



Frequently Asked Questions

What is DATA?

DeKalb County Government's fiber optic network, DeKalb Advancement of Technology Authority (DATA) was developed to address the issue of limited broadband capacity, speed, and service in DeKalb County. DATA is a provider of extremely high speed (1Gb) network transport services to the public sector. It provides access directly to eligible public sector organizations such as schools, community colleges, libraries, healthcare facilities, municipalities, county and public safety facilities.

Through DATA's partners, DeKalb Fiber Optics, LLC, it also facilitates similar high speed network transport services to businesses and residential subscribers in the private sector.

DATA is a collaboration of representatives from Northern Illinois University, DeKalb Fiber Optics, LLC, and DeKalb County Government who came together to develop a proposal in response to the National Information and Telecommunications Agency's (NTIA) Broadband Technology Opportunity Program.

In February, 2010, DeKalb County Government was awarded a \$11.8 million NTIA BTOP grant to deploy a 130 mile network across DeKalb County as well as Big Rock in Kane County and Earlville in LaSalle County. In addition to the federal grant, nearly \$3 million in local matching funds is being provided for the nearly \$15 million project. The project will bring 10 Mbps to 10 Gbps speeds to more than 85 community anchor institutions. The network will improve broadband technology in rural education, economic opportunities and public safety.

What is the objective of the project?

The objective of the project is to bring a fiber-optic middle-mile infrastructure to DeKalb County, Illinois in order to meet the growing demands for broadband in the region.

DATA is a provider of extremely high speed (1Gb) network transport services to both the public and private sector. It provides access directly to eligible public sector organizations such as schools, community colleges, libraries, healthcare facilities, municipalities, county and public safety facilities. Through DATA's partner, DeKalb Fiber Optics, it also promotes similar high speed network transport services to businesses and residential subscribers in the private sector.

Where can I get a detailed map of the fiber path?

A fiber path map is available and is located on the "Maps" tab on this website.

How can I tell if I'm on or near the fiber path?

Please contact DATA at DATAinfo@dekalbcounty.org to find out more information on the location of the fiber path. A representative will work with the fiber network engineering team on a case by case basis to identify possible fiber connectivity points.

What if I'm not located in the service area of this project?

There are a number of similar projects outside DeKalb County project. Contact DATA at DATAinfo@dekalbcounty.org to identify which project covers your area. We will attempt to put you in contact with the correct project staff.

Who can connect to the fiber network?

This project allows 85 selected Community Anchor Institutions (CAIs) to connect to the fiber network. However, after the project's completion, connection will be open and available for other business partners and third party providers.

What is a Community Anchor Institution?

Community Anchor Institutions, or CAIs, as defined by the Federal Government, include schools, libraries, non-profit medical and healthcare providers, public safety entities, community colleges and other institutions of higher education, and other selected community support organizations.

Why isn't my municipality/school/library/etc. included on the CAI list?

Prior to grant application submission, all possible CAI's were contacted to determine their interest. The path was designed to reach those who expressed interest at that time. Budget constraints imposed by the State and Federal Governments that funded this project made it impossible to build the network to serve all possible future users.

How can this project be expanded to reach new users in the future?

There will be hundreds of access points along the network where DATA can splice the fiber and build to other entities in order to connect them.

What is the timeline for building the network?

Under terms of the grant, the project must be complete by February 1, 2013.

Who do I contact for information about connecting with fiber?

Please contact DATA at DATAinfo@dekalbcounty.org. A representative will provide consultation services, which includes connectivity information related to the fiber network.

Acronyms and Abbreviations

What do the following acronyms stand for?

ARRA: American Recovery and Reinvestment Act

BTOP: Broadband Technology Opportunity Program

DCEO: Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity

NFP: Not for Profit

NTIA: National Telecommunications and Information Administration

DATA: DeKalb Advancement of Technology Authority