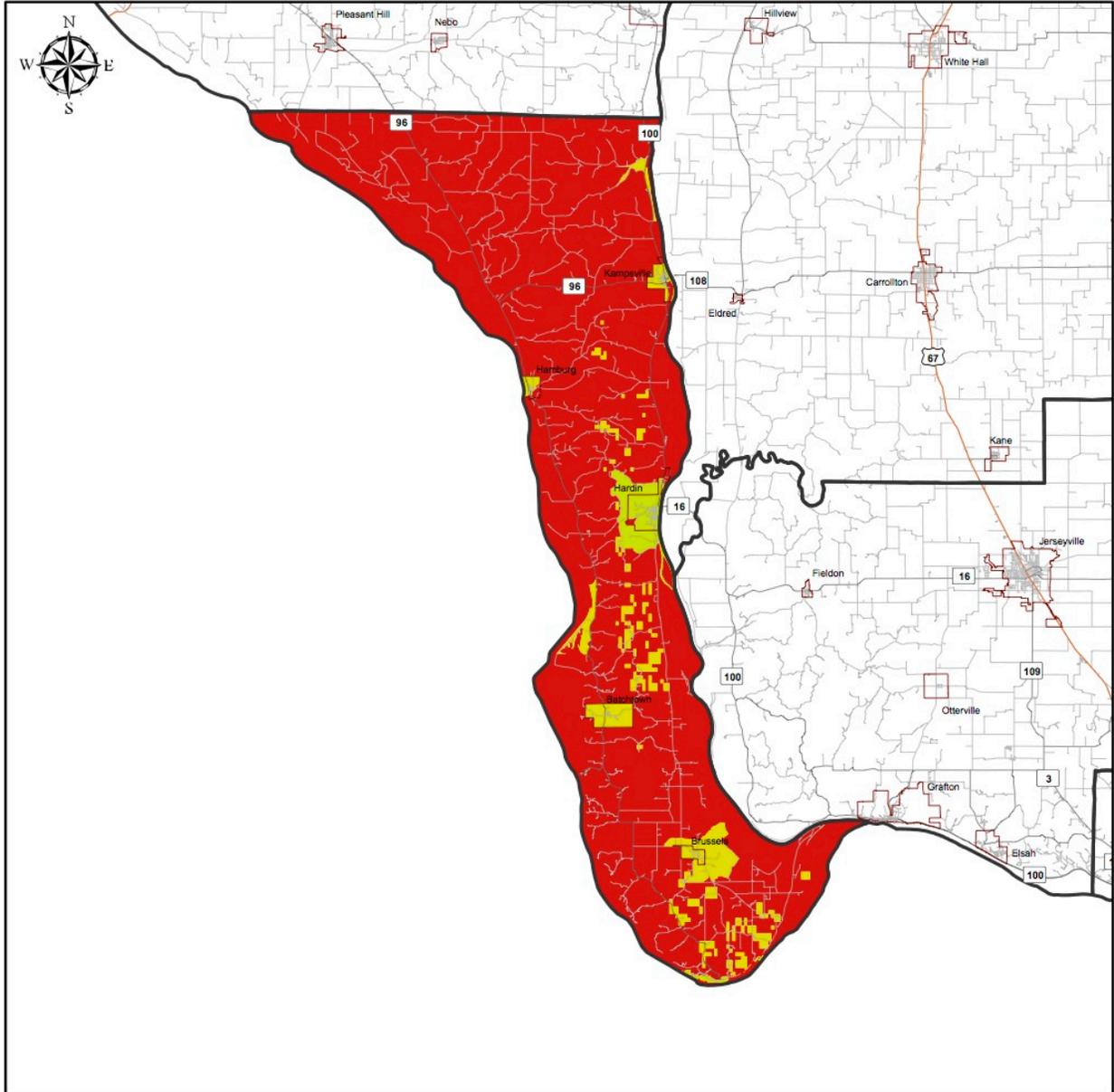


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Calhoun County

Round Four – Data Current as of June 30, 2011



- | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
|  | No Service Area |  | Greater than or equal to 10 Mbps and less than 25 Mbps |
|  | Greater than or equal to 768kbps and less than 1.5 Mbps |  | Greater than or equal to 25 Mbps and less than 50 Mbps |
|  | Greater than or equal to 1.5 Mbps and less than 3 Mbps |  | Greater than or equal to 50 Mbps and less than 100 Mbps |
|  | Greater than or equal to 3 Mbps and less than 6 Mbps |  | Greater than or equal to 100 Mbps |
|  | Greater than or equal to 6 Mbps and less than 10 Mbps | | |

Partnership for a Connected Illinois - February 17, 2012



broadbandillinois.org

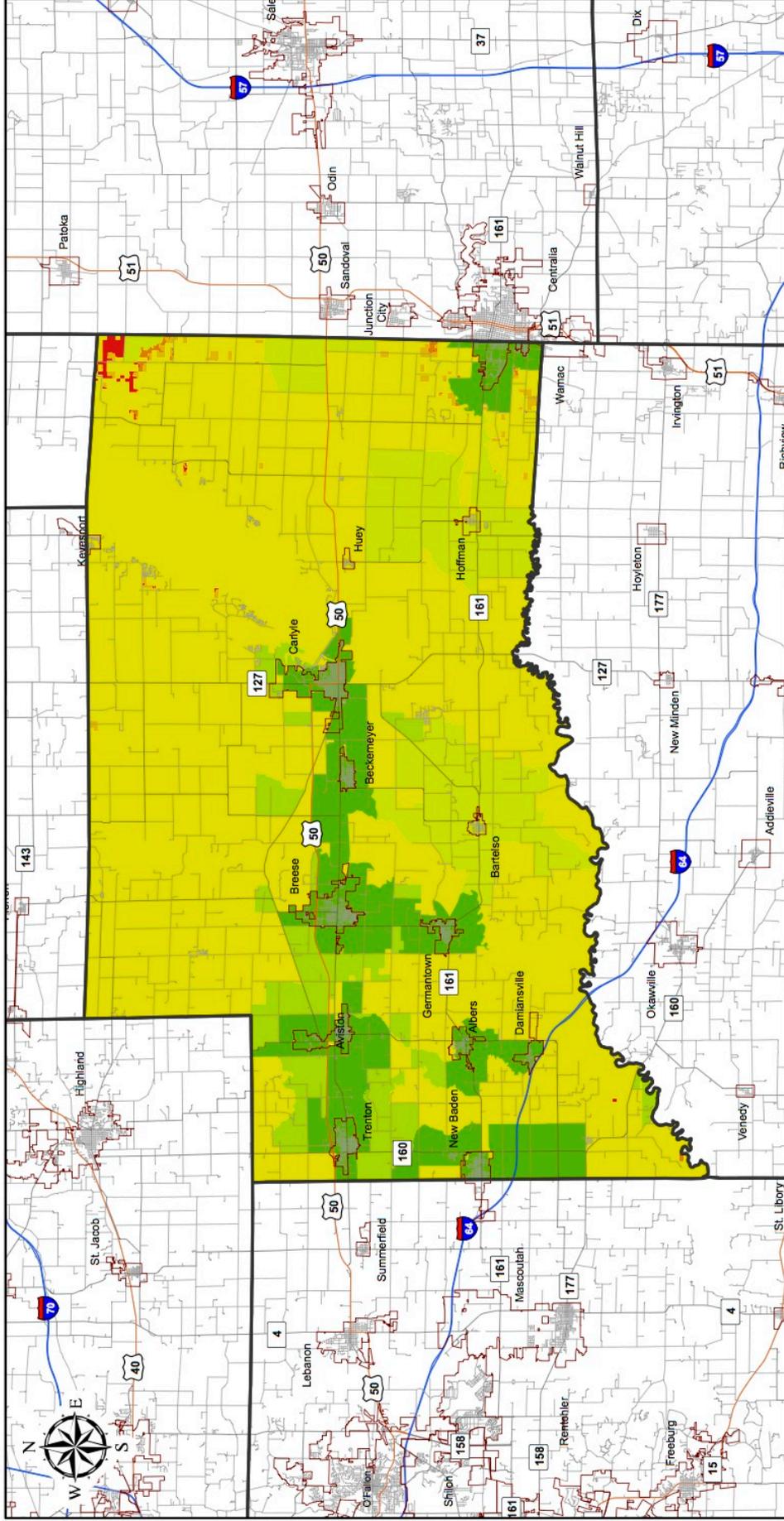


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Clinton County

Round Four – Data Current as of June 30, 2011



- No Service Area
- Greater than or equal to 768kbps and less than 1.5 Mbps
- Greater than or equal to 1.5 Mbps and less than 3 Mbps
- Greater than or equal to 3 Mbps and less than 6 Mbps
- Greater than or equal to 6 Mbps and less than 10 Mbps
- Greater than or equal to 10 Mbps and less than 25 Mbps
- Greater than or equal to 25 Mbps and less than 50 Mbps
- Greater than or equal to 50 Mbps and less than 100 Mbps
- Greater than or equal to 100 Mbps



broadbandillinois.org



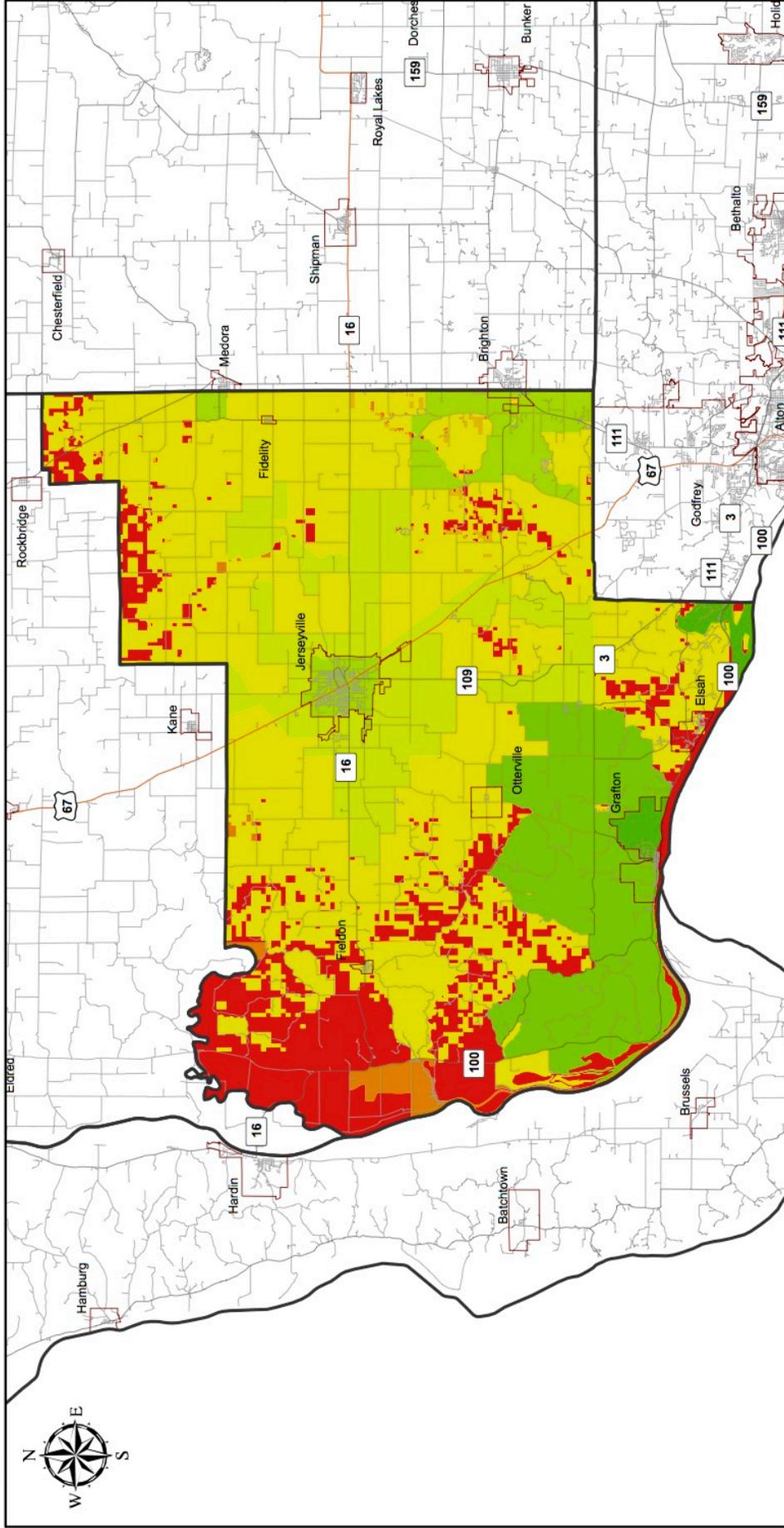
Partnership for a Connected Illinois - February 17, 2012

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Jersey County

Round Four – Data Current as of June 30, 2011



- No Service Area
- Greater than or equal to 768kbps and less than 1.5 Mbps
- Greater than or equal to 1.5 Mbps and less than 3 Mbps
- Greater than or equal to 3 Mbps and less than 6 Mbps
- Greater than or equal to 6 Mbps and less than 10 Mbps
- Greater than or equal to 10 Mbps and less than 25 Mbps



broadbandillinois.org

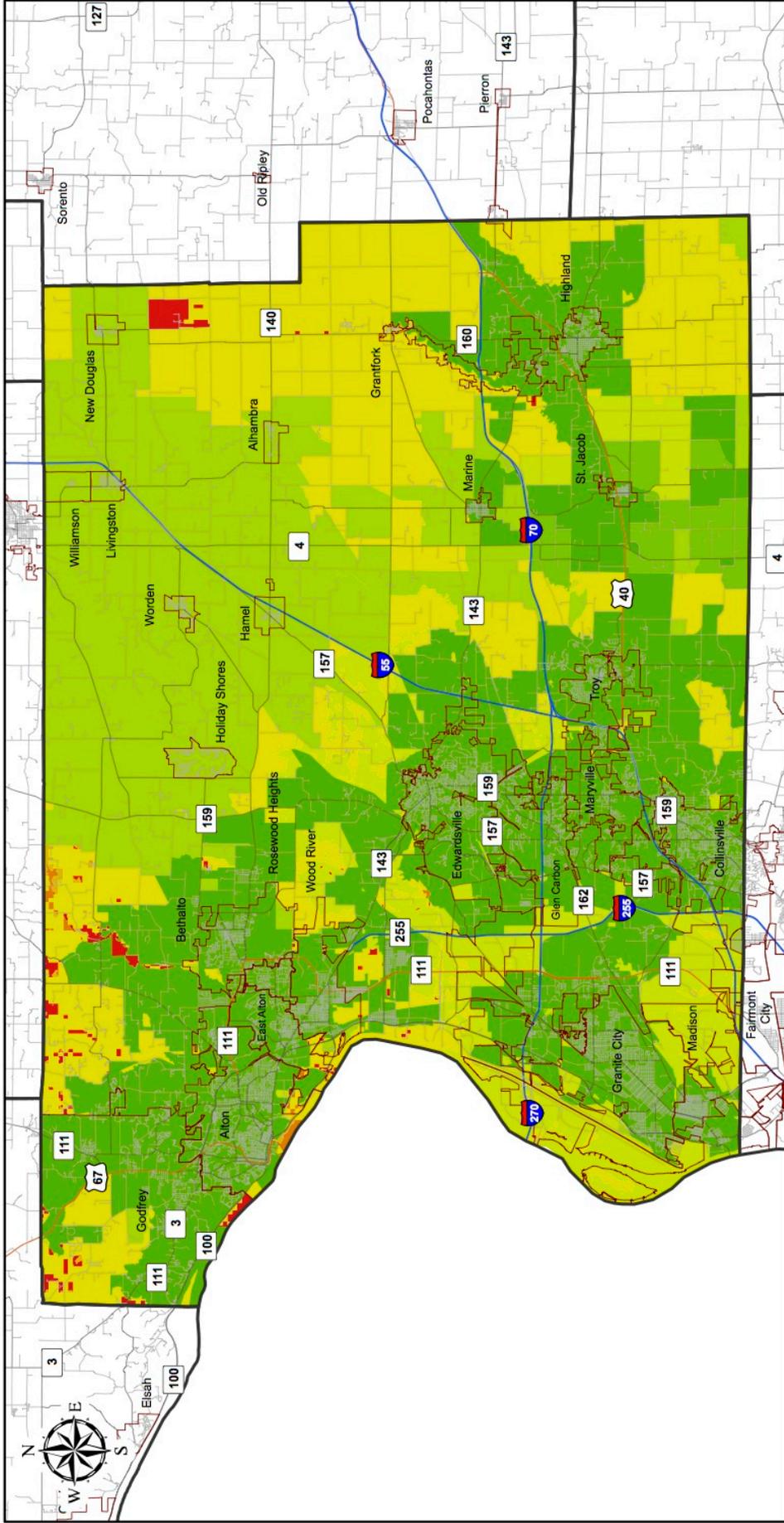
Partnership for a Connected Illinois - February 17, 2012

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Madison County

Round Four – Data Current as of June 30, 2011



- No Service Area
- Greater than or equal to 768kbps and less than 1.5 Mbps
- Greater than or equal to 1.5 Mbps and less than 3 Mbps
- Greater than or equal to 3 Mbps and less than 6 Mbps
- Greater than or equal to 6 Mbps and less than 10 Mbps
- Greater than or equal to 10 Mbps and less than 25 Mbps
- Greater than or equal to 25 Mbps and less than 50 Mbps
- Greater than or equal to 50 Mbps and less than 100 Mbps
- Greater than or equal to 100 Mbps

broadbandillinois.org



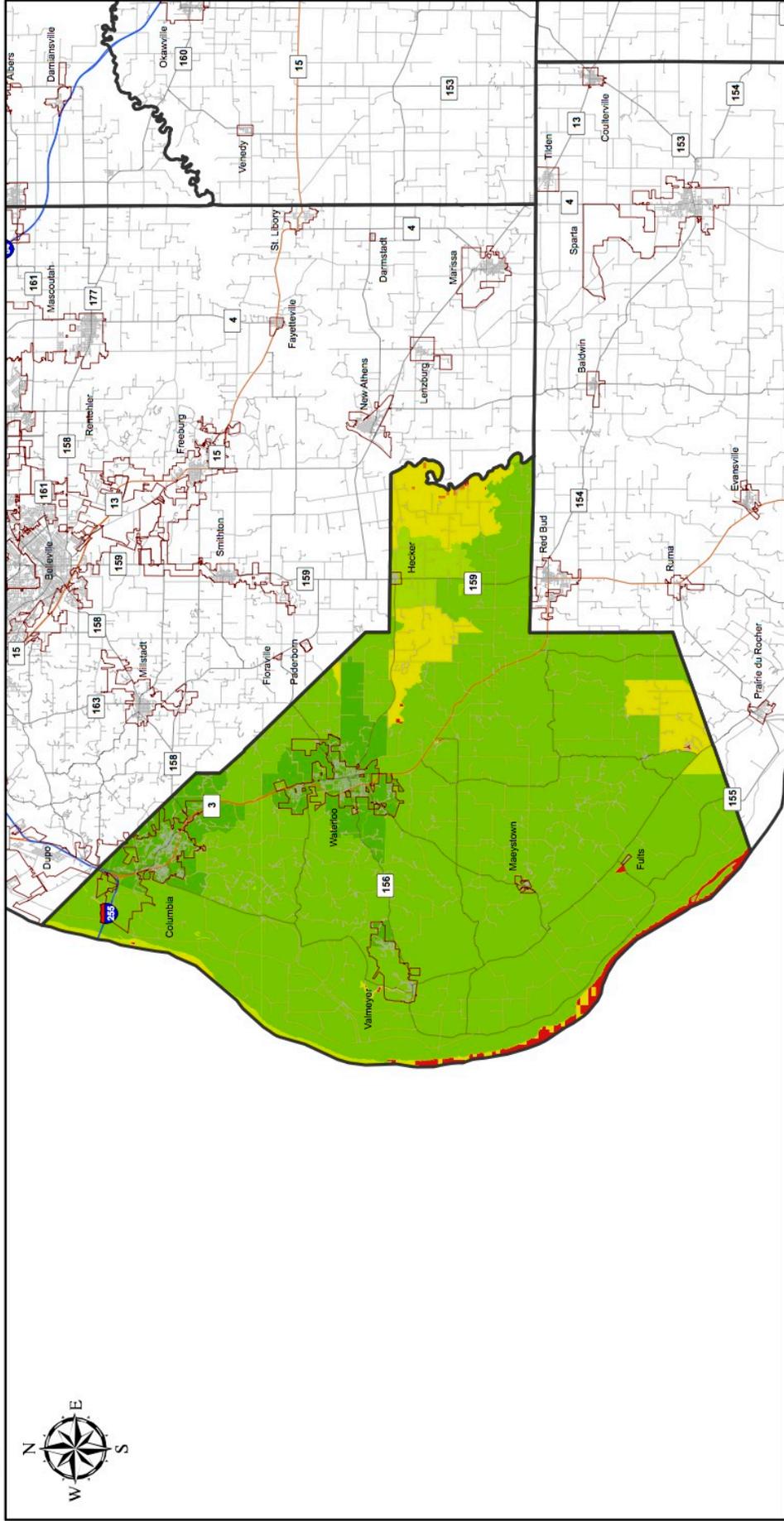
Partnership for a Connected Illinois - February 17, 2012

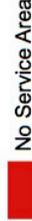
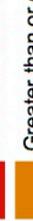
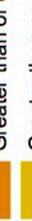
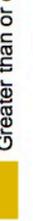
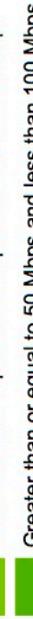
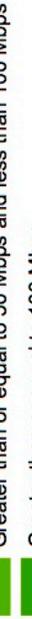
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Monroe County

Round Four – Data Current as of June 30, 2011



-  No Service Area
-  Greater than or equal to 768kbps and less than 1.5 Mbps
-  Greater than or equal to 1.5 Mbps and less than 3 Mbps
-  Greater than or equal to 3 Mbps and less than 6 Mbps
-  Greater than or equal to 6 Mbps and less than 10 Mbps
-  Greater than or equal to 10 Mbps and less than 25 Mbps
-  Greater than or equal to 25 Mbps and less than 50 Mbps
-  Greater than or equal to 50 Mbps and less than 100 Mbps
-  Greater than or equal to 100 Mbps

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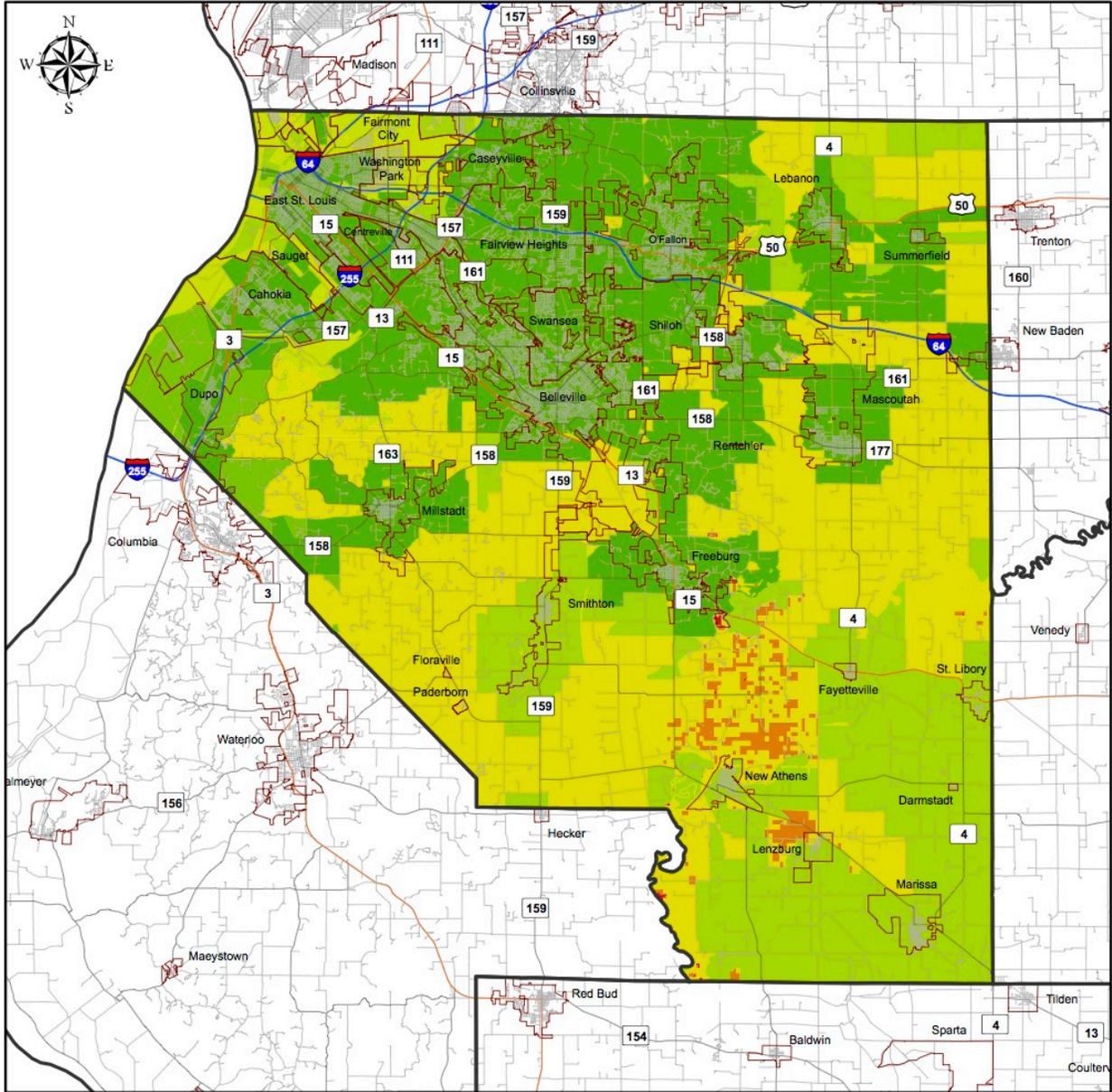
Partnership for a Connected Illinois - February 17, 2012

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St. Clair County

Round Four – Data Current as of June 30, 2011



- No Service Area
- Greater than or equal to 768kbps and less than 1.5 Mbps
- Greater than or equal to 1.5 Mbps and less than 3 Mbps
- Greater than or equal to 3 Mbps and less than 6 Mbps
- Greater than or equal to 6 Mbps and less than 10 Mbps
- Greater than or equal to 10 Mbps and less than 25 Mbps
- Greater than or equal to 25 Mbps and less than 50 Mbps
- Greater than or equal to 50 Mbps and less than 100 Mbps
- Greater than or equal to 100 Mbps

Partnership for a Connected Illinois - February 17, 2012



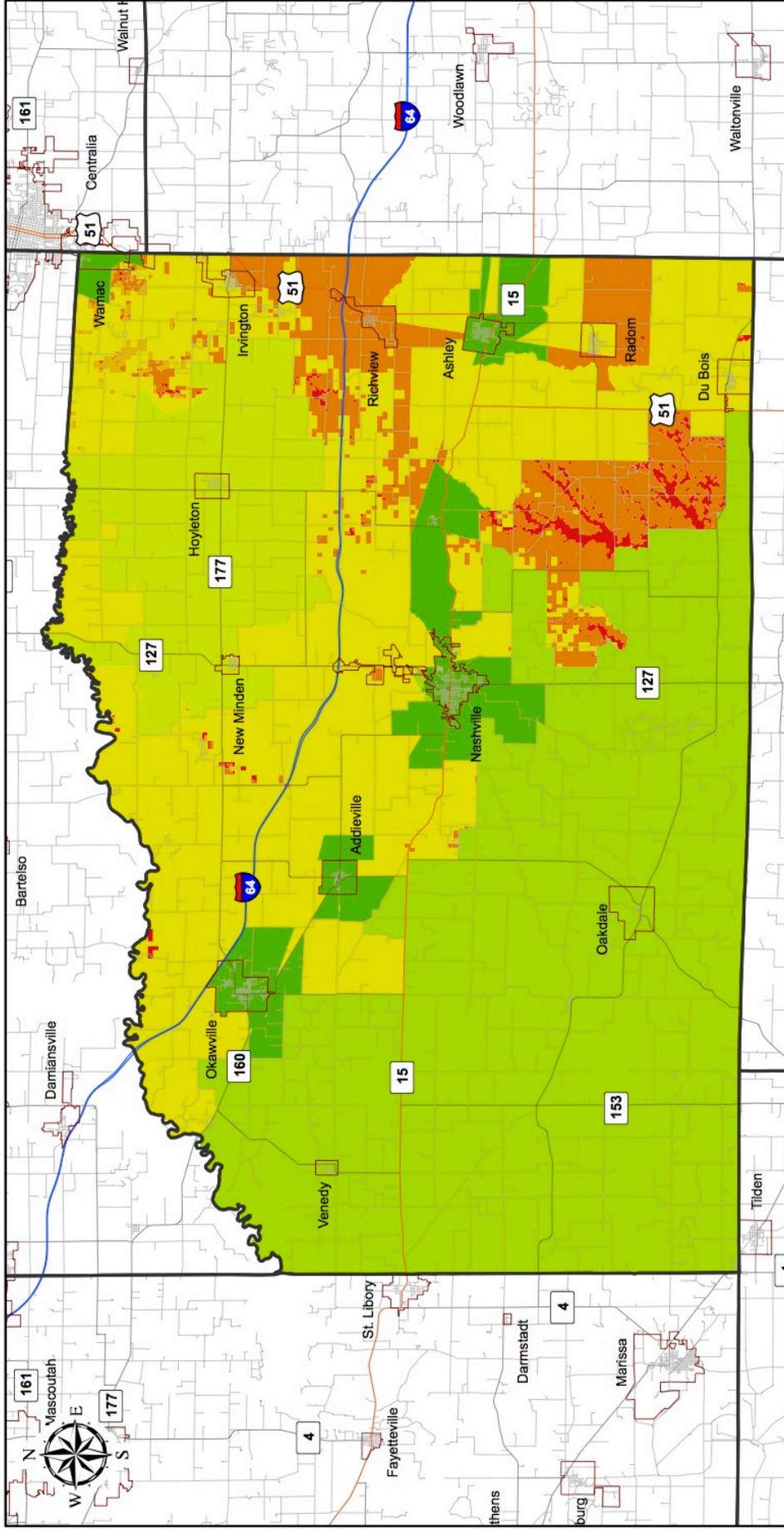
broadbandillinois.org



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Washington County

Round Four – Data Current as of June 30, 2011



- No Service Area
- Greater than or equal to 768kbps and less than 1.5 Mbps
- Greater than or equal to 1.5 Mbps and less than 3 Mbps
- Greater than or equal to 3 Mbps and less than 6 Mbps
- Greater than or equal to 6 Mbps and less than 10 Mbps
- Greater than or equal to 10 Mbps and less than 25 Mbps
- Greater than or equal to 25 Mbps and less than 50 Mbps
- Greater than or equal to 50 Mbps and less than 100 Mbps
- Greater than or equal to 100 Mbps



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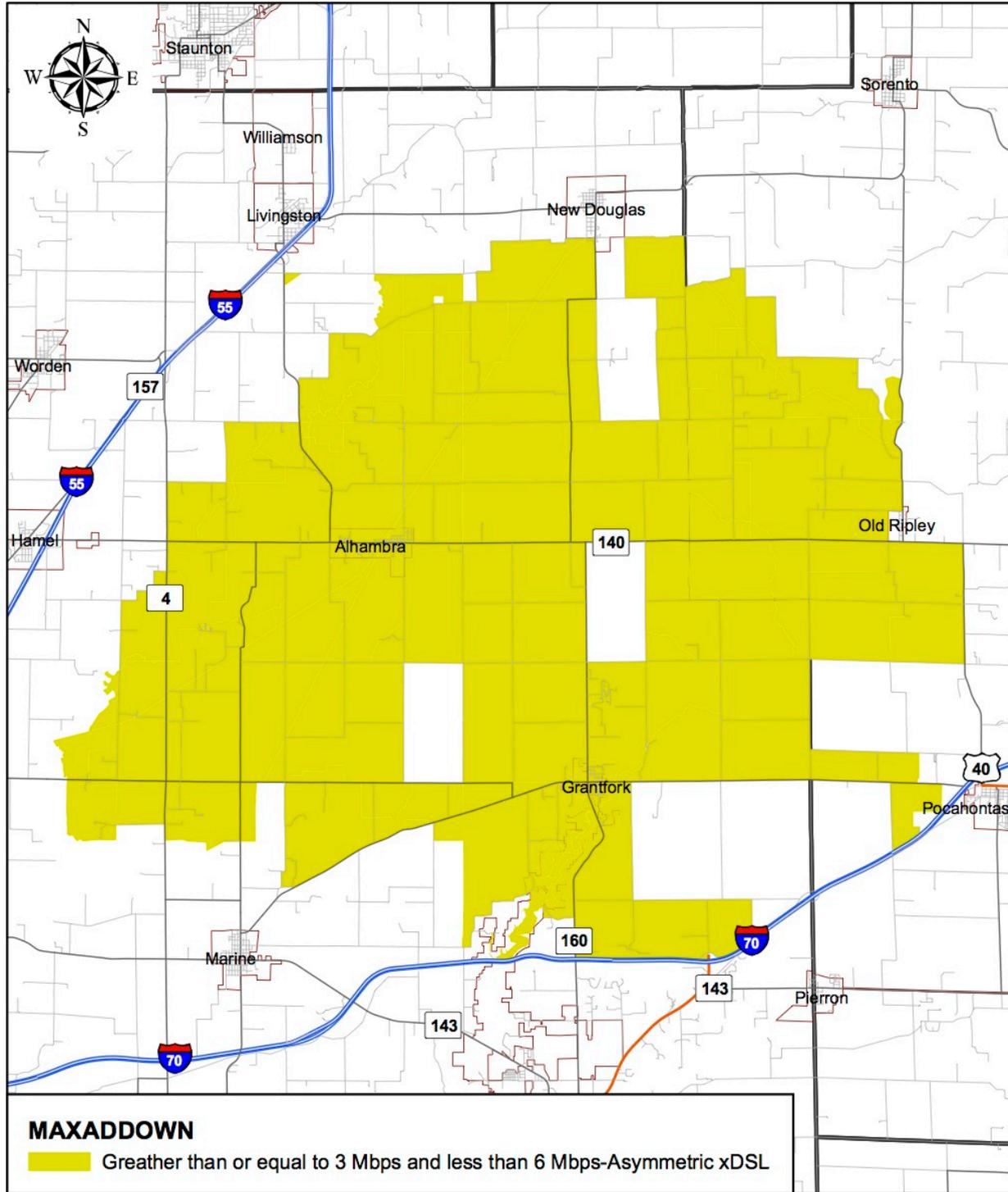
Partnership for a Connected Illinois - February 17, 2012

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Alhambra Grantfork Telephone Company

Round Four – Data Current as of June 30, 2011



Partnership for a Connected Illinois - February 09, 2012



broadbandillinois.org

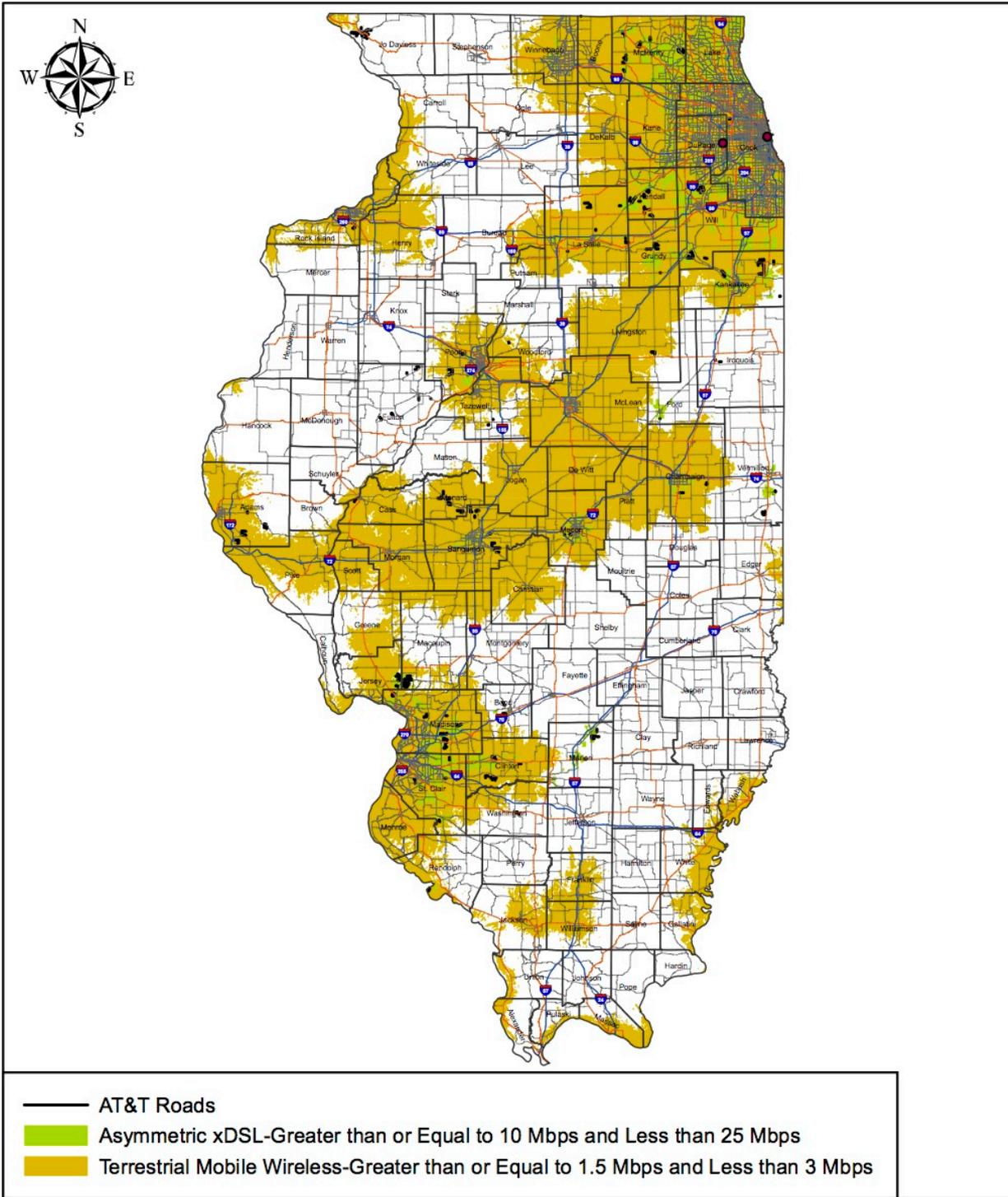


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AT&T

Round Five – Data Current as of December 31, 2011



Partnership for a Connected Illinois - March 13, 2012



broadbandillinois.org

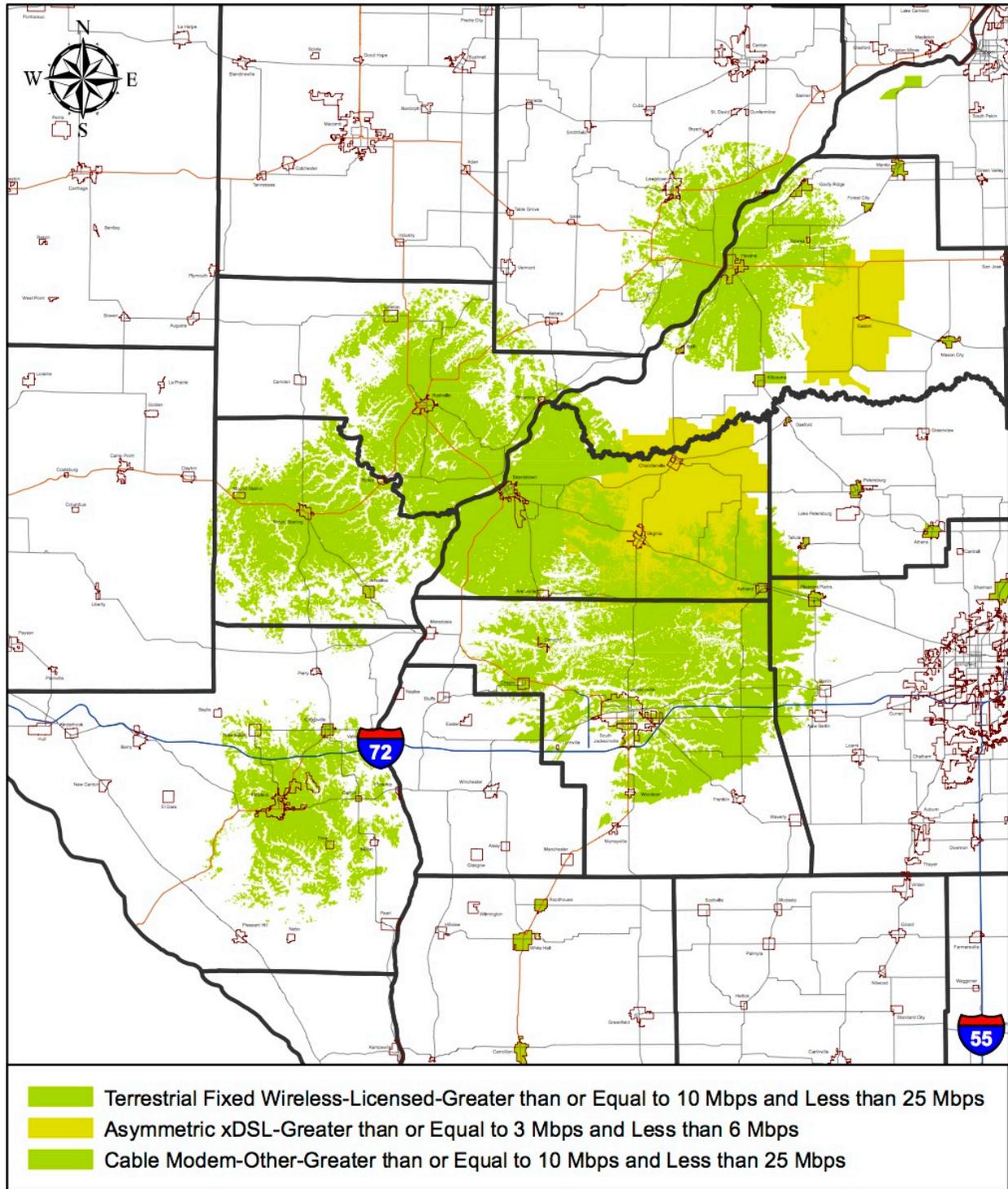


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Cass Communications

Round Five – Data Current as of December 31, 2011



Partnership for a Connected Illinois - March 15, 2012



broadbandillinois.org

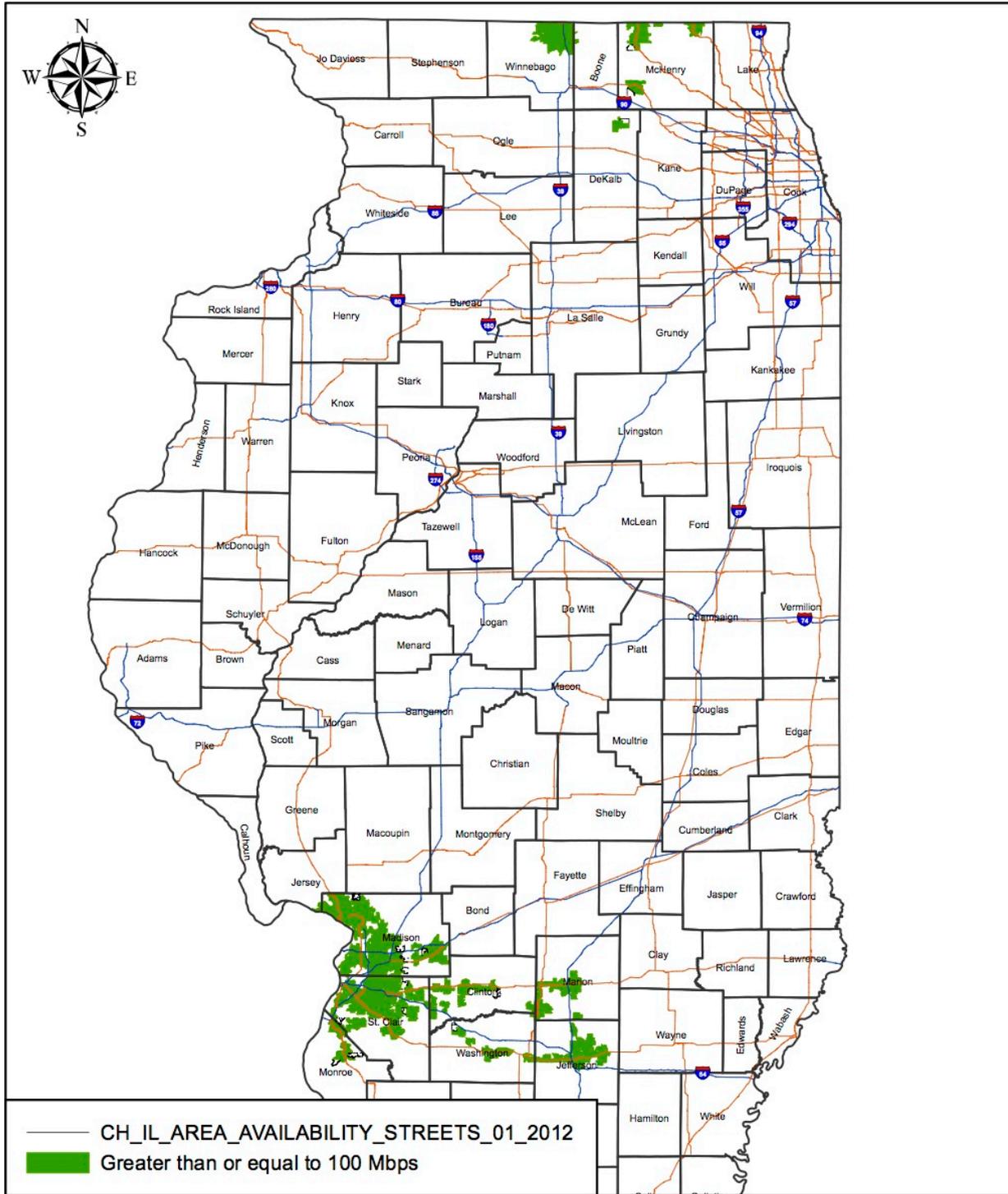


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Charter Communications Inc.

Round Five – Data Current as of December 31, 2011



Partnership for a Connected Illinois - February 22, 2012



broadbandillinois.org

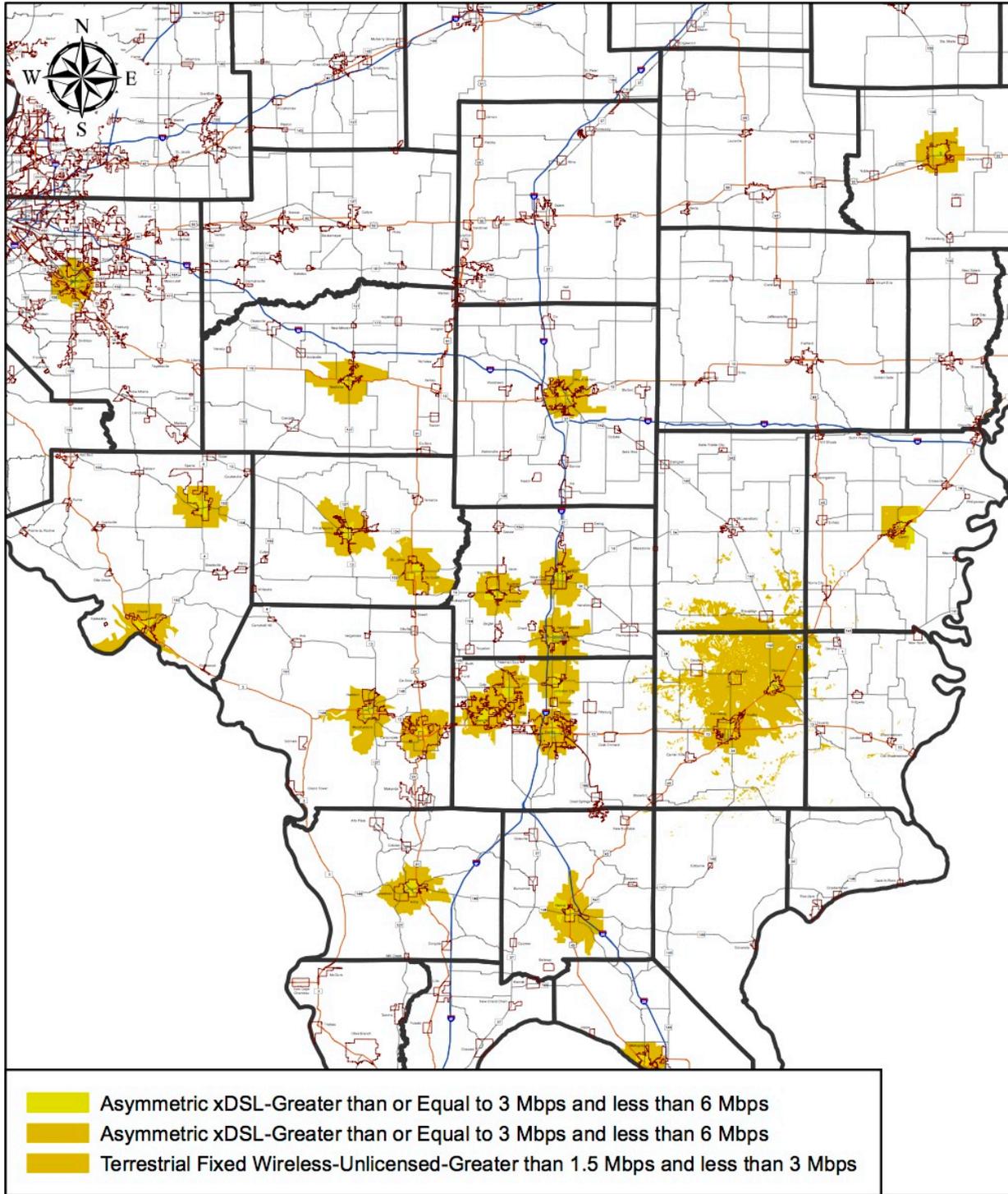


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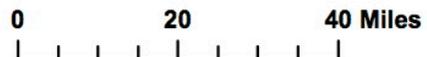


Clearwave Communications, LLC

Round Five – Data Current as of December 31, 2011



Partnership for a Connected Illinois - March 13, 2012



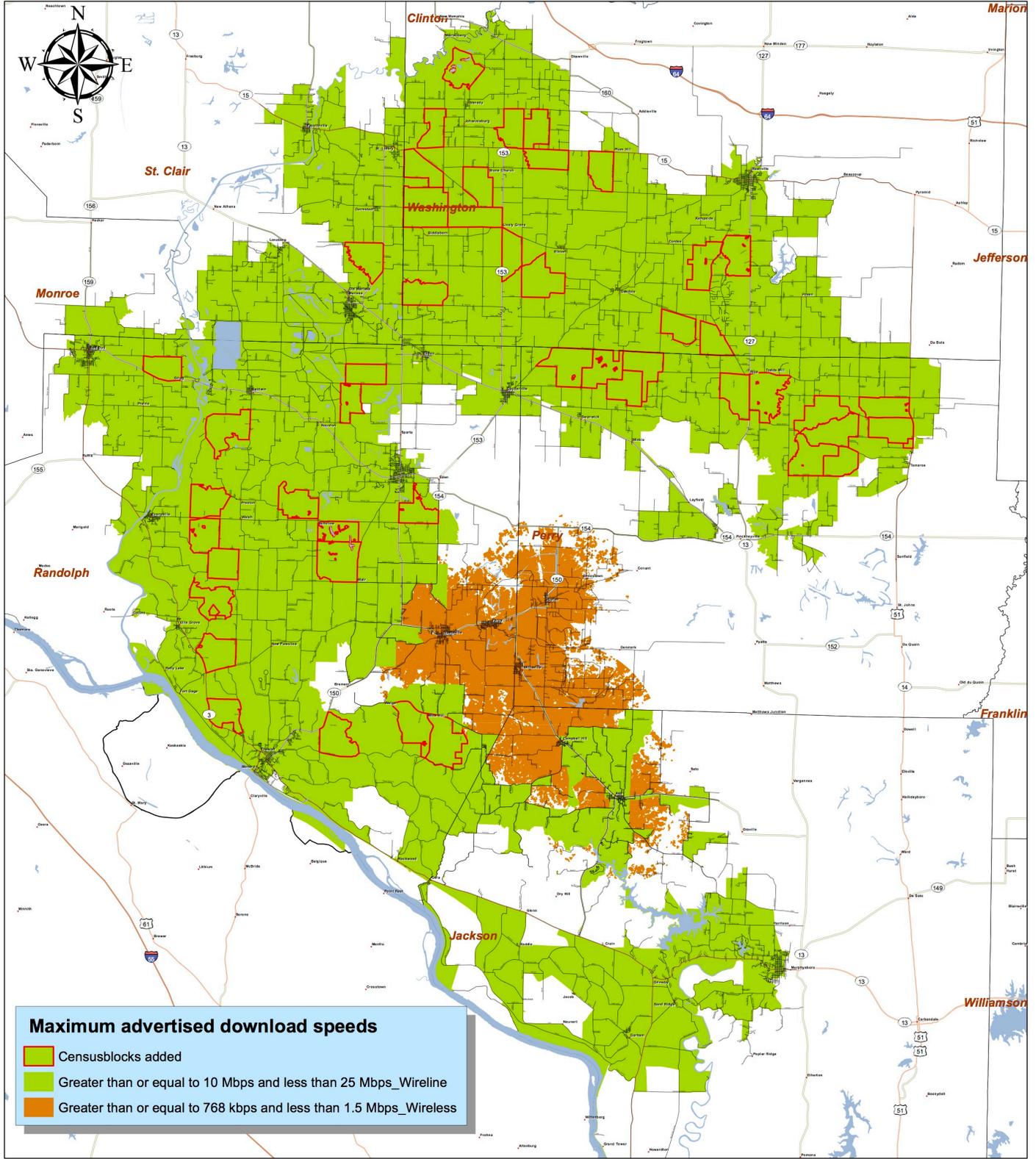
broadbandillinois.org



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Egyptian Internet Service



broadbandillinois.org



0 3 6 12 Miles

This map was created by Ruben Clark, GISP Partnership for a Connected Illinois

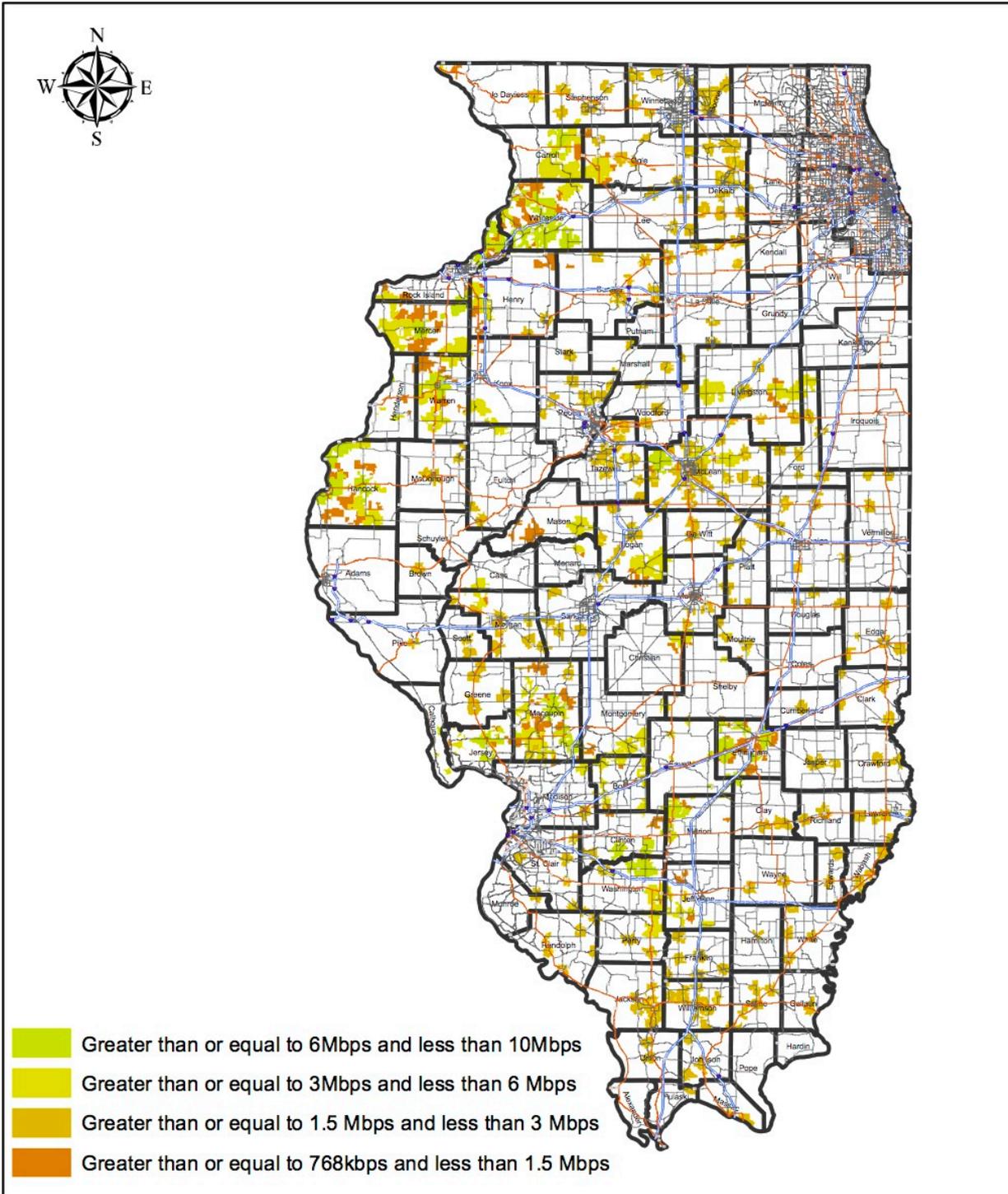
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* The NTIA definition of Broadband is greater than or equal to underved, and not served areas at this time.

Data Verification Map: EDITS MADE 8-23-2011



Frontier Communications

Round Four – Data Current as of June 30, 2011



Partnership for a Connected Illinois - February 09, 2012



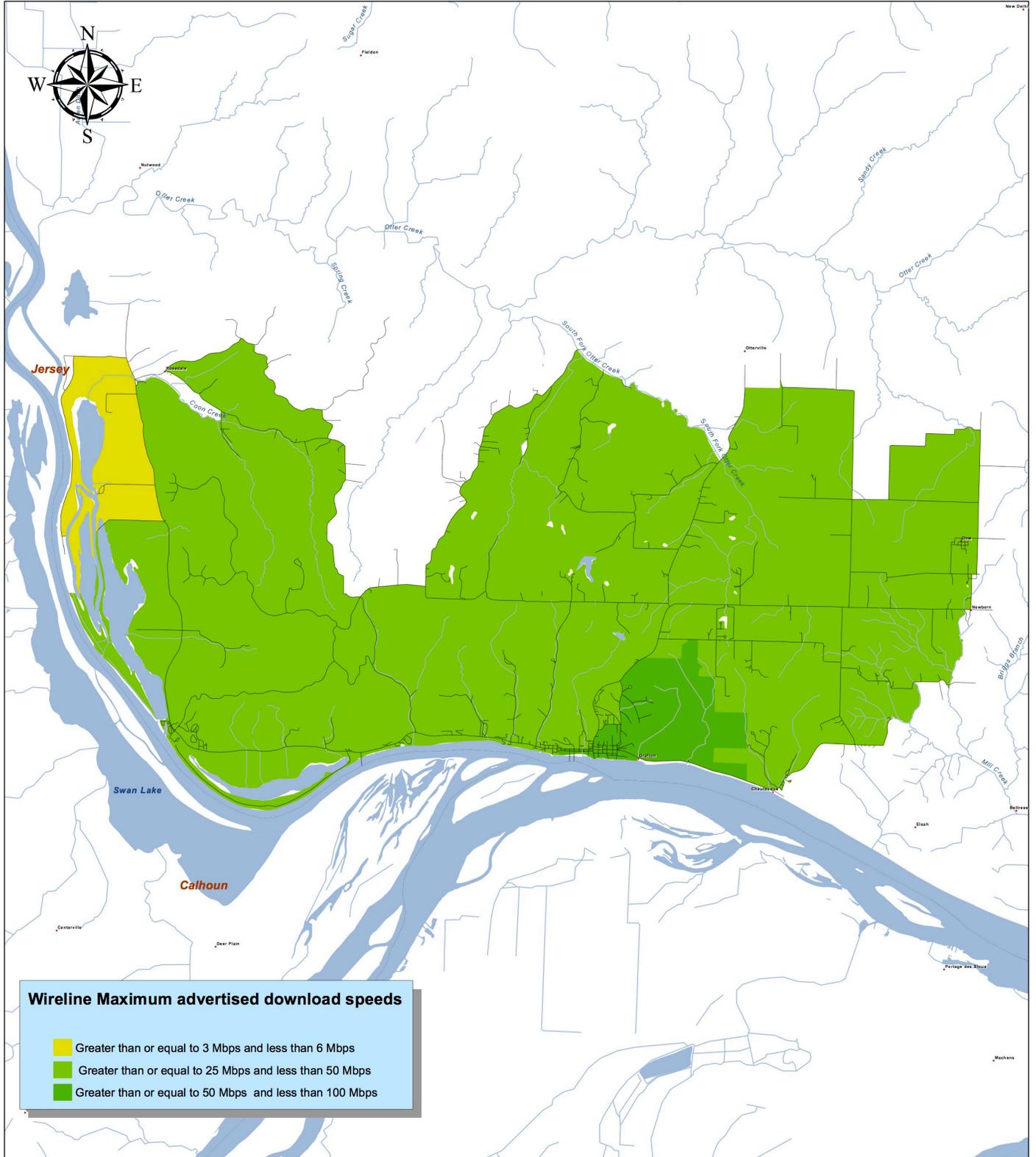
broadbandillinois.org



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Grafton Telephone Company



broadbandillinois.org



0 0.5 1 2 Miles

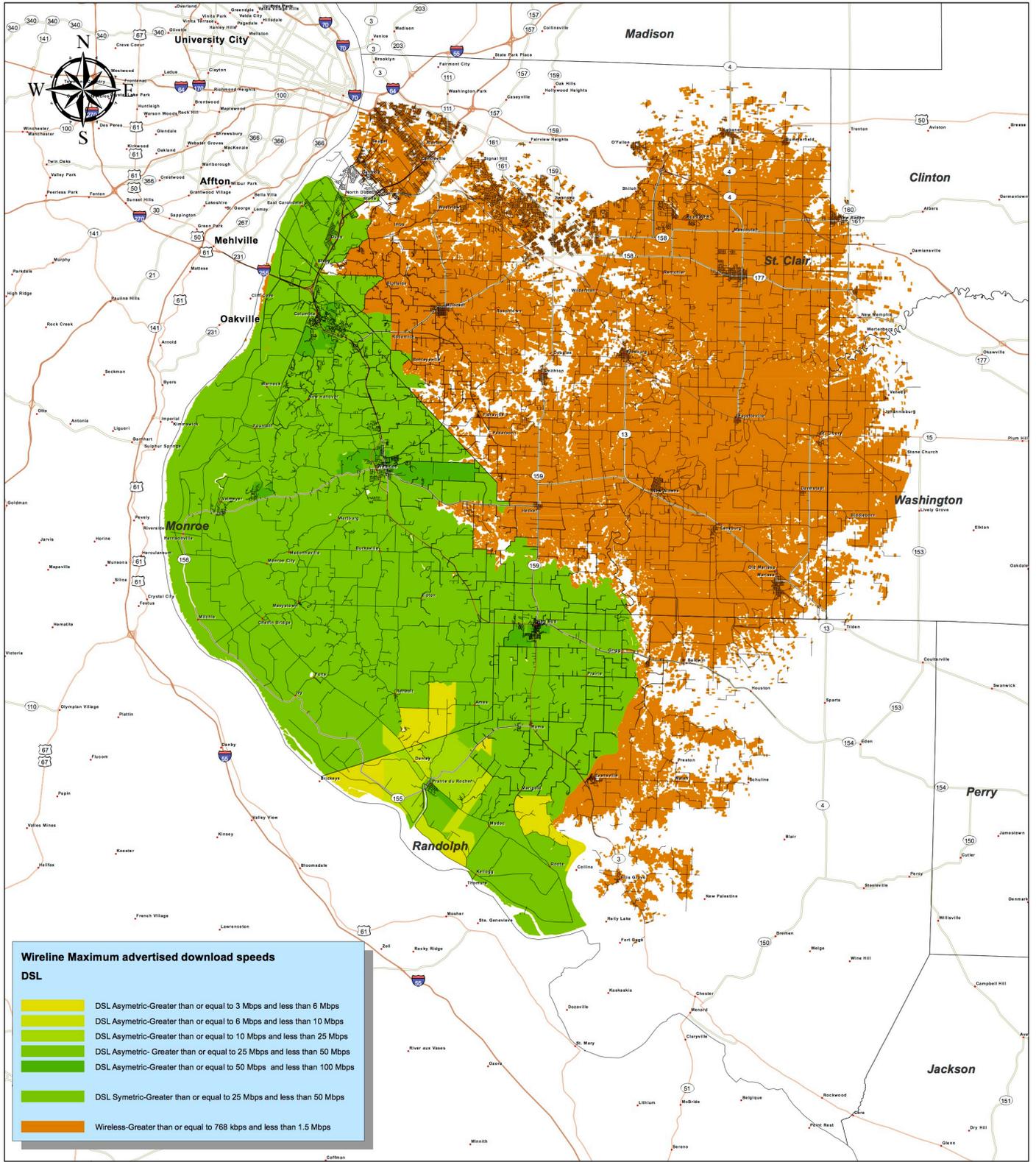
This map was created by Ruben Clark, GISP Partnership for a Connected Illinois

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Data Verification Map



Harrisonville Telephone Company



broadbandillinois.org



0 3 6 12 Miles

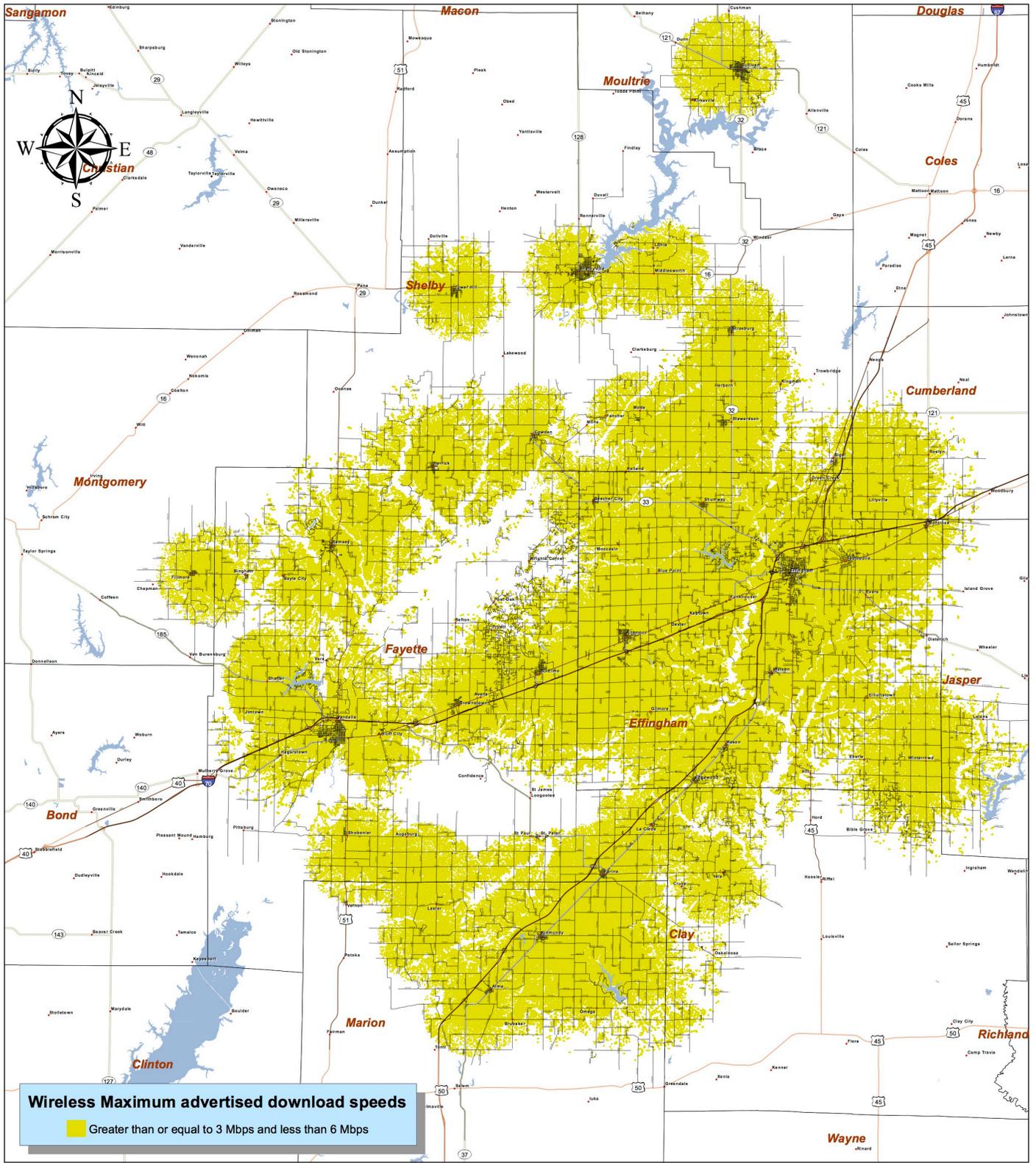
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 * The NTIA definition of Broadband is greater than or equal to underserved, and not served areas at this time.

This map was created by Ruben Clark, GISP Partnership for a Connected Illinois

Data Verification Map



Hofnet Communications



broadbandillinois.org



0 3.75 7.5 15 Miles

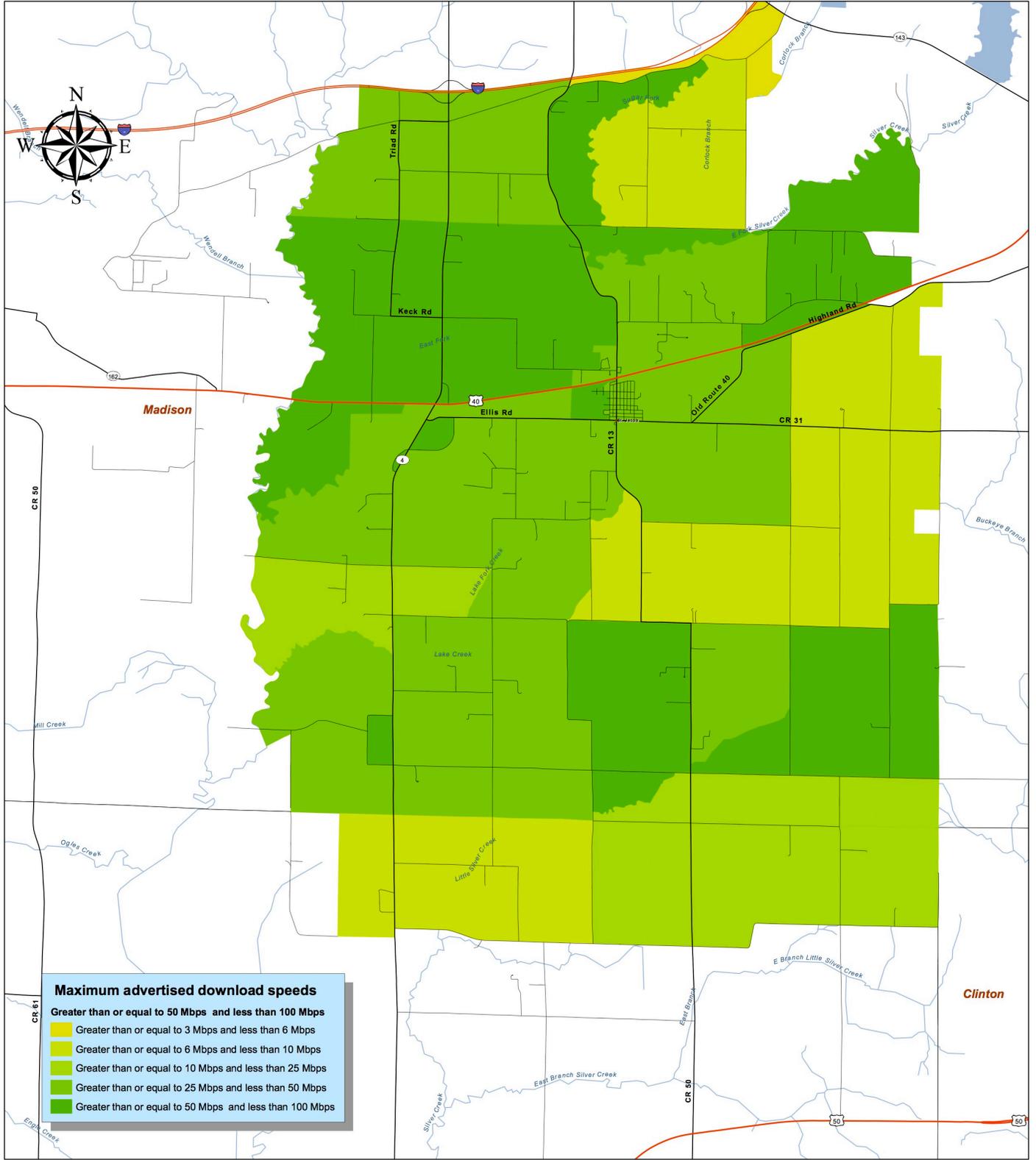
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This map was created by Ruben Clark, GISP Partnership for a Connected Illinois

Data Verification Map



Home Telephone Company



broadbandillinois.org



0 0.5 1 2 Miles

This map was created by Ruben Clark, GISP Partnership for a Connected Illinois

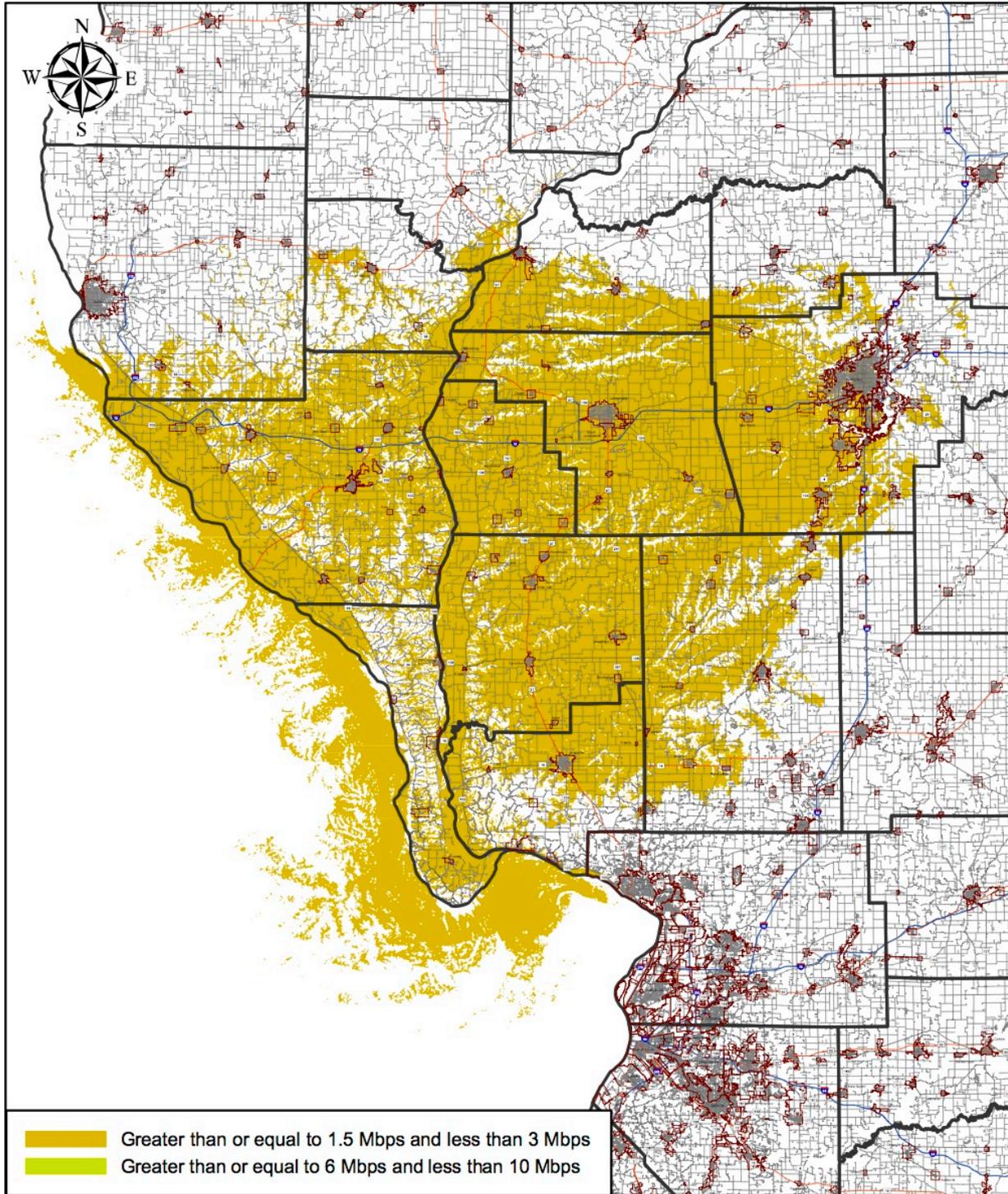
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* The NTIA definition of Broadband is greater than or equal to underserved, and not served areas at this time.

Data Verification Map

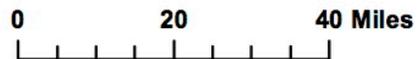


Illionis Rural Electric Co-op Wireless

Round Four – Data Current as of June 30, 2011



Partnership for a Connected Illinois - February 21, 2012



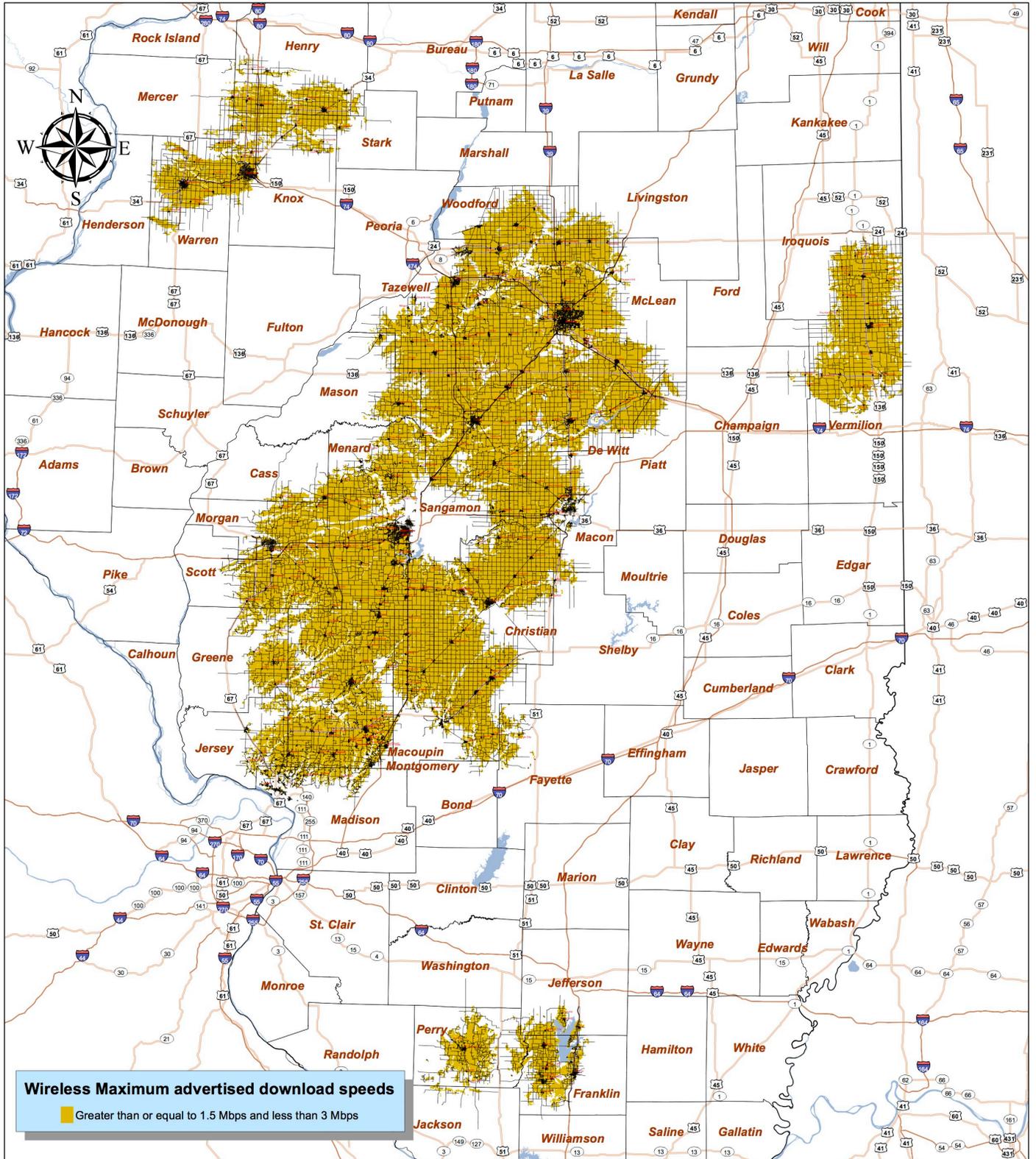
broadbandillinois.org



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KeyOn Communications, Inc



broadbandillinois.org



0 12.5 25 50 Miles

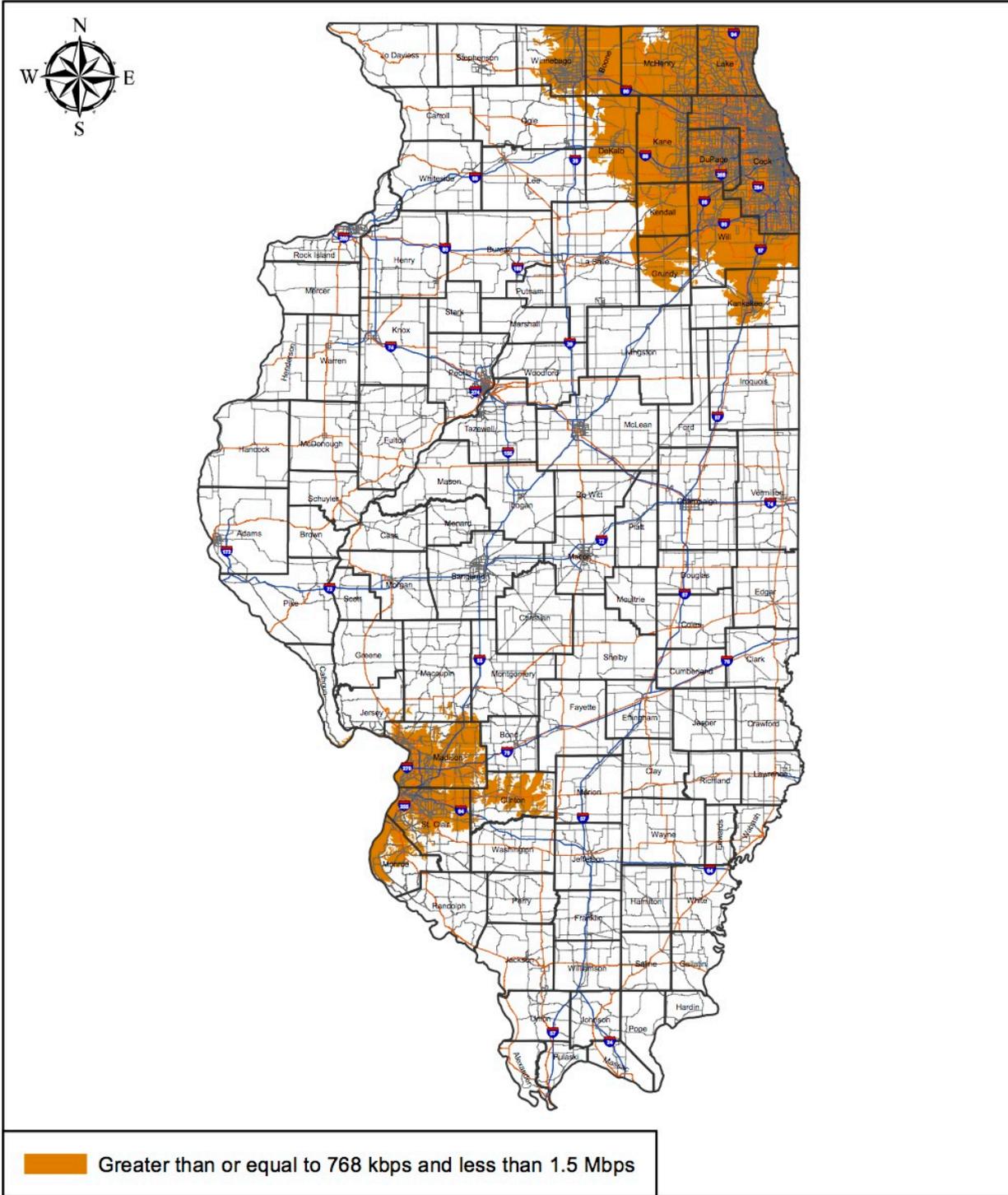
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 * The NTIA definition of Broadband is greater than or equal to underserved, and not served areas at this time.

This map was created by Ruben Clark, GISP Partnership for a Connected Illinois

Data Verification Map



Leap Wireless International, Inc.
 Cricket Communications, Inc.
 Round Five – Data Current as of December 31, 2011



Partnership for a Connected Illinois - March 08, 2012



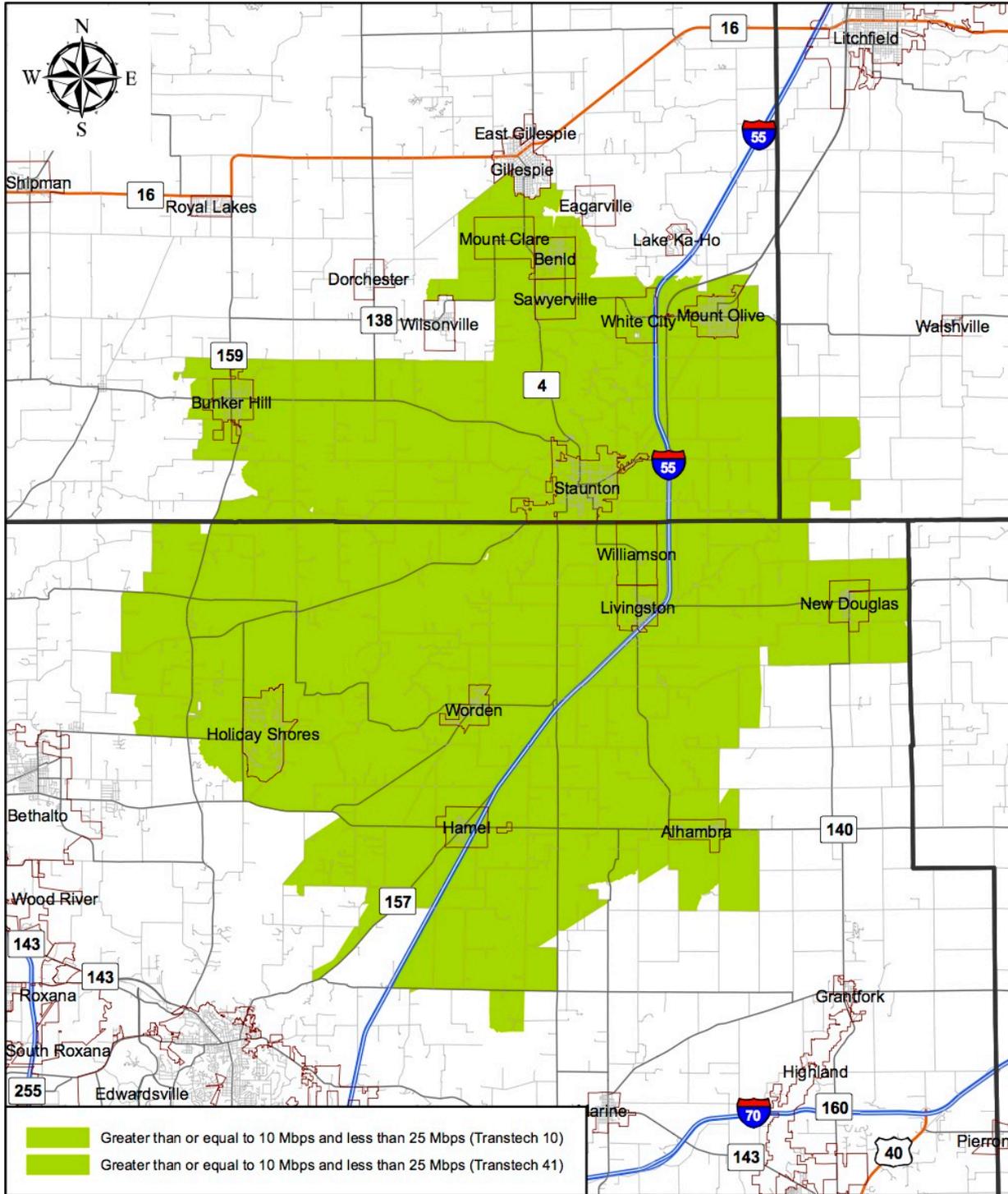
broadbandillinois.org



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Madison Telephone Company, Inc.
 Madison Communications Company, Inc.
 Round Four – Data Current as of June 30, 2011



Partnership for a Connected Illinois - February 08, 2012



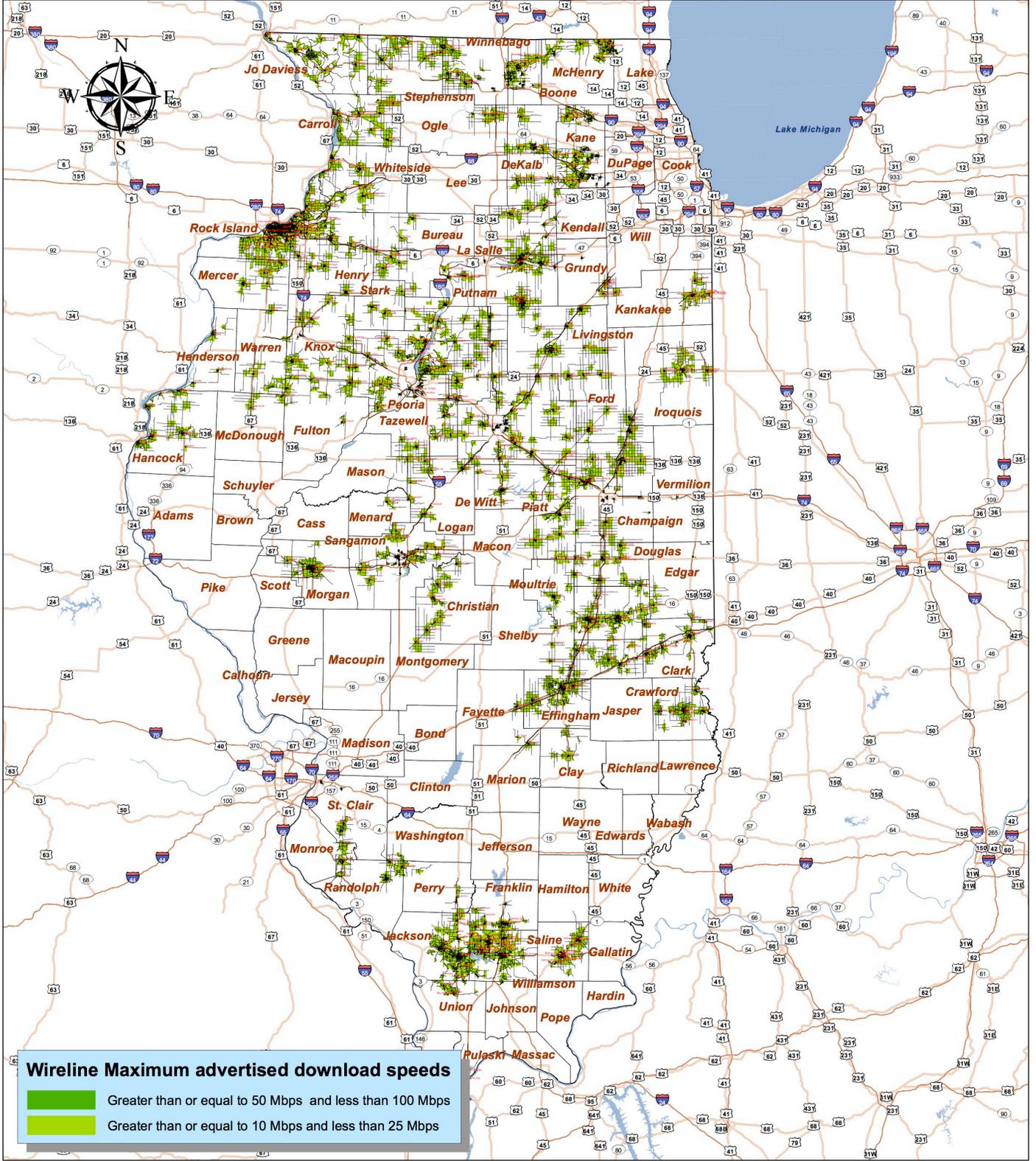
broadbandillinois.org



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Mediacom Communications Corporation



broadbandillinois.org



0 25 50 100 Miles

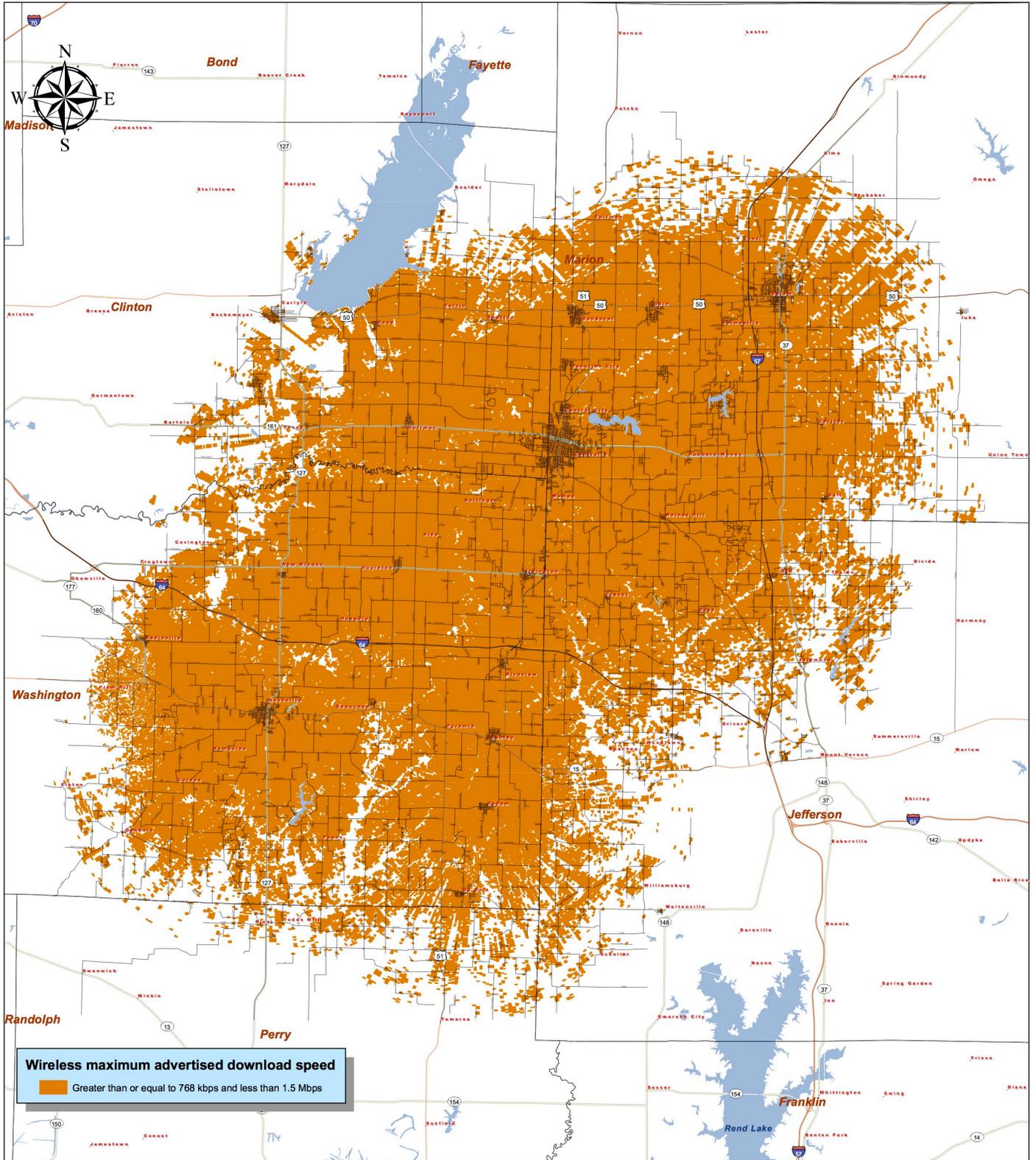
This map was created by Ruben Clark, GISP Partnership for a Connected Illinois

Data Verification Map -

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* The NTIA definition of Broadband is greater than or equal to underserved, and not served areas at this time.



Netwitz Internet Services, Inc.



broadbandillinois.org



0 3.5 7 14 Miles

This map was created by Ruben Clark, GISP Partnership for a Connected Illinois

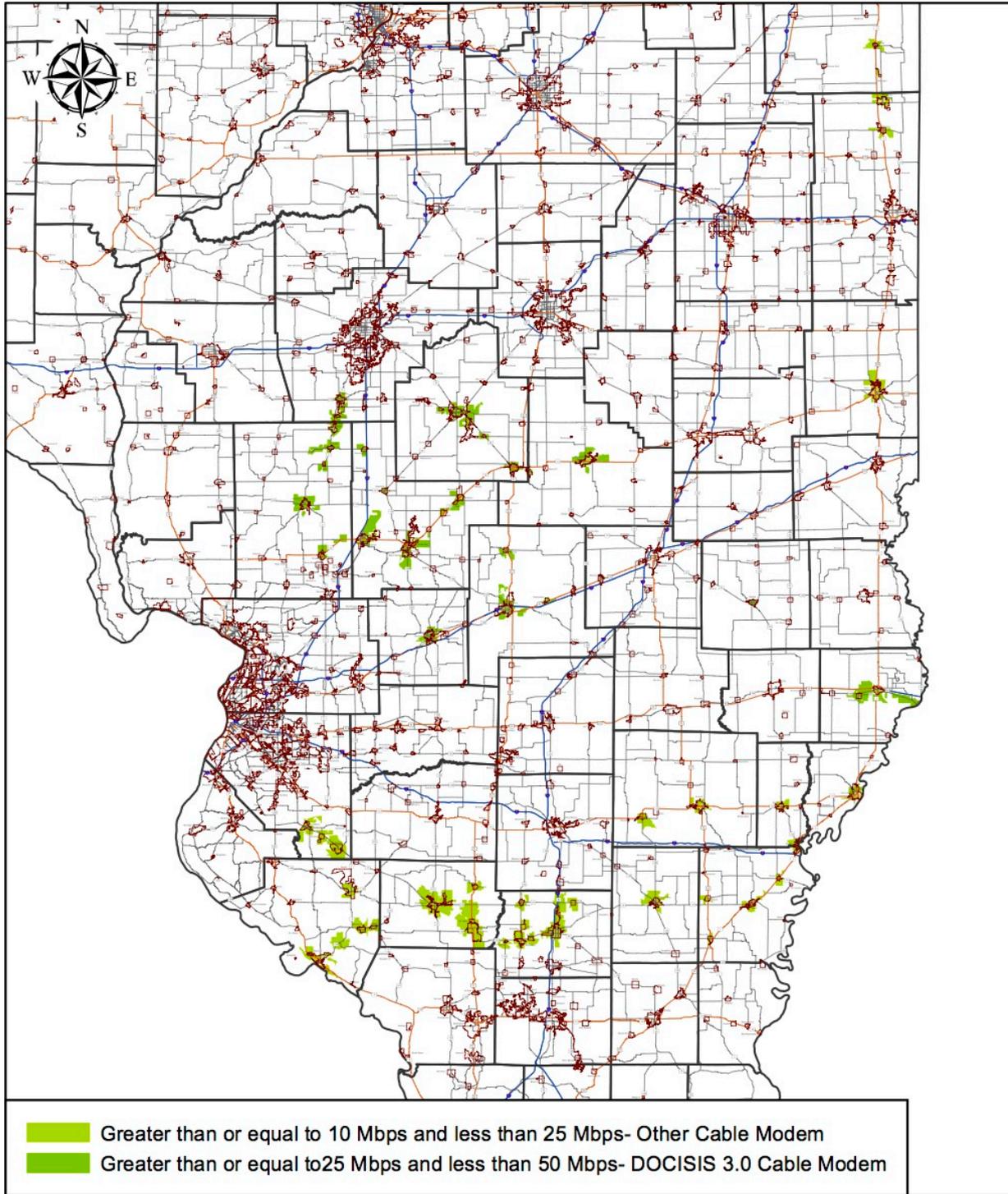
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Data Verification Map -



Newwave Communications Telecommunications Management, LLC

Round Five – Data Current as of December 31, 2011



Partnership for a Connected Illinois - March 05, 2012



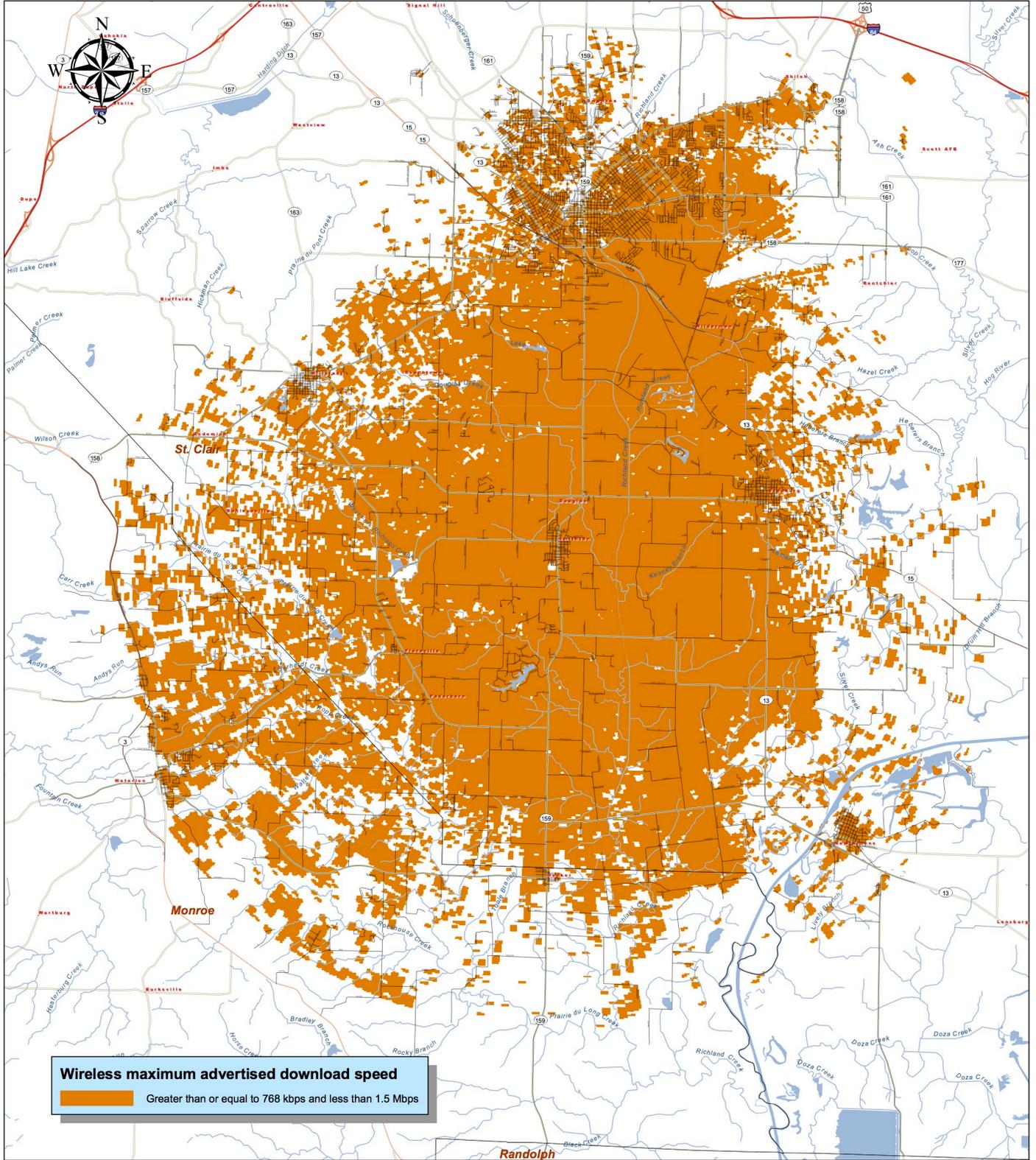
broadbandillinois.org



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NORCOM 2000 INC



broadbandillinois.org



0 1.5 3 6 Miles

This map was created by Ruben Clark, GISP Partnership for a Connected Illinois

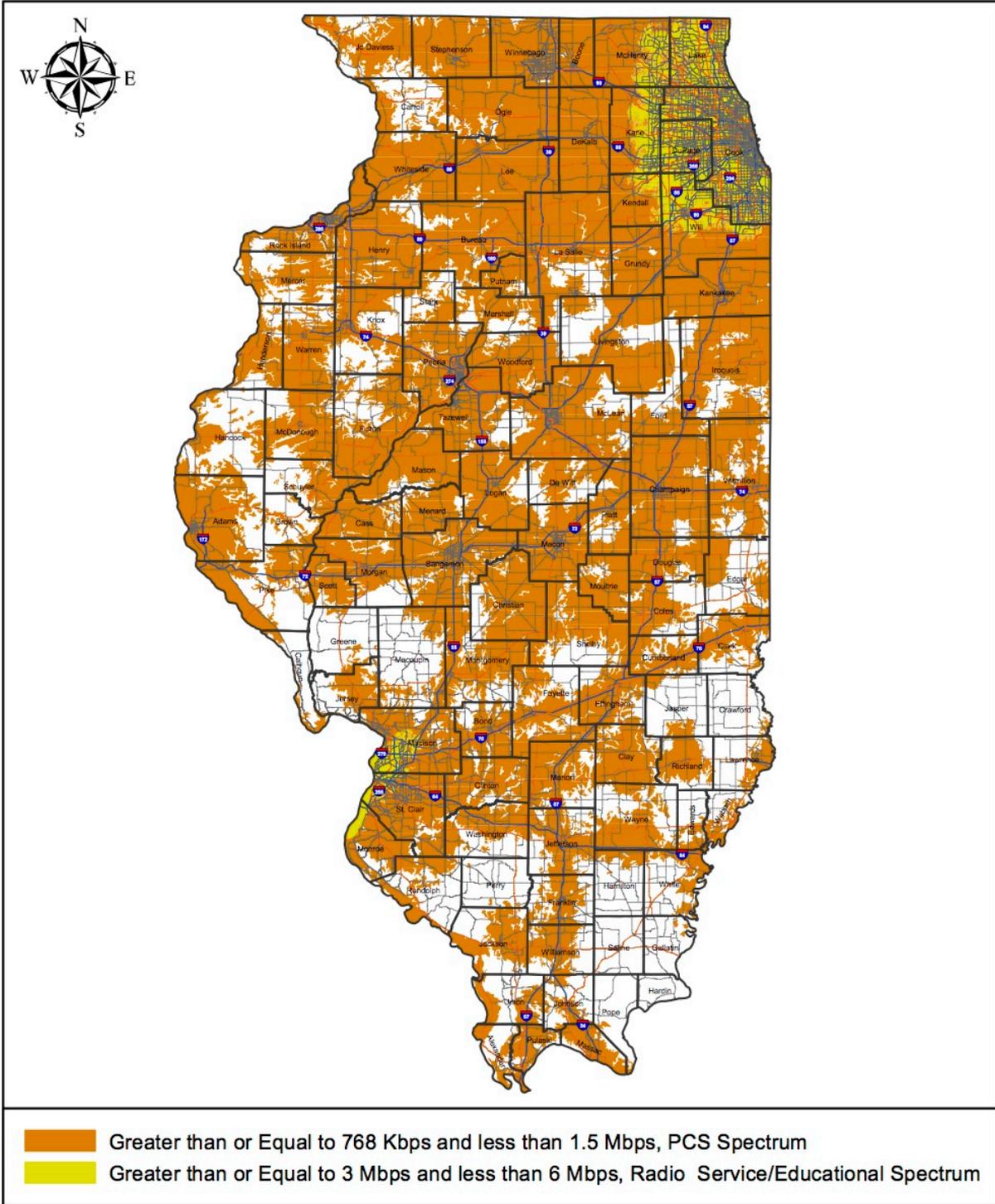
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Data Verification Map -



Sprint Nextel Corporation

Round Five – Data Current as of December 31, 2011



Partnership for a Connected Illinois - February 29, 2012



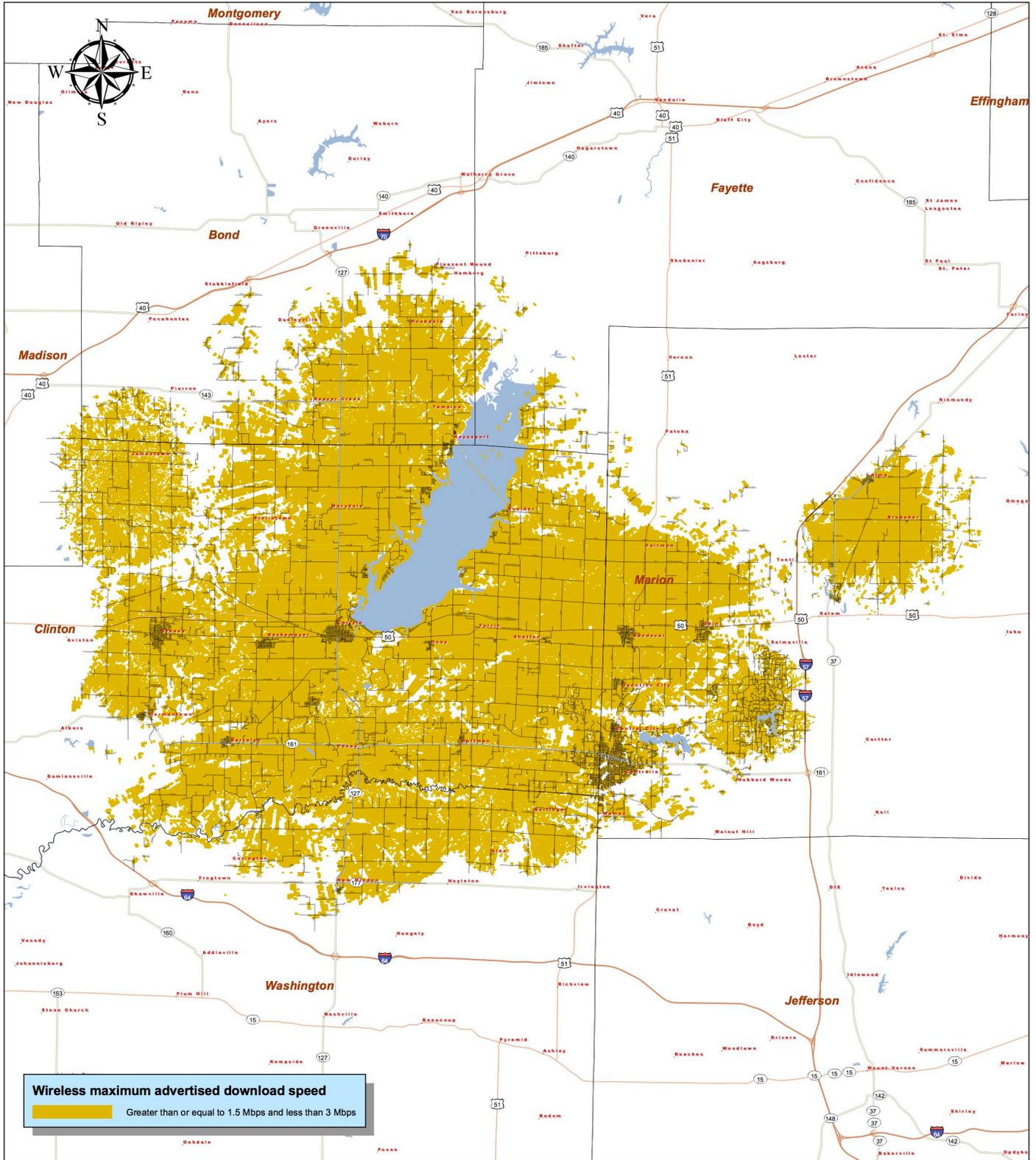
broadbandillinois.org



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Tincans Wireless Internet



broadbandillinois.org



0 3.5 7 14 Miles

This map was created by Ruben Clark, GISP Partnership for a Connected Illinois

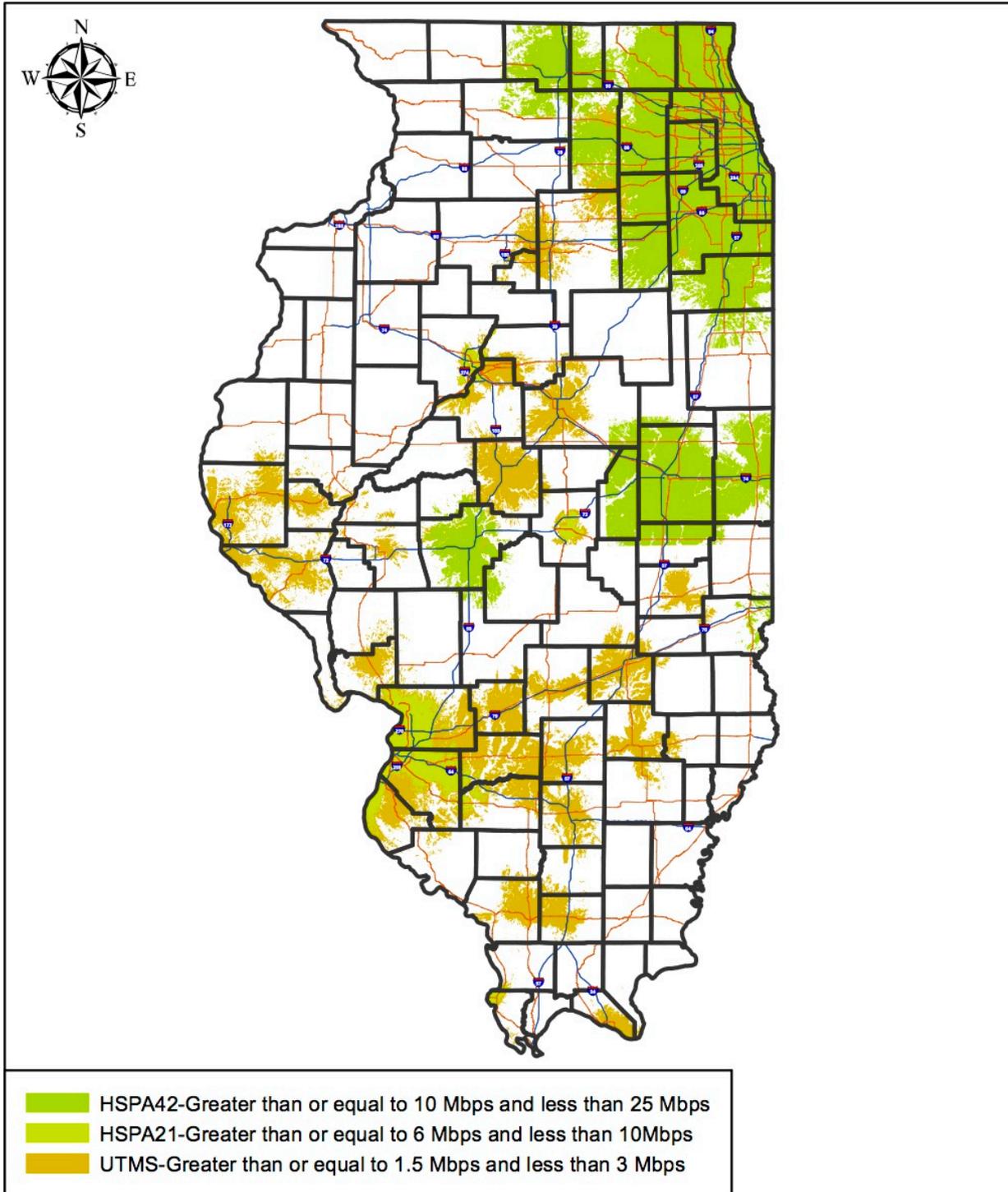
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 * The NTIA definition of Broadband is greater than or equal to underserved, and not served areas at this time.

[Data Verification Map -](#)



T-Mobile USA, Inc.

Round Five – Data Current as of December 31, 2011



Partnership for a Connected Illinois - March 02, 2012



broadbandillinois.org

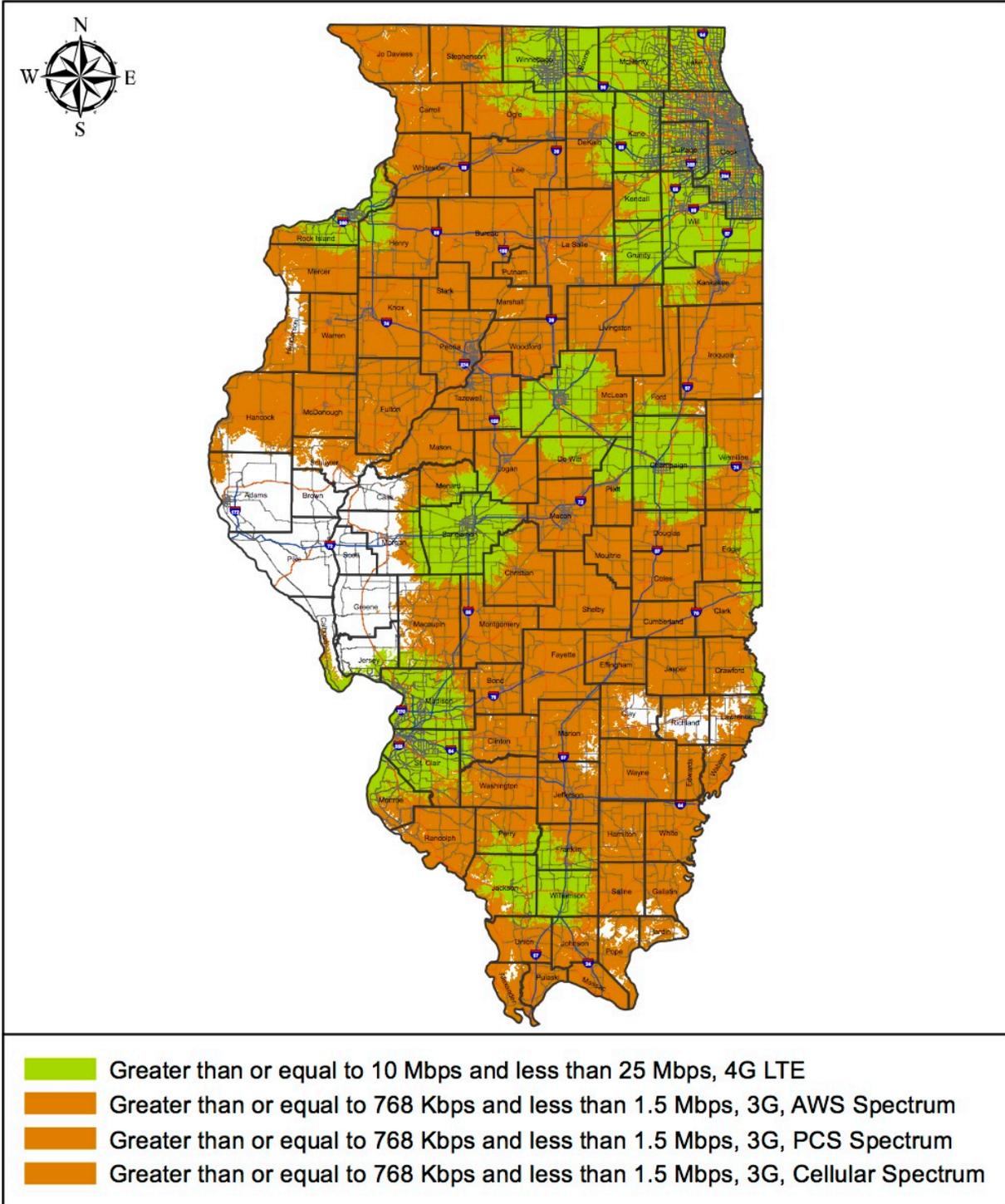


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Verizon Wireless

Round Five – Data Current as of December 31, 2011



Partnership for a Connected Illinois - February 29, 2012



broadbandillinois.org

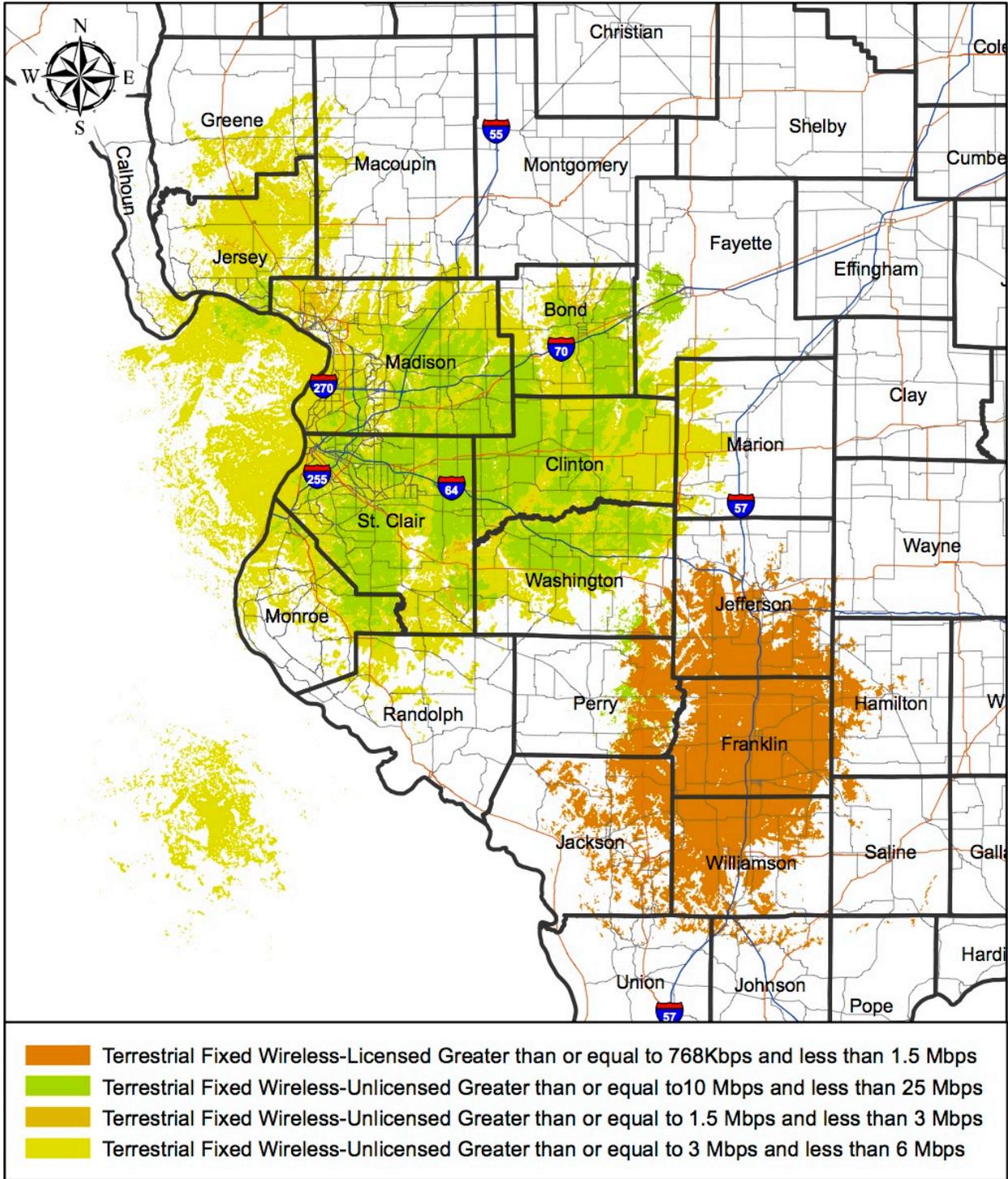


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Wisper ISP, Inc.

Round Five – Data Current as of December 31, 2011



Partnership for a Connected Illinois - March 12, 2012

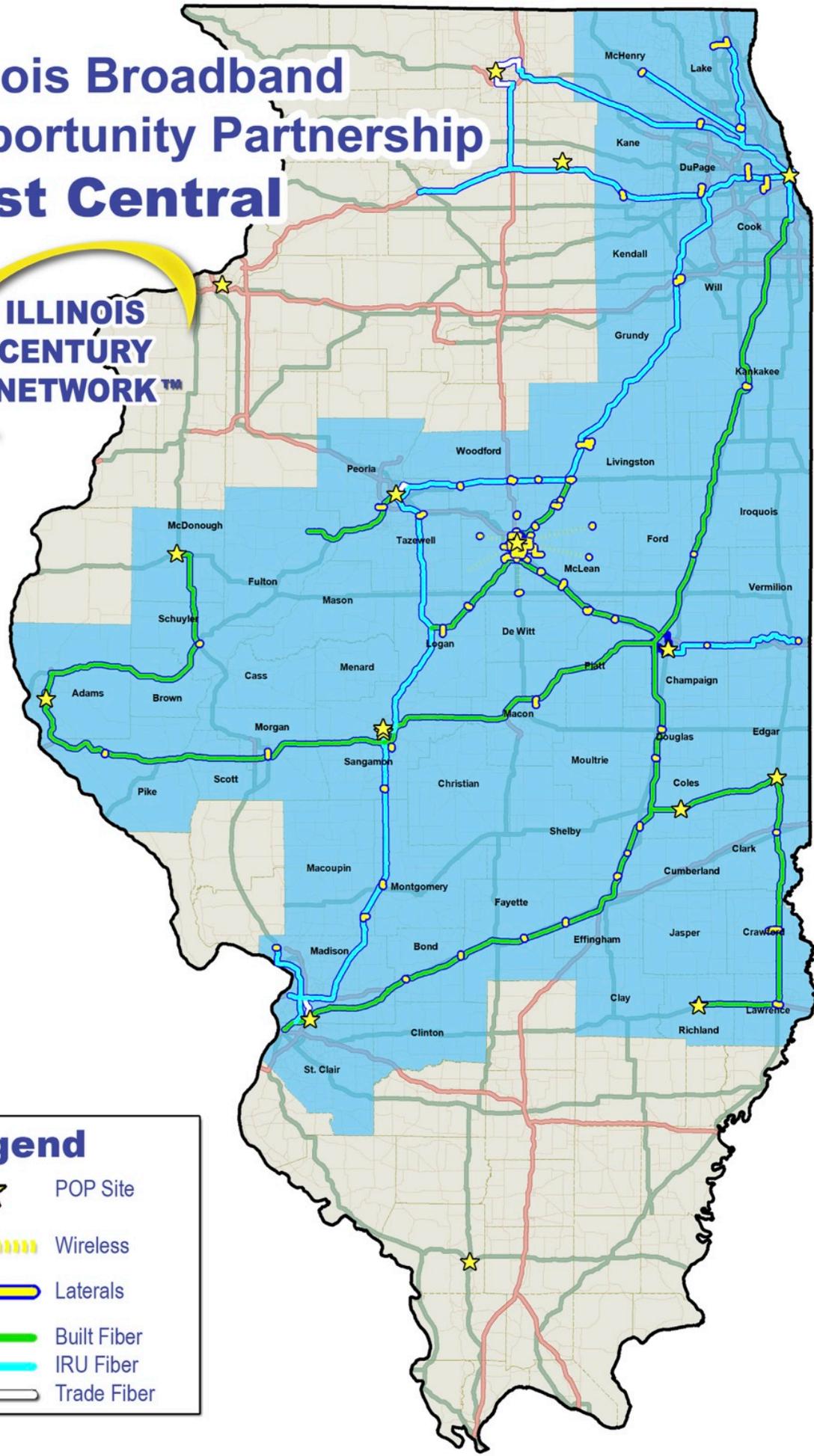


broadbandillinois.org



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Illinois Broadband Opportunity Partnership East Central



Legend

- ★ POP Site
- Wireless
- Laterals
- Built Fiber
- IRU Fiber
- Trade Fiber

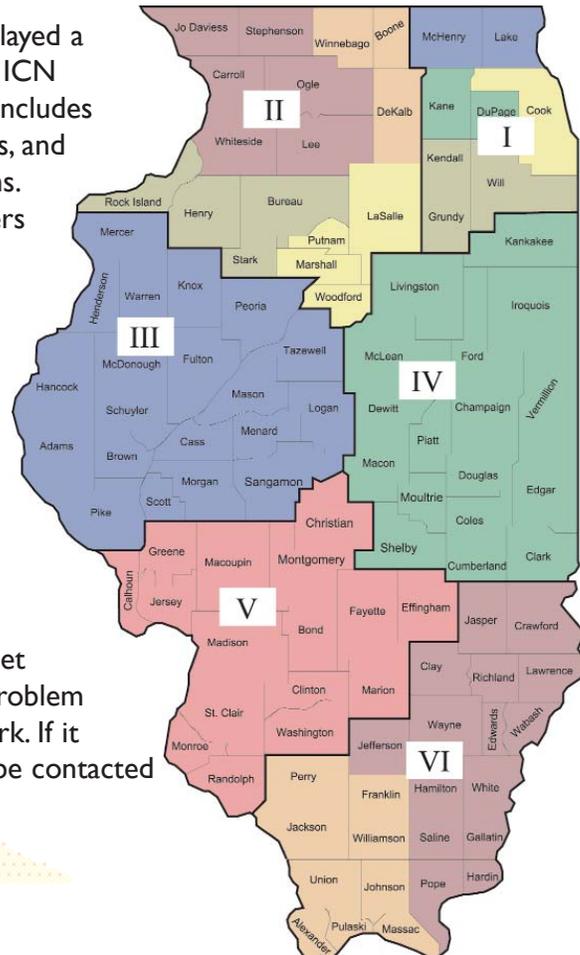


LTC/RTC COMPARISON OF RESPONSIBILITIES

Type of Service	RTC(ICN)	LTC
Local Area Network consultations and building surveys		X
E-mail addresses		X
Web page hosting		X
Domain Name Services	X	
IP Addresses	X	
ICN connectivity consultation	X	
ICN connection installation and troubleshooting	X	
Ongoing ICN connection monitoring and support	X	

In the early days of ISBE's LincOn network, the LTCs played a major role in network deployment and maintenance. The ICN constituency is much broader in scope than LincOn and includes public and private colleges and universities, public libraries, and other local entities that provide services to Illinois citizens. With the creation of the ICN Regional Technology Centers (RTC), the LTCs can once again concentrate on assisting K12 districts and schools with their own internal networking and technology deployment. Other services that the LTCs have historically provided such as email and web space will still be provided by the LTCs or the ROE offices that administer them. Only the LincOn or ICN networking backbone functions are being moved to the RTCs. Email and web hosting services will continue to be provided by either the LTC or the ROE offices that administer them.

A public school contacts their RTC to report an Internet access problem, the RTC will determine if the network problem is part of the backbone or internal to the school's network. If it is internal to the school, the LTC for that school should be contacted concerning the problem.



REGIONAL TECHNOLOGY CENTERS



Region I

James R. Thompson Center
100 W. Randolph, Suite 3-375
Chicago, IL 60601-3219

Region II

CMS Suburban North
9511 Harrison St. Suite S-205
Des Plaines, IL 60016

Region III

1500 West Sullivan Road, B205
Aurora, IL 60506

Region IV

202 N Schuyler Ave. Suite 204
Kankakee, IL 60901

Region V

1001 West 23rd Street
Sterling, IL 61081

Region VI

211 B SW Adams St.
Peoria, IL 61602

Region VII

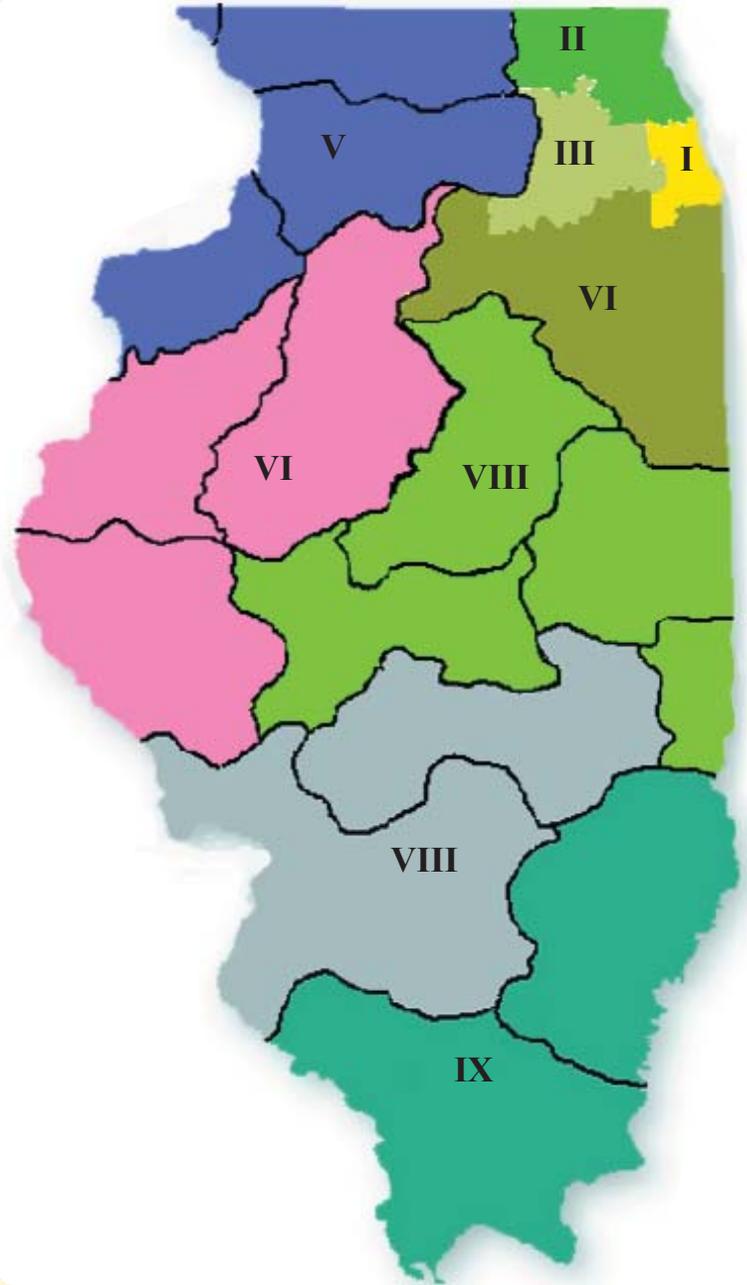
Parkland College
2400 West Bradley Ave, Rm X132
Champaign, IL 61821-1899

Region VIII

404 Broadway, Suite 26
Highland, IL 62249

Region IX

Dunn-Richmond EDC
150 E Pleasant Hill Rd.
Room 159, Box 17
Carbondale, IL 62903





Office of Regional Outreach

WEST CENTRAL REGION

Salvador Garza
Senior Account Manager
(309) 343-1243
Cell: (309) 259-0171
Salvador.Garza@illinois.gov
821 West Main Street
Galesburg, IL 61401
Macomb Office:
West II Bus & Tech Center,
510 N. Pearl St, Suite 700
Macomb, IL 61455

Jacqui Bevelheimer
Account Manager
(217) 221-2521
Cell: (217) 622-7159
Jacqui.Bevelheimer@illinois.gov
301 Oak St. 5th Floor - Suite 5
Quincy, IL 62301

NORTH CENTRAL REGION

John Whalen
Region Manager
(309) 663-7528
Cell: (309) 830-8458
John.Whalen@illinois.gov
3201 CIRA Drive, Suite 203
Bloomington, IL 61704

Anthony Rolando
Senior Account Manager
(309) 647-5896
Cell: (309) 338-4191
Anthony.Rolando@illinois.gov
2 North Main Street,
1st Floor, City Hall
Canton, IL 61520
Peoria Office:
100 SW Water St.
Peoria, IL 61602-1329

CENTRAL REGION

Jeff Torricelli
Senior Advisor to the
Director on Policy and
Economic Development
(217) 782-6743
Cell: (217) 836-4814
Jeff.Torricelli@illinois.gov
500 E. Monroe Street
Springfield, IL 62701

NORTHWEST REGION

Teresa Kurtenbach
Region Manager
(309) 757-9484
Cell: (309) 265-3214
Teresa.Kurtenbach@illinois.gov
622 19th Street
Moline, IL 61265

Lee Trotter
Account Manager
(309) 596-4027
Cell: (309) 582-4090
Lee.Trotter@illinois.gov
1305 – 17th Avenue
Viola, IL 61486

NORTHERN STATELINE REGION

Jeff Polsean
Region Manager
(815) 967-3871
Cell: (815) 218-3158
Jeff.Polsean@illinois.gov
200 S. Wyman St. Suite 164
Rockford, IL 61101

John Duncan
Account Manager
Cell: (815) 978-3853
John.Duncan@illinois.gov
200 S. Wyman St. Suite 164
Rockford, IL 61101

NORTHEAST REGION

Robert Anderson Jr.
Region Manager
(312) 814-7129
Cell: (815) 721-3543
Robert.Anderson@illinois.gov
100 W. Randolph, Ste 3-400
Chicago, IL 60601-3219

Antonio Baxton
Economic Development
Manager
Cell: (773) 951-8542
Antonio.Baxton@illinois.gov
1904 W. 174 Street
East Hazel Crest, IL 60429

Michelle Michals
Senior Account Manager
(630) 844-6653
Cell: (312) 636-4555
Michelle.Michals@illinois.gov
43 West Galena Blvd
Aurora, IL 60506

Joseph McKeown
Senior Account Manager
(312) 814-1457
Cell: (312) 497-1823
Joseph.McKeown@illinois.gov
28055 N. Ashley Circle
Libertyville, IL 60048

Edward Piatt
Senior Account Manager
(815) 935-0661
Cell: (312) 636-0739
Ed.Piatt@illinois.gov
Bradley Bourbonnais Reg.
Chamber Commerce
1690 Newtowne Drive
Bourbonnais, IL 60914

EAST CENTRAL REGION

Paul Faraci
Interim Region Manager
Senior Account Manager
(217) 278-5851
Cell: (217) 840-5899
Paul.Faraci@illinois.gov
1307 N. Mattis
Champaign, IL 61821

SOUTHEAST REGION

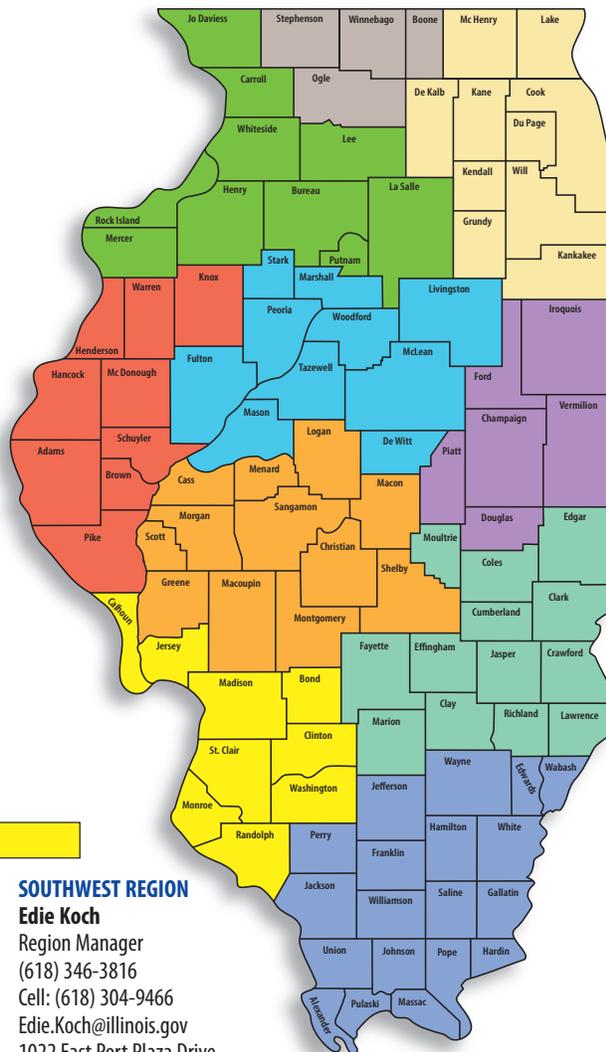
Vacant
**Contact these Regional
Managers for the
following counties:**

- **East Central Region:**
Moultrie, Coles,
Cumberland, Edgar, Clark
- **Southern Region:**
Effingham, Jasper,
Crawford, Clay, Richland,
Lawrence
- **Southwest Region:**
Fayette and Marion

SOUTHERN REGION

Larry Woolard
Region Manager
(618) 993-7228
Cell: (618) 214-4328
Larry.Woolard@illinois.gov
2309 W. Main St., Ste 124
Marion, IL 62959

Kim Watson
Senior Account Manager
(618) 993-7630
Cell: (618) 889-6731
Kim.Watson@illinois.gov
2309 W. Main St., Ste 124
Marion, IL 62959



SOUTHWEST REGION

Edie Koch
Region Manager
(618) 346-3816
Cell: (618) 304-9466
Edie.Koch@illinois.gov
1022 East Port Plaza Drive
Collinsville IL 62234

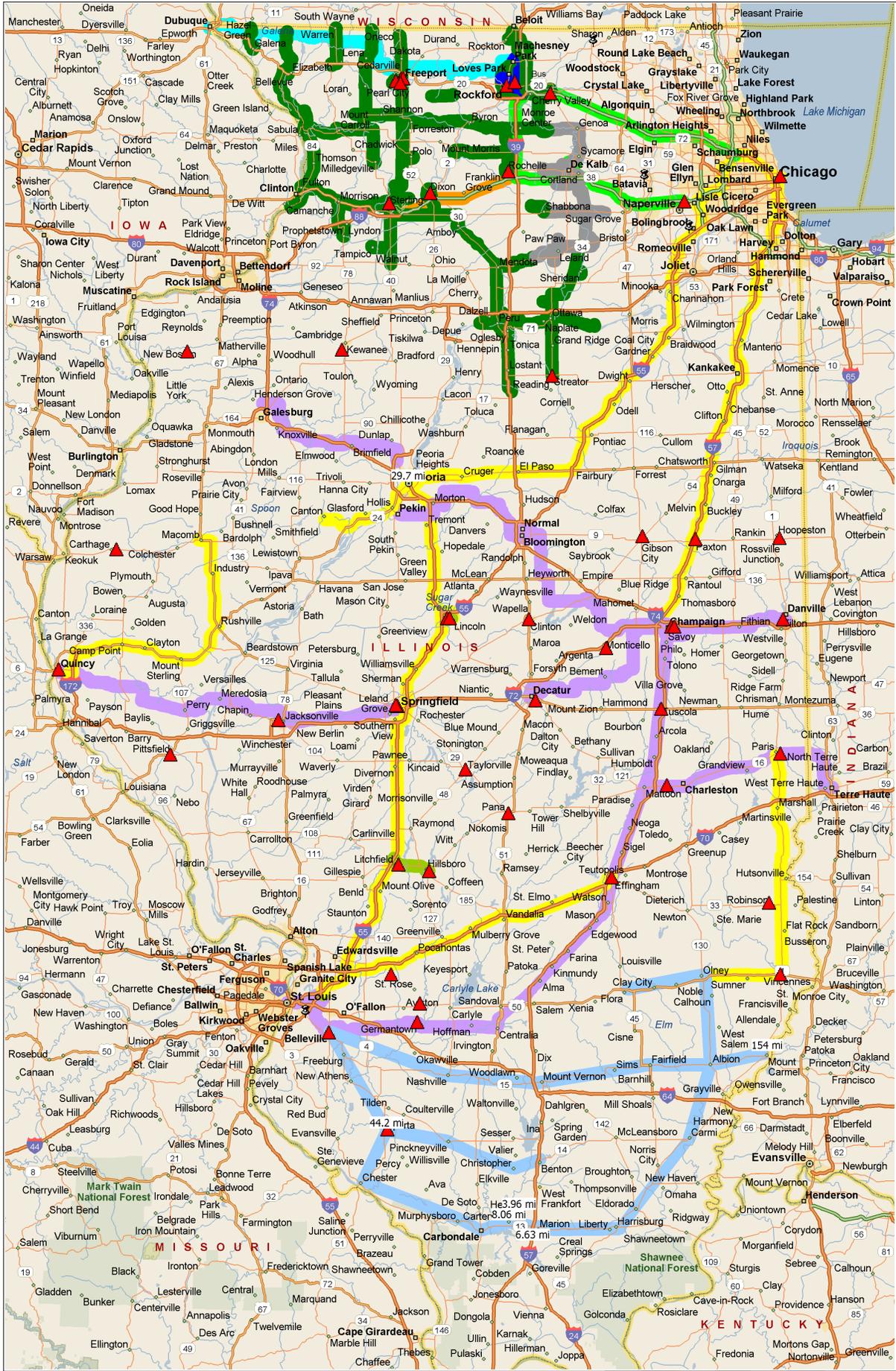


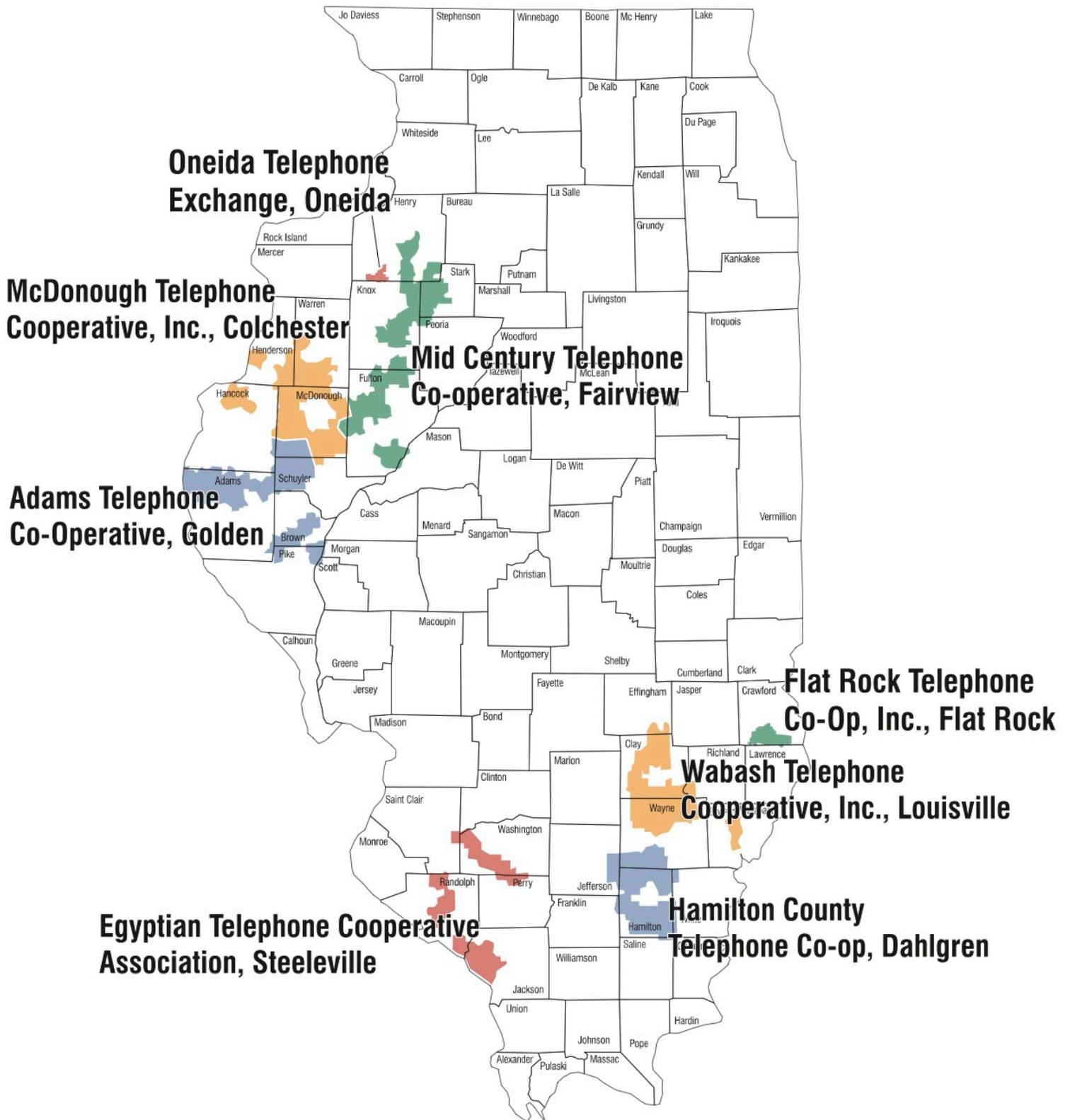
Warren Ribley

Director

Amy Martin

Acting Deputy Director
Office of Regional Outreach
(217) 785-3948
Cell: (217) 836-8847
Amy.Martin@illinois.gov





Central Region Broadband Action Plan

Goals: To Increase Broadband Access
To Increase Useful Adoption

By achieving both Goals, we will stimulate economic development and enhance quality of life within the region.

Objectives –

- 1. Determine DEMAND/NEEDS within each county and use the data to address needs**

Activities:

- 2. Determine SUPPLY within each county and use the data to address needs**

Activities:

- 3. Network with collaborate partners with similar objectives**

Activities:

- 4. Promote and educate on beneficial uses of broadband**

Activities:

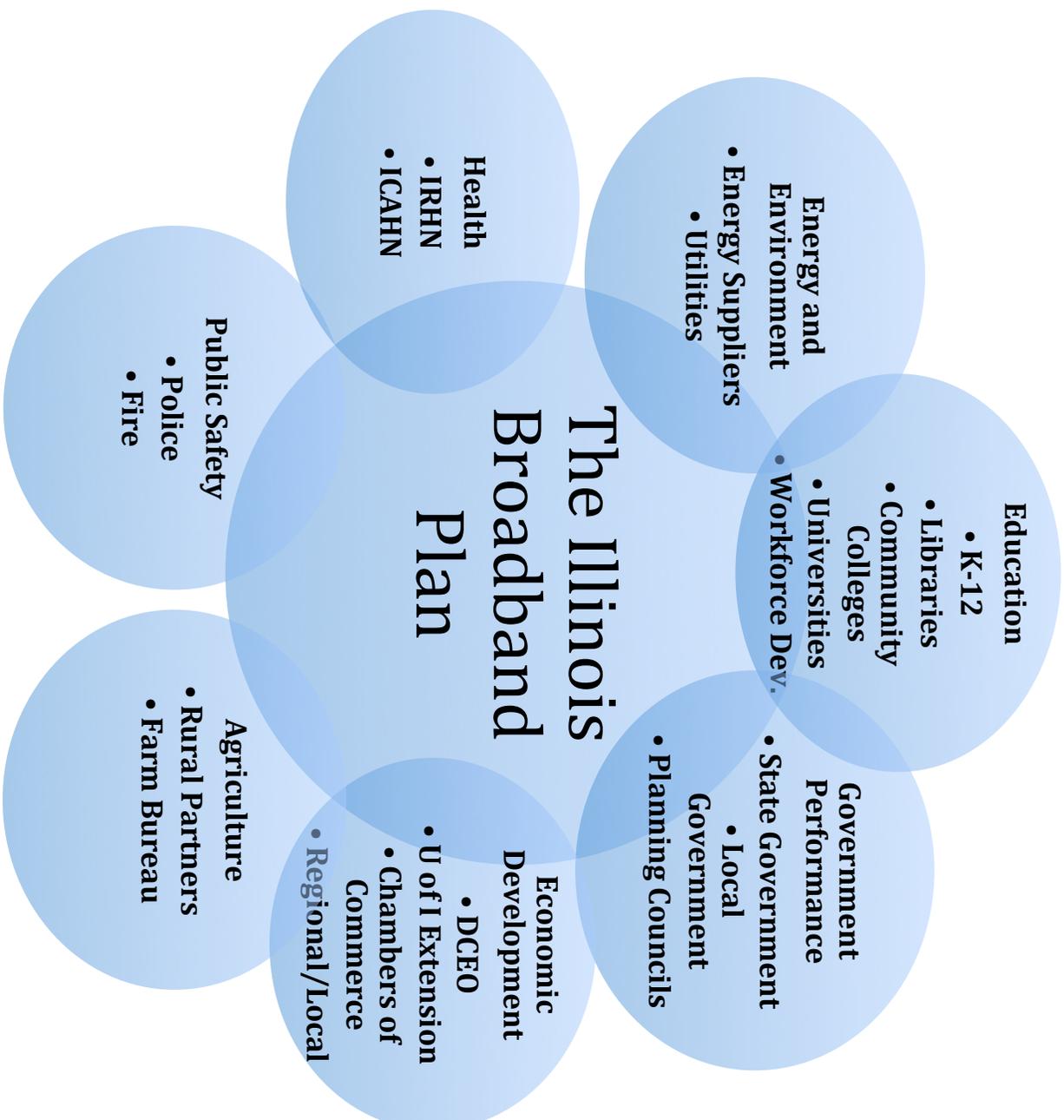
- 5. Review local, state, and federal planning and policies, and act upon when appropriate**

Activities:

- 6. Develop a Written Broadband Plan showing needs and supply, ways to potentially address the needs, ways to promote adoption, key contacts, and any other critical information needed for successful broadband expansion and adoption.**

R = *Research Committee* (Supply/Demand - documenting it and using it to increase broadband access)

CA = *Community Awareness Committee* (Promoting project in order to help gather data, gather best practices, and educate for adoption purposes.)



ILLINOIS GIGABIT COMMUNITIES CHALLENGE



How It Works

Governor Pat Quinn is launching a competition that will award up to \$4,000,000 in prize funding to the most promising ultra high-speed broadband deployment projects in Illinois as part of the comprehensive, multi-year **Illinois Jobs Now!** economic development program.

...Illinois is also a land of technology. We're in the process of laying 4,100 miles of new broadband fiber optic cable to light up 5,000 of our schools, libraries, businesses and hospitals with world-class information networks.

...Today, I'm also announcing a \$6 million dollar statewide competition to build ultra-high speed broadband in neighborhoods across Illinois.

Through this challenge, we want our neighborhoods to become Gigabit communities with Internet connections more than 100 times faster than today!

Our goal is to build smart communities that will foster the job engines of the future...

- Governor Quinn's 2012 State of the State Address

Open to any private or public organization, the contest will result in seed funding awards to build or expand world-class broadband networks in Illinois. Each proposal should outline a viable plan to connect at least 1,000 end users to an ultra high-speed broadband network.

The best proposals will outline how completing ultra-high speed network construction by the end of 2013 will, among other objectives:

- Improve employment opportunities;
- Enhance economic development through the development of "smart communities" ;
- Bring Illinois closer to our goal of increasing the proportion of residents with high-quality degrees and credentials to 60 percent by the year 2025;
- Connect health care professionals with their patients;
- Position Illinois' universities to continue to lead the nation in research, technology and innovation.

This represents another element in Governor Quinn's effort to accelerate innovation and job growth in Illinois. Entrants will be encouraged to develop creative proposals that maximize total project investment and community benefits. Proposals that can serve as proofs-of-concept with a broader impact in Illinois will receive the highest consideration.

Visit www.gigabit.illinois.gov to learn more!



Illinois Department of Commerce
& Economic Opportunity



Pat Quinn, *Governor*
Warren Ribley, *Director*

Information Sessions

These sessions are intended to outline the parameters of the RFA and give prospective applicants an opportunity to ask questions.

Attendance is optional but encouraged.

Chicago Session

Thursday, February 23, 2012

9:00 am—12:00 pm

Michael A. Bilandic Building
160 N. LaSalle Street
5th Floor Auditorium
(Room C500)
Chicago, IL

The information session is free and open to the public.

Webinar Session

Friday, February 24, 2012

10:30 am—12:00 pm

For more details about how to join the online webinar, visit:

**WWW.ILDCEO.NET/
DIGITALDIVIDE**

Eliminate the Digital Divide Grant Program

FY 2012 Grant Application Cycle

Background

The Digital Divide Grant Program was established to provide training & access to computers and other technologies to residents in low income communities.

Through this program, the Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity awards grants to plan, establish and expand Community Technology Centers (CTCs).

The focus of the program is to support CTCs that provide fundamental technology skills training.

Eligible Applicants

The Department seeks applications from CTCs serving low-income communities.

CTCs include:

- Public Hospitals
- Libraries
- Park Districts
- Educational Institutions
- Non-Profit Organizations

In addition to being an eligible entity the CTC must provide computer access and training to the public for at least twelve hours per week. Full eligibility requirements and a copy of the grant application are available at the web address below.

Eligible Communities

Communities that are eligible include:

- Communities with more than 40% of the students eligible for a free or reduced price lunch under the national school lunch program.
- Communities with more than 30% of the students that are eligible for free lunch under the national school lunch program.

Please see the grant application (available for download at the web address below) for complete eligibility requirements.

TO DOWNLOAD THE GRANT APPLICATION OR FOR MORE DETAILS VISIT

WWW.ILDCEO.NET/DIGITALDIVIDE

Inquiries regarding the Request for Application (RFA) should be directed to Joey Mak via email Joey.Mak@illinois.gov or phone at 312-814-2384.

Submittal

Applications must be submitted to DCEO by close of business on March 16, 2012. Respondents must submit an original and three copies along with an electronic submission of the completed format to

Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity
Eliminate the Digital Divide Grant Program
100 W. Randolph, Suite 3-400
Chicago, IL 60601
ceo.DigitalDivide@illinois.gov

Please note that the conditions for submittal of applications, including the deadline, may not be waived or extended regardless of weather conditions or other circumstances that may delay your proposal. Allow sufficient time for delivery. Any application received after the deadline may be considered for review at the discretion of DCEO. In such cases, DCEO will determine if there are funds available to make additional grant awards.

Partnership for a Connected Illinois broadbandillinois.org

Connect to Compete

What is Connect to Compete?

Connect to Compete is a national program that brings affordable broadband, computers and digital literacy training to disadvantaged families. The initiative is designed to help residents improve outcomes in education, health, and employment through broadband opportunities and technology solutions. Broadband and home computer access have been linked to increased academic achievement, test scores, and graduation rates.

What does the program offer?

Families can get two years of \$9.95 (plus tax) broadband cable Internet, with a no installation/activation fee option and no modem rental fees (with an option to purchase a \$10 modem). Families can also get a computer with software for \$150. The program will also launch programs for digital training, job skills, and eBooks.

Is my family eligible for discounted Internet and computers?

Eligible families must:

- (1) have at least one student enrolled in the Free School Lunch Program;
- (2) not be a current subscriber to broadband (or have subscribed in the last 90 days); and
- (3) not have an overdue bill or unreturned equipment to the participating service provider.

What Internet service providers are participating?

Participating Illinois Internet service providers include: Cablevision, Charter, Comcast (via Internet Essentials program), Mediacom, Suddenlink, and Time Warner Cable. Find providers near you at www.broadbandillinois.org.

How can my family sign up for the program?

Contact the provider in your area. The discounted offers will launch in spring of 2012 and reach all the providers' areas by September 2012.



What kinds of computers are offered?

Redemtech, a technology refurbishment company, is offering a refurbished powerful laptop, or desktop with LCD monitor, for \$150 (plus tax). The offer includes free shipping, 90 days phone PC tech support, one year software tech support, and a 90 day extendable warranty. The computer includes Windows 7 Home Premium and MS Office 2007 (a \$250 software value), a DVD player, and a wireless card.

The computer will have preinstalled and activated parental control software, and includes PC based safety tutorials and additional filtering software from iKeepSafe, with preloaded guides for educational, informational and job training.

Starting this year, Microsoft will introduce a series of affordable, high-quality education computers, starting at \$250, that include Windows and Office.

You can learn more about the program and broadband at <http://connect2compete.org/>

Please contact us if you have questions.
Partnership for a Connected Illinois
217-886-4553
eteams@broadbandillinois.org



How Can You Engage the Free Services of Broadband Illinois

- Log onto the web site and look around. www.broadbandillinois.org
- Post web site in your newsletters and web pages. Tell people that they can go to this site to see potential internet providers, find public internet labs, or to email us about a lack of Internet service availability.
- Send us needs within your community so we can log them and try to help find providers. info@broadbandillinois.org
- Use our experts, the maps on the web site, and the information about area Internet providers when doing strategic planning or new water lines so you can attempt to get broadband into unserved and underserved areas.
- Contact us when you need to get it to an industrial park so that we can see how we can get providers together to help. Consider broadband when grant planning for water lines and sewer.
- Let people know that they can have us do presentations on the project and how we can help. This might be to Chambers, School Boards, Rotaries, etc.
- Distribute Broadband Illinois web site link to students so that parents learn how to find Internet Access. And, feel free to invite us to help out with information for Open Houses and School Registration.
- Send us a success story and picture from your community and we will post on web site
- Let us know if there are any broadband advocates in your county that we can help.

Partnership for a Connected Illinois **broadbandillinois.org**

Broadband Research for the State of Illinois

The Partnership for a Connected Illinois (PCI) is undertaking critical research on behalf of the State of Illinois for the purpose of identifying the current uses of the Internet and the benefits obtained by households, businesses, community institutions, and other organizations across the state. We are collecting information through online surveys that explore what Internet services are being used, how they are used, what motivates uses of the Internet, and barriers to using the Internet. The survey is available at www.broadbandillinois.org.

The results of this research can be made available on request to communities who request it.

Why this is important

Affordable access to broadband services is increasingly essential for participating in the 21st century economy, yet many communities in Illinois continue to be unserved or under-served. A number of initiatives are under way by the State of Illinois to address this shortfall, including the Gigabit Community Challenge and Eliminate the Digital Divide. These programs aim to stimulate and support investments that increase the availability of broadband services to communities and population segments where broadband is lacking.

How you can benefit

- Direct benefit to communities and other organizations that have an interest in expanding the availability of broadband services for their constituents.
- Deeper insights into getting the most benefit of increased adoption & broadband use.
- Help stakeholders that are in the process of applying for the aforementioned grants.
- The interest & demand for broadband can be informed by the level of survey participation by your constituent groups as well

What you can do

Participation is greatly enhanced by local promotion and awareness-raising within your community or constituency. We encourage all who have a stake in improving the availability of affordable broadband services to reach out to their constituents through a combination of:

- Direct outreach to email lists
- Announcements in public meetings
- Public announcement on web sites
- Newsletter articles
- Posters in public Internet locations

PCI will be pleased to provide additional information, outreach assistance, and survey results. For more information please contact Clayton Black at eteams@broadbandillinois.org.



USDA Rural Development Grant and Loan Information

Rural Dev – Broadband Relevant Sites

http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/UTP_ContactStaff.html

<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/RUSTelecomPrograms.html>

<http://eligibility.sc.egov.usda.gov/eligibility/welcomeAction.do?pageAction=GetSatRules&NavKey=loan@22>

http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/supportdocuments/BBLoanProgramBrochure_8-11.pdf

Community Connect Grant

<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/SupportDocuments/2009faq.pdf> 15% match. Community center with broadband access for 2 years. Min 50,000. Max 1.5 million. Very hard to get.

Must meet the following requirements:

1. A community recognized in the 2000 U.S. Census or in the 2008 or 2009 edition of Rand McNally's "Commercial Atlas & Marketing Guide"
2. A community in which broadband service is **not** currently available
3. A community with population not exceeding 20,000

<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/supportdocuments/CC2011RegAndNOSA.pdf>

Loans

If there is any current broadband in your community, there are options for loans -

http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/utp_infrastructure.html

Distance Learning Grant

http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/UTP_DLT.html

Telecommunications Infrastructure Loan Program

http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/utp_infrastructure.html

Farm Bill Broadband Program

http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/utp_farmbill.html



Using the Internet To Market Your Ag Business

This link has an article full of info on using social networks to open communication between customers, potential customers, and your business. It also has links to lots of other items!

<http://www.allthingscrm.com/social-networking-for-business/social-networks-connect-you-to-your-customers.html>

Here's a link on "HOW TO: Market Your Small Business With No Budget"

<http://mashable.com/2010/05/19/market-business-no-budget/>

34 Ways to Use YouTube for Business

<http://gigaom.com/collaboration/34-ways-to-use-youtube-for-business/>

Illinois Farm Beginnings is a great way to jump-start your entrepreneurial farm business. It is a year-long training and support program.

<http://www.illinoisfarmbeginnings.org/>

These are websites where you can list your business with no cost to you.

<http://www.agr.state.il.us/markets/farmers/>

<http://www.farmerdirect2you.com/farms-illinois.aspx>

<http://www.localfarmproducts.org/farmstands.html>

<http://www.illinoiswherefreshis.com/>

<http://www.pickyourown.org/IL.htm>

<http://www.illinoisfarmdirect.org/findmarkets.cfm>

Connecting With Customers



Using the Internet

The Internet can open the door to new customers. There are many free sites that you can use to help market your business; and you can create a site of your own.



Facebook is a wonderful free marketing tool. Post recipes, events, or reminders that your produce is in season. You can also post videos and pictures. www.facebook.com



Email newsletters or a note when you have an upcoming event, when you have a special, or when the produce is ready. Include your web address so customers can get more info. Set up free email at www.yahoo.com or www.gmail.com



YouTube Videos can be used for product demonstrations, sharing recipes, testimonials ... your imagination is the limit.

What's Your Web Address?

Websites require a small fee to register your web site name and usually have a monthly fee. Free tools are available for do-it-yourselfers to create the site, or you can pay someone. Wix.com, webs.com, weebly.com, and intuit.com all offer free and easy web design tools, and some even offer free hosting. Ask your fellow growers what they use.



97% of customers search for businesses online. Google Places is a free platform that will help ensure they find **your** business web site. List your business in search results, set your service area on Google Maps, post pictures and videos, and more. To get started listing your business, visit <http://www.google.com/places/>



Find broadband near you (Find me)

[Find broadband](#)

[Request broadband](#)

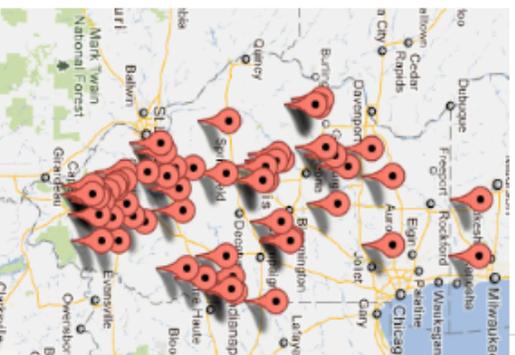
[Get involved](#)



Help get broadband

[Overview](#)

Request Broadband Service



Request Broadband Service

What can you do if you don't have broadband in your area? Broadbandillinois.org will help make it easier for you to get connected. Just follow the steps below to get started.

1. Check for carriers in your area by using the widget on our website found [here](#). If there are carriers listed, you can contact them to get connected.
2. If the carrier lets you know service isn't available, you can fill out the form below and we'll see to it that carriers in your area know you're ready to have high speed internet at your home or business.

Name

Business

(if applicable)

Mailing address

Finding Internet Service



Dear Parents and Community Members,

Broadband Illinois, also known as Partnership for a Connected Illinois, is a grant funded non-profit organization working to help people and businesses find good access to the Internet in Illinois. We do not charge for services.

If you need access, you can go to a friend's house or the library and type in www.broadbandillinois.org. Then type your address in the white box. It should pull up possible Internet Providers in your area. Use your yellow pages or search the Internet to find a phone number for the provider to confirm if there is service for your home. If you have problems or can't find service, feel free to call **217-886-4553** or email us at eteams@broadbandillinois.org

You will need to look at several things when considering Internet service:

- What works for your neighbors
- Availability
- Cost
- Speed (Too slow can cause problems with movies, gaming, pulling up pages quickly, etc. But, at some speed, you do not need more speed because increasing it will not make it appear any faster - instant is instant. Try online videos and gaming to check speed; and get two users on at once if possible.)
- Download limits (Can be very restrictive if you want to watch movies or download large files)
- Service
- Reliability

If you wish to volunteer to help us get the word out or find problem areas, feel free to contact us.

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