

1 AN ACT concerning telecommunications.

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 amended
5 by changing Section 5-30 as follows:

6 (30 ILCS 780/5-30)

7 Sec. 5-30. Community Technology Grant Program.

8 (a) Subject to appropriation, the Department shall
9 administer the Community Technology Center Grant Program under
10 which the Department shall make grants in accordance with this
11 Article for planning, establishment, administration, and
12 expansion of Community Technology Centers and for assisting
13 public hospitals, libraries, and park districts in eliminating
14 the digital divide. The purposes of the grants shall include,
15 but not be limited to, volunteer recruitment and management,
16 training and instruction, infrastructure, and related goods
17 and services for Community Technology Centers and public
18 hospitals, libraries, and park districts. The total amount of
19 grants under this Section in fiscal year 2001 shall not exceed
20 \$2,000,000, except that this limit on grants shall not apply to
21 grants funded by appropriations from the Digital Divide
22 Elimination Fund. No Community Technology Center may receive a
23 grant of more than \$50,000 under this Section in a particular
24 fiscal year.

25 (b) Public hospitals, libraries, park districts, and State
26 educational agencies, local educational agencies, institutions
27 of higher education, and other public and private nonprofit or
28 for-profit agencies and organizations are eligible to receive
29 grants under this Program, provided that a local educational
30 agency or public or private educational agency or organization
31 must, in order to be eligible to receive grants under this
32 Program, provide computer access and educational services

1 using information technology to the public at one or more of
2 its educational buildings or facilities at least 12 hours each
3 week. A group of eligible entities is also eligible to receive
4 a grant if the group follows the procedures for group
5 applications in 34 CFR 75.127-129 of the Education Department
6 General Administrative Regulations.

7 To be eligible to apply for a grant, a Community Technology
8 Center, public hospital, library, or park district must serve a
9 community in which not less than 40% of the students are
10 eligible for a free or reduced price lunch under the national
11 school lunch program or in which not less than 30% of the
12 students are eligible for a free lunch under the national
13 school lunch program; however, if funding is insufficient to
14 approve all grant applications for a particular fiscal year,
15 the Department may impose a higher minimum percentage threshold
16 for that fiscal year. Determinations of communities and
17 determinations of the percentage of students in a community who
18 are eligible for a free or reduced price lunch under the
19 national school lunch program shall be in accordance with rules
20 adopted by the Department.

21 Any entities that have received a Community Technology
22 Center grant under the federal Community Technology Centers
23 Program are also eligible to apply for grants under this
24 Program.

25 The Department shall provide assistance to Community
26 Technology Centers in making those determinations for purposes
27 of applying for grants.

28 (c) Grant applications shall be submitted to the Department
29 not later than March 15 for the next fiscal year.

30 (d) The Department shall adopt rules setting forth the
31 required form and contents of grant applications.

32 (e) There is created the Digital Divide Elimination
33 Advisory Committee. The advisory committee shall consist of 7 ~~5~~
34 members appointed one each by the Governor, the President of
35 the Senate, the Senate Minority Leader, the Speaker of the
36 House, and the House Minority Leader, and 2 appointed by the

1 Director of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, one of whom
2 shall be a representative of the telecommunications industry
3 and one of whom shall represent community technology centers.

4 The members of the advisory committee shall receive no
5 compensation for their services as members of the advisory
6 committee but may be reimbursed for their actual expenses
7 incurred in serving on the advisory committee. The Digital
8 Divide Elimination Advisory Committee shall advise the
9 Department in establishing criteria and priorities for
10 identifying recipients of grants under this Act. The advisory
11 committee shall obtain advice from the technology industry
12 regarding current technological standards. The advisory
13 committee shall seek any available federal funding.

14 (f) There is created the Digital Divide Elimination Working
15 Group. The Working Group shall consist of the Director of
16 Commerce and Economic Opportunity, or his or her designee, the
17 Director of Central Management Services, or his or her
18 designee, and the Executive Director of the Illinois Commerce
19 Commission, or his or her designee. The Director of Commerce
20 and Economic Opportunity, or his or her designee, shall serve
21 as chair of the Working Group. The Working Group shall consult
22 with the members of the Digital Divide Elimination Advisory
23 Committee and may consult with various groups including, but
24 not limited to, telecommunications providers,
25 telecommunications-related technology producers and service
26 providers, community technology providers, community and
27 consumer organizations, businesses and business organizations,
28 and federal government agencies.

29 (g) Duties of the Digital Divide Elimination Working Group
30 include all of the following:

31 (1) Undertaking a thorough review of grant programs
32 available through the federal government, local agencies,
33 telecommunications providers, and business and charitable
34 entities for the purpose of identifying appropriate
35 sources of revenues for the Digital Divide Elimination Fund
36 and attempting to update available grants on a regular

1 basis.

2 (2) Researching and cataloging programs designed to
3 advance digital literacy and computer access that are
4 available through the federal government, local agencies,
5 telecommunications providers, and business and charitable
6 entities and attempting to update available programs on a
7 regular basis.

8 (3) Presenting the information compiled from items (1)
9 and (2) to the Department of Commerce and Economic
10 Opportunity, which shall serve as a single point of contact
11 for applying for funding for the Digital Divide Elimination
12 Fund and for distributing information to the public
13 regarding all programs designed to advance digital
14 literacy and computer access.

15 (Source: P.A. 91-704, eff. 7-1-00; 92-22, eff. 6-30-01.)

16 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
17 becoming law.