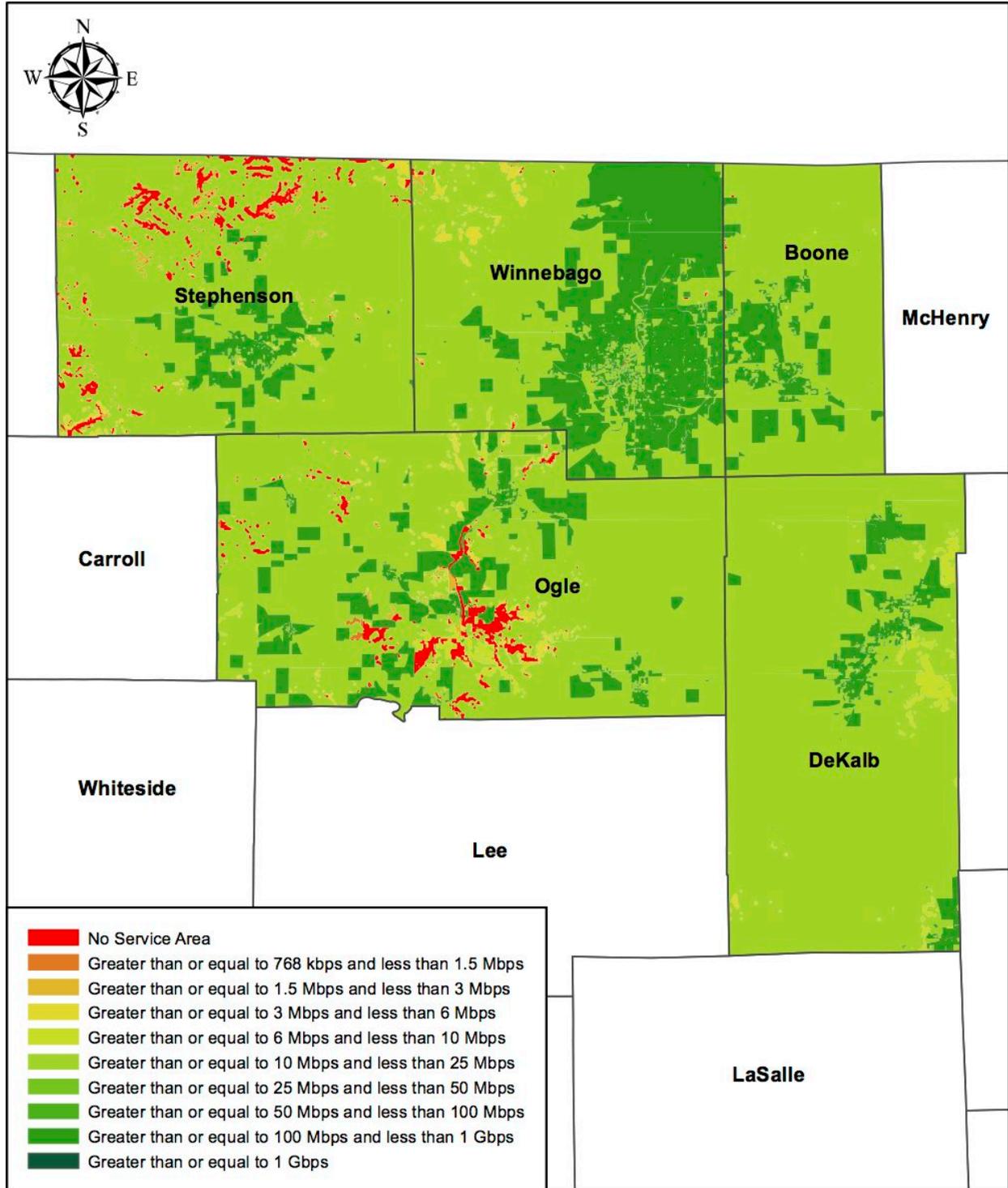


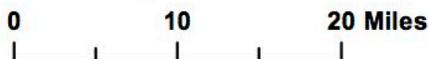


E-TEAMS NORTHERN REGION MAXIMUM ADVERTISED DOWNLOAD SPEED TIERS

Round Five – Data Current as of December 31 2011



Partnership for a Connected Illinois - April 24, 2012



broadbandillinois.org



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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.

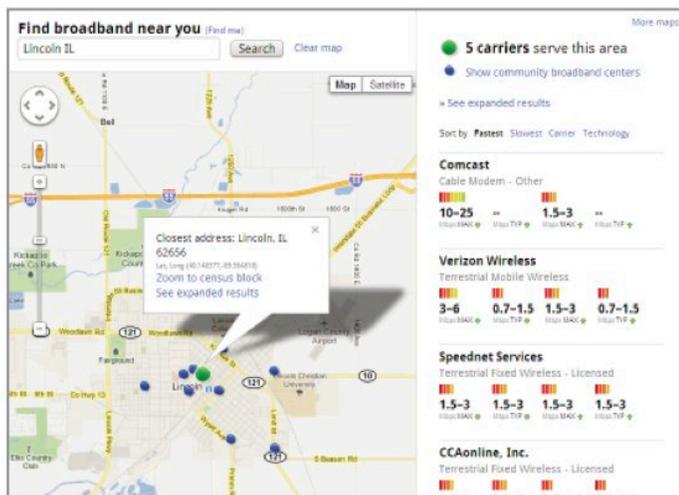
 **Public safety**—faster and more efficient fire and police response relies on better broadband.

 **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.)

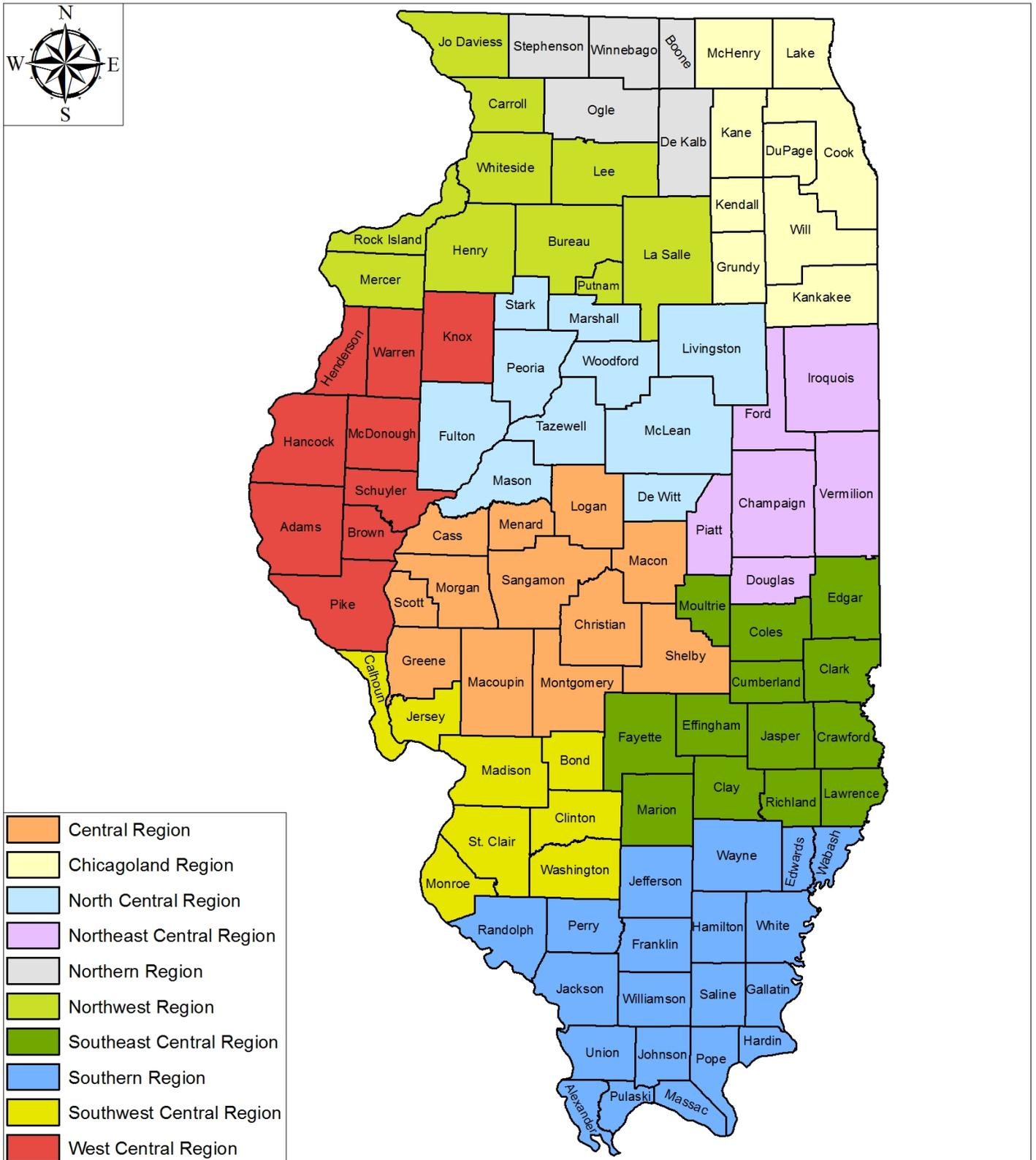
Get involved

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.





Statewide eTeam Map



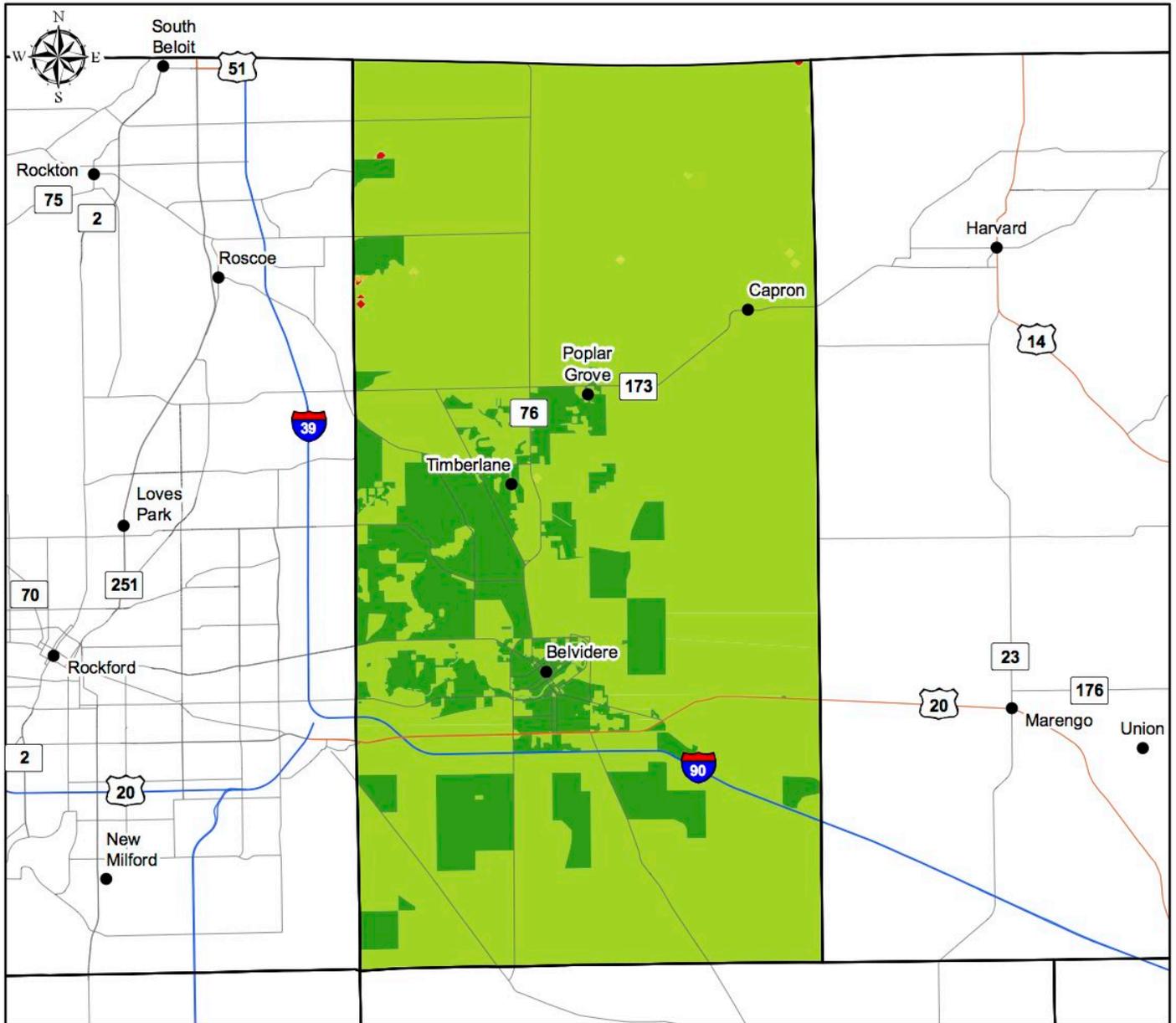
This map was created by the Partnership for a Connected Illinois - January 31, 2012

0 50 100 Miles



Boone County

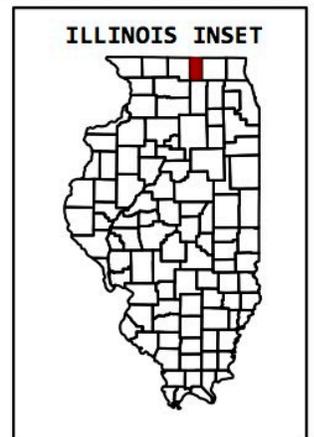
Round Five – Data Current as of December 31, 2011



- Greater than or Equal to 1 Gbps
- Greater than or Equal to 100 Mbps and Less than 1 Gbps
- Greater than or Equal to 50 Mbps and Less than 100 Mbps
- Greater than or Equal to 25 Mbps and Less than 50 Mbps
- Greater than or Equal to 10 Mbps and Less than 25 Mbps
- Greater than or Equal to 6 Mbps and Less than 10 Mbps
- Greater than or Equal to 3 Mbps and Less than 6 Mbps
- Greater than or Equal to 1.5 Mbps and Less than 3 Mbps
- Greater than or Equal to 768 Kbps and Less than 1.5 Mbps
- No Service

0 3 6 Miles

Partnership for a Connected Illinois - June 19, 2012



broadbandillinois.org

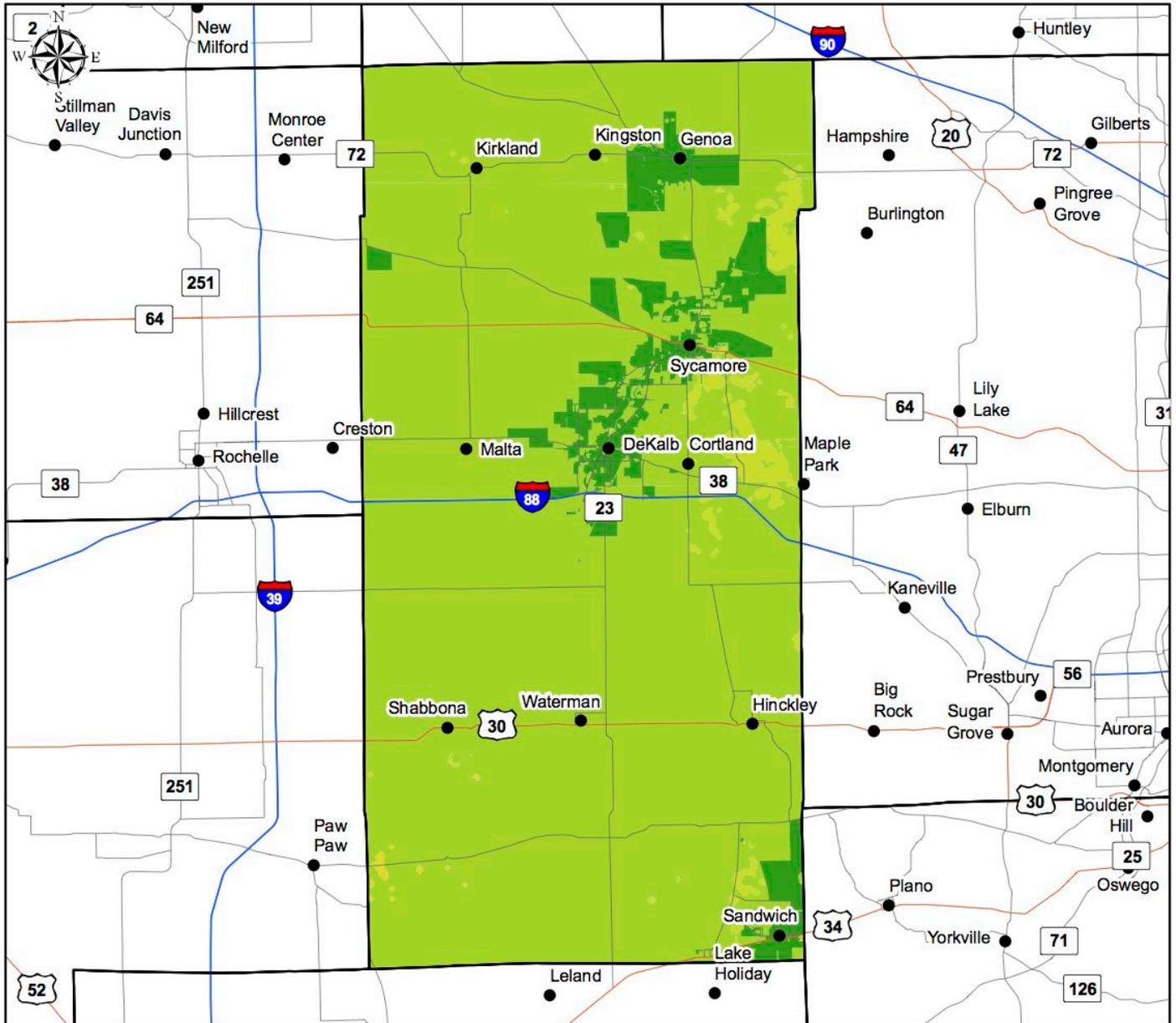


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DeKalb County

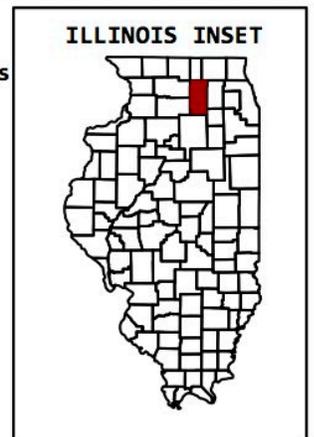
Round Five – Data Current as of December 31, 2011



- Greater than or Equal to 1 Gbps
- Greater than or Equal to 100 Mbps and Less than 1 Gbps
- Greater than or Equal to 50 Mbps and Less than 100 Mbps
- Greater than or Equal to 25 Mbps and Less than 50 Mbps
- Greater than or Equal to 10 Mbps and Less than 25 Mbps
- Greater than or Equal to 6 Mbps and Less than 10 Mbps
- Greater than or Equal to 3 Mbps and Less than 6 Mbps
- Greater than or Equal to 1.5 Mbps and Less than 3 Mbps
- No Service

Partnership for a Connected Illinois - June 19, 2012

0 5 10 Miles



broadbandillinois.org

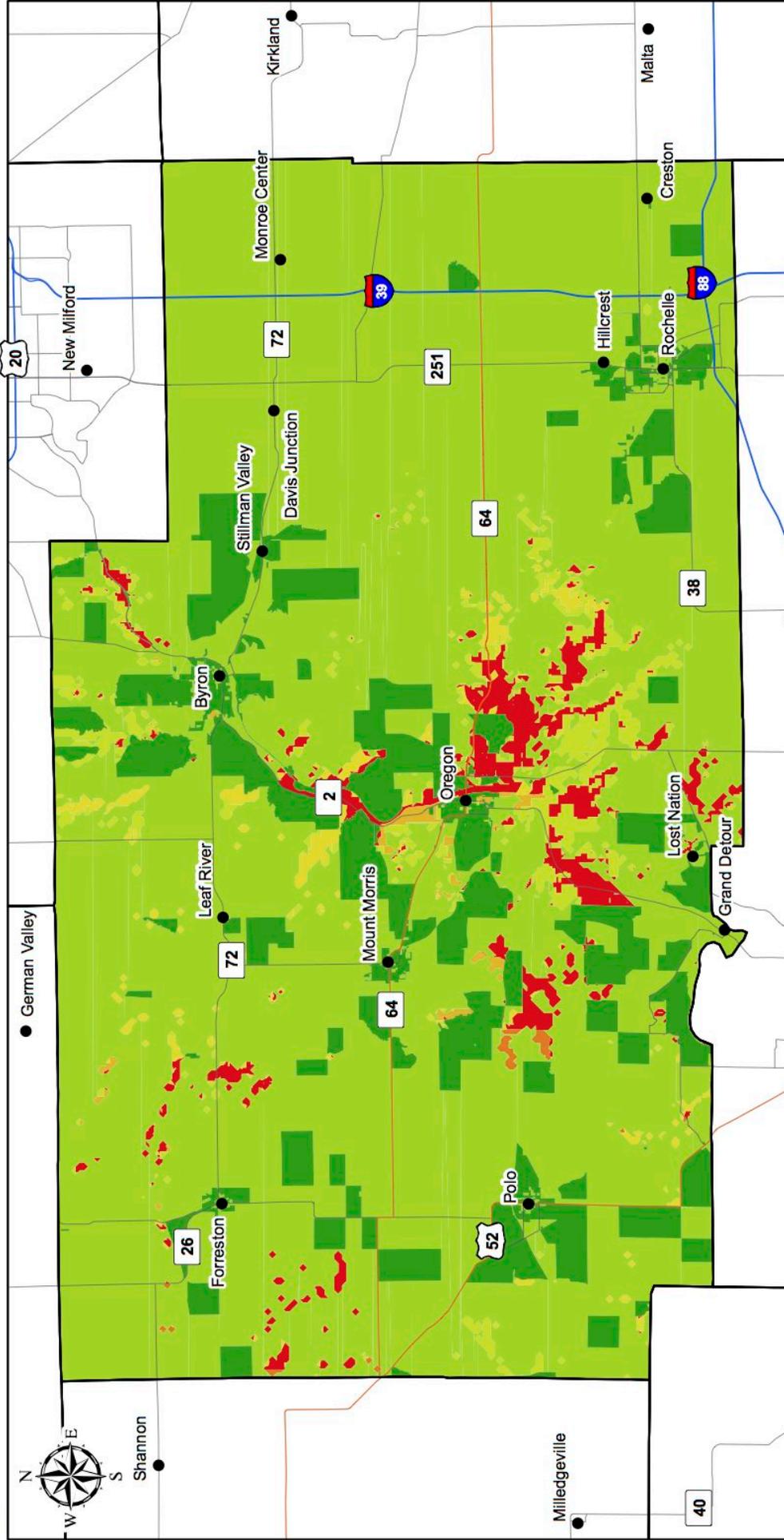


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Ogle County

Round Five – Data Current as of December 31, 2011

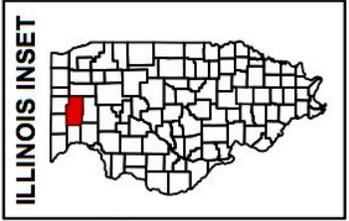


- Greater than or Equal to 1 Gbps
- Greater than or Equal to 100 Mbps and Less than 1 Gbps
- Greater than or Equal to 50 Mbps and Less than 100 Mbps
- Greater than or Equal to 25 Mbps and Less than 50 Mbps
- Greater than or Equal to 10 Mbps and Less than 25 Mbps
- Greater than or Equal to 6 Mbps and Less than 10 Mbps
- Greater than or Equal to 3 Mbps and Less than 6 Mbps
- Greater than or Equal to 1.5 Mbps and Less than 3 Mbps
- Greater than or Equal to 768 Kbps and Less than 1.5 Mbps
- Greater than or Equal to 200 Kbps and Less than 768 Kbps
- No Service

broadbandillinois.org



Partnership for a Connected Illinois - June 20, 2012

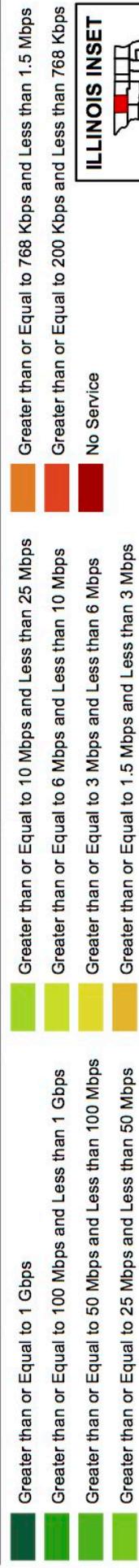
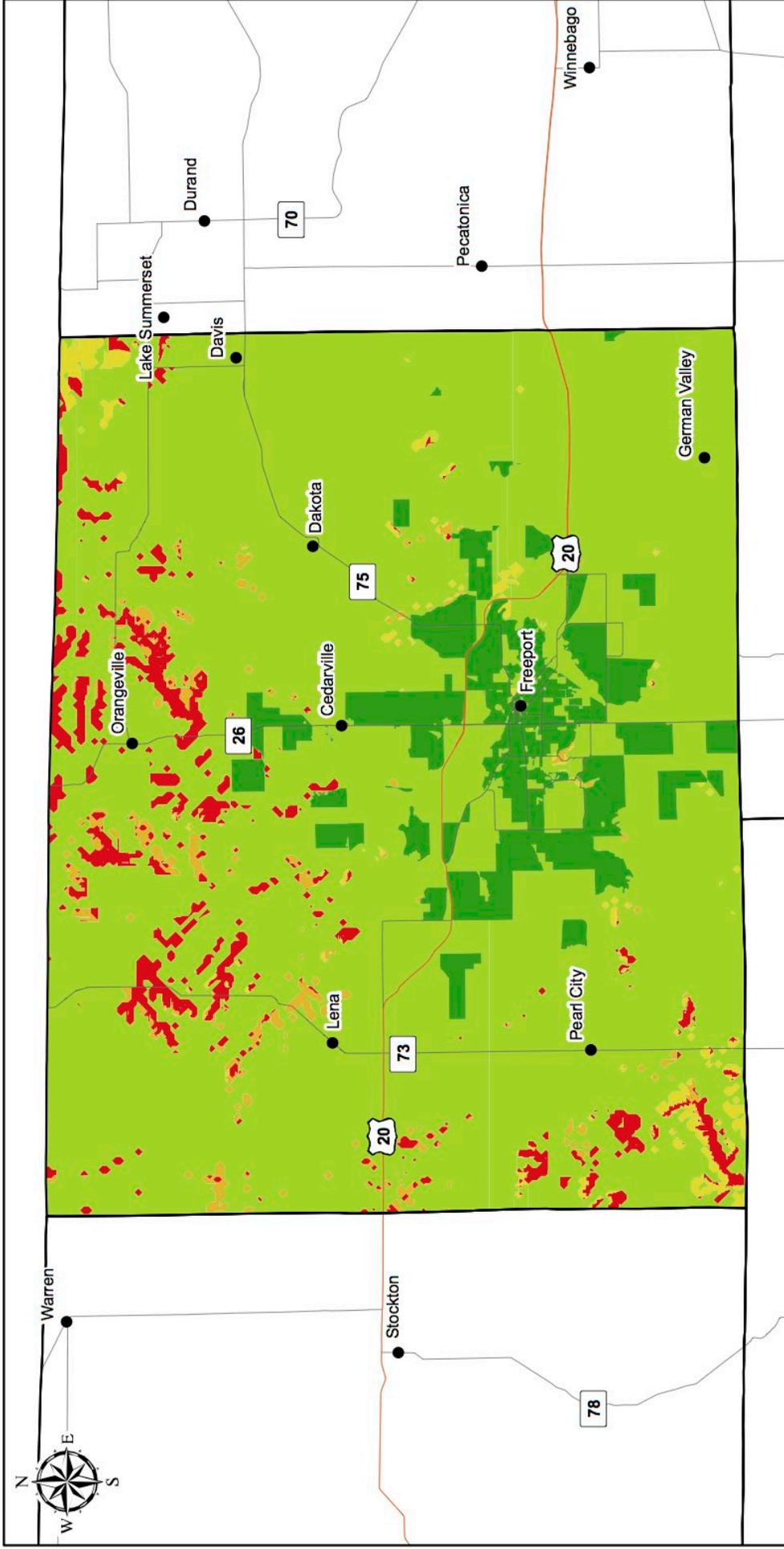


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Stephenson County

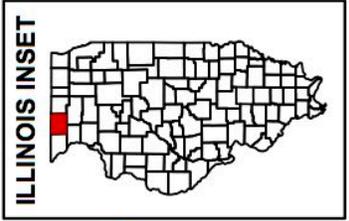
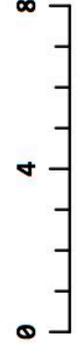
Round Five – Data Current as of December 31, 2011



broadbandillinois.org



Partnership for a Connected Illinois - June 20, 2012

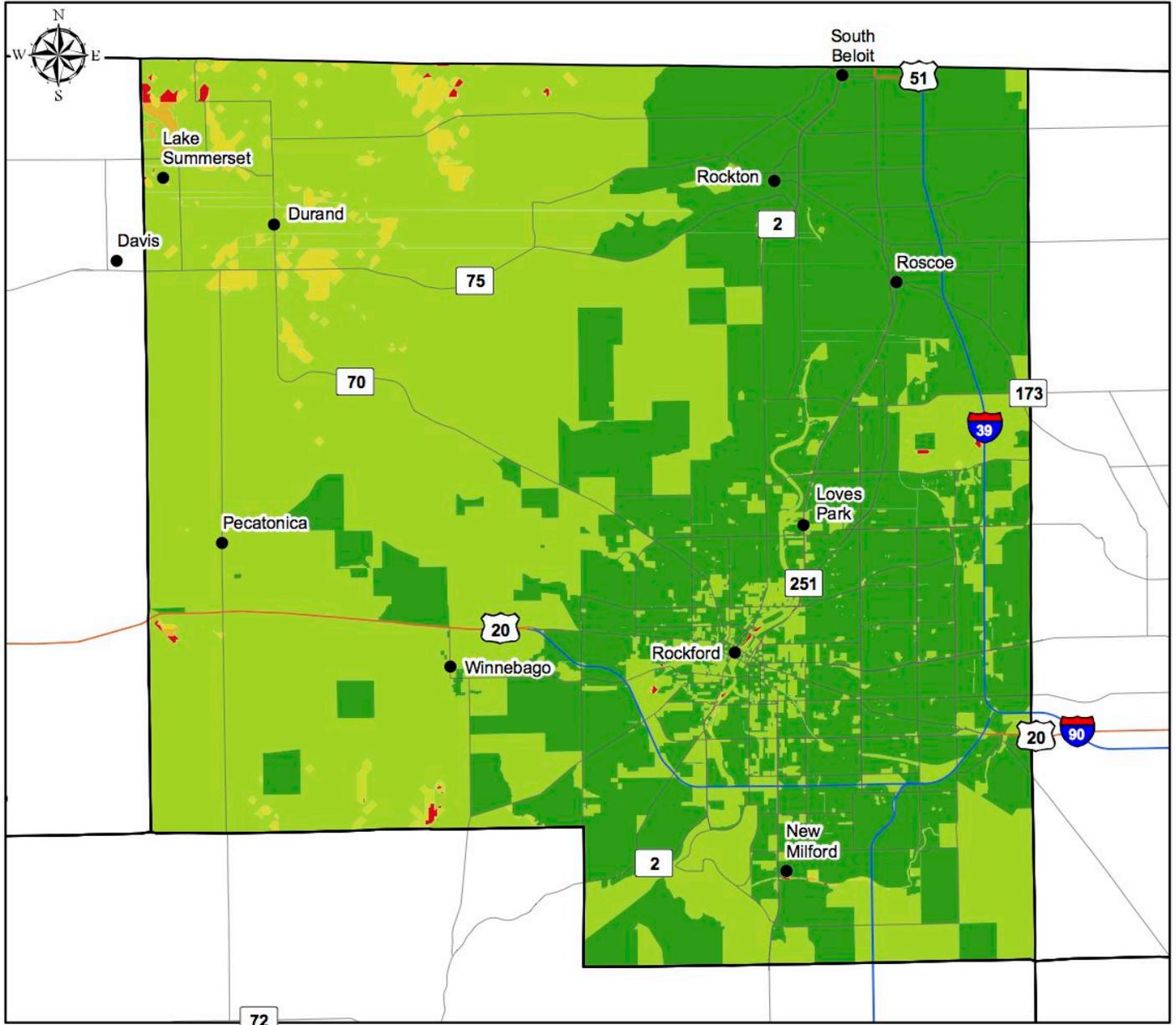


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Winnebago County

Round Five – Data Current as of December 31, 2011

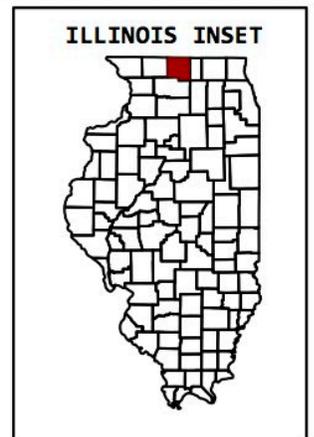


- Greater than or Equal to 1 Gbps
- Greater than or Equal to 6 Mbps and Less than 10 Mbps
- Greater than or Equal to 100 Mbps and Less than 1 Gbps
- Greater than or Equal to 3 Mbps and Less than 6 Mbps
- Greater than or Equal to 50 Mbps and Less than 100 Mbps
- Greater than or Equal to 1.5 Mbps and Less than 3 Mbps
- Greater than or Equal to 25 Mbps and Less than 50 Mbps
- Greater than or Equal to 768 Kbps and Less than 1.5 Mbps
- No Service



Partnership for a Connected Illinois - June 19, 2012

broadbandillinois.org



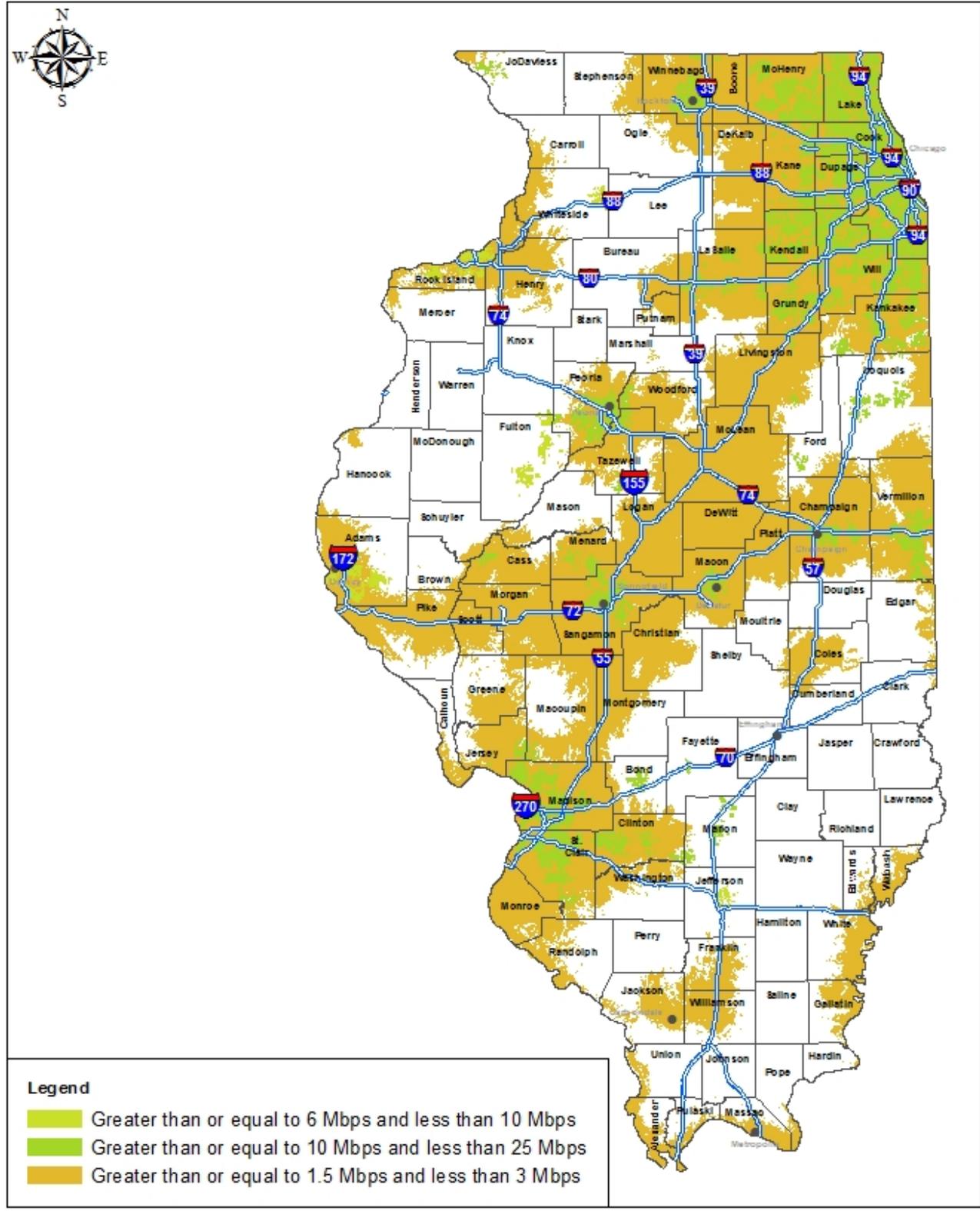
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PROVNAME	TRANSTECH	Boone	DeKalb	Ogle	Stephenson	Winnebago
AT&T Mobility	Mobile	X	X	X		X
BANICON, Inc.	Wireless	X	X	X	X	X
Bergen Telephone Company	DSL	X				
Blast Communications	Wireless		X			
Broadband Heaven	Wireless		X			
CenturyLink	DSL			X		
Charter Communications	Cable	X	X			X
Comcast Cable Communications, LLC.	Cable	X	X	X	X	X
Computer Dynamics	Wireless			X	X	
Data Moving Company	Wireless		X			
E-Vergent Wireless	Wireless	X	X	X		X
Fox Valley Internet	Wireless	X	X			
Frontier Communications	DSL	X	X	X	X	X
Heartland Cable Broadband	Cable		X			
Illinois Bell Telephone Company	DSL	X	X	X		X
Indian Valley	Wireless		X			
Intelligent Computing Solutions	Wireless		X			
Jo Carroll Wireless	Wireless				X	
Leaf River Telephone Company	DSL			X	X	X
Leap Wireless International	Mobile	X	X			X
Mediacom Illinois LLC	Cable	X	X	X	X	X
Sonic Spectrum	Wireless					X
Sprint Nextel	Mobile	X	X	X	X	X
T-Mobile	Mobile	X				X
T6 Broadband	Wireless	X	X	X	X	X
US Cellular	Mobile	X	X	X	X	X
Verizon Communications	Mobile	X	X	X	X	X

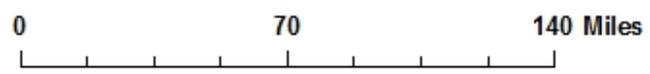


AT&T Illinois, AT&T Mobility LLC Maximum Advertised Download Speed

Round Five – Data Current as of December 31 2011



Partnership for a Connected Illinois - May 17, 2012



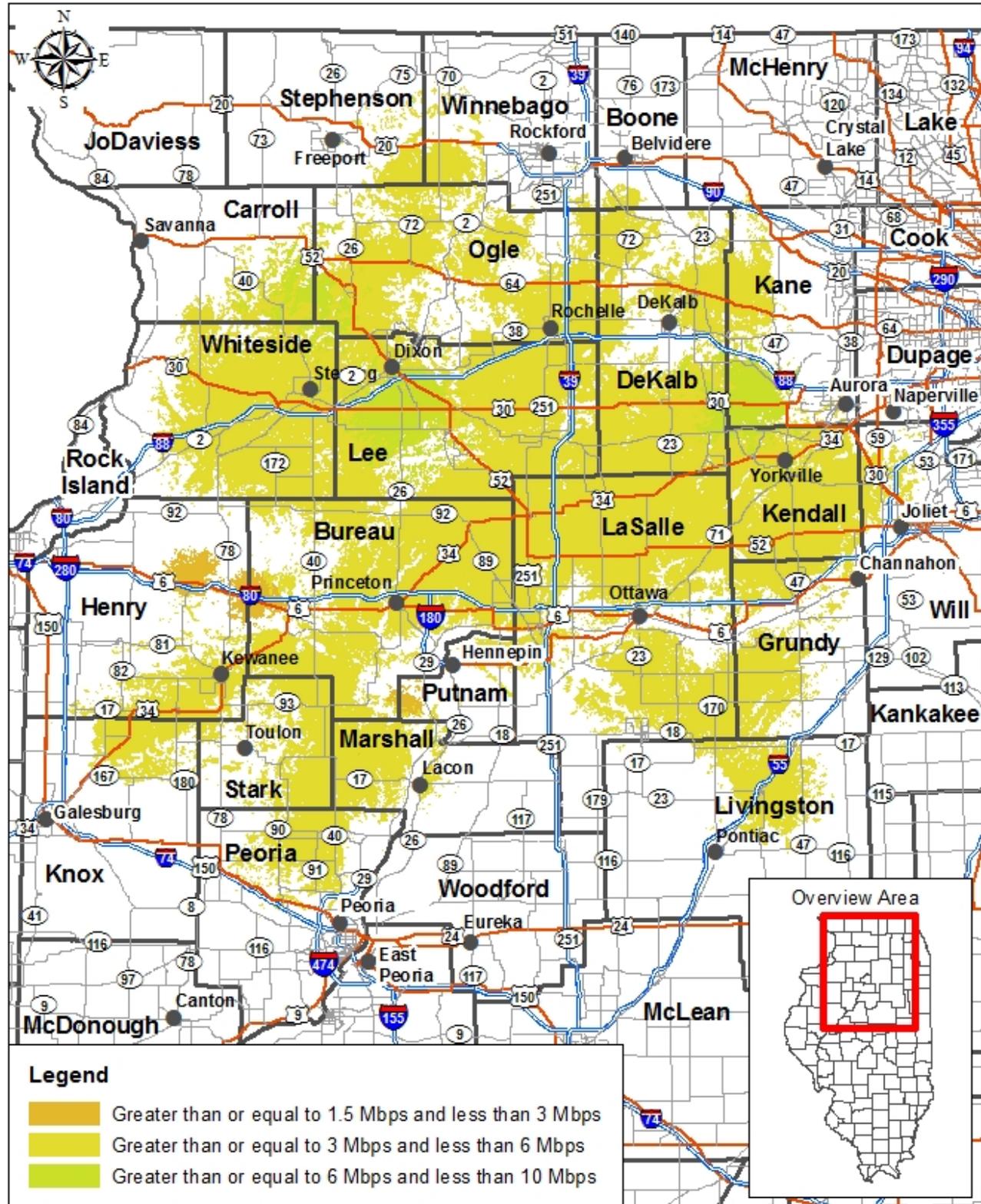
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Banicon Inc., Computerese-CIN.net Maximum Advertised Download Speed

Round Five – Data Current as of December 31 2011



Partnership for a Connected Illinois - May 17, 2012

0 25 50 Miles

broadbandillinois.org

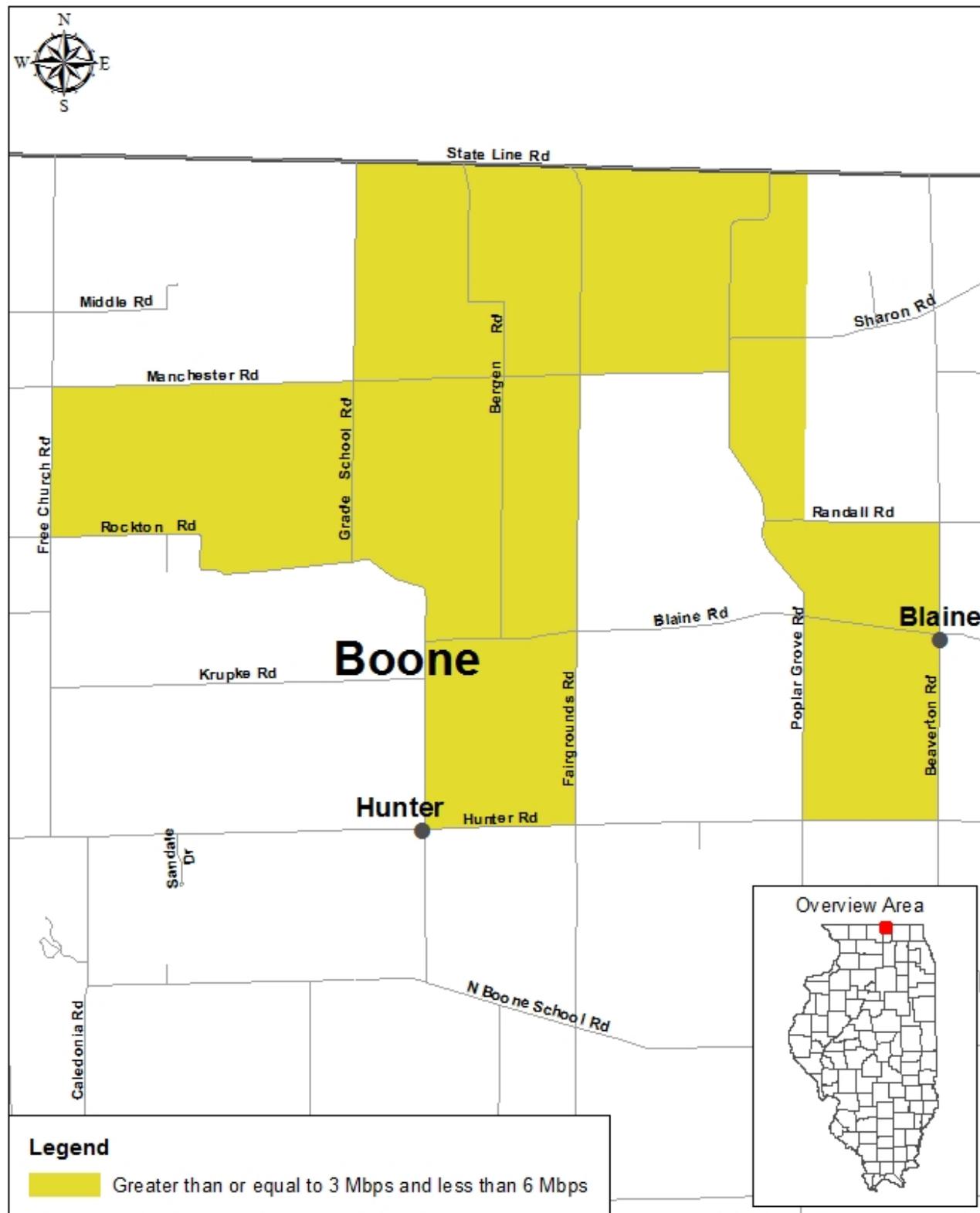


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Bergen Telephone Company Maximum Advertised Download Speed

Round Five – Data Current as of December 31 2011



Partnership for a Connected Illinois - May 29, 2012

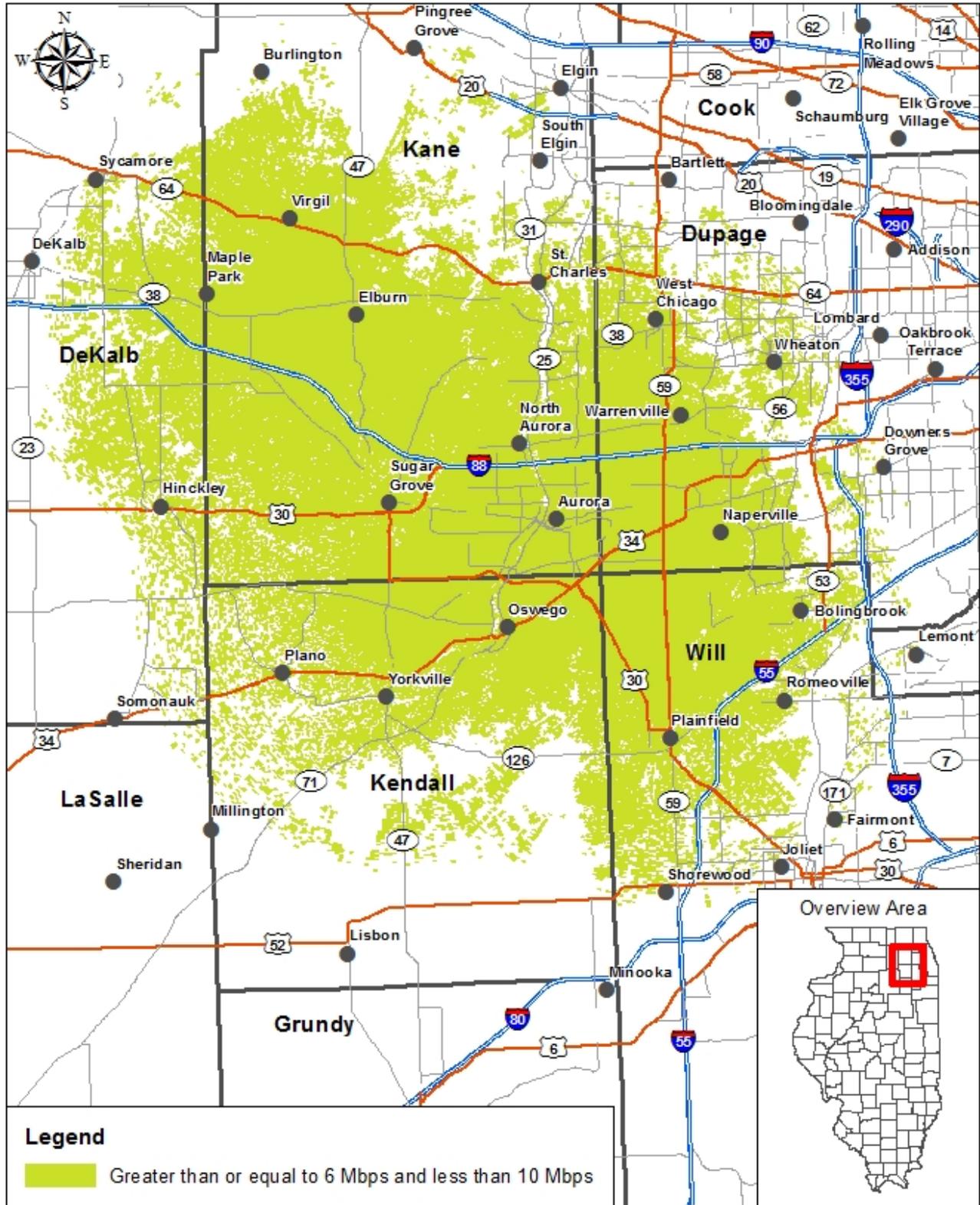
0 1 2 Miles

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Genisys-NotWires Internet, Blast Communications Maximum Advertised Download Speed

Round Five – Data Current as of December 31 2011



Partnership for a Connected Illinois - June 13, 2012

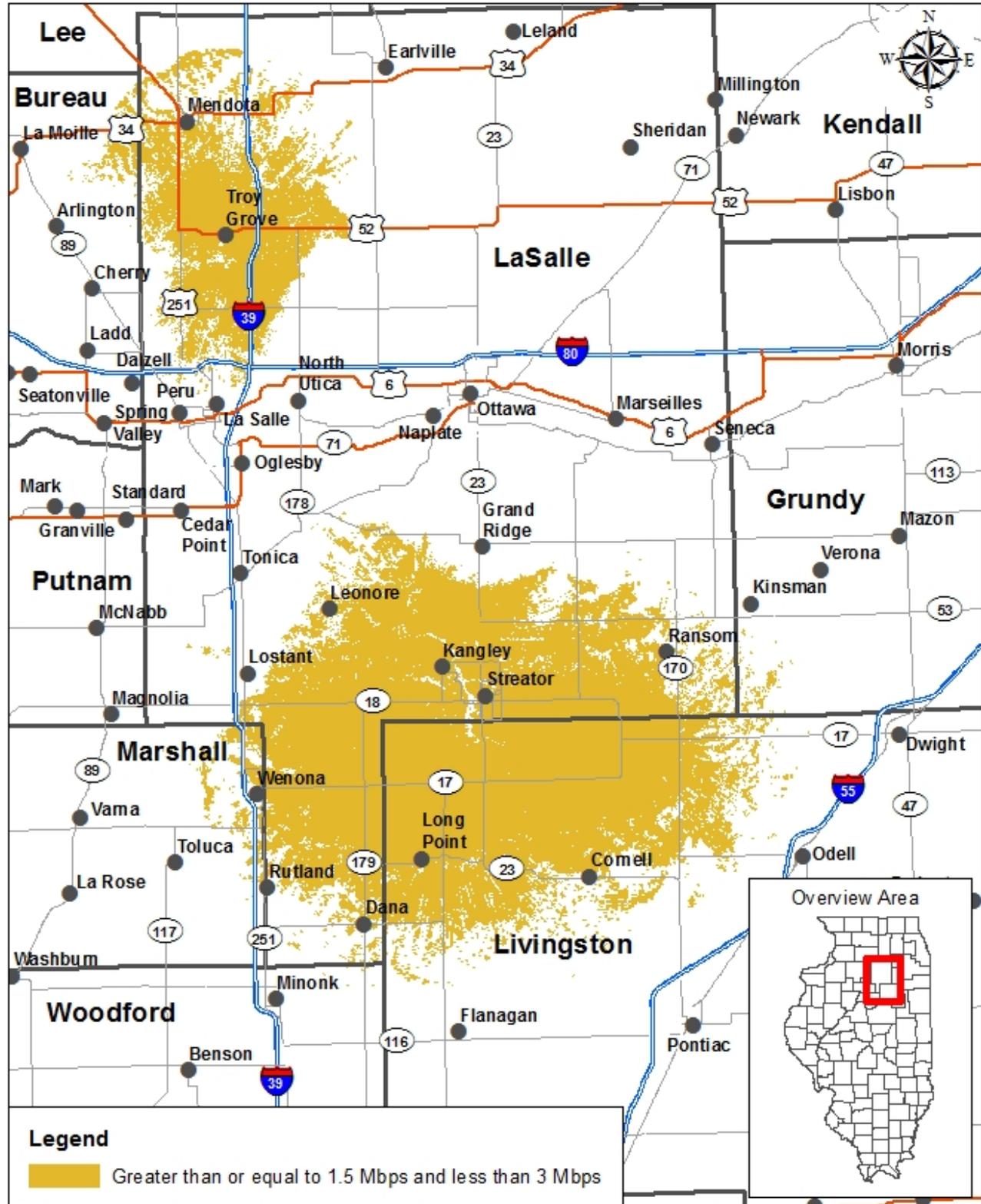


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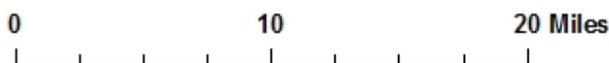


Broadband Heaven Inc, AirLogic Internet Services Maximum Advertised Download Speed

Round Five – Data Current as of December 31 2011



Partnership for a Connected Illinois - May 29, 2012



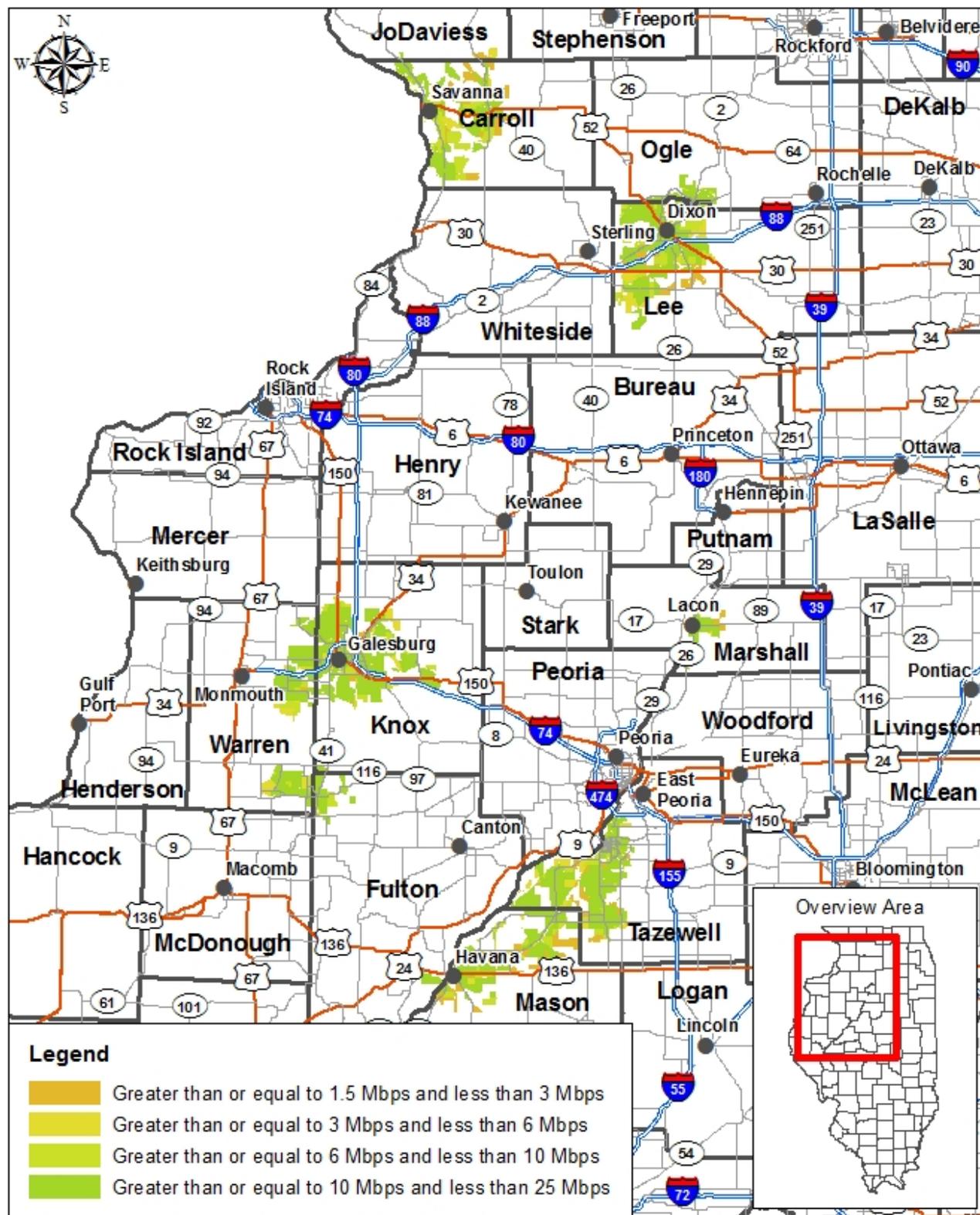
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CenturyTel, Inc., CenturyLink Maximum Advertised Download Speed

Round Five – Data Current as of December 31 2011



Partnership for a Connected Illinois - May 30, 2012

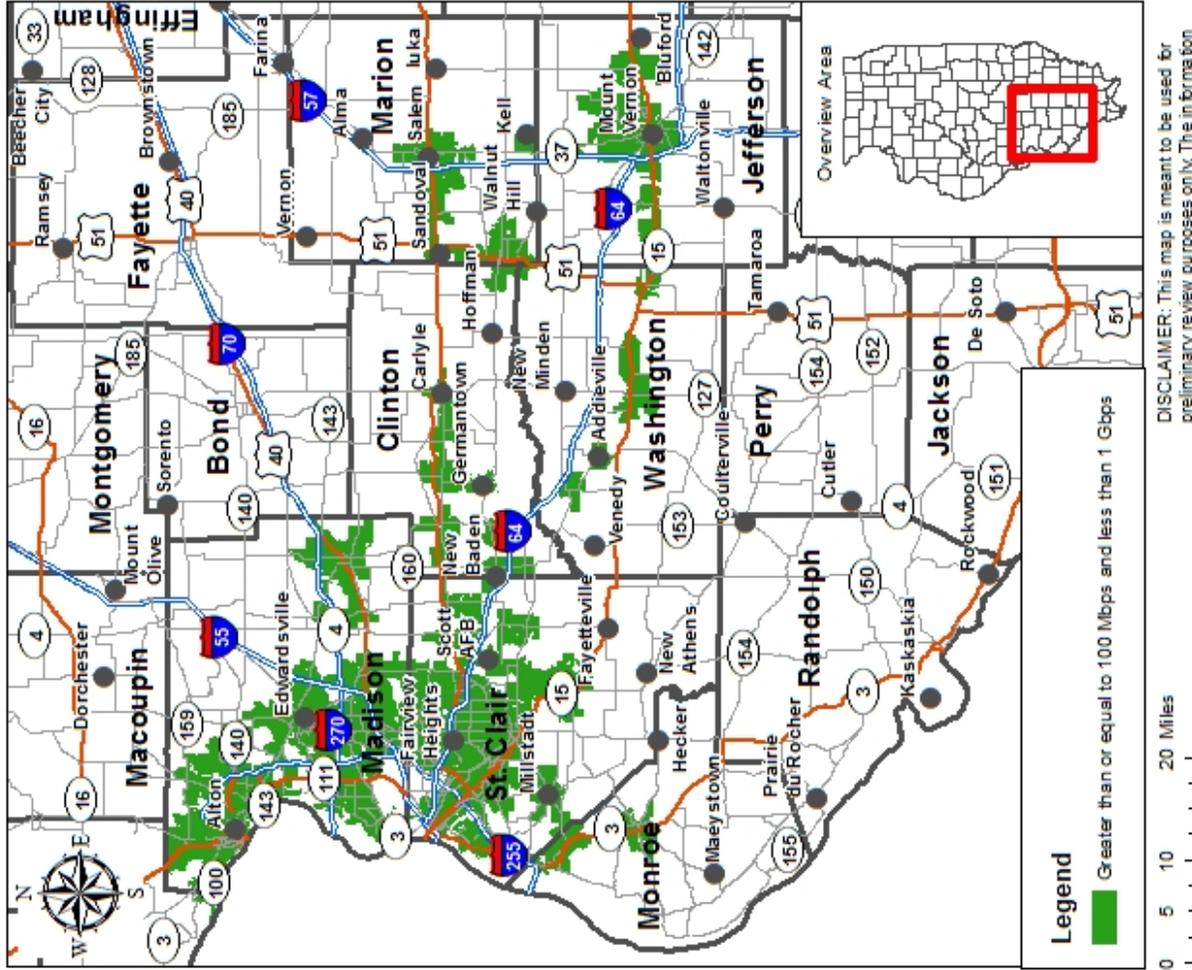
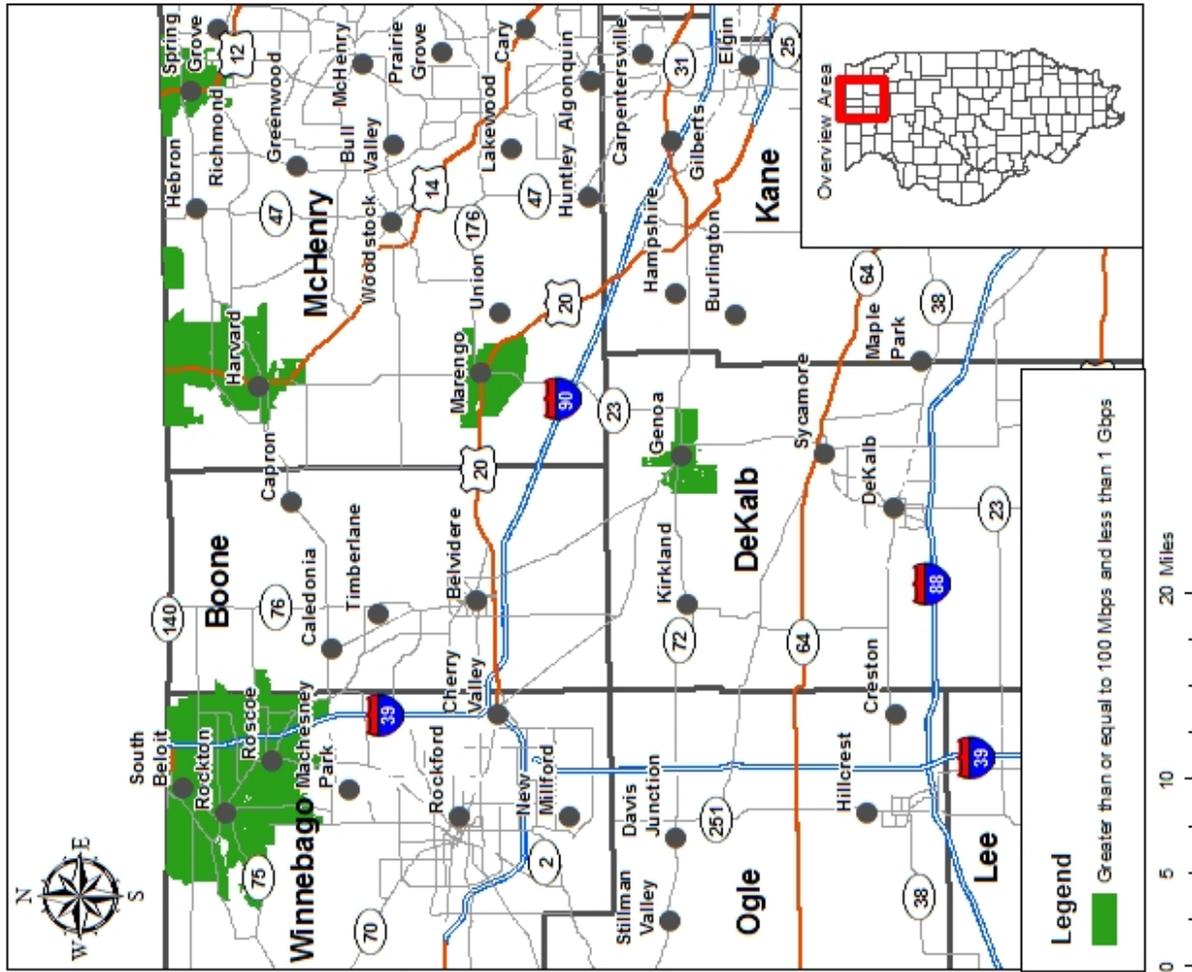
0 30 60 Miles

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Charter Communications Inc. Maximum Advertised Download Speed

Round Five – Data Current as of December 31 2011



Legend
■ Greater than or equal to 100 Mbps and less than 1 Gbps

0 5 10 20 Miles

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Partnership for a Connected Illinois - May 31, 2012

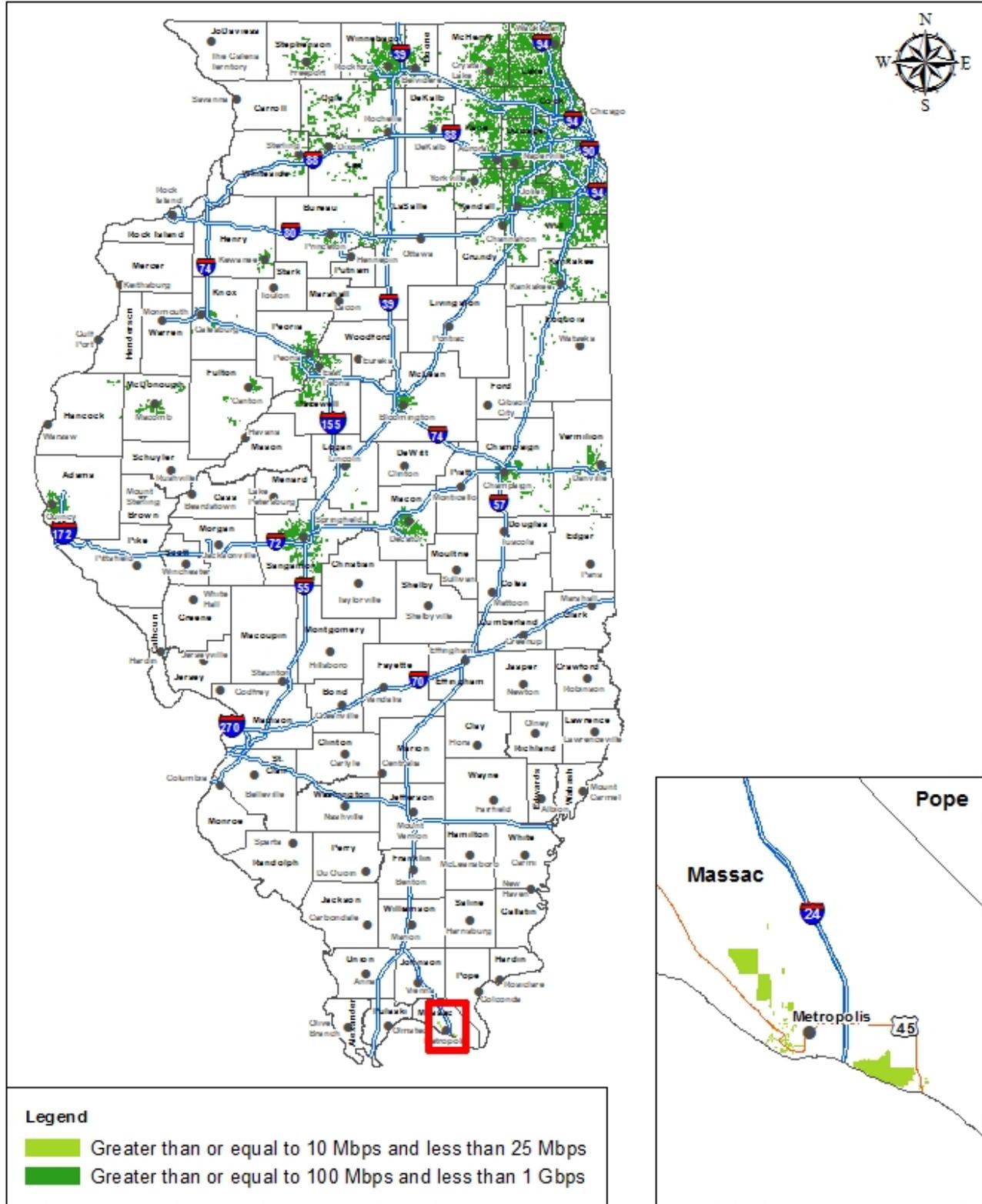


broadbandillinois.org



Comcast Cable Communications, LLC., Comcast Maximum Advertised Download Speed

Round Five – Data Current as of December 31 2011



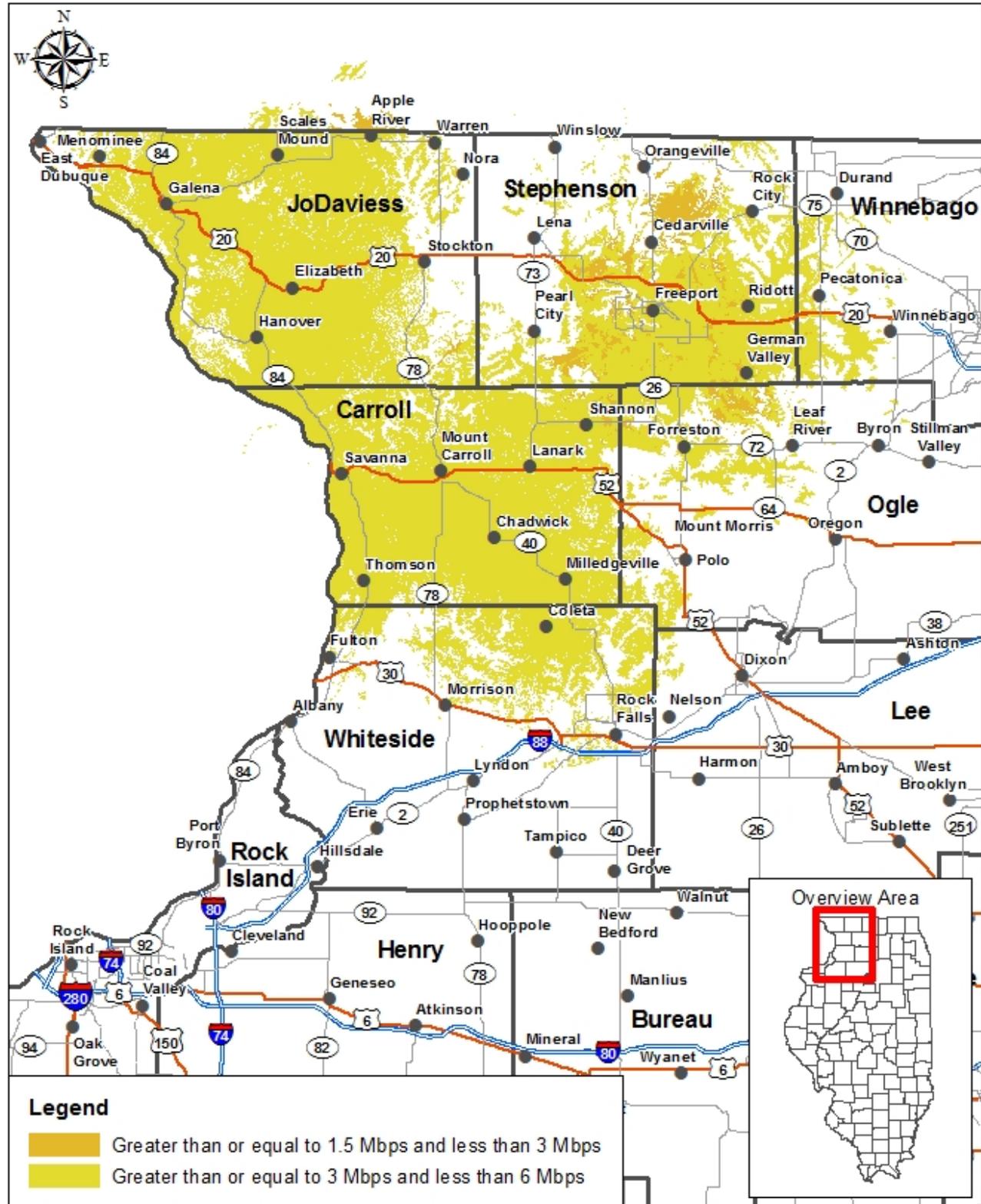
Partnership for a Connected Illinois - June 6, 2012

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Computer Dynamics, JCWIFI Maximum Advertised Download Speed

Round Five – Data Current as of December 31 2011



Partnership for a Connected Illinois - June 7, 2012

0 10 20 Miles

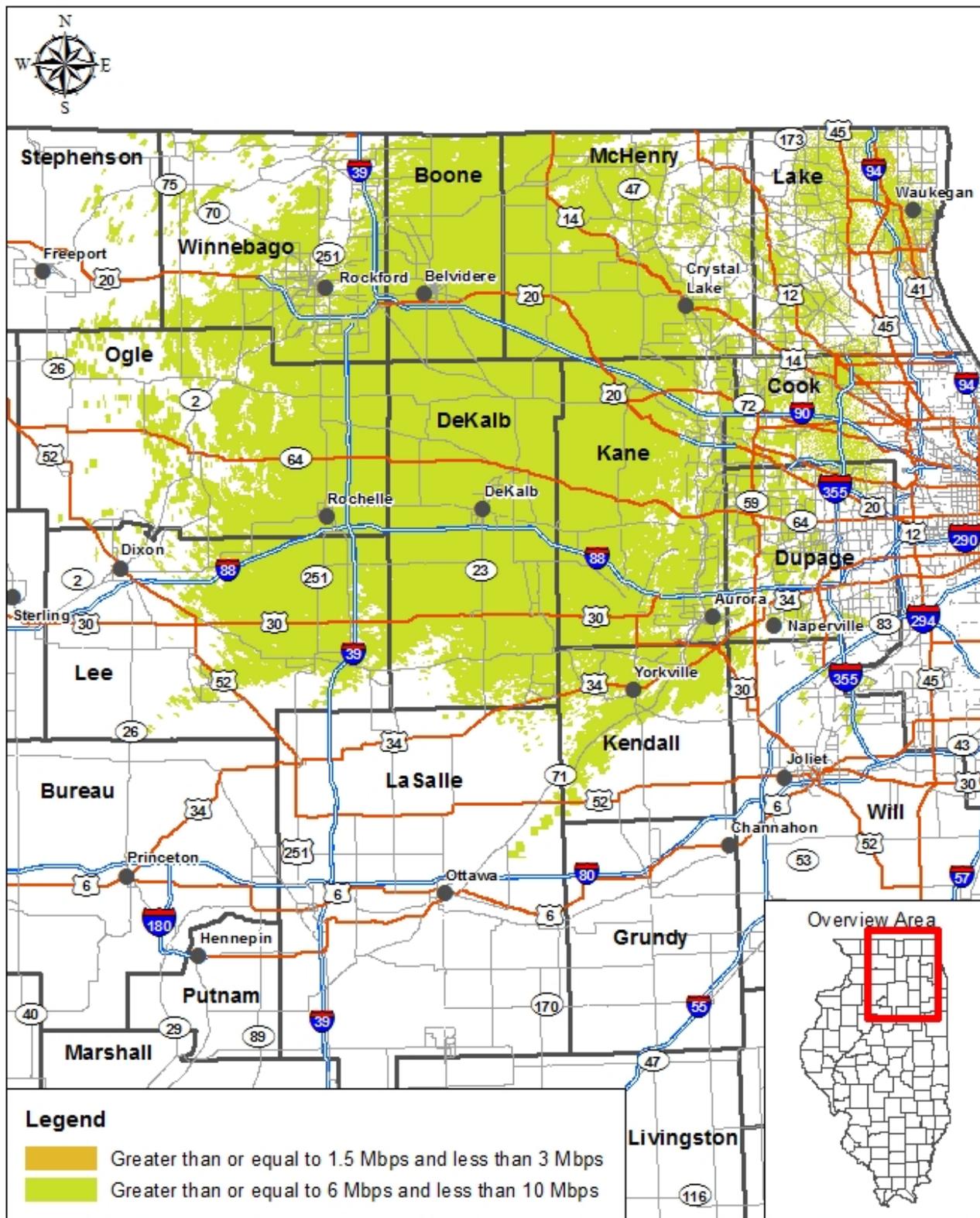


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E-Vergent.com, LLC Maximum Advertised Download Speed

Round Five – Data Current as of December 31 2011



Partnership for a Connected Illinois - June 11, 2012



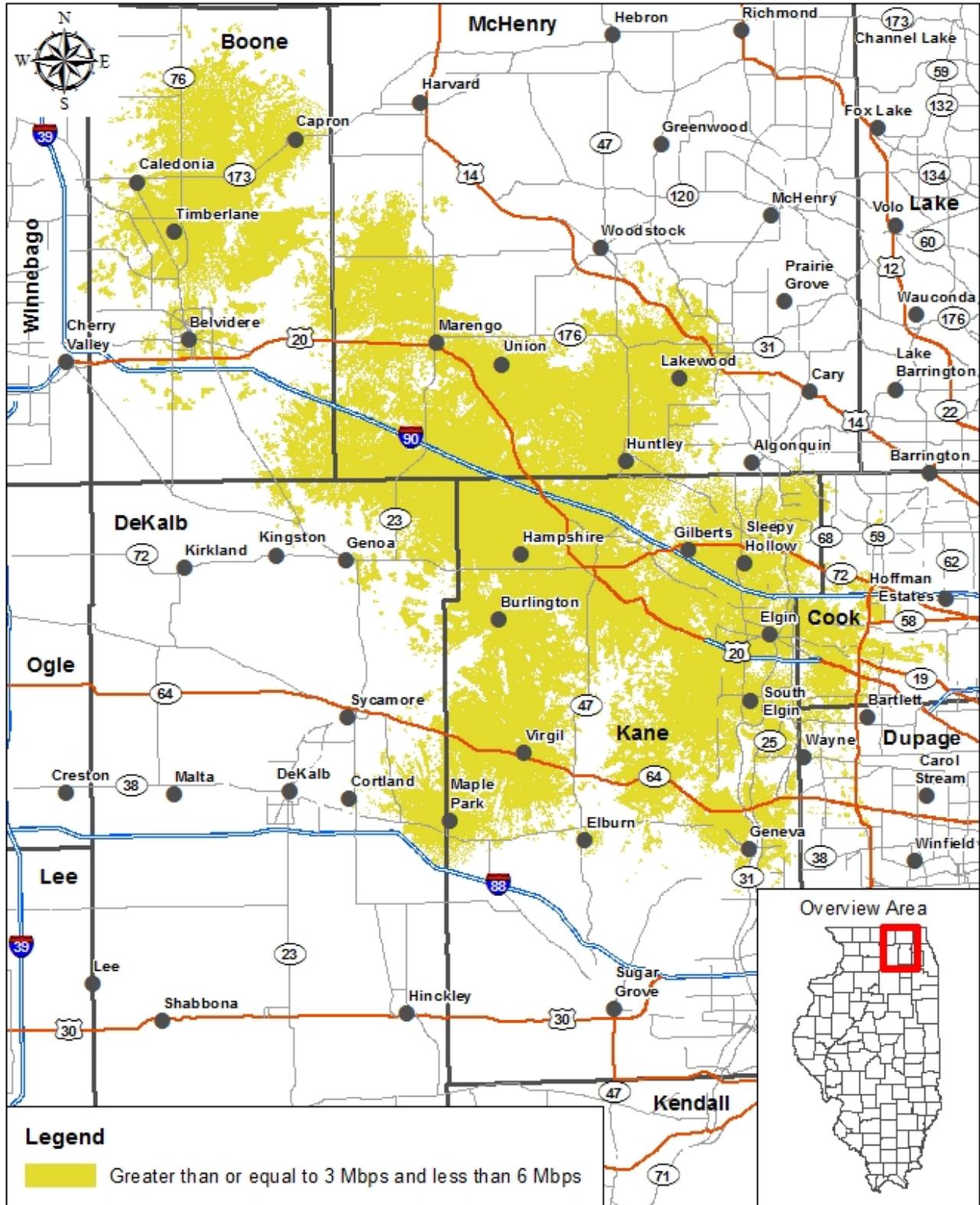
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Fox Valley Internet, Inc. Maximum Advertised Download Speed

Round Five – Data Current as of December 31 2011



Partnership for a Connected Illinois - June 11, 2012

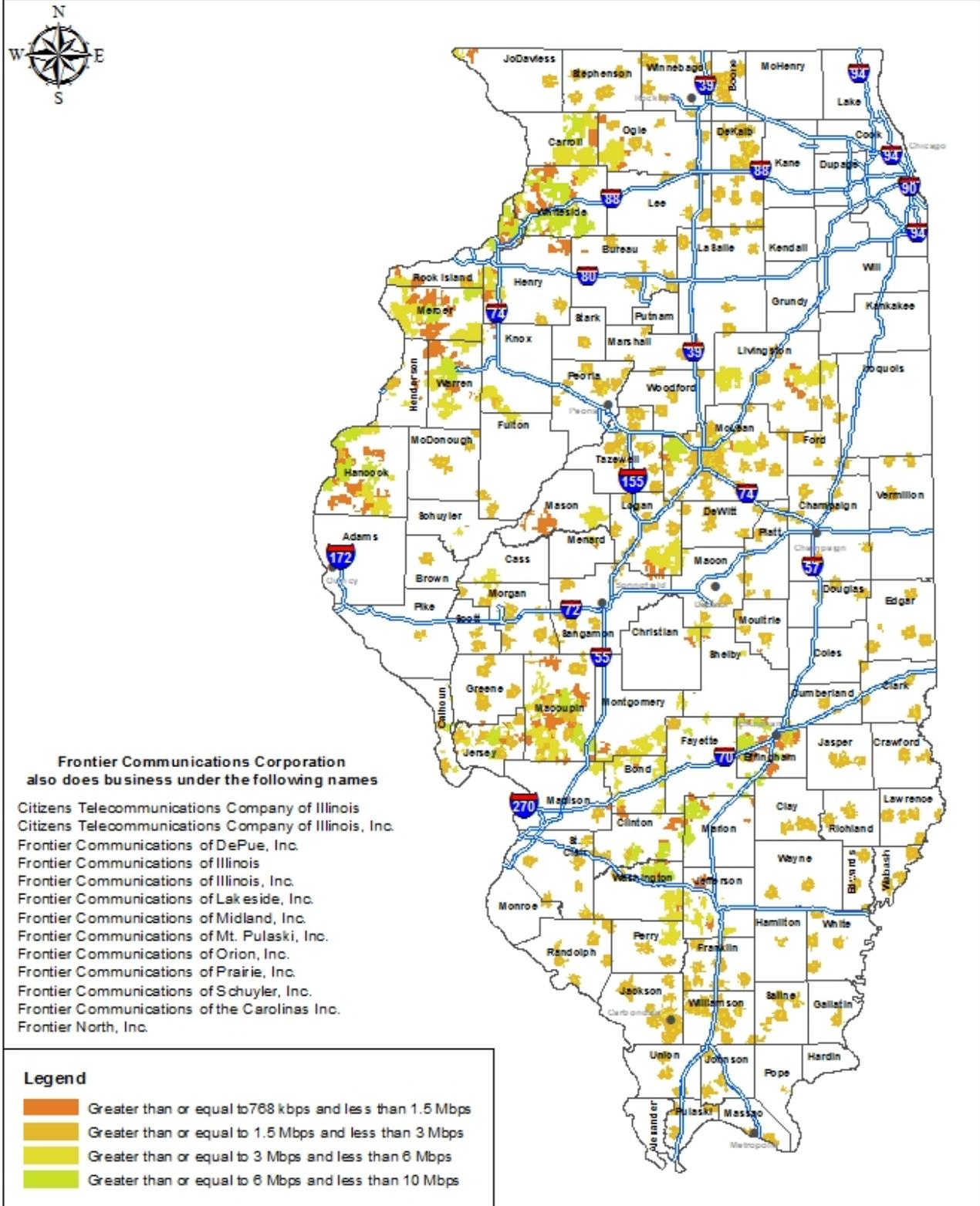


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Frontier Communications Corporation Maximum Advertised Download Speed

Round Five – Data Current as of December 31 2011



Partnership for a Connected Illinois - May 11, 2012

0 70 140 Miles

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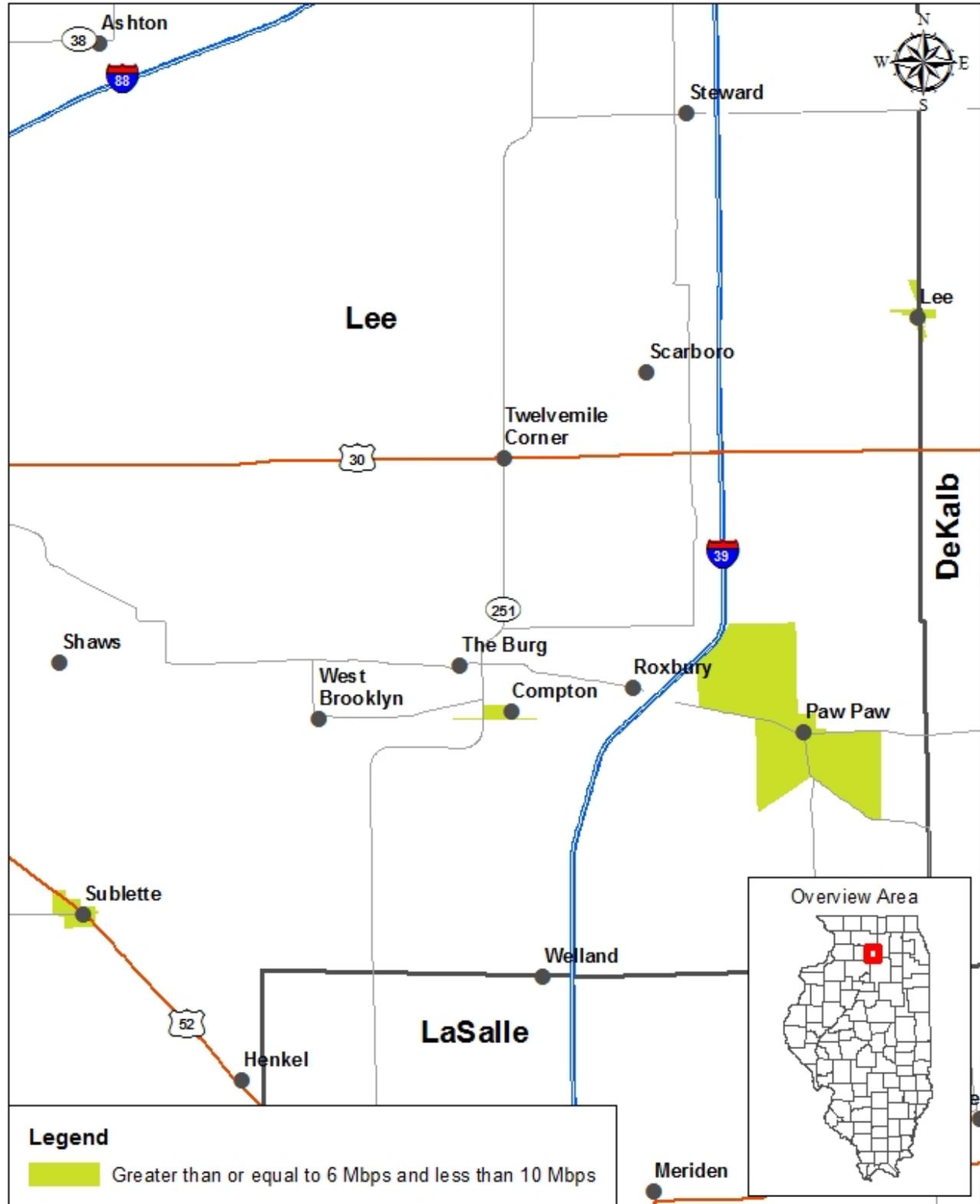
broadbandillinois.org



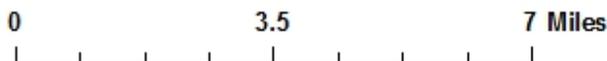


Heartland Cable Broadband Maximum Advertised Download Speed

Round Five – Data Current as of December 31 2011



Partnership for a Connected Illinois - May 15, 2012

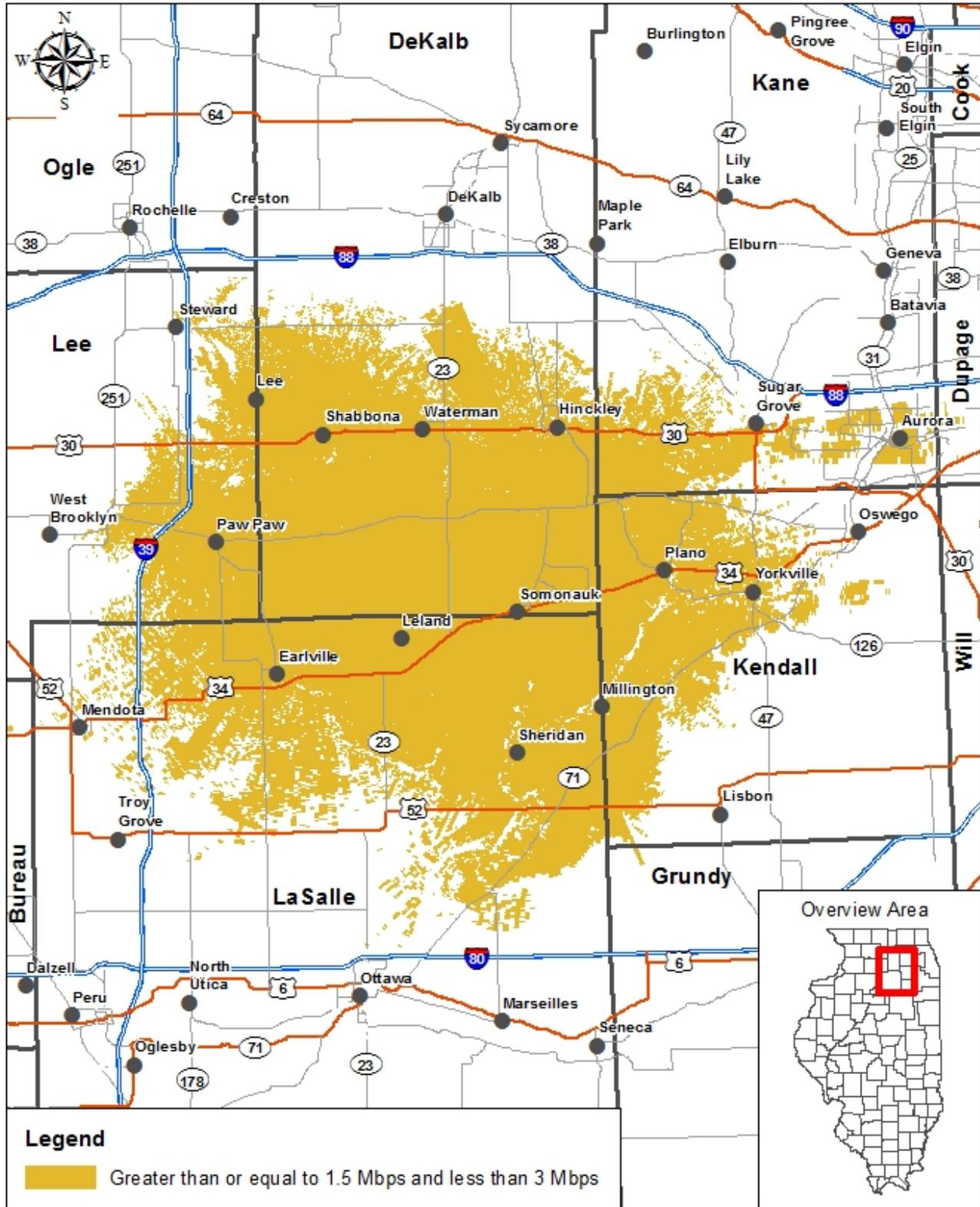


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IndianValley.com LLC Maximum Advertised Download Speed

Round Five – Data Current as of December 31 2011



Partnership for a Connected Illinois - June 18, 2012

0 10 20 Miles



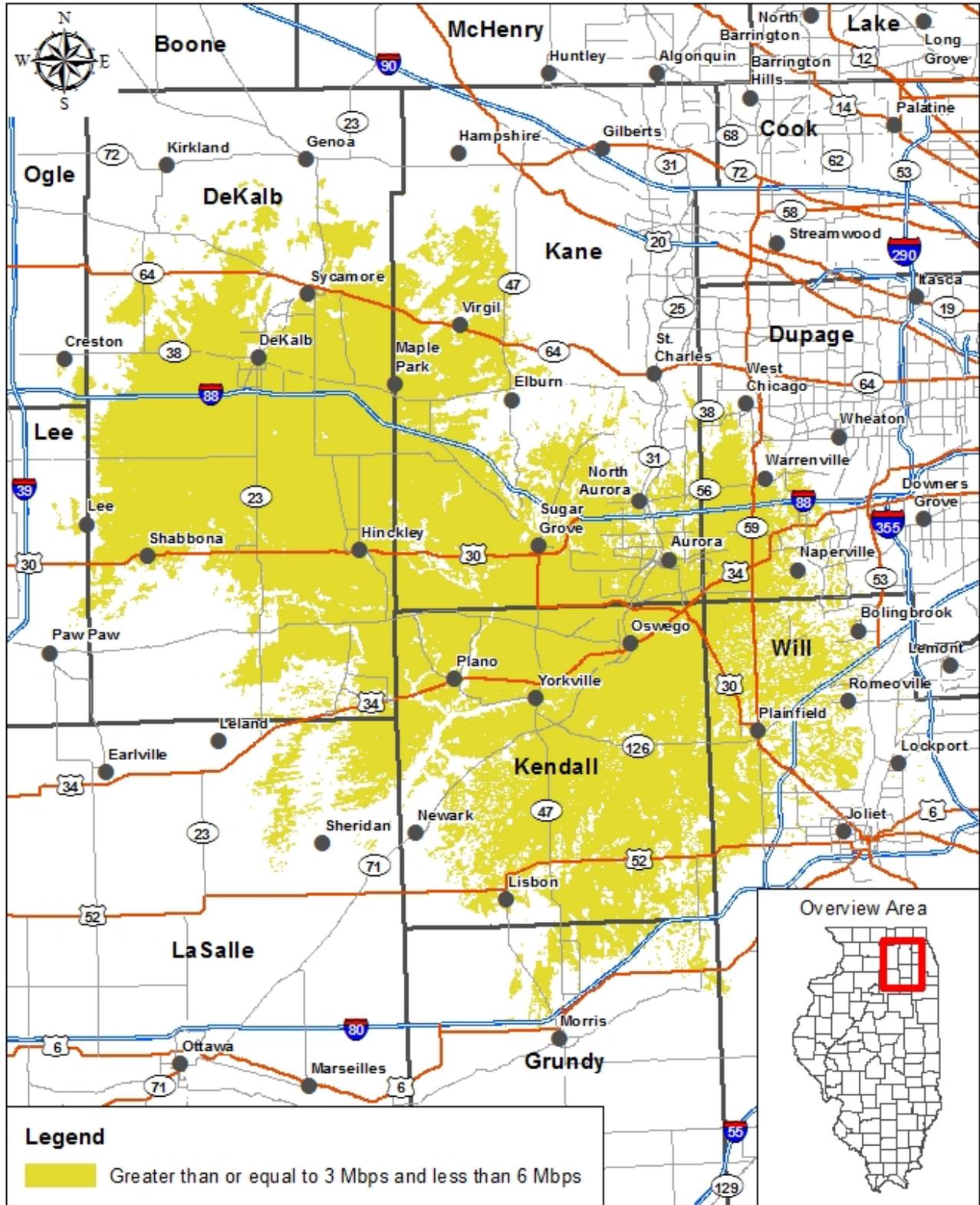
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Intelligent Computing Solutions Maximum Advertised Download Speed

Round Five – Data Current as of December 31 2011

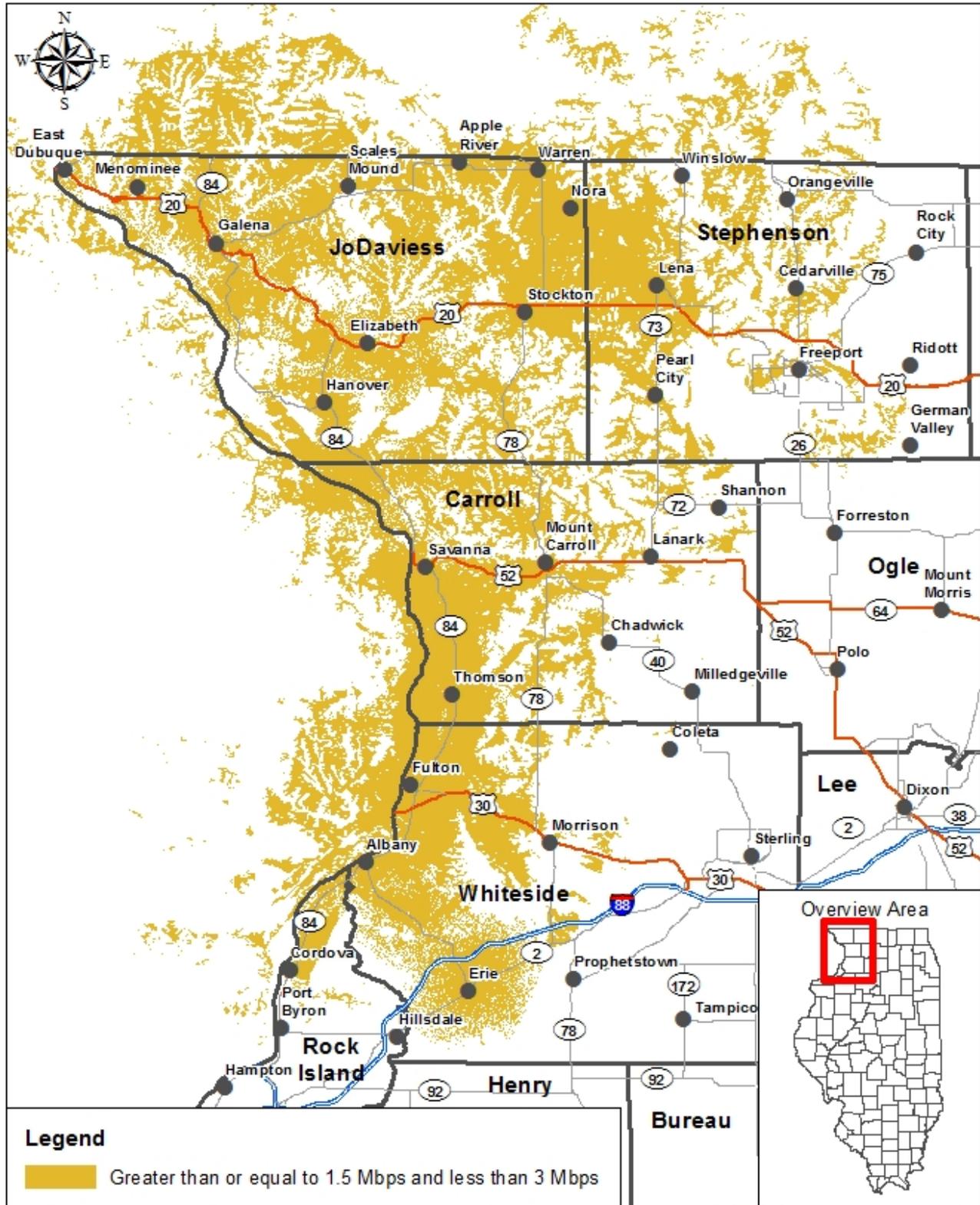


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Jo-Carroll Energy, Inc. (NFP), SandPrairie Wireless Maximum Advertised Download Speed

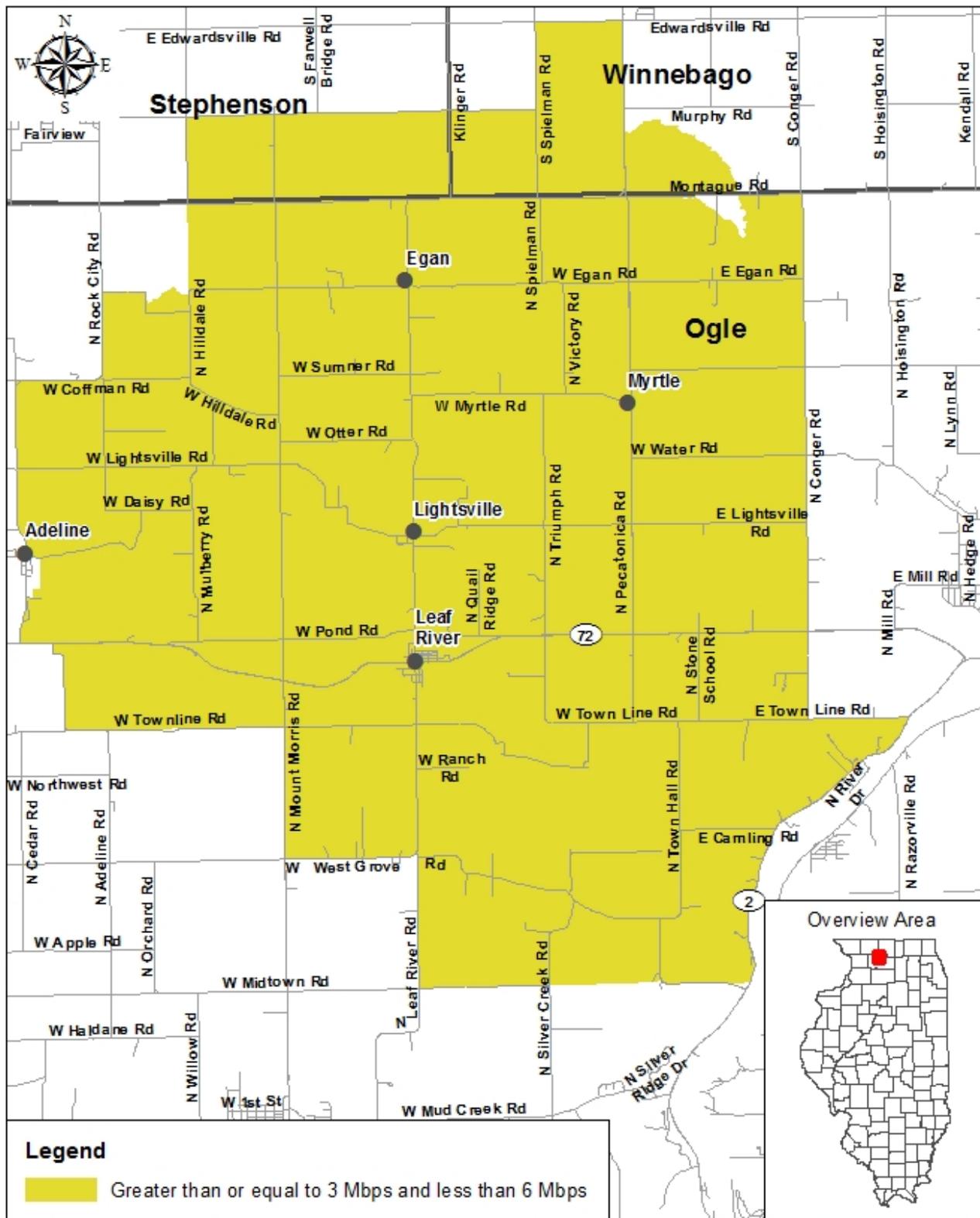
Round Five – Data Current as of December 31 2011





Leaf River Telephone Company Maximum Advertised Download Speed

Round Five – Data Current as of December 31 2011



Partnership for a Connected Illinois - June 20, 2012

0 2.5 5 Miles

broadbandillinois.org

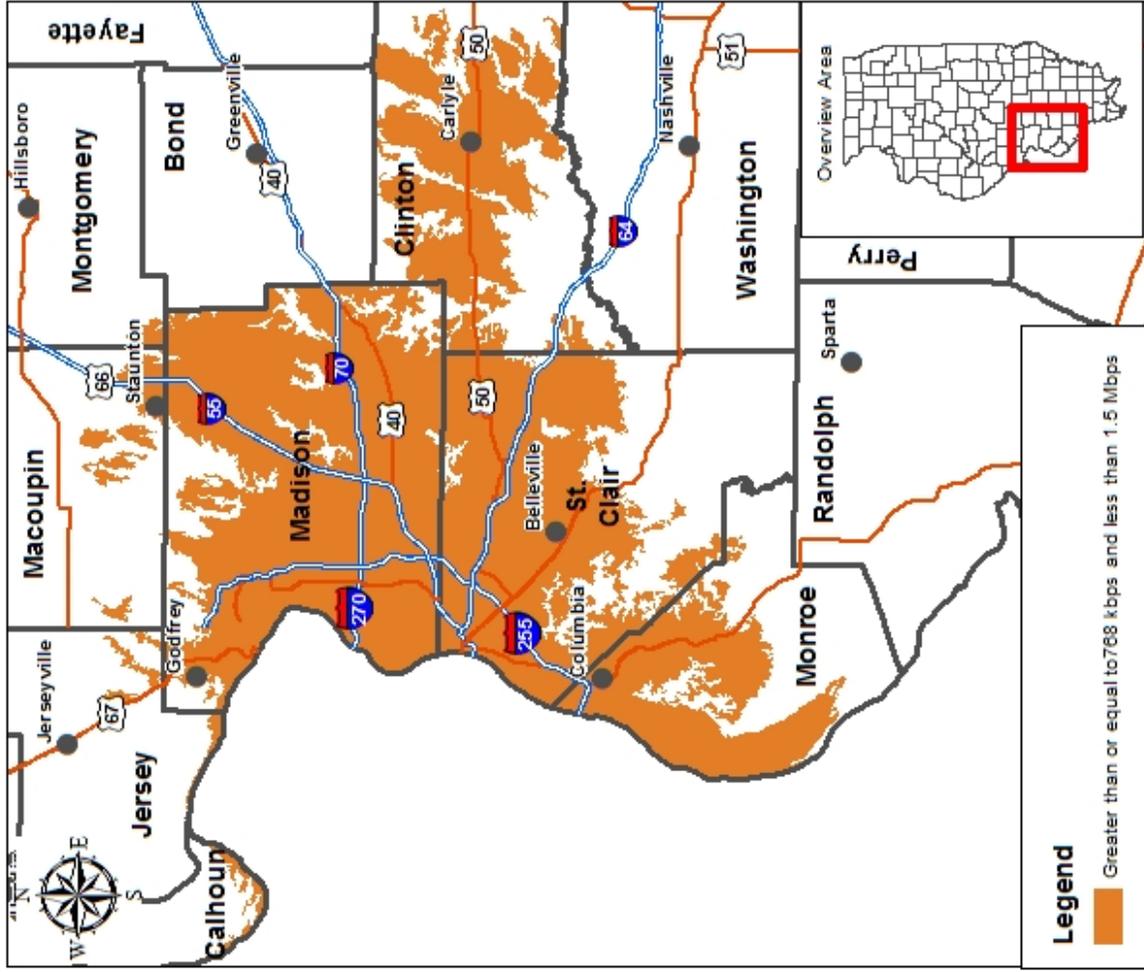
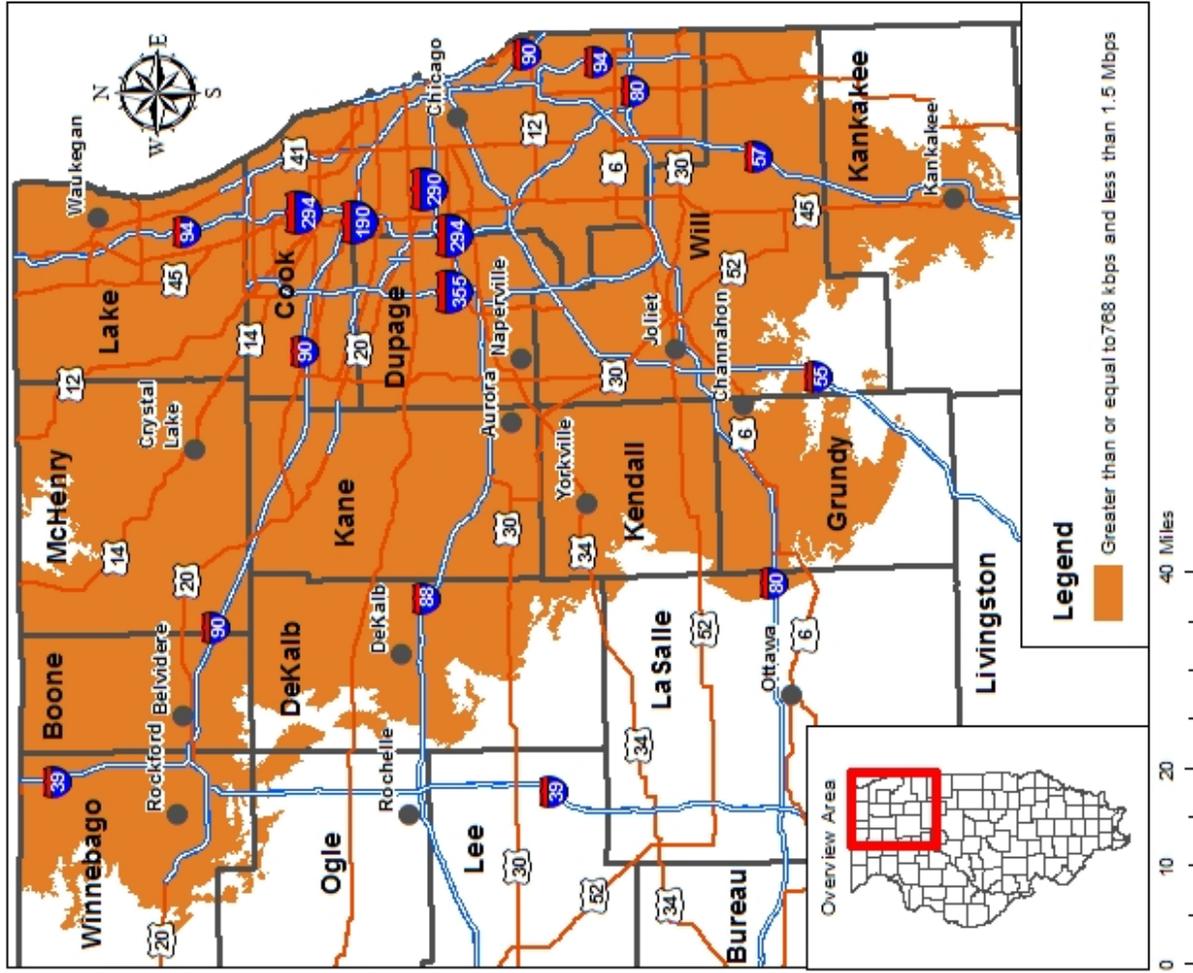


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Leap Wireless International, Inc., Cricket Communications, Inc. Maximum Advertised Download Speed

Round Five – Data Current as of December 31 2011



Legend
 Greater than or equal to 768 kbps and less than 1.5 Mbps

0 5 10 20 Miles

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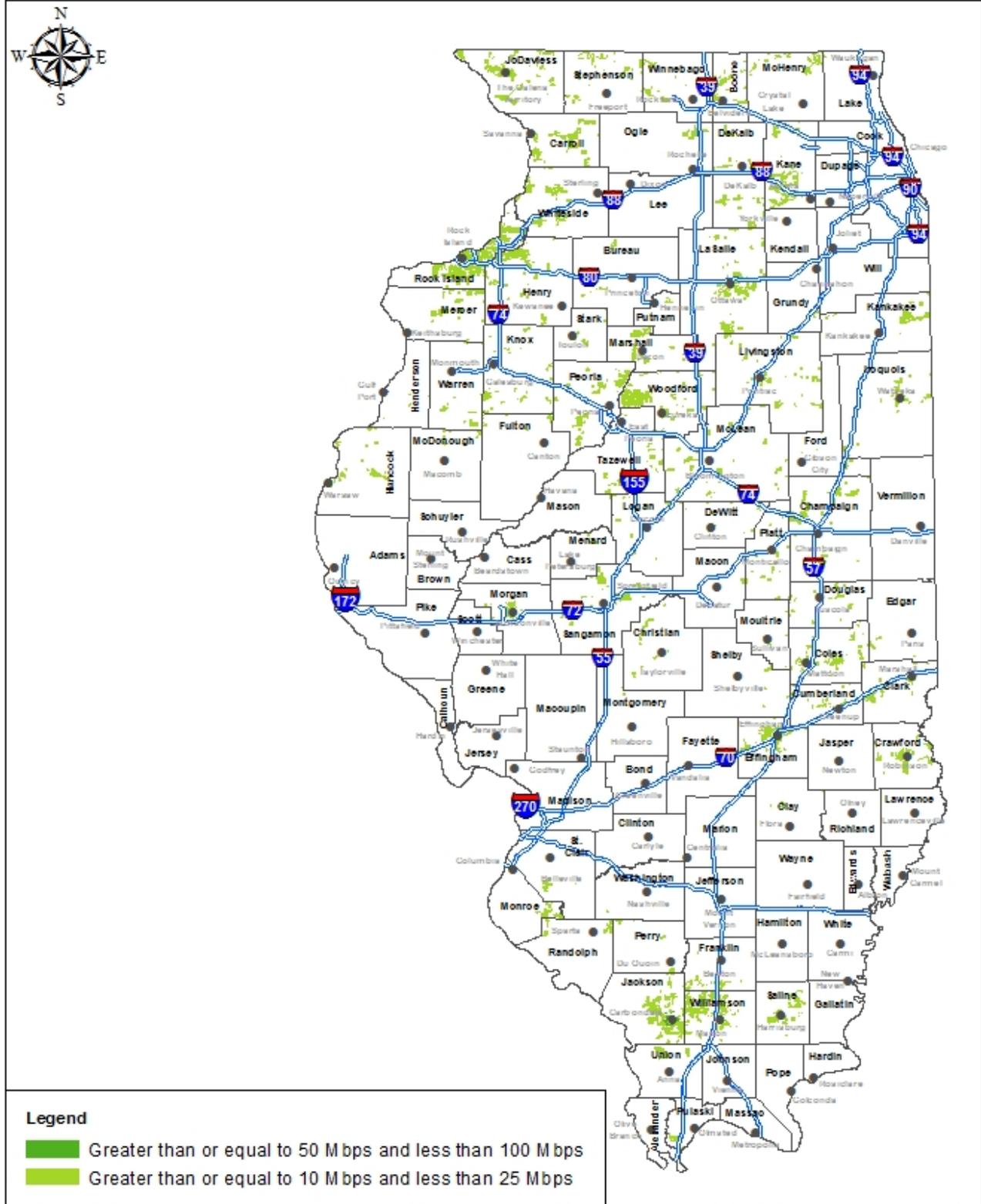
Partnership for a Connected Illinois - June 20, 2012

broadbandillinois.org

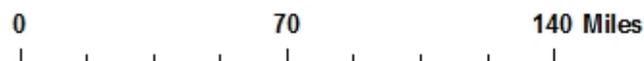


Mediacom Illinois LLC, Mediacom Maximum Advertised Download Speed

Round Six – Data Current as of June 30 2012



Partnership for a Connected Illinois - June 20, 2012

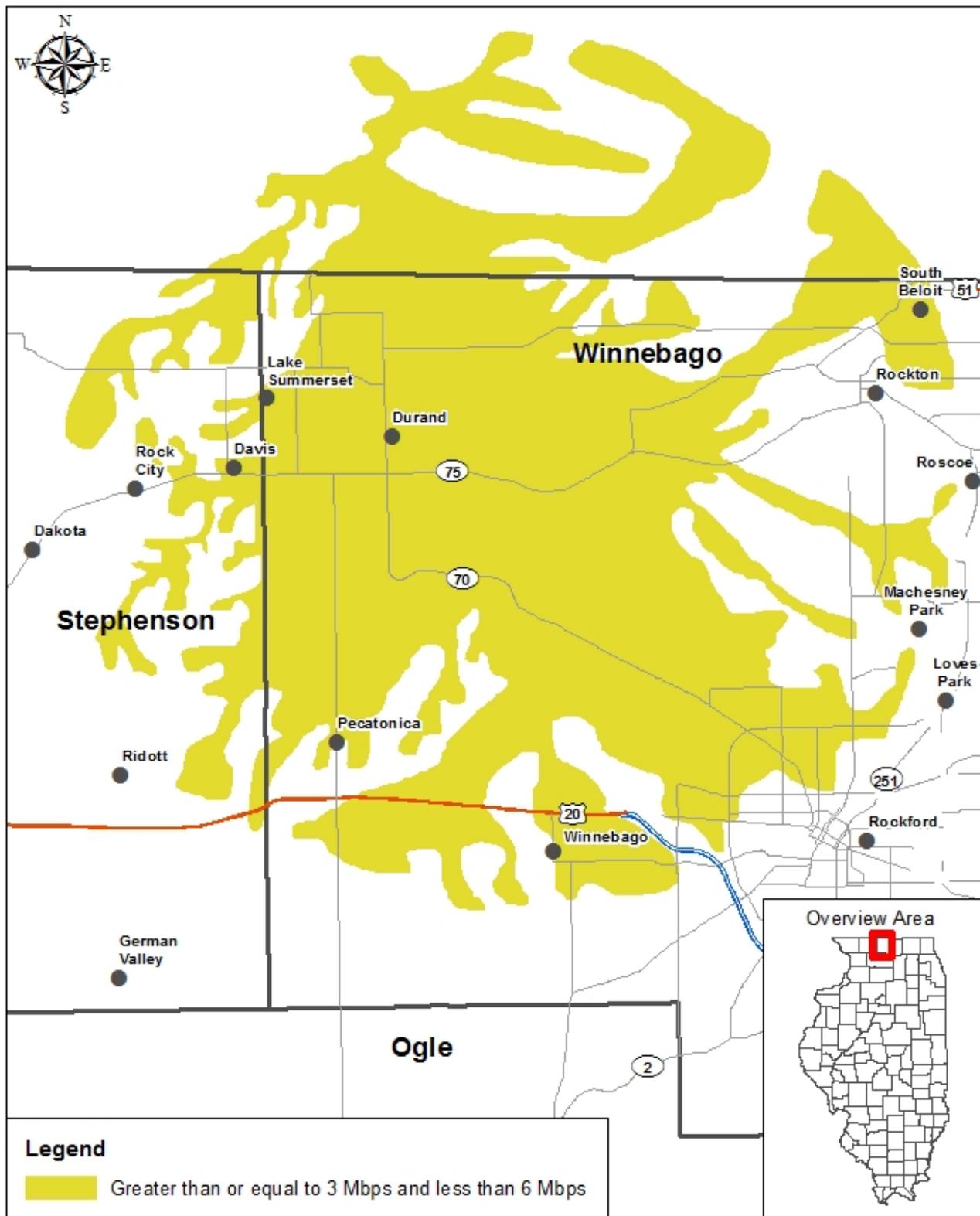


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Sonic Spectrum, Inc Maximum Advertised Download Speed

Round Five – Data Current as of December 31 2011



Partnership for a Connected Illinois - June 25, 2012

0 6 12 Miles

broadbandillinois.org

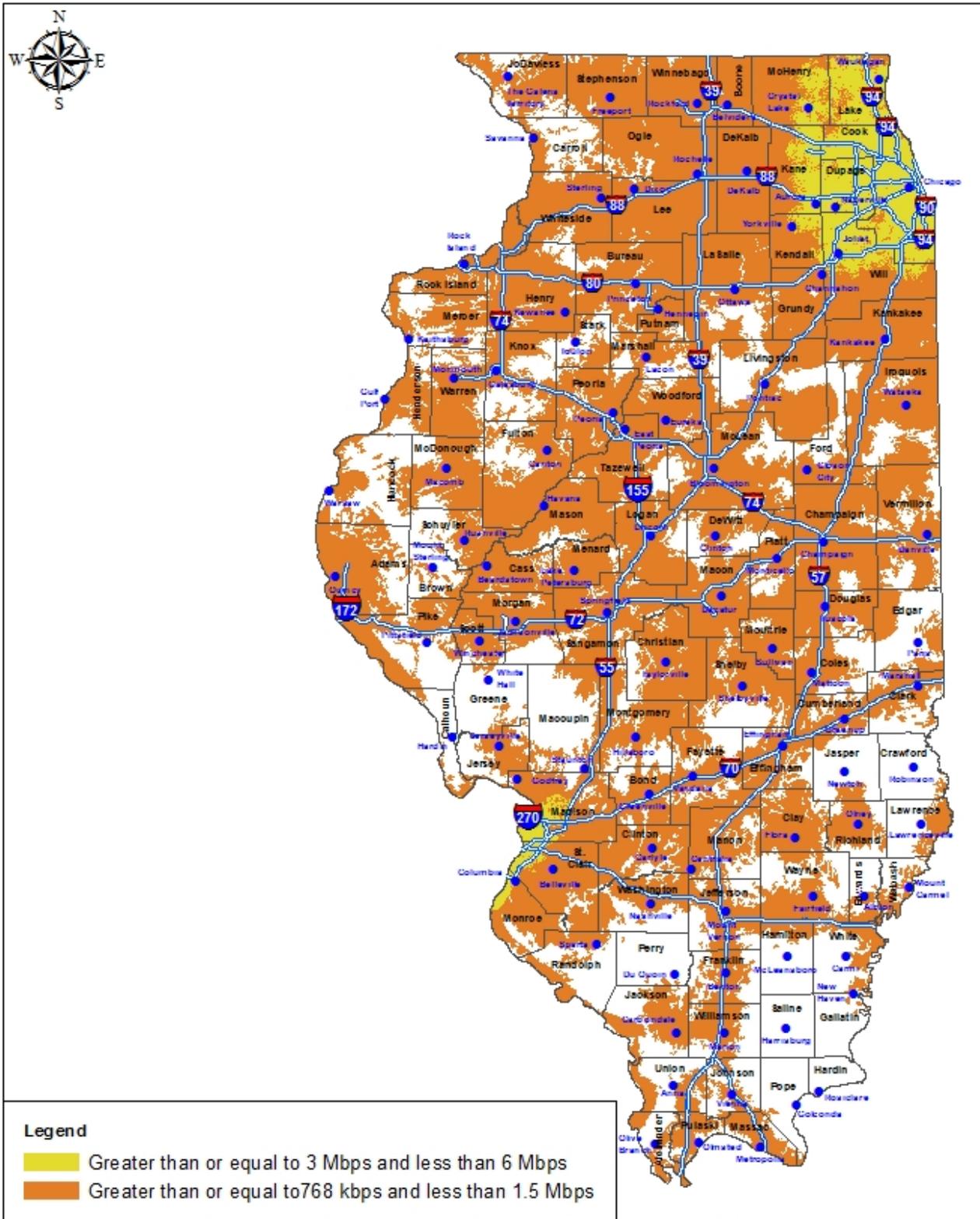


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Sprint Nextel Corporation, Sprint Maximum Advertised Download Speed

Round Five – Data Current as of December 31 2011



Partnership for a Connected Illinois - June 26, 2012

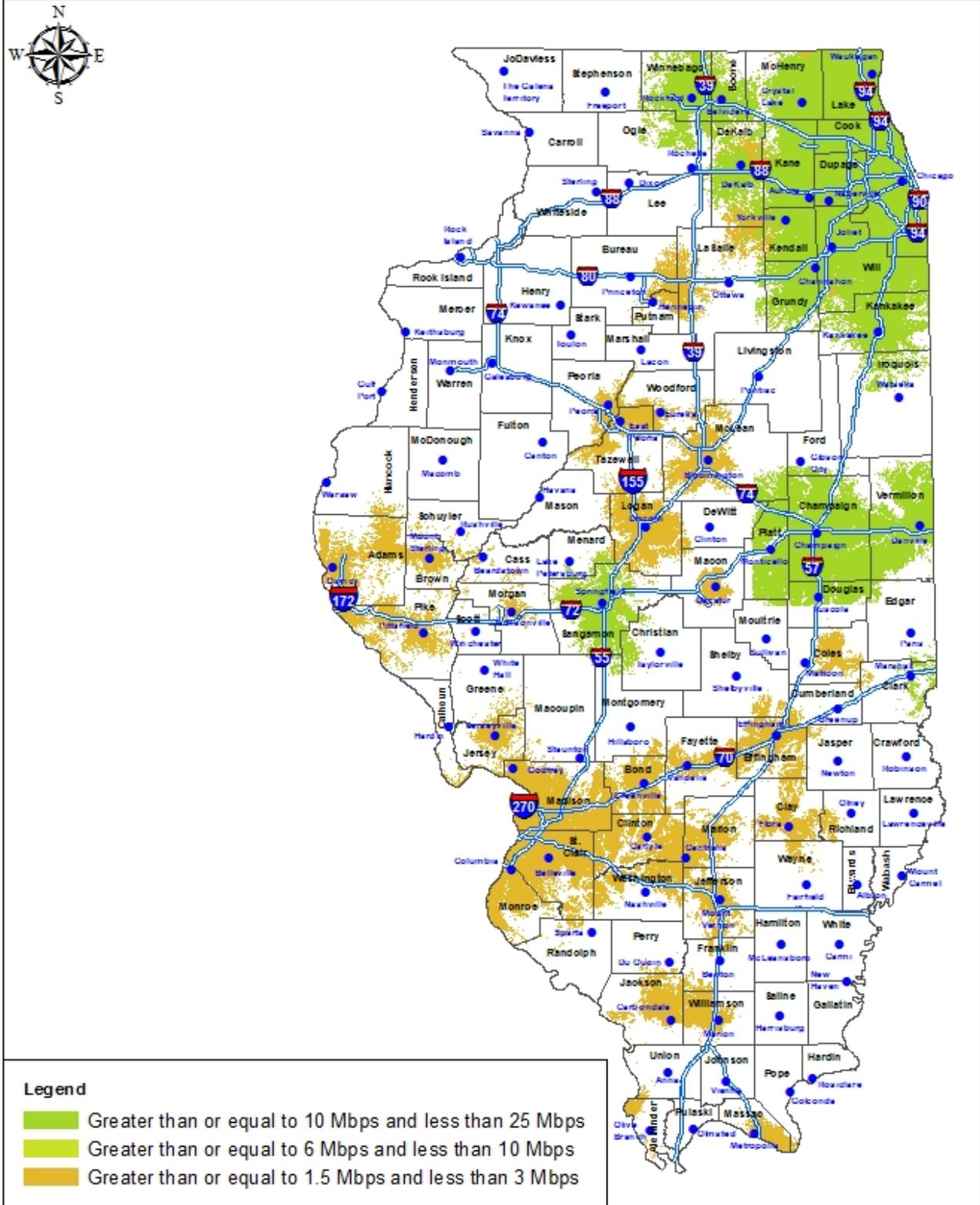


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T-Mobile USA, Inc., T-Mobile Maximum Advertised Download Speed

Round Five – Data Current as of December 31 2011



Partnership for a Connected Illinois - June 26, 2012

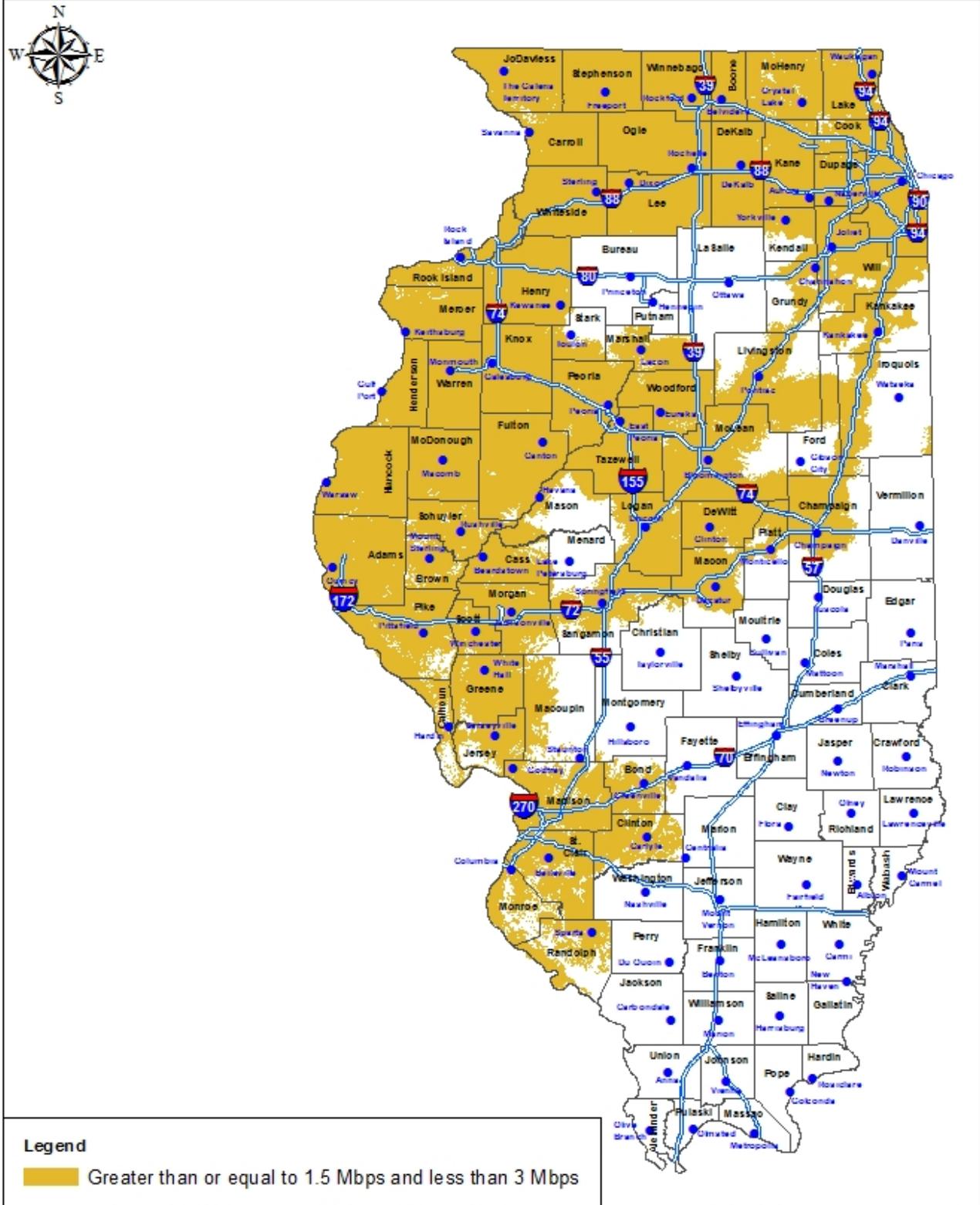


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United States Cellular Corporation, U.S. Cellular Maximum Advertised Download Speed

Round Five – Data Current as of December 31 2011



Partnership for a Connected Illinois - June 26, 2012

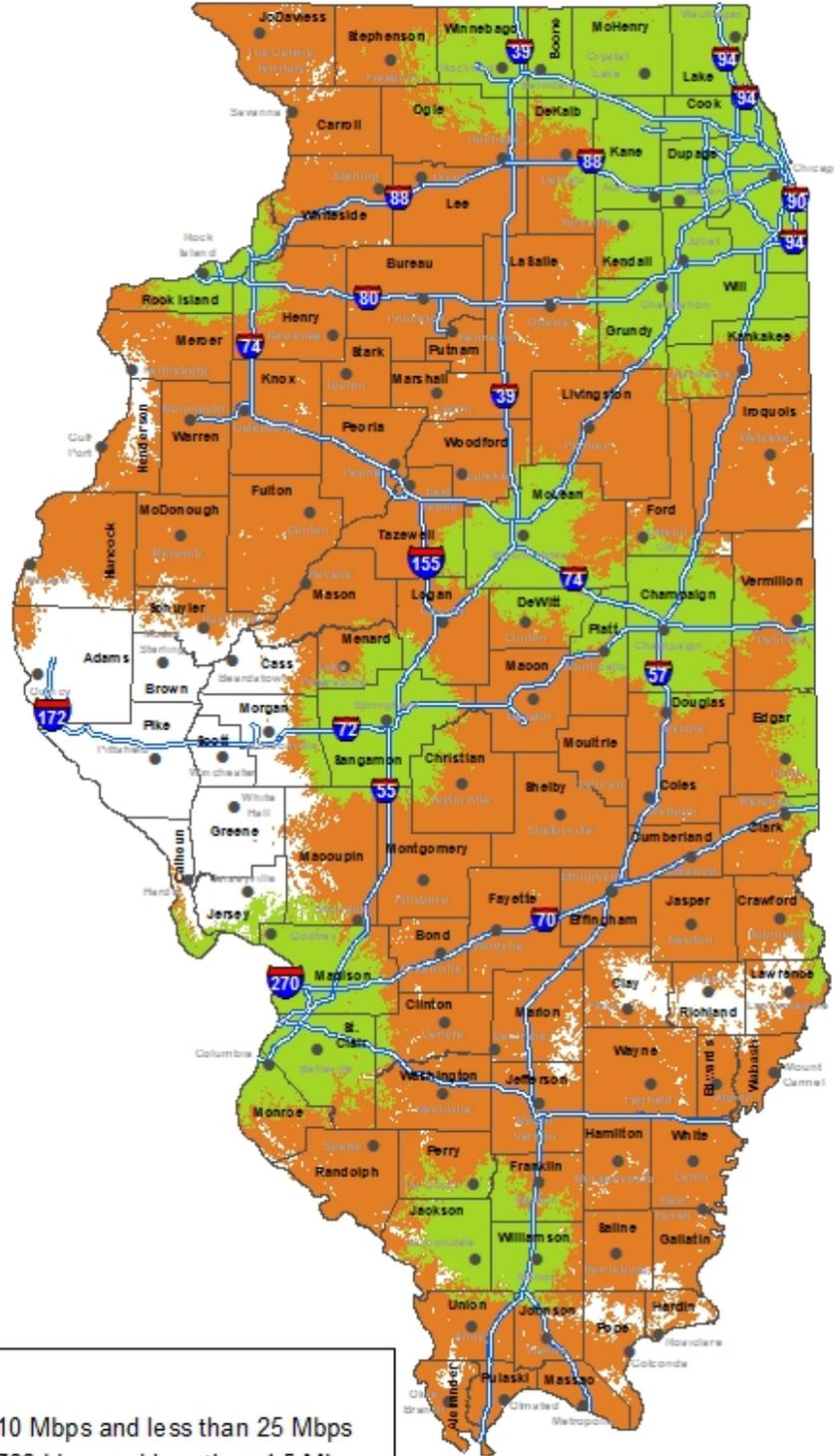
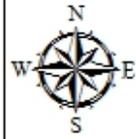


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Verizon Wireless, Cellco Partnership Maximum Advertised Download Speed

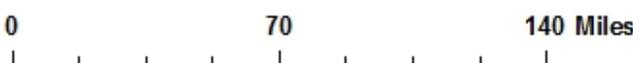
Round Five – Data Current as of December 31 2011



Legend

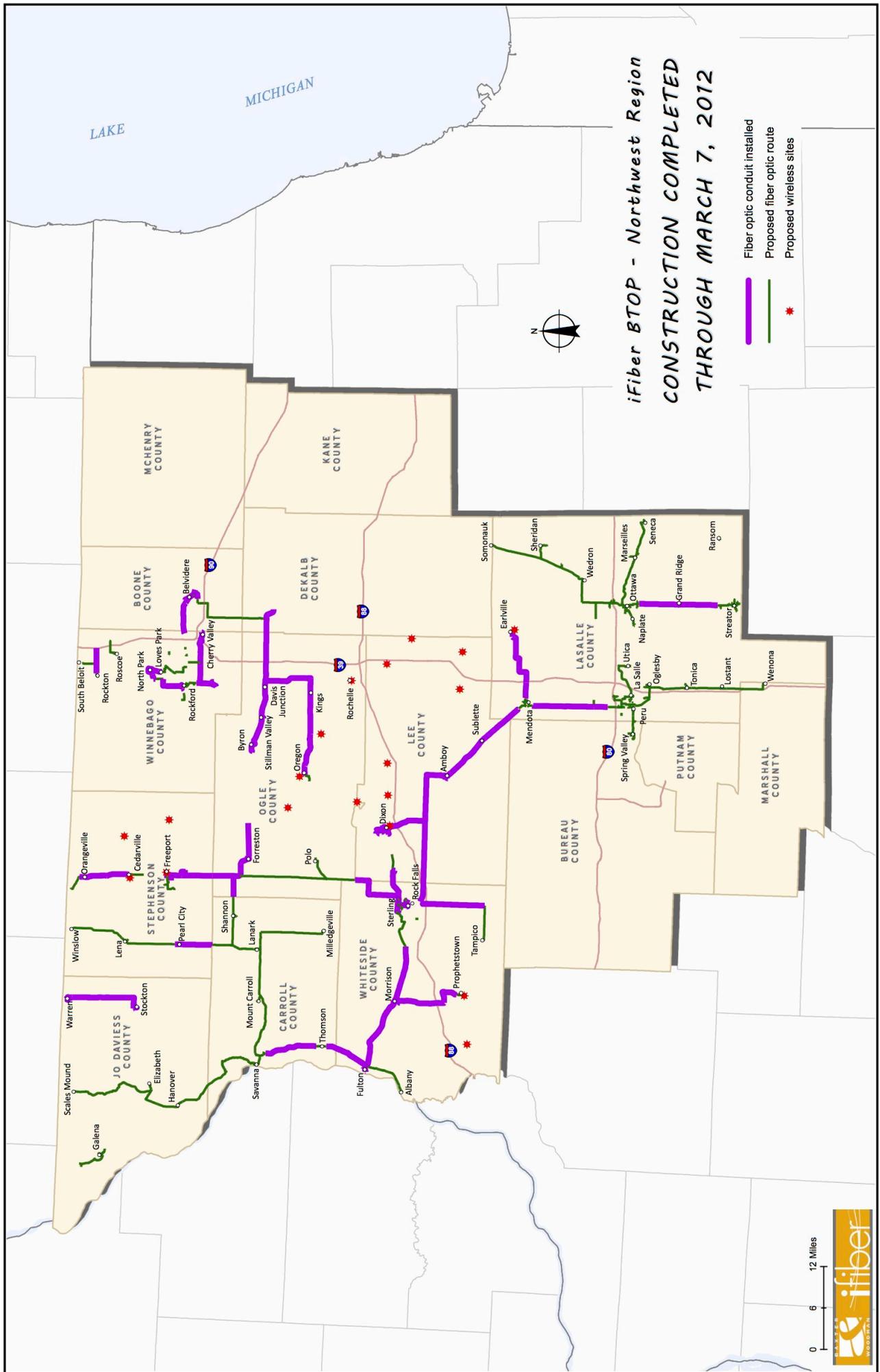
- Greater than or equal to 10 Mbps and less than 25 Mbps
- Greater than or equal to 768 kbps and less than 1.5 Mbps

Partnership for a Connected Illinois - July 16, 2012



DISCLAIMER: This map is meant to be used for preliminary review purposes only. The information depicted on this map is based on a limited amount of available data, and thus there are inherent inaccuracies. As more complete data is collected, the map will be updated and will contain more accurate information. This map should not be used to make any decisions regarding the served, underserved, and not served areas. At this time, the NTIA definition of Broadband is greater than or equal to 768 Kbps.





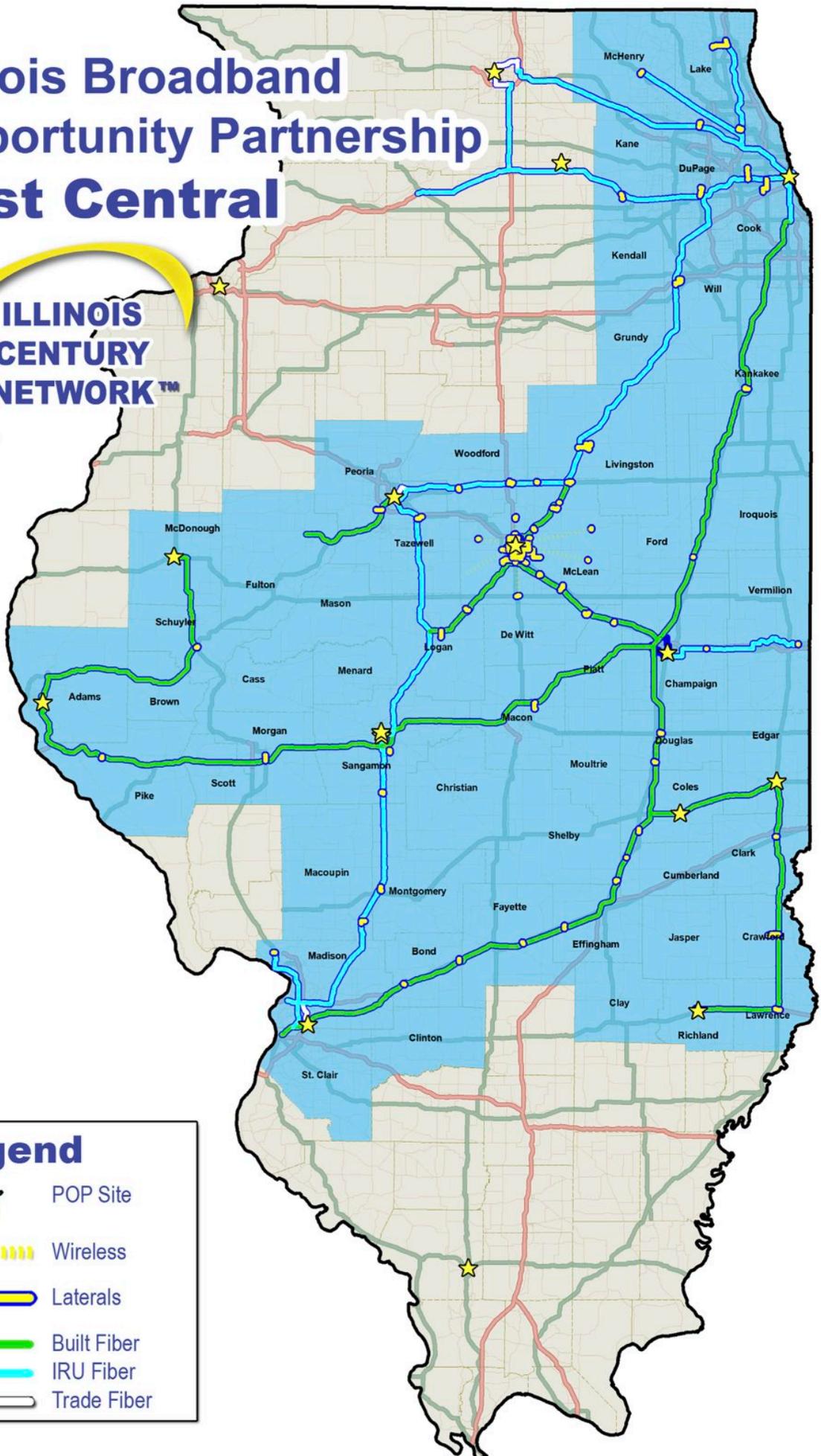
iFiber BTOP - Northwest Region
CONSTRUCTION COMPLETED
THROUGH MARCH 7, 2012

- Fiber optic conduit installed
- Proposed fiber optic route
- ★ Proposed wireless sites

0 6 12 Miles



Illinois Broadband Opportunity Partnership East Central



Legend

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

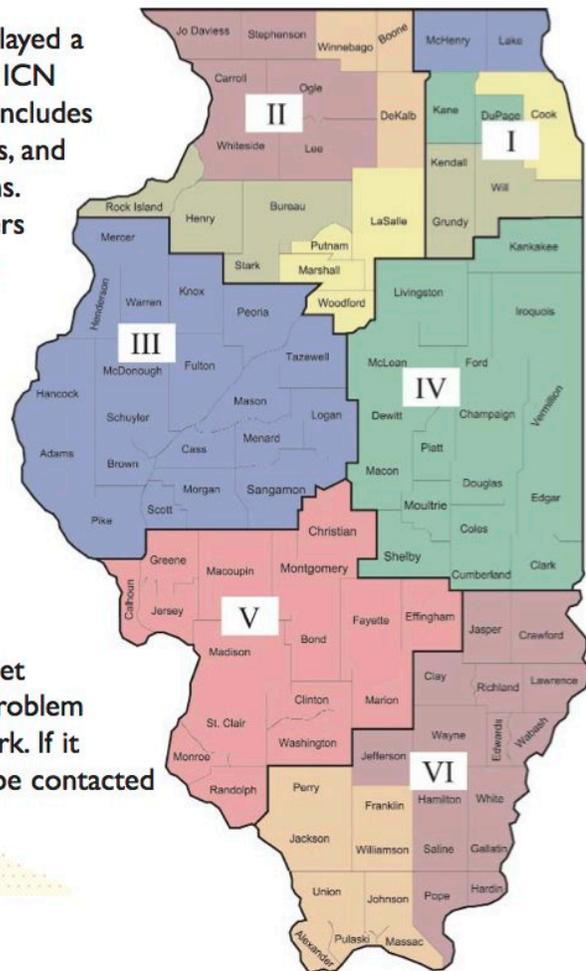


LTC/RTC COMPARISON OF RESPONSIBILITIES

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

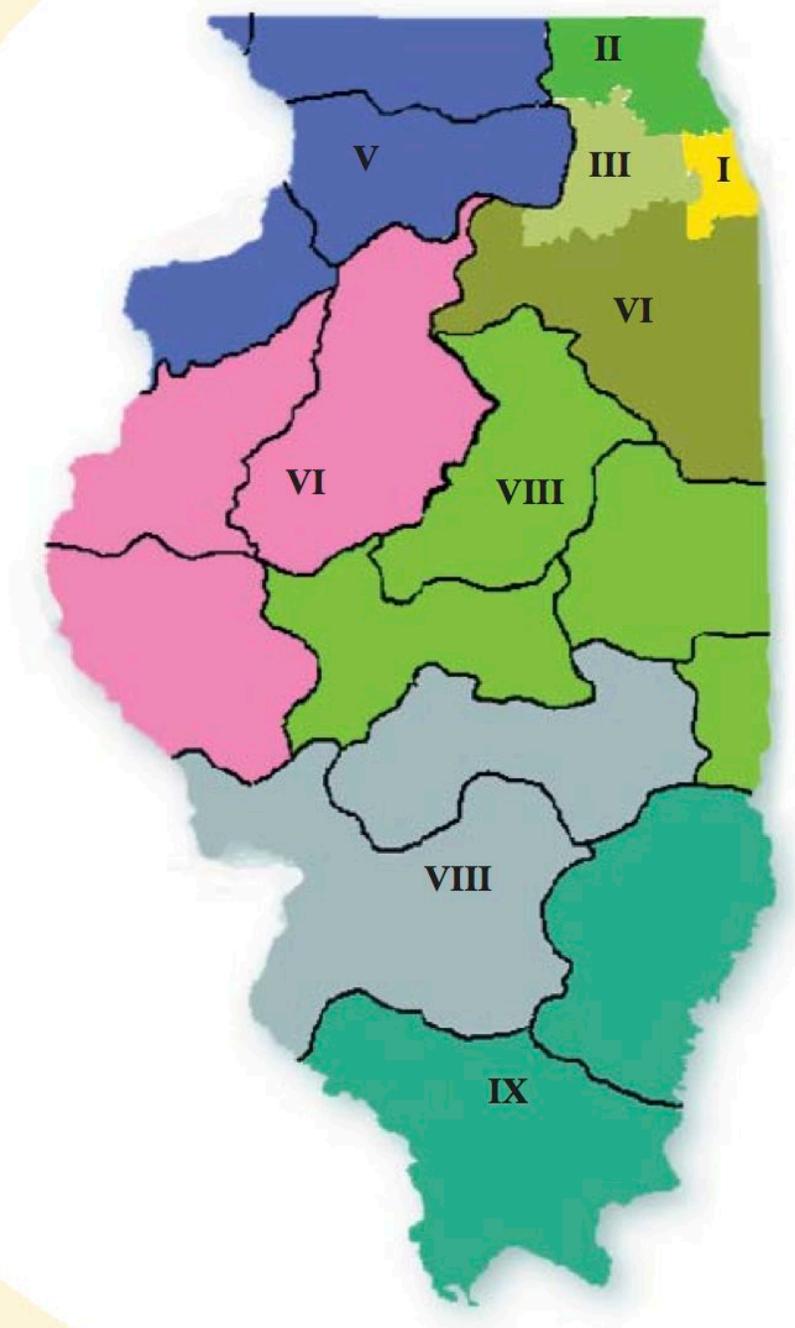
Parkland College
2400 West Bradley Ave, Rm X132
Champaign, IL 61821-1899

Region VIII

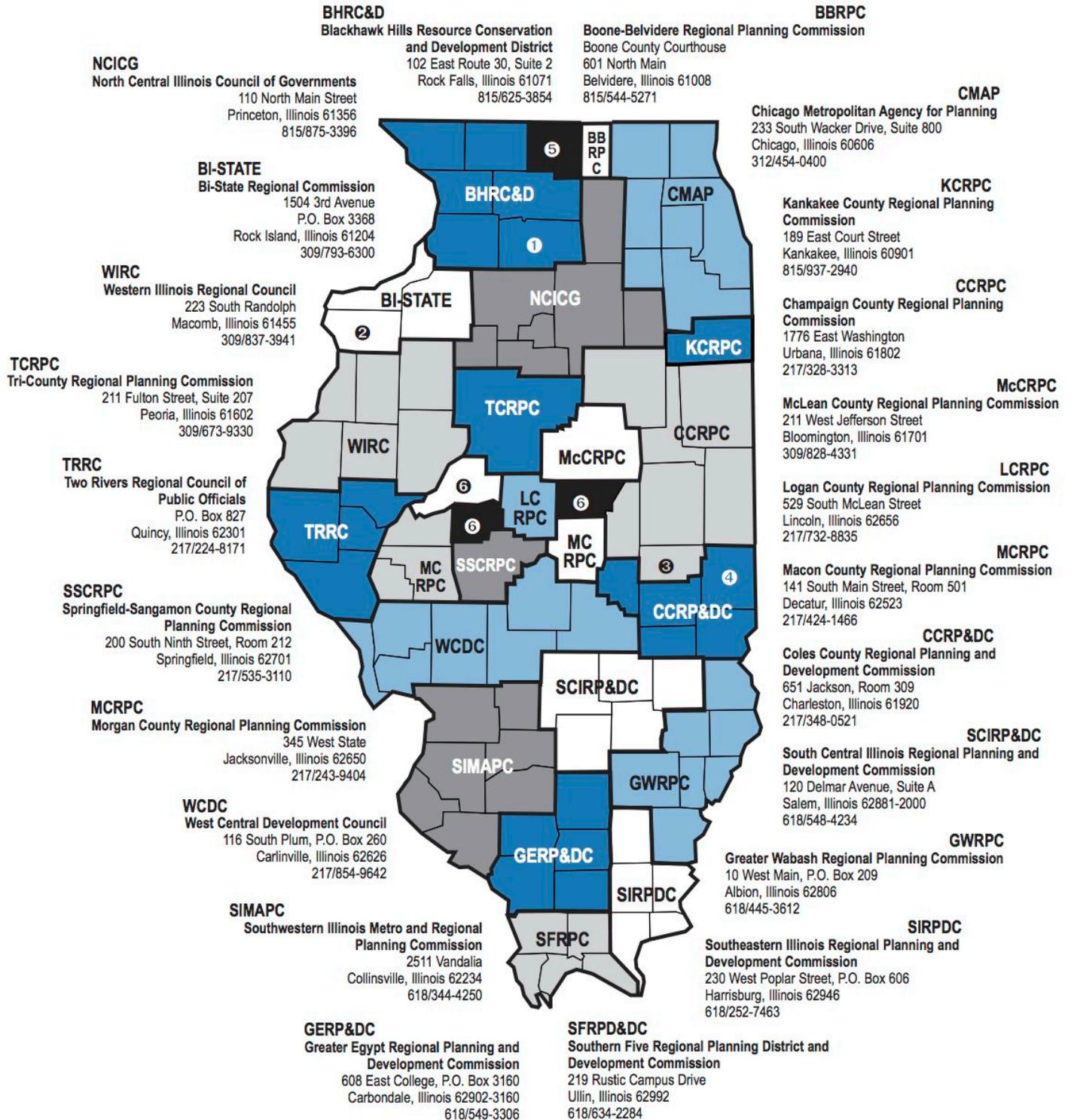
404 Broadway, Suite 26
Highland, IL 62249

Region IX

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



Illinois Regional Planning Agencies



- ① North Central Illinois Council of Governments (NCICG) provides contractual services to Lee County within BHRC&D.
- ② Majority of services to Mercer County provided by Bi-State Regional Commission. Solid waste planning and secondary services provided by WIRC.
- ③ Coles County Regional Planning and Development Commission (CCRP&DC) provides secondary contractual services to Douglas County within CCRPC.
- ④ Champaign County Regional Planning Commission (CCRPC) provides secondary contractual services to Edgar County within CCRP&DC.
- ⑤ Winnebago County has a Planning and Economic Development Department.
- ⑥ Mason County, Menard County and DeWitt County have no designated regional planning commission.



Office of Regional Outreach

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Salvador Garza
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Macomb Office:
West II Bus & Tech Center,
510 N. Pearl St, Suite 700
Macomb, IL 61455

Jacqui Bevelheimer
Account Manager
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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

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Director on Policy and
Economic Development
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Springfield, IL 62701

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Cell: (309) 265-3214
Teresa.Kurtenbach@illinois.gov
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Moline, IL 61265

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Lee.Trotter@illinois.gov
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Viola, IL 61486

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Rockford, IL 61101

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Rockford, IL 61101

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Manager
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East Hazel Crest, IL 60429

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Libertyville, IL 60048

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Ed.Piatt@illinois.gov
Bradley Bourbonnais Reg.
Chamber Commerce
1690 Newtowne Drive
Bourbonnais, IL 60914

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Interim Region Manager
Senior Account Manager
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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



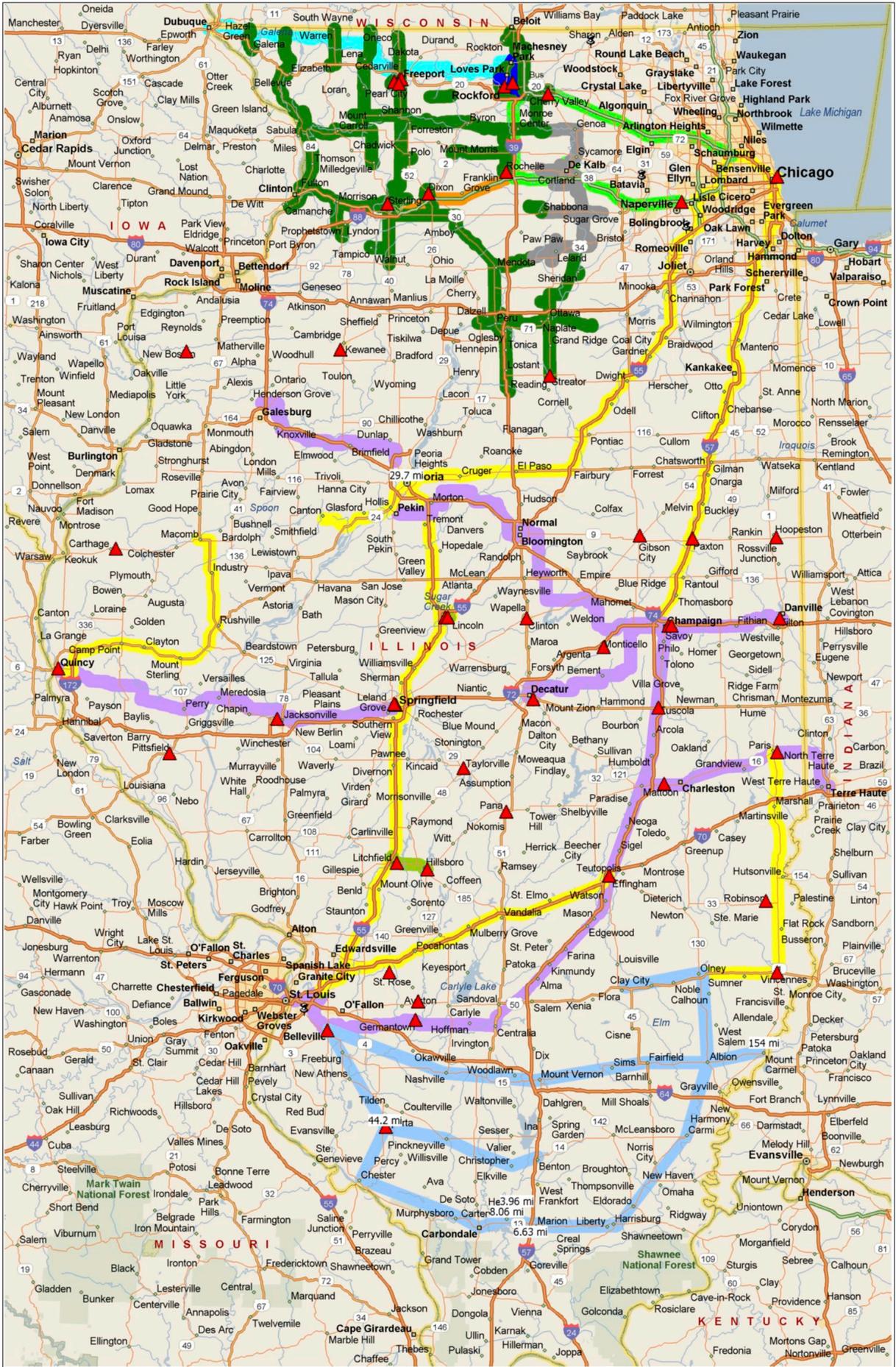
SOUTHWEST REGION

Eddie Koch
Region Manager
(618) 346-3816
Cell: (618) 304-9466
Eddie.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



Northern 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.)



What: Illinois Broadband Innovation Fund, a new grant program aimed at high-speed Internet use.

When: The deadline to apply for funding is 5 p.m. on Tuesday, September 11.

Where: Visit www.broadbandillinois.org/innovation for all program information, events, and the RFP.

Who: Anne Madonia-Hubbard, Program Manager, 217-645-6079, innovation@broadbandillinois.org

More:

- The Illinois Broadband Innovation Fund prompts private and public organizations to apply for funding to utilize high-speed internet services that will stimulate: job creation, education, healthcare, agriculture, public safety, energy conservation and eGovernment.
- High-speed internet services of some sort are available to 99 percent of the state. However, only 63 percent of the population in Illinois are able to use these services.
- We can't leave a third of our citizens behind. The Broadband Innovation Fund aims to support programs and initiatives that will bridge this gap, resulting in Better Broadband and Better Lives for all.
- Governor Pat Quinn's Illinois Gigabit Challenge focused on broadband deployment. The Illinois Broadband Innovation Fund is aimed towards adoption and usage of these services.
- \$500,000 in funding is available and applicants may apply for grants of \$10,000 to \$100,000.
- Applicants are encouraged to submit creative proposals that demonstrate support from private and public organizations in the community served and should show how the project best stimulates use of broadband networks.
- The Illinois Broadband Innovation Tour will stop in eight cities to promote the program:
 - Thursday, August 16 in Springfield
 - Friday, August 17 in Springfield
 - Wednesday, August 22 in Chicago
 - Thursday, August 23 in Mattoon
 - Friday, August 24 in Carbondale
 - Monday, August 27 in Moline
 - Tuesday, August 28 in Godfrey
 - Wednesday, August 29 in Peoria
 - Thursday, August 30 in Macomb
- Three live webinars are scheduled, and participants in those regions are encouraged to attend in-person. Question and answer sessions will follow. Presentation slides will be published.
- Visit the [Broadband Illinois calendar](#) see complete logistics and registration information.
- The deadline to apply is September 11, 2012. Awards will be made by September 29, 2012.
- Help promote the Illinois Broadband Fund by forwarding the press release and RFP to your contacts and sharing on social media.
 - Facebook: www.facebook.com/broadbandillinois
 - Twitter: www.twitter.com/broadbandillinois
- Press or media inquiry? Contact roxana@broadbandillinois.org or 217-280-4066

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

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.



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



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/>

Overview

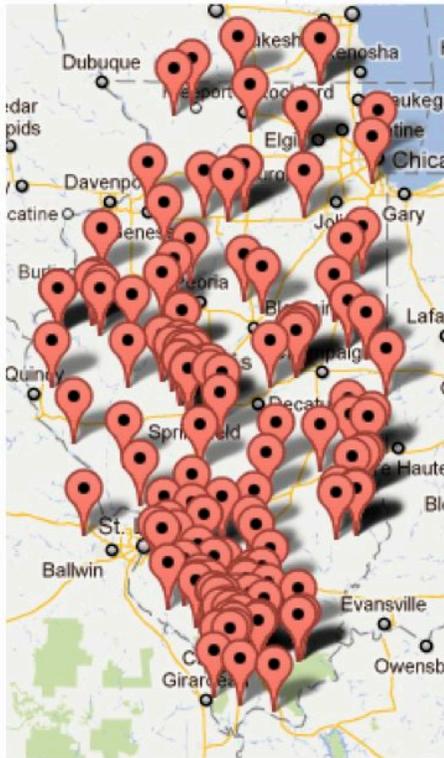
Request Broadband Service

Broadband Request Map

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

City

Phone number Example: 555-555-5555

Email address Example: name@example.com

Internet service Do you already have Internet service at this location? If so, what kind of service do you have at present?

- I don't have any Internet service at this time.
- Dial-up
- DSL
- Cable Modem
- Fixed Wireless
- Satellite
- Other Internet

Comments

Terms of agreement I understand and agree that the information I provide will be used by the Internet Service Provider (ISP) members of Partnership for a Connected Illinois for purposes of evaluating their ability to meet my Internet connectivity requirements. My address information may be used to develop maps to help Partnership for a Connected Illinois to understand where gaps in Internet availability may exist. I grant approval to the member ISPs of Partnership for a Connected Illinois to contact me, using the information provided, for the purpose of attempting to provide to me Internet service. Partnership for a Connected Illinois and its member ISPs will use this information only for these purposes and no others.

When you submit this form, we will send your request to all the Internet service providers that have agreed to be contacted, and any providers who believe they can provide service to you will contact you.

Send request