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 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:
  - Ø 57.9% of African American households
  - Ø 63.4% of Latino households
  - Ø 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