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 to September 30, 2017. 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 September 30, 2017, 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.

The Department of Commerce Office of Inspector General (OIG) has released a new audit report this quarter, Strengthening Grant Administration and Financial Controls Will Improve Management of the LA-RICS BTOP Grant (October 16, 2017). NTIA is working with LA-RICS to resolve the audit findings.

The OIG also released a copy of an investigative report in June, Investigative Report on Alleged NTIA Opportunities Program Grant (June 15, 2017) involving the agency's award to the Executive Office of West Virginia.

LA-RICS Update

During this period, LA-RICS focused on:

◆ *Planning* –LA-RICS continues its planning efforts on the next phase of its projects, which includes interconnection to member agencies enterprise networks, testing and validation and rapid response vehicles.

◆ *Work with FirstNet & AT&T*–LA-RICS began working with FirstNet and AT&T to support FirstNet's state plans for California.

Mississippi Update

During this period, Mississippi focused on:

◆ *Procurement* – Mississippi continues to gather requirements on its telemedicine system request for proposal.

◆ *Planning* –The University of Mississippi Medical Center continues to make progress on design and environmental and historic preservation work for the new public safety communications centers. It is planning a ground breaking for Spring 2018.

◆ *Equipment Installations* – Mississippi continues to upgrade the state-wide microwave wireless system by installing new electronics and ancillary components.

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 **planning**, **funding and implementation** 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 October 1 to December 31, 2017.

Drawdowns
*BTOP projects have drawn down roughly **98 percent** of award dollars, totaling **$3.599 billion**.*

Broadband Access
10% of all Americans (34 million people) and **39% of rural** Americans (23 million people) lack access to broadband speeds (25Mbps/3Mbps) for fixed services. (FCC, 2016 Progress Broadband Report)

Telehealth
Telehealth offerings led to a **19% reduction in hospital admissions** across all VHA patients utilizing telehealth. (American Hospital Association, Issue Brief, Telehealth: Helping Hospitals Deliver Cost-Effective Care, Apr. 2016)