



## 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 October 1 to December 31, 2017. 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 December 31, 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. NTIA continues to work with NOAA on the Commerce OIG's report recommendations for LA-RICS and West Virginia.

## LA-RICS Update

◆ **Equipment Installations** – As of December, LA-RICS installed more than 1,200 wireless, broadband vehicle routers and activated nearly 1,050 of the same devices on the public-safety, broadband network.

- ◆ **Network Operations and Testing**– LA-RICS recently installed technology it uses to capture vital data about both LA-RICS's network performance and use. With this technology, FirstNet can now review and analyze system data remotely. LA-RICS also supported the Los Angeles County Fire and Sheriff Departments at the West Hollywood Halloween Carnival. LA-RICS reported that the network performed successfully during the event, especially given the demand and the crowd size.
- ◆ **FirstNet** –The state of California formally opted into FirstNet on December 28. LA-RICS is now coordinating its public safety project with the development of FirstNet's National Public Safety Broadband Network and its contractor, AT&T, in order to ensure complete interoperability.

## Mississippi Update

- ◆ **Procurement** – The University of Mississippi Medical Center released a Request for Proposal for its telemedicine system in December 2017. The response deadline was January 2018.
- ◆ **Planning** – Mississippi finalized the site surveys and plan for its public-safety communications center. The site surveys will be released during the first quarter of 2018, so Mississippi can complete historic preservation work for NTIA's review prior to construction.
- ◆ **Equipment Installations** – Mississippi increased coverage by adding 19 wireless links to its existing system and improving capacity at more than 100 established sites..



**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 January 1, 2018, to March 31, 2018.



**Drawdowns**  
BTOP projects have drawn down roughly **98 percent** of award dollars, totaling **\$3.605 billion**.



**Education**  
Up to **\$600** Per Student Saved Annually Using Digital Resources  
(FCC, *Digital Textbook Playbook*, [https://transition.fcc.gov/files/DigitalTextbook\\_Playbook.pdf](https://transition.fcc.gov/files/DigitalTextbook_Playbook.pdf))



**Digital Economy**  
The Bureau of Economic Analysis estimates that the digital economy accounted for **6.5% of the 2016 GDP**  
(BEA, *Digital Economy*, <https://www.bea.gov/digital-economy>)

