



94TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2005 and 2006

HB2465

Introduced 02/17/05, by Rep. Constance A. Howard - Monique D. Davis

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

New Act

Creates the Sustainable Funding for Community Technology Act. Authorizes the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity to (i) establish community collaboratives for the purpose of strategic planning for computing and telecommunications infrastructure and related community and economic development in low-income rural and urban areas and (ii) award strategic planning grants and telecommunications and computing infrastructure sustainable funding grants to those community collaboratives. Effective July 1, 2005.

LRB094 09853 MKM 40109 b

FISCAL NOTE ACT
MAY APPLY

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 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the
5 Sustainable Funding for Community Technology Act.

6 Section 5. Findings.

7 (a) The General Assembly finds that the present structure
8 of funding for community technology suffers from core
9 deficiencies. The charity-oriented approach to non-profit
10 funding has created fundamental instability in the provision of
11 critical services to low-income communities. Foundations and
12 private philanthropy are not sufficient to support long-term
13 development and operation of technological infrastructure. In
14 addition, grant funding models for non-profits grossly
15 underestimate the sustained technical assistance,
16 infrastructure development, and maintenance requirements of
17 computing and communications technology in non-profit
18 settings.

19 (b) The General Assembly further finds that low-income
20 communities would benefit from a capital development funding
21 approach that addresses regional planning and collaboration,
22 creates a sustainable capital base in each region, educates
23 traditional donors concerning community technology needs, and
24 coordinates donation of equipment and services in each region
25 and its associated service area.

26 Section 10. Definitions. As used in this Act:

27 "Collaborative" means a community collaborative
28 established under this Act.

29 "Department" means the Department of Commerce and Economic
30 Opportunity.

1 Section 15. Community collaboratives; board of directors.

2 (a) Subject to appropriation, the Department may establish
3 community collaboratives for the purpose of strategic planning
4 for computing and telecommunications infrastructure and
5 related community and economic development in low-income rural
6 and urban areas. A community collaborative established under
7 this Section shall represent a specified geographic region
8 determined by the Department by rule. No more than 20
9 non-profit agencies within that geographic region shall be
10 represented in the collaborative.

11 (b) Each community collaborative shall consist of a board
12 of directors as follows:

13 (1) one representative of a technical profession with
14 broad experience in education, technology, social policy,
15 and social program implementation;

16 (2) one representative with experience in the fields of
17 law, finance, technology, or another relevant field;

18 (3) one representative of fund-raising constituencies,
19 such as philanthropic foundations, corporate executives,
20 private donors, or other fund-raising sources;

21 (4) one representative of each member agency of the
22 collaborative; and

23 (5) one resident of the geographic area that the
24 collaborative represents.

25 The majority of the members of the board must be residents
26 of the geographic area that the collaborative represents. No
27 member of the board may vote on any funding decision that would
28 have a direct positive financial impact on that member or any
29 entity that that member represents or in which the member has
30 an interest. Members of the board shall serve without
31 compensation. The board may hire and provide compensation for a
32 resource development professional and an administrative
33 assistant.

34 Section 20. Strategic planning. The Department may award
35 each collaborative a strategic planning grant for the purpose

1 of determining the computing and telecommunications
2 infrastructure needs and related community and economic
3 development needs of the non-profit agencies and the community
4 within the geographic area that the collaborative represents.
5 Within 4 months after receipt of the strategic planning grant,
6 the collaborative shall deliver the strategic plan to the
7 Department. The total amount of strategic planning grants
8 awarded to any one collaborative under this Section shall not
9 exceed \$300,000.

10 Section 25. Telecommunications and computing
11 infrastructure sustainable funding grants.

12 (a) Upon receipt of the strategic plan of a community
13 collaborative under Section 20, the Department may award to
14 that community collaborative a sustainable funding grant to
15 endow or provide the general operating costs of
16 telecommunications and computing infrastructure and related
17 community and economic development.

18 (b) Grants awarded to endow a telecommunications and
19 computing infrastructure shall not be in an amount less than
20 \$10,000,000. Grants awarded for the general operating costs of
21 telecommunications and computing infrastructure shall not be
22 in an amount less than \$2,000,000.

23 (c) Upon receipt of a telecommunications and computing
24 infrastructure sustainable funding grant, the collaborative
25 shall distribute those funds to appropriate member agencies.

26 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect July 1,
27 2005.