

1 AN ACT concerning technology.

2 Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,  
3 represented in the General Assembly:

4 Section 5. The Eliminate the Digital Divide Law is  
5 amended by adding Sections 5-50, 5-55, 5-60, 5-65, and 5-70  
6 as follows:

7 (30 ILCS 780/5-50 new)

8 Sec. 5-50. Community Technology Network Grants.

9 (a) Subject to appropriation, the Department must  
10 administer a special program of Community Technology Network  
11 Grants in coordination with the Community Technology Center  
12 Grant Program. The purpose of the grants is to provide  
13 business planning tools, sustainability planning assistance,  
14 and outcome tracking tools and services for community  
15 technology centers and initiatives. The focus of the program  
16 shall be on the integration of centers and initiatives into  
17 community area-wide networks of nonprofit organizations;  
18 public agencies; education, library, and cultural  
19 institutions; and businesses and chambers of commerce.  
20 Grants must be made to applicants that currently have  
21 broad-based community networks serving multiple communities  
22 in need, and that will provide community improvement,  
23 community mapping, technology skill development, technology  
24 staff and volunteer development, educational content, health  
25 and public safety or other network support. The total amount  
26 of grants awarded in fiscal year 2004 may not exceed  
27 \$1,500,000. An applicant for a grant under this subsection  
28 may also apply for a grant under the Community Technology  
29 Center Grant Program.

30 (b) Subject to appropriation, the Department may expend  
31 not more than \$2,500,000 in fiscal year 2004 to establish and

1 support a Statewide Community Technology Center Network to  
2 (i) assist in local and regional planning and evaluation  
3 under this Law, (ii) support coordination among community  
4 technology center initiatives, community computer recycling  
5 center network activities, community-university information  
6 extension activities, (iii) plan for public-private  
7 sustainability of community technology centers and community  
8 information networks, and (iv) match or coordinate funding  
9 support for statewide activities to improve the capacity and  
10 productivity of community technology centers, initiatives,  
11 and networks.

12 (30 ILCS 780/5-55 new)

13 Sec. 5-55. Community Computer Recycling Network Grant  
14 Program.

15 (a) Subject to appropriation, the Department must  
16 administer the Community Computer Recycling Center Network  
17 Grant Program under which the Department shall make grants in  
18 accordance with this Law for the planning, establishment,  
19 administration, and expansion of community, area-wide,  
20 countywide, and multi-countywide networks of centers that  
21 undertake community computer recycling, refurbishment, earned  
22 technology, technology-based training, small technology  
23 business programs, and community and nonprofit institutional  
24 distribution programs for low-income and underserved  
25 populations. Grants shall be made to networks of centers  
26 that (i) work together to serve their areas or districts,  
27 (ii) link those programs to social services, health care,  
28 public safety, housing, and basic human resource networks  
29 that support improvement in the quality of lives of  
30 individuals, families, and the nonprofit institutions, (iii)  
31 are part of the community support networks, and (iv)  
32 coordinate activities with grantees of the Department's  
33 Illinois Recycling Grants Program. The total amount of

1 grants awarded under this Section in fiscal year 2004 may not  
2 exceed \$2,000,000. No network may receive a grant in excess  
3 of \$75,000.

4 (b) Subject to appropriation, the Department shall  
5 expend not more than \$200,000 in fiscal year 2004 to  
6 establish and support a Statewide Community Computer  
7 Recycling Network in coordination with other statewide  
8 community technology support initiatives and with a focus on  
9 the development and adoption of standardized software and  
10 hardware licensing agreements for the use of donated  
11 computers and other technology by nonprofit  
12 institution-managed programs for community recycling and  
13 earned computer programs.

14 (30 ILCS 780/5-60 new)

15 Sec. 5-60. Community-Higher Education Information  
16 Extension Program. Subject to appropriation, the Illinois  
17 Century Network, in cooperation with the Department, must:

18 (1) Establish a Community-Higher Education  
19 Information Extension Consortium that will link community  
20 and social service nonprofit organizations, including  
21 community technology centers, chambers of commerce, and  
22 economic development organizations. The Community-Higher  
23 Education Information Extension Consortium shall focus on  
24 building local human resource networks and computer  
25 technology user networks that link community, education,  
26 business, and public agencies in local communities or  
27 district areas with not fewer than 60,000 and not more  
28 than 250,000 residents. The Consortium shall also  
29 develop a special planning initiative to link the current  
30 Illinois Century Network learning institutions with  
31 community institutions that have an interest in  
32 connection to the Illinois Century Network's learner  
33 information networks. For the purposes of this

1 paragraph, "Illinois Century Network learning  
2 institution" means any schools, higher education  
3 institutions, libraries, and cultural institutions in the  
4 State included in the Illinois Century Network.

5 (2) Conduct planning and program development  
6 activities for the current Illinois Century Network  
7 community-higher education and community-learning  
8 institutions in each district and subdistrict that  
9 involve the development of local consortia of community  
10 institutions and the preparation and recommendations on  
11 cooperative activities statewide and for each district  
12 and subdistrict.

13 (30 ILCS 780/5-65 new)

14 Sec. 5-65. Technology planning. Subject to  
15 appropriation, the Department, working with the Illinois  
16 Century Network, the Governor's Office of Technology, other  
17 public agencies, and a cross-section of private community,  
18 nonprofit, and business sector parties, in person and through  
19 distance learning and on-line communications, must review  
20 developments in priorities for community technology planning  
21 and support by federal agencies, including the United States  
22 Department of Commerce, the United States Department of  
23 Education, the United States Department of Housing and Urban  
24 Development, the United States Department of Justice, the  
25 United States Department of Health and Human Services, and  
26 other federal agencies and federally-supported programs, and  
27 must prepare recommendations concerning the best use of  
28 State-funded community technology programs to provide  
29 sustainability planning in relation to federal programs.  
30 During the course of the review, at least one distance  
31 learning conference using the preliminary findings must be  
32 conducted at locations around the State in order to obtain  
33 public comments on the findings. A report and

1 recommendations must be completed no later than December 1,  
2 2003 in order to assist in planning for the State budget for  
3 fiscal year 2005.

4 (30 ILCS 780/5-70 new)

5 Sec. 5-70. Community-based technology job training.

6 (a) Subject to appropriation, the Department must,  
7 through grants, support the development and delivery of  
8 community-based technology job training initiatives to help  
9 disadvantaged job seekers and low-wage and displaced workers  
10 in Illinois with one or more of the following:

11 (1) Obtaining technology workplace literacy skills  
12 and other technology job readiness skills identified by  
13 an individual employer or by an industrial sector, and  
14 obtaining initial employment.

15 (2) Developing technology job and career management  
16 skills, as demonstrated by employer-endorsed credentials  
17 and portfolios of proven work experience, and obtaining  
18 and retaining stable employment.

19 (3) Advancing in employment through certified  
20 technology skills, necessary work experience, and career  
21 management skills that meet the needs of employers.

22 Eligible applicants for community-based technology job  
23 training grants include community-based organizations,  
24 community technology centers, and community colleges that  
25 primarily serve low-income persons and that facilitate  
26 working partnerships with employers in both technology and  
27 non-technology sectors.

28 (b) Subject to appropriation, the Department shall expend  
29 not more the \$4,000,000 in any fiscal year to make grants  
30 under this Section.

31 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon  
32 becoming law.