

ILLINOIS CENTURY NETWORK

**BACKBONE UPDATE**

**Submitted for:** Information

**Summary:** This item seeks to provide an update on activities to expand the backbone to meet the changing needs of the ICN constituents.

**Action Requested:** None

## ILLINOIS CENTURY NETWORK

### **BACKBONE UPDATE**

Three significant initiatives are underway in an effort to enhance the existing ICN backbone. Network Services has been working toward establishing new contracts for Internet egress, backbone circuit connectivity, and researching the costs associated with beginning a dark fiber implementation on the network backbone.

An Internet egress RFP is being finalized to increase egress bandwidth at lower costs. The awards will result in contracts with four different vendors for additional egress bandwidth at three ICN egress points on the network: Chicago, Springfield, and Collinsville. Egress bandwidth is currently 6.2 Gig and will be increased to 7 Gig before school starts.

The Backbone RFP is very comprehensive in focusing on all ICN Backbone circuits throughout the State. The goal is to identify vendors and associated costs to upgrade backbone connectivity on a circuit-by-circuit basis. At this point, the technical evaluation is complete, and the evaluation team is awaiting pricing information. All OC3 backbone circuits will be increased to OC12. This will bring higher bandwidth to the western and northern areas of the state. Also, the OC12s from Springfield to Bloomington and Bloomington to Champaign will see increases to OC48.

In parallel to the egress and backbone RFP efforts, Network Services has reinitialized an effort to identify opportunities and associated costs for a dark fiber implementation on the ICN backbone. Cost estimates pertaining to necessary equipment, managed service, and build-out have been obtained and presented to CMS BCCS Executive Management. Executive Management has approved the staff recommendation of this dark fiber approach. Next steps include CMS BCCS Executive Management presentation to the Office of Management and Budget to request the necessary capital money to begin the project. The timeframe of this effort is TBD.