**Section 548.40 Program Description**

The Connect Illinois Broadband Grant Program represents an integral and strategic component of both the comprehensive 2019 Rebuild Illinois infrastructure program and the State’s five-year economic plan to expand economic opportunity and reduce socioeconomic gaps through equity investment. The purpose of the Connect Illinois Broadband Grant Program is to make capital improvement grants to eligible entities to achieve universal broadband access for homes, businesses, and community anchor institutions. At the same time, Connect Illinois seeks progress in digital equity and inclusion while leveraging investment in new broadband infrastructure to spur advances in use and innovation for such areas as agriculture, economic development, education, and telehealth.