



## **Illinois rural hospitals could soon be linked with shared network**

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Rural hospitals across Illinois could soon see improvement in healthcare.

Today, Lieutenant Governor Pat Quinn announced a \$21 million federal grant that connects rural clinics to a shared fiber optic network.

The system allows providers to consult with specialists, monitor patients in remote locations, and transmit large medical files in seconds.

Quinn says it's a way to showcase Illinois to the country.

"It's a landmark opportunity for our state to show what we can do if we all work together as a team," Quinn said. "President Reagan once said it's amazing what human beings can accomplish when nobody worries about who gets the credit."

Rural doctors say it gives patients access to specialists in critical fields, like radiology and neurology, without traveling long distances.