



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 April 1 to June 30, 2018. Previous reports are available on our website at www2.ntia.doc.gov.

Program Progress

In 2010, NTIA invested \$4 billion in 233 BTOP projects. As of June 30, 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 on the Commerce OIG's report recommendations for LA-RICS and West Virginia.

LA-RICS Update

◆ **Equipment Installation** – LA-RICS made additional progress towards completing the equipment installations at its primary network operations center, which is awaiting final power upgrades and connectivity from servers to the individual workstations. As of the end of this quarter, LA-RICS installed a total of 1,819 vehicular

routers with 1,658 actively supporting first responder communications on the network.

- ◆ **Network Operations and Testing** – To improve network performance, LA-RICS performed detailed network drive testing to support overall network optimization, including the cell-on-wheels. These drive tests allowed the team to confirm potential problem areas and to determine current coverage areas.
- ◆ **Looking forward** – NTIA approved LA-RICS request to construct up to 26 additional fixed sites to support FirstNet and its partner's, AT&T, efforts in southern California.

Mississippi Update

- ◆ **Procurement** – The University of Mississippi released a revised Request for Proposal for its telemedicine system. The University convened a project team with end users and IT Project specialists to review the one qualified vendor's submission. The University has scheduled a vendor presentation for next quarter.
- ◆ **Planning** – Mississippi submitted the final version of the Environmental Assessment report to the State's Historic Preservation Office, the Mississippi Department of Archives and History (MDAH). MDAH reviewed and provided clearance in June 2018.
- ◆ **Equipment Installations** – Mississippi completed the verification of wireless equipment deliveries to the individual tower sites, along with the installation of cabling and antennas at all of the affected sites. Mississippi expects to complete all work associated with the expansion of the wireless network by the end of 2018.



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 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 July 1, 2018, to September 31, 2018.



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



Civic Leadership
73% of local government leaders say libraries play an important or highly important role in providing access to high-speed Internet service ([Local Libraries Advancing Community Goals, 2016](#))



Business Development
Entrepreneurs make 2.8 million monthly public library visits to support their small businesses, using services such as online market research, 3D printing and business planning support. ([How Libraries Stack Up: 2010](#))

