



The State of Illinois has a 2,000 mile fiber network which serves schools and libraries across the state and provides backbone infrastructure for broadband providers.

The FCC evaluated 12.7 million people in Illinois and overall, it found that 12.4 million people (98%) had access to a fixed broadband connection at 25/3 speeds. In rural Illinois, the FCC concluded that 1.3 of 1.5 million people (88%) have fixed broadband access. Among urban residents, the agency found that 99.3% of 11.2 million people had access to a fixed broadband connection.

The [interactive map](#) through the State of Illinois includes layers that are served with speeds of 100/20 Mbps or greater, underserved with speeds between 25/3 Mbps and 100/20 Mbps, and unserved with speeds of at least 25/3 Mbps. The map uses figures from the FCC's Form 477 data from December 2018 as a baseline and at the same time, the State of Illinois invites Connect Illinois funding applicants to [challenge FCC data](#) to show that an area is unserved or underserved.

The state has a [2,000 mile fiber network](#) which serves schools and libraries across Illinois and provides backbone infrastructure for broadband providers. The Illinois Department of Commerce makes maps of the fiber assets available and offers grants for network upgrades.

Data collected by Microsoft show that around 6.3 million people in Illinois do not use the Internet at broadband speeds. Researchers are seeking to change that. A [December 2020 report](#) outlined the total state costs under four different approaches

to providing free and affordable broadband services to all residents in Illinois. The report, which provided recommendations for a state broadband policy, was then presented to the Illinois Broadband Council.

The report uses U.S. Census data as a baseline, showing that:

- 70.4% of Illinois households have a home wireline high-speed Internet subscription, including:
  - 57.9% of African American households
  - 63.4% of Latino households
  - 71.2% of White households
- 1,441,161 Illinois households do not subscribe to home wireline broadband service.

**Additional Resources:**

- [Illinois Addresses the Digital Divide](#)
- [IL Office of Broadband Announces New Connectivity Map](#)