



## 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 30, 2019. Previous reports are available on our website 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, 2018, 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** – LA-RICS transferred previously constructed Long-Term Evolution (LTE) sites to AT&T, FirstNet’s private partner in order to integrate them into the National Public Safety Broadband Network (NPSBN). By the end of the quarter, five of the 75 LTE sites were fully integrated into the NPSBN. The remaining sites will be integrated by September 30, 2019.

◆ **Planning** – LA-RICS previously received NTIA’s approval to construct up to 26 additional LTE sites for inclusion in the NPSBN. LA-RICS focused its work this quarter on preparing and submitting its biological and cultural assessments for the initial 15 of 26 sites to NTIA for its review. In late February, the California State Historic Preservation Office and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife have concurred that the sites will produce no adverse effects. LA-RICS expects to finalize its environmental assessment for these sites during the next quarter. In the interim, LA-RICS continues to work with AT&T on the site selection for the remaining 11 sites.

## Mississippi Update

- ◆ **Procurement** – Mississippi approved the contract for its telemedicine system. This system will provide critical communications between physicians at the University of Mississippi Medical Center (UMMC), the only level-1 trauma center in the state, and first responders in the field.
- ◆ **Construction** – UMMC continued with site preparation and early construction activities for the Public Safety Communication Complex on its Jackson campus.
- ◆ **Equipment installations** – The Mississippi Wireless Commission continued its final testing of the improvements and upgrades to the state-wide, microwave system, which netted nearly 370 miles of broadband infrastructure. The Commission expects to conclude its testing next quarter.



### 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 Aimee Meacham at [ameacham@ntia.doc.gov](mailto: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 April 1 – June 30, 2019.



### Digital Economy

The digital economy accounted for **6.9 Percent of GDP in 2017**, or \$1.3 trillion, according to the Bureau of Economic Analysis.



### Entertainment

**70 percent of Internet users** watched videos online in 2017, up from 45 percent in 2013 ([Cutting the Cord: NTIA Data Show Shift to Streaming Video as Consumers Drop Pay-TV](#))



### Internet Access

**4 percent of households** cite lack of equipment as a reason for going without home Internet use in 2017, down from 21 percent in 2009. ([Unplugged: NTIA Survey Finds Some Americans Still Avoid Home Internet Use](#))

