



**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](http://www.broadbandillinois.org/innovation) for all program information, events, and the RFP.

**Who:** Anne Madonia-Hubbard, Program Manager, 217-645-6079, [innovation@broadbandillinois.org](mailto: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](http://www.facebook.com/broadbandillinois)
  - Twitter: [www.twitter.com/brobandillinois](http://www.twitter.com/brobandillinois)
- Press or media inquiry? Contact [roxana@broadbandillinois.org](mailto:roxana@broadbandillinois.org) or 217-280-4066