

To: Department of Commerce
National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA)

From: Executive Office, State of Mississippi

Subject: Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) Extension Request,
Mississippi Education, Safety and Health Network (Award ID:
NT10BIX5570094) for Award Period August 01, 2010 - September 30, 2013

Date: August 26, 2013

To Whom It May Concern:

The Executive Office of the State of Mississippi requests a period of performance extension until December 31, 2013 to continue the successful implementation of our Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) award. This request includes this project's extension rationale and provides supporting documentation as attachments to the Award Action Request (AAR).

- 1) **Reason(s) for Extension Request:** The Executive Office of the State of Mississippi has experienced circumstances that have caused the need for an extension beyond the original project end date. The narrative below provides an explanation of how the project-specific circumstances resulted in the need for a period of performance extension; our proposed plan for addressing any outstanding issues; and the project benefits that will be delivered during the extension period.

The Executive Office of the State of Mississippi (State) received a partial suspension from NTIA on May 11, 2012, for all LTE-related expenditures. NTIA partially suspended these BTOP grant funds due to certain provisions of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act (Act) enacted in 2012, which created the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet). The Act granted FirstNet the 700 MHz public safety spectrum, originally intended to be leased to the State directly, necessary to operate the State's BTOP funded network.

On February 12, 2013, The First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) passed a resolution to allow the board ninety (90) days to negotiate spectrum lease agreements with the BTOP Grantees for access to the 700 MHz public safety spectrum necessary to operate the State's BTOP network. FirstNet extended the negotiation period an additional ninety (90) days which will expire on September 30, 2013.

The State is seeking an extension to allow them to finalize negotiations with FirstNet and/or have an approved modified project plan that does not require FirstNet spectrum. The extension request is to allow the State to extend the BTOP period of performance until December 31, 2013. This will provide the State with the necessary time to finalize negotiations with FirstNet and take the appropriate steps with NTIA to request that the partial suspension be lifted or proceed with an approved modified project plan.

The Executive Office of the State of Mississippi understands that it must continue to comply with all statutory and programmatic requirements and that this is a no-cost period of performance extension request only (i.e., no additional BTOP funding will be provided under this extension request).

Sincerely,



Theresa Abadie
Grants Comptroller
Office of Governor Phil Bryant

Recipients have worked with their Federal Program Officer (FPO) prior to submitting the extension request. Upon submission of the extension request and supporting documentation as an AAR, the FPO shall forward the same to the Grants Office. The Grants Office shall review the request and communicates the decision to the recipient.