



## 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 July 1 – September 30, 2019. Previous reports are available online at [www2.ntia.doc.gov](http://www2.ntia.doc.gov).

## Program Progress

In 2010, NTIA invested \$4 billion in 233 BTOP projects. As of September 30, 2019, 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 private partner, fully transitioned 40 Long-Term Evolution (LTE) sites into its network for inclusion in the National Public Safety Broadband Network (NPSBN). This transfer represents more than 50 percent of the 75 LTE sites constructed during the initial phase of the project. LA-RICS expects that AT&T’s transition efforts will extend into the first quarter of 2020 when the remainder of the sites may be incorporated into the NPSBN.

- ◆ **Planning** – LA-RICS submitted the final versions of the biological and cultural assessments for an additional 8 sites for inclusion in the NPSBN. The majority of the remaining sites are proposed to be within the Angeles National Forest located in the northern areas of Los Angeles County.
- ◆ **Construction** – Due to delays in the zoning and permitting process, LA-RICS did not start construction on the initial 15 sites approved in the 2nd quarter of 2019, but will begin buildout activities in early 2020.
- ◆ **Procurements** – LA-RICS received bids from several prospective vendors for the vehicles and generic components associated with the approved objective of 3 Cells on Light Trucks (CoLTs).

## Mississippi Update

- ◆ **Construction** – The University of Mississippi Medical Center (UMMC) continued with building the Public Safety Communications Center located in Jackson, Miss. This included completing the structural, steel frame for the building, installation of steel decking for the roof, exterior walls and utility work within the structure.
- ◆ **Procurement** – The UMMC project team continued procurement for the communications equipment and furnishings for the Public Safety Communications Center.
- ◆ **Equipment installations** – Approximately 370 new wireless miles have been installed. The Mississippi Wireless Commission (WCC) continues testing and troubleshooting with its primary vendor prior to issuing the final customer acceptance for the work.



### 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](mailto: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 October 1 – December 31, 2019.



### Economic Development

A recent economic study found that every dollar invested in broadband **returns nearly \$4 to the economy.**

[\(Purdue Center for Regional Development, 2018\)](#)



### Telemedicine

Expanded access to broadband will allow households in rural Indiana to **reduce health care costs** through telemedicine, in the range of **\$2.97 to \$4.09 saved for every \$1 spent.**

[\(Estimation of the Net Benefits of Indiana Statewide Adoption of Rural Broadband, 2018\)](#)



### Connection

In 2017, **14 percent of the U.S. population between ages 6 and 17** lived in homes with no Internet service, down from 19 percent in 2015. [\(CPS Computer and Internet Use Supplement, 2017\)](#)

