



## **IRHN Scheduling Update**

May, 2015

The Illinois Rural HealthNet is continuing to link hospitals and clinics to our fiber optic network, with 55 locations on line. Please see the [Map](#) for a graphic description. The IRHN offers over 3000 miles of fiber-based services.

With data speeds up to 100Mbps, and 1Gbps to many locations, files that used to take up to an hour to transmit will be sent in seconds. For hospitals that currently have a T1 circuit (1.5Mbps), a 100Mbps link will be 67 times faster, and a 1 Gbps will be 667 times faster. Health care providers will be able to meet new HIE and HIT requirements, treat more patients, consult with specialists while the patient is at the hospital, and send and receive radiological and digital imaging expeditiously, such as mammograms and C-scans.

**Pricing:** Due to FCC funding and the fact that the IRHN is a 501c3 organization, 100Mbps connections can be offered from \$750 to \$1000 per month, and 1Gbps at \$1200/month. Slower speed connections are also offered at reduced prices. There is a one-time cost for the initial connection, to meet the match requirements of the FCC's Healthcare Connect Fund. The IRHN is happy to provide estimates of the one-time cost, which vary depending on the location's distance from our statewide fiber backbone.

**Schedule Capacity:** With the new funding, the IRHN has the capacity to add potentially dozens of additional hospitals, clinics, and skilled nursing facilities over the next year. Please contact Lisa Bergeron at [lbergeron@niu.edu](mailto:lbergeron@niu.edu) to discuss options for scheduling your location. If you have questions, please relay them, either by email or telephone (815-753-0924).

**Network Implementation Update:** The fiber backbone is constructed and the Network Operations Center (NOC) is monitoring the services. The NOC provides 24x7x365 network management, with two NOC locations to protect network continuity. The IRHN contracted with INOC, an experienced, world-class company to provide this critical function.

The IRHN is a comprehensive network for hospital traffic, the Internet and Internet2, as well as connection to the commercial Internet. For roughly the cost of two T1 circuits, hospitals receive much faster service that fully meets the recommendations of the National Broadband Plan and the NIH. The IRHN looks forward to working with hospitals and clinics to improve access to health care in rural Illinois.