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 – June 30, 2020. Previous reports are available online at www2.ntia.doc.gov.

Program Progress

In 2010, NTIA invested $4 billion in 233 BTOP projects. As of June 30, 2020, 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.

LA-RICS Update

✦ **Network operations** – AT&T, FirstNet's partner, fully transitioned 58 Long-Term Evolution (LTE) sites into the Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network (NPSBN). This transfer represents 77 percent of the 75 LTE sites constructed during the first phase of the project. LA-RICS expects AT&T to incorporate the remainder of the first phase LTE sites into the NPSBN by the end of calendar year 2020.

✦ **Planning** – With the period of performance of LA-RICS's BTOP award set to end on June 30, 2020, LA-RICS requested and was granted a one-week extension until July 7, 2020, to finish construction of 20 LTE sites for its phase two project plan. LA-RICS also requested and received a further extension of its award period until July 31, 2020, to allow it to complete all site access, permitting, and zoning approvals required to initiate construction on the remaining six LTE sites. LA-RICS also received approval to use BTOP grant funds to acquire the components needed to construct these remaining sites. The actual construction of the final sites will be completed after the expiration of the BTOP award using outside funds. These extensions were limited to reflect the timing and funding constraints associated with the September 30, 2020, cancellation by law of the BTOP account.

✦ **Construction** – LA-RICS reported that it completed construction on sites 1-14 by June 30, 2020 and expects to complete construction on sites 15-20 by July 7, 2020, the end of its period of performance for constructing the 20 LTE sites.

✦ **Deployables (Cells on Light Trucks)** – LA-RICS reported taking delivery of the two Cells on Light Trucks (COLTs) that it procured under contract with AT&T. The COLTS are designed and equipped to operate on FirstNet's NPSBN in support of first responders in LA County.

Mississippi Update

✦ **Construction** – The University of Mississippi Medical Center (UMMC) completed construction of the Public Safety Communications Center in Jackson and successfully transitioned its operations to the new facility in April 2020.

✦ **Equipment Installations and Testing** – The State's Wireless Commission completed equipment installations and final testing for its microwave upgrades initiative, which totaled 389 wireless miles. The UMMC team received, installed, and successfully tested all components of it Medical Tele-Assist System (MTAS).

✦ **Closeout** – The State completed all project activities by the end of the period of performance of its BTOP award on June 30, 2020 and entered the closeout phase of its award.

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 BroadbandUSA at broadbandusa@ntia.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 – September 30, 2020.

Internet Usage
NTIA's latest Internet Use Survey reports nearly **4 out of 5 Americans using the Internet** by November 2019 (NTIA's Internet Use Survey, 2020)

Economic Development
A recent economic study found that every dollar invested in broadband **returns nearly $4 to the economy.** (Purdue Center for Regional Development, 2018)

Education
Low-income subscribers to discounted broadband service reported that **71% of their children use the Internet for homework**, compared to 51% of non-subscribers. (Technology Policy Institute Reaching the Unconnected, 2019)