



## Background

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) provides quarterly statutory reports to Congress on the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP). This report covers activities from January 1 to March 31, 2018. Previous reports are available on our website at [www2.ntia.doc.gov](http://www2.ntia.doc.gov).

## Program Progress

In 2010, NTIA invested \$4 billion in 233 BTOP projects. As of March 31, 2018, only two BTOP infrastructure projects remained in active status: Los Angeles Regional Interoperable Communications System Authority (LA-RICS) and the Executive Office of the State of Mississippi (Mississippi). All remaining projects completed their project activities.

## Monitoring and Grants Administration

NTIA continues to protect taxpayer investments by proactively engaging with these grant recipients to monitor project activities and grant compliance. Each quarter, the active BTOP recipients also report their financial and project performance. NTIA analyzes these reports closely to monitor progress and compliance. NTIA continues to work with NOAA on the Commerce OIG's report recommendations for LA-RICS and West Virginia.

## LA-RICS Update

◆ **Equipment Installation** – In the first quarter of 2018, LA-RICS and its contractors completed the integration of the remaining nine (9) cell-on-wheels to increase the capacity and coverage of the LTE network. The project had nearly 1,500 vehicular routers active on the network supporting first responder communications by March 30, 2018.

◆ **Network Operations and Testing** – LA-RICS is finalizing activities associated with the launch of its primary network operations center (NOC). The NOC should be operational by June 30, 2018. The project team also performed additional drive testing throughout the entire network in an effort to further optimize the system.

◆ **Looking Forward** – LA-RICS submitted a proposal to expand the existing network, which NTIA is reviewing, and continues to refine the plan collaboratively with both FirstNet and AT&T.

## Mississippi Update

◆ **Procurement** – The University of Mississippi Medical Center Request for Proposal (RFP) for its telemedicine system received only a few responses, all of which exceeded the planned budget of the objective. As a result, the Mississippi cancelled the RFP and plans to amend and re-release it during the 2nd quarter of 2018.

◆ **Planning** – As noted in the last report, Mississippi conducted a preliminary site investigation as part of its Environmental Assessment procedures for the public-safety communications center. Based on review and agency feedback, Mississippi revised the report to include professional monitoring for historic preservation matters. Mississippi plans to submit the final version of the report to the appropriate state agencies early in the 2nd quarter of 2018.

◆ **Equipment Installations** – Mississippi received the final shipments of microwave equipment from its primary vendor and continued to send the equipment to the field for installation. The primary vendor has also completed the installation of all cabling and antennas at the new microwave sites.



### Broadband Economic Impacts

Find out about the economic and social impacts of the \$4 billion BTOP program: BTOP Economic and Social Impact Study <http://go.usa.gov/3fTb4>.



### How can NTIA help now?

NTIA's BroadbandUSA program promotes innovation and economic growth by supporting efforts to expand broadband connectivity and meaningful use for all Americans. BroadbandUSA works with stakeholders from local and state government, federal agencies, non-profits and industry to:

- ◆ **Educate:** Arm stakeholders and broadband leaders with **solution-neutral guides and tools** that help them make the right decisions for their broadband initiatives.
- ◆ **Convene:** Lead regional workshops and events to **advance the conversation** and **share lessons learned** regarding broadband connectivity and digital inclusion.
- ◆ **Assist:** Provide **technical assistance** to communities and partners seeking **neutral advice** and support for their broadband projects.



### Contact Information

Please contact Aimee Meacham at [ameacham@ntia.doc.gov](mailto:ameacham@ntia.doc.gov) if you would like us to help someone in your state with technical assistance or discuss other ways BroadbandUSA can help.



### Next Report

The next quarterly report to Congress will cover April 1, 2018, to June 30, 2018.



### Drawdowns

BTOP projects have drawn down roughly **98 percent** of award dollars, totaling **\$3.719 billion**.



### Connection

The overall number of American households with a broadband Internet subscription jumped from 76.7% in 2015 to **81.4%** in 2016. [U.S. Census, American FactFinder](http://www.census.gov/factsheets/americanfactfinder)



### Digital Economy

From 2006 to 2016, the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) estimates that the **digital economy grew at an average annual rate of 5.6%**, outpacing the growth of the overall economy of 1.5%. [Defining and Measuring the Digital Economy, 2018](http://www.bea.gov/digital-economy)

