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, 2018. 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, 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. NTIA continues to work towards implementing the Commerce Department's Office of Inspector General recommendations for LA-RICS and West Virginia.

LA-RICS Update

✦ *Network Operations* – During the third quarter of 2018, LA-RICS began the effort to transition the existing Long-Term Evolution (LTE) system to FirstNet's private partner, AT&T, for inclusion in the National Public Safety Broadband Network (NPSBN).

✦ *Planning* – With NTIA's approval of the second phase objectives, the LA-RICS project team initiated additional planning activities. LA-RICS plans to complete 26 additional LTE sites to be integrated into the NPSBN. It also started conversations with AT&T on the processes and procedures required to operate up to three mobile cell sites on the NPSBN.

Mississippi Update

✦ *Procurement* – The University of Mississippi Medical Center (UMMC) published a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the construction of the Public Safety Communications Center in Jackson. The project team also issued a separate RFP for an ambulance simulator and awarded the contract during the quarter. The ambulance will be equipped with telemedicine equipment, so UMMC can train paramedics using actual equipment in a simulated emergency environment. Additionally, the project team selected a vendor to develop the telemedicine system based on the responses to the RFP issued in the last quarter.

✦ *Equipment Installations* – Mississippi's vendor completed the installation of antennas, electronics, and cabling to upgrade its microwave network to support public safety communications. Mississippi is planning to complete its final 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 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, 2018, to December 31, 2018.

Drawdowns
BTOP projects have drawn down **$3.719 billion for** approximately **98 percent** of the award dollars.

Connection
In 2017, **14 percent of the U.S. population between ages 6 and 17** lived in homes with no Internet service, down from 19 percent in 2015. (CPS Computer and Internet Use Supplement, 2017)

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)