

Partnership for a Connected Illinois **broadbandillinois.org**

The Partnership for a Connected Illinois is seeking proposals from experienced and qualified firms or individuals to assist with the creation of a mobile application.

Proposal

Firms or individuals responding to this RFP shall submit one (1) electronic PDF copy of the proposal to tara.davlin@broadbandillinois.org. No paper proposals will be accepted and any proposal that fails to provide the required components will be rejected. Proposals must be submitted in accordance with the Submittal Requirements of this RFP no later than noon on July 20, 2012 to:

Attn: Tara Holcomb

Partnership for a Connected Illinois
531 E. Washington Avenue
Springfield, Illinois 62701
tara.davlin@broadbandillinois.org

Background

About

The Partnership for a Connected Illinois, Inc. (PCI), is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization based in Springfield, Illinois.

PCI has a three-fold mission: (a) to collect and publish broadband data, (b) to ensure broadband access throughout the State, and (c) to maximize broadband's impact and use.

The deployment and adoption of high-speed Internet services and information technology has resulted in enhanced economic development and public safety for Illinois' communities, improved healthcare and educational opportunities, and a better quality of life for the state's residents. Continued progress in the deployment and adoption of high-speed Internet services and information technology is vital to ensure that Illinois remains competitive and continues to create business and job growth.

The High-Speed Internet Services and Information Technology Act (Public Act 95-684) authorized the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) to enlist a non-profit organization to implement comprehensive, statewide high-speed Internet deployment strategy and demand creation initiative. This strategy will encourage and support the partnership of public and private sectors in the continued growth of high-speed Internet and information technology for the state's residents and businesses. The Partnership for a Connected Illinois is the designated entity by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) under the State Broadband Data and Development grant program.



The goals of the Illinois high-speed Internet deployment strategy include:

- Ensuring that Illinois residents and businesses have access to affordable and reliable high-speed internet service;
- Improving technology literacy, computer ownership, and high-speed internet use among residents and businesses;
- Establishing local technology planning teams to plan for improved technology use;
- Establishing and sustaining an environment that facilitates high-speed Internet access and technology investment.
- Achieving the goals of this initiative will require a determined effort between the public and private stakeholders with the Partnership for a Connected Illinois, Inc., as the coordinating entity. The lead public stakeholders in the initiative include the Governor's Office, DCEO, and the Illinois Broadband Deployment Council.

PARTNERSHIP FOR A CONNECTED ILLINOIS seeks professional help from qualified individuals (or) firms with strategic, technical and analytical skills to design and develop an easy-to-use, high performing, and scalable cross-platform mobile application allowing users to locate public institutions and private businesses with wireless hotspot locations open to the public in Illinois, as well as detailed information about each location.

Qualifications of the developer

- The developer should possess hands-on experience in developing mobile applications that are cross platform compatible.
- The developer must have experience in native application development using iOS SDK and Android SDK.
- Experience developing application using Sencha's JS Touch or Appcelerator's Titanium mobile web framework is preferred.
- The developer should have experience with large data sets and various data formats (JSON, JSONP, XML), and web services API's
- SQLite or similar database implementation experience is preferable.

Services

Wireless Hotspot Location Application:

The solution should be an easy, intuitive and reliable source of information with the following features focused on locating wireless hotspot locations in Illinois. The PARTNERSHIP FOR A CONNECTED ILLINOIS will provide the developer all data via .csv.



The application should contain the following features:

- Location based result-set of wireless hotspots that can be found via zip code or mobile device's GPS
- View all database fields in "DATABASE" section below
- Filter results by category or provider type
- Work both online and offline
- A form to submit, suggest, or verify a hotspot
- Ability to "Comment", "Like", "Send", and "Export to social media outlets"
- Ability to allow user to get directions and navigate to location
- Ability for PCI employees to publish and update data via web interface
- Application should support both horizontal and vertical orientation

Database:

The application will have to possess some implementation of SQLite (or similar light-weight file system based database) and/or local cache store management solution to host data that are proprietary to PARTNERSHIP FOR A CONNECTED ILLINOIS.

The application should have a built-in support to profile and track usability patterns and statistics. The goal is to track the location where the application is being downloaded – this way PARTNERSHIP FOR A CONNECTED ILLINOIS can monitor the pattern and sketch a plan to proactively identify where the greatest needs exist for high speed connectivity, and help community members of that area to gain access to better broadband. (Example: Google analytics)

The following fields needs stored and made available in the mobile application:

- Business Name
- Business Address
- Latitude/Longitude
- Contact Information
- Hours of Operation
- Access Free/Paid?
- Access secure/insecure?
- Type of location (Ex. hotel, restaurant, spa...)
- Notes

The Following data needs tracked:

- Location downloads by zip code
- Device type, make and manufacturer
- Statistics on usage patterns (what resources are being accessed and how often?)

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Samples

Below you will find examples of Similar Applications to the one PCI wishes to develop: (Note, many of the below applications search “Hotspots Near Me”. This is a feature that could be removed if it causes the cost of development to increase significantly.)

- <http://www.jiwire.com/iphone>
- <http://gigaom.com/mobile/wifi-finder-app-boingo/>
- Website will similar information to desired application:
http://www.openwifispots.com/city_free_wifi_wireless_hotspot-Addison_IL.aspx#41.90537,-87.99664,14

Compatibility

The solution should be cross platform compatible; that is, it should be functional on Android, iOS, and their respective tablets.

Since there is a small population that does not own a smart phone/tablet or have uninterrupted broadband access, PARTNERSHIP FOR A CONNECTED ILLINOIS needs to implement a solution that is also functional in modern web browsers that are enabled with WebKit and WebGL capabilities along with HTML5 support (Chrome, Safari, etc.). The application should be fast, intuitive, easy to navigate, easy to fetch and possess skins that are theme-able (CSS3 and SAAS features embedded).

Training and Open Source Design

PARTNERSHIP FOR A CONNECTED ILLINOIS wishes for minor edits to the application be made with in-house resources and needs access to the source code so internal staff may make these minor edits and updates in the future. The developing organization will need to spend time with PCI’s in-house programmers to familiarize them with the back-end of the application and database structure.

Integration and Promotion

PARTNERSHIP FOR A CONNECTED ILLINOIS would also require a link within their website that redirects to respective mobile application stores to advertise and self-market the developed mobile application. The goal is to provide easy access for community members to educate about the application to eventually motivate them towards installing it on their smart phones/tablets.

Technical Questions

All technical questions regarding the Request for Proposal (RFP) shall be directed by email no later than noon on July 13, 2012 to:

Name: Tara Holcomb, Information Architect
Email: tara.davlin@broadbandillinois.org

Technical questions must reference this RFP and include the firm’s and consultants’ name, company, email address, and contact information.



Evaluation Criteria

1) Proposal review

Proposals will be evaluated on the basis of best “fit” with the PARTNERSHIP FOR A CONNECTED ILLINOIS’ requirements based on:

- Services offered
- Price
- Experience in relevant technologies and clients they have worked with
- Timeline and estimates
- Deliverable quality
- The proposed methodology and alignment with PARTNERSHIP FOR A CONNECTED ILLINOIS’s mission and product requirements

2) Interview

The top candidates may be interviewed to determine the best “fit” that meets the PARTNERSHIP FOR A CONNECTED ILLINOIS’s needs. If pursued, the interviews will be conducted at a location mutually agreeable for both parties.

Phone: 217-886-4037