

Smart States and Broadband

Last year, the National Governors Association (NGA) Center for Best Practices began discussions about a new *Smart States Initiative*. The NGA has been looking at:

- Identifying the technologies and policies driving communications-enabled innovation across cities and states;
- Exploring how states can use smart technologies improve data access and services to residents and businesses; and
- Designing a “Smart States” initiative to help states design policy and deploy these technologies.

Some best practices of “smart states” include New York’s telehealth plans, Illinois’ streetlight system and Virginia’s public safety efforts.

The New York State Health Department [announced](#) on February 20, 2018, a series of sweeping recommendations that will improve the delivery of health care in New York State, including delivering telehealth to patients at any location, including their homes. The State’s Regulatory Modernization Initiative report “[Putting Patients First \(2017\)](#)” noted that the state needed to increase access to health care in rural areas. The plan included a number of policy changes, such as allowing Medicaid reimbursement of telehealth interactions that occur “wherever a patient is located.”

In January 2018, the State of Illinois [announced](#) its intent to enter into a state master contract for Smart Street Lighting, part of Governor Rauner’s vision to transform technology in Illinois. In its press release, Illinois explained that “Smart Street Lighting is an emerging area that brings the opportunity for savings in energy and maintenance costs, as well as improved services such as air quality monitoring, traffic management, smart parking, gunshot detection and electric vehicle charging.”

[The Commonwealth of Virginia became the first state to “opt-in” to the First Responders Network \(FirstNet\) National Public Safety Broadband Network on July 10, 2017.](#) Then in January 2018, Richmond and Fairfax County became the first localities in Virginia to begin using the network. [Mission Critical Communications](#) reported that Jackie Crotts, the deputy director of technology for Richmond’s Department of Emergency Communications, noted that “Richmond police officers and Department of Emergency Communications executive team members are testing FirstNet during daily operations with phone and mobile data devices.”

Broadband News and Updates

Federal News

- [Congressional Spending Bill Allocates \\$600 Million in New Rural Broadband Funding](#)
- [Secretary Perdue Applauds President Trump’s Selection of USDA’s Rural Utilities Service Administrator](#)
- [Electing Doreen Bogdan-Martin Would Be a Historic Step Forward for the ITU](#)
- [USAID Launches The WomenConnect Challenge](#)
- [Building Digital Access -- NTIA Partners with Tennessee on Broadband Summit](#)
- [Initial Estimates Show Digital Economy Accounted for 6.5 Percent of GDP in 2016](#)
- [NTIA Launches Updated BroadbandUSA Website with Collaborative Online Portal](#)

State News

- [Cuomo: NY will spend \\$11M to provide broadband access in Cayuga County](#)
- [Governor Haslam Signed Legislation that Adds \\$10 Million in Tennessee Broadband Grants and \\$5 Million in Broadband Equipment and Construction Tax Credits per Year for Three Years](#)
- [Governor Mead Signs Legislation Adding Over \\$10 Million to Support Rural Broadband Expansion in Wyoming](#)
- [States Get Busy on Broadband](#)
- [Governor Hickenlooper Signs Two Bills Aimed at Increasing Colorado’s Broadband Infrastructure](#)
- [Grant to Improve Missouri Broadband Access Passes House](#)
- [Niagara County, NY Receives Funding](#)
- [Fort Collins Council Tweaks Election Code. Approves City Broadband Bonds](#)
- [State Broadband Office Releases Community Playbook](#)

Public Safety/FirstNet

- [FirstNet Buildout Launches Nationwide as Public Safety Core Nears Delivery](#)
- [Annual Report Outlines Year of Progress Leading to Launch of FirstNet Network](#)
- [FirstNet hackathon focuses on crisis communications apps for first responders](#)
- [NTIA Grant Program to Help States and Territories Continue Planning for FirstNet Deployment](#)

Stakeholder Resources

- [NTIA Blog: Building Digital Access -- NTIA Partners with Tennessee on Broadband Summit](#)
- [Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis \(BEA\) Report that aims to define and measure the U.S. digital economy](#)
- [Engaging Banks in Workforce Development Webinar](#)
- [Celebrate National Library Week April 8-14, 2018 with the theme, “Libraries Lead.”](#)
- [Comcast NBCUniversal LIFT Labs Accelerator, Powered by Techstars](#)

Funding

- [USDA Rural Development: Notices of Solicitation of Applications \(NOSAs\): Rural Development publishes Notices of Solicitation of Applications \(NOSAs\) or Notices of Funding Availability in the Federal Register.](#)
- [USDA Rural Utilities Service announces Community Connect Grant Program application window for FY 2018; submission deadline is May 14, 2018](#)
- [Application now being accepted for \\$2 billion rural broadband auction. Application Window Closes on March 30](#)

Other Broadband News

- [Smart Infrastructure Challenge launched for cities, regional bodies](#)
- [Purdue University Report: Research & Policy Insights: Digital Divide in the U.S. \(PDF\)](#)
- [2018 Tech Jam – Call for Action Cluster Presentations](#)
- [Register for Net Inclusion 2018](#)
- [Register for SHLB 4/25 Federal Policy Overview Webinar](#)
- [Digital Divide Index \(DDI\) looks at changes in population, prime age workers, overall jobs & establishments, and digital economy jobs & establishments between 2010-2015.](#)
- [This New Wave of Satellite Broadband Could Challenge Cable and Fiber](#)
- [The 6th annual National Infrastructure Week \(May 14-21, 2018\)](#)

BroadbandUSA Spotlight

Historically Black Colleges and Universities Explore Partnerships at Tennessee Broadband Summit

On March 20, 2018, representatives of Tennessee’s Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) attended the BroadbandUSA and Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development (TNECD) Broadband Summit, with the theme of “Creating Partnerships to Ensure Access for All.” TNECD is responsible for implementing the Tennessee Broadband Accessibility Act (TBAA), which facilitates broadband access and promotes practices that increase deployment and encourage adoption. BroadbandUSA’s Dr. Francine Alkisswani coordinated the involvement of the HBCUs with Fisk University’s Office of the President and Ms. Brittany Mosby, Director of the Tennessee Higher Education Commission’s HBCU Success.

The long-range goal of the gathering was to ensure that HBCUs understood the TBAA, which provides \$15 million in FY 2018 to support broadband deployment and other broadband initiatives, e.g., a Digital Literacy Grant Program and science, technology, engineering, arts and math (STEAM) programs. Additionally, the Summit was an opportunity to establish relations with potential partners. Some of the attendees who expressed an interest in working with Tennessee HBCUs include USDA’s Rural Development Program Specialist, Google fiber Community Impact Leaders, Nashville Public library’s Digital Inclusion Manager, and the Deputy Director in the Office of the Governor. These potential partners offered assistance with grant writing and an apprenticeship program for security and wireless networks training. The HBCU representatives agreed to a teleconference in April to plan the next steps for partnerships.

Events

NTIA Events

April 18, 2018

[BroadbandUSA Practical Broadband Conversations: How Smart States are Using Innovative Techniques to Enhance Technology Use](#) from 2:00-3:00 p.m. EDT. (See details on right.)

Events of Interest

April 15-17, 2018

[NTCA: The Rural Broadband Association Legislative & Policy Conference](#), Washington, D.C.

The ever-changing political climate makes it critical that Congress understand the needs of rural broadband providers and consumers.

April 17-19, 2018

[National Digital Inclusion Alliance \(NDIA\) Net Inclusion 2018](#), Cleveland, OH

Net Inclusion 2018 welcomes digital inclusion community practitioners, advocates, academics, Internet service providers, and policymakers to discuss policies and policy innovations impacting digital equity, sources of financial and programmatic support of digital inclusion programs, and digital inclusion best practices from across the country.

April 19, 2018

[2018 Georgia Institute of Technology Tech Institute for People and Technology \(IPaT\) Industry Innovation Day: Intelligent Health](#), Atlanta, GA.

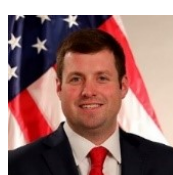
The theme of this year’s IPaT Industry Innovation Day is Intelligent Health—integrating advancements in science, technology, and design that create longer, healthier, and more fulfilling lives.

May 1-2, 2018

[APCO Public Safety Broadband Summit](#), Arlington, VA

Policy Corner

On March 14, 2018, David J. Redl, Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information, addresses the Satellite 2018 conference in Washington, D.C. He stated that “there is no doubt that the United States needs a vibrant satellite sector. He noted that “in the next few years, a new era in satellite coverage will strengthen our nation’s broadband infrastructure and power advanced services that will improve people’s lives.” He added that “In addition to existing broadband capabilities, new satellites will enable lower-latency services in the U.S., expand broadband coverage inside and outside the U.S., and add broadband capacity to the overall satellite infrastructure.” See his complete remarks on [“Affirming Our Partnership for Growth and Innovation in Space.”](#)



Webinars

BroadbandUSA Practical Broadband Conversations Webinar Series

Topic: [How Smart States are Using Innovative Techniques to Enhance Technology Use](#)

Date: Wednesday, April 18, 2018

Overview: BroadbandUSA’s Practical Conversations have showcased how cities and communities are using technology to solve local issues. Now, join us for the April webinar to find out how states are using smart technology and policy to enhance economic development and quality of life for their urban, suburban and rural communities. Representatives from three states and a moderator from the National Governors Association will provide examples of how they are changing healthcare delivery, improving disaster mitigation, controlling traffic and lighting, creating economic growth and enhancing public safety.

Speakers:

- David Ihrie, CIO Virginia Center for Innovative Technology
- Mahesh Nattanmai, Chief Digital Health Strategist, New York State Department of Health
- Essam El-Biek, Consultant, Illinois Century Network, Illinois Department of Innovation & Technology
- *Moderator:* David Forscey, Policy Analyst, Homeland Security & Public Safety Division, National Governors Association

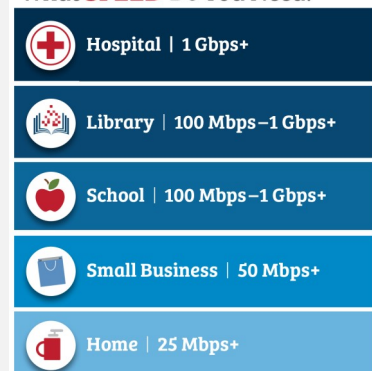
Registration link

Want to access past Practical Broadband Conversations webinars?

Visit our [Webinar Archives](#) for past presentations, transcripts and audio recordings.

BroadbandUSA Resources

What *SPEED* Do You Need?



What Speed Do You Need? (PDF)

Wondering whether your community institutions have the baseline speeds that they need for today’s capabilities?






NTIA’s BroadbandUSA program promotes innovation and economic growth by supporting efforts to expand broadband access and meaningful use across America. In this role, BroadbandUSA serves communities, industry and non-profits that want to expand broadband infrastructure and promote digital inclusion.

Contact Us

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