

# TOP UPDATE

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Technology Opportunities Program

Connecting Americans to the World of Information

## New Assistant Secretary Awards Grants Totaling \$42.8 Million



Assistant Secretary Nancy J. Victory

The Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) welcomes Nancy J. Victory as the new Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information. Nominated by President George W. Bush in June and confirmed by the

Senate in August 2001, Ms. Victory comes to NTIA with substantial expertise in wireless, satellite, and spectrum allocation issues from her previous position as partner in the Washington, D.C., law firm of Wiley, Rein, and Fielding.

Ms. Victory recently announced the 74 new Technology Opportunities Program (TOP) grants for fiscal year 2001, which total \$42.8 million from federal funds and are matched by \$46.8 million in other sources. The projects - located in 33 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico - use a variety of technologies, including leased telephone lines, cable television facilities, and wireless services. All but a few use the Internet, and incorporate personal computers, handheld devices, and other Internet appliances. As in previous years, the awards are split almost evenly between rural and urban communities.

As the Assistant Secretary, Ms. Victory has developed a clear agenda for the agency. One of her priorities for NTIA will be issues surrounding 3rd generation wireless services (3G). Ms. Victory also plans a review of the domestic spectrum planning and management process.

Another area of focus for Assistant Secretary Victory will be promoting access to advanced information technologies. "We are very much focused on looking at ways to improve the availability of broadband services," said Victory. Promoting access to advanced network technologies is a priority of TOP. In announcing the grants, Assistant Secretary Victory said, "I look forward to working with the Technology Opportunities Program to support new, innovative uses of digital network technologies."

Many of the newly awarded TOP projects will demonstrate how information technology is becoming more central to American life. For example, the National Council of La Raza will develop a one-stop affordable housing digital network using automated underwriting software and online counseling services for prospective Latino homeowners. Grambling State University will create a rural Internet connection in local black churches so low-income African-American households in six rural Louisiana parishes can gain computer skills. And, Goodwill Industries is planning a model project involving the national headquarters and six local offices to provide virtual workforce retention services to clients in their homes. These are but a few of the new digital network application tools that TOP-funded projects will demonstrate.

In announcing the TOP projects, Assistant Secretary Victory stated, "the impact of these awards will be felt around the country." She further added that, "these grants help people own their homes, take care of their elders, retain their new jobs, raise their children, and improve their communities. In addition, these grants will help us, as a nation, learn how to apply these exciting new technologies to meet society's greatest challenges."

Visit [www.ntia.doc.gov/top](http://www.ntia.doc.gov/top), for a full listing and description of **FY2001 TOP grant awards**.

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The Technical Assistance Workshop is an opportunity to discuss TOP's fiscal year 2002 grant round, program funding priorities, and application requirements. It is a key opportunity for interested parties to understand TOP's goals and process.

Online Conference Registration ([www.nist.gov/conferences](http://www.nist.gov/conferences)) is now open! For more details, visit the TOP website, [www.ntia.doc.gov/top](http://www.ntia.doc.gov/top).

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