



# Champaign County Broadband Task Force UPDATE

# Consultant

- ▶ **Finley Engineering**
  - ▶ Headquartered in Missouri
  - ▶ Branch office in Springfield, IL
- ▶ Contract signed on September 28, 2021
- ▶ Price - \$85,500
- ▶ Work to be completed by March 16, 2022

# Process for developing a final report

- ▶ Community surveys
  - ▶ Residents and Businesses
  - ▶ Speed tests
- ▶ Stakeholder interviews
  - ▶ Various community sectors from across the county
- ▶ Current provider discussions
- ▶ Engineering expertise
- ▶ Task Force input

# A final report includes.....

- ▶ High level design of a broadband network to provide affordable and quality access of broadband throughout Champaign County
- ▶ Cost estimates for a network
  - ▶ County wide design
  - ▶ Phases within the county wide design

# Proposed Timeline

- ▶ A draft report presented to the Task Force - March
- ▶ A recommendation from the Task Force to the County Board for approval of the report - April
- ▶ A public meeting allowing for citizen input
- ▶ Final action on the report by the County Board - May
- ▶ Implementation of report recommendations begin - June

# Implementation *MAY* include.....

- ▶ Identifying additional grant dollars from various sources
  - ▶ Connect Illinois Round 3
    - ▶ Announced in late January
    - ▶ Approximately, \$300 million available
    - ▶ Approved by the Illinois Office of Broadband on a rolling basis
- ▶ Engaging with Finley through an additional agreement
  - ▶ Piecemeal approach or turnkey
- ▶ Identifying another partner to help implement the recommendations

# QUESTIONS