



## 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 January 1 – March 31, 2020. 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 March 31, 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 57 Long-Term Evolution (LTE) sites into the Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network (NPSBN). This transfer represents 76 percent of the 75 LTE sites constructed during the initial phase of the project. LA-RICS expects AT&T to incorporate the remainder of the LTE sites into the NPSBN by the end of the third quarter 2020.

- ◆ **Planning** – Due to underestimating costs associated with the constructing the additional LTE sites, LA-RICS requested and received approval to increase project spending by \$3.5M during the quarter.
- ◆ **Construction** – After experiencing delays with site acquisition and required zoning approvals, LA-RICS continued with the construction of 1 LTE site and awarded construction contracts for 13 of the 26 planned sites. It also released invitations to bid for the remaining 12 sites.
- ◆ **Procurements** – LA-RICS negotiated a final contract with AT&T for the necessary components to operate the Cells on Light Trucks on the NPSBN. Final designs of the 2 vehicles are in progress with the expectation of completing the objective in the following quarter.

## Mississippi Update

- ◆ **Construction** – The University of Mississippi Medical Center (UMMC) continued making progress toward completing the Public Safety Communications Center in Jackson, which was substantially complete at the end of the first quarter. The certificate of occupancy was issued on March 24, 2020.
- ◆ **Equipment installations and Planning** – Mississippi added approximately 370 new miles of wireless infrastructure to its microwave system. Mississippi’s Wireless Commission began planning for equipment and services to further expand the state-wide microwave system. The formal request to further expand the network with grants funds was approved in the first quarter of 2020, and the additional work is expected to be completed in June 2020.



### 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 April 1 – June 30, 2020.



### Internet Access

Data collection commissioned by NTIA and administered by the Census Bureau will help with the understanding of Internet adoption in 2019. ([NTIA Celebrates 25 Years of Internet Use Survey Research](#))



### 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](#))

