

IRHN Goes Live, and Final Scheduling Update

January 26, 2012

The Illinois Rural HealthNet is now completing the scheduling of hospitals for connection to the statewide fiber backbone, with 5 locations connected, 39 signed and 10 more about to sign our Master Service Agreement (MSA).

- Hospitals need to sign the MSA now, even if the IRHN doesn't actually connect to the hospital for a year or two. What is needed NOW is the hospital's commitment.

Hospitals have to sign the MSA by May. All funds are being allocated!

Pricing:

- Locations connected via fiber, that choose 1Gbps, are charged \$1200/month.
- Locations that choose 100Mbps are charged \$1000/month or \$750/month, depending on last mile connection.
- **ISP BANDWIDTH IS \$4/MEGABIT.** (Most hospitals paying \$20/Meg to \$40/Meg now)

Schedule Capacity: Fifty hospitals will be connected to the fiber backbone within 18 months, with capacity to add additional hospitals and clinics over the following year. Please contact Alan Kraus at akraus@niu.edu and copy Doug Power at dpower@niu.edu to discuss options for your location. If you have questions, please let us know, either by email or telephone. Alan is at 815-753-8945, and Doug is at 815-753-8947.

Network Implementation Update: The backbone is constructed and the carrier class Ciena network equipment is being installed. The Network Operations Center (NOC) is up and running and monitoring the network. The NOC provides 24x7x365 network management, monitoring, and maintenance, with two NOC locations to protect network continuity.

The IRHN is a comprehensive network for hospital traffic, the Internet and Internet2, as well as connection to the commercial Internet, and fully meets the recommendations of the National Broadband Plan and the NIH for HIE, HIT, and health related data.