The Role of States in Expanding Broadband Access

NTIA Webinar Series

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Conference Line: 800-593-7190 Passcode: 984-4951#

February 19, 2020
Participants

Presenters

• Kathryn de Wit, Manager, Broadband Research Initiative, The Pew Charitable Trusts

• Deana Perry, Executive Director, Georgia Rural Broadband Program

• Crystal Ivey, Broadband Director, Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development

Moderator

• Katherine Bates, Broadband Program Specialist, NTIA, BroadbandUSA
Helpful Information

Questions
• Please type questions and comments in the question box on the right hand side of the screen. Questions will be taken after the final presenter.

Presentation
• The presentation along with a transcript and an audio recording will be available on the BroadbandUSA website within 7 days of this webinar under Events/Past Events.
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State Broadband Leaders Network (SBLN)

- NTIA coordinates the State Broadband Leaders Network (SBLN), a community of practitioners who work on state broadband initiatives.
- Participants share priorities and best practices and discuss emerging telecommunications policy issues.
- Combined 51 states and territories participate in the SBLN (up from 15 states in 2016)
- Consists of broadband directors, managers, and staff from Governors’ offices, Economic Development/Commerce Departments, CIOs office, University Extensions
- Meet virtually monthly and twice per year in person.
- NTIA compiles information on state broadband activities, including broadband programs and plans, funding, data collection and mapping and definitions of broadband.
State Broadband Programs

Pennsylvania

State broadband website(s): Pennsylvania Broadband Initiative

State broadband contact(s):
Sheri Collins [Acting Executive Director] Governor’s Office of Broadband Initiatives
info.pabroadband@pa.gov (717) 720-1396

State broadband coordinator: The Governor’s Office of Broadband Initiatives administers the Pennsylvania Broadband Investment Incentive Program, the Pennsylvania Public Utilities Commission administers the Pennsylvania Universal Service Fund and the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry, Office of Vocational Rehabilitation administers the Wireless Telecommunications Device Distribution Program.

Broadband programs: The Governor’s Office of Broadband Initiatives administers the Pennsylvania Broadband Investment Incentive Program, the Pennsylvania Public Utilities Commission administers the Pennsylvania Universal Service Fund and the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry, Office of Vocational Rehabilitation administers the Wireless Telecommunications Device Distribution Program.

Funding for broadband: Contact the Governor’s Office of Broadband Initiatives for current funding levels for the programs: info.pabroadband@pa.gov or (717) 783-1116.

State Broadband Plan: Restore Pennsylvania is Governor Wolf’s infrastructure plan, which includes a broadband initiative for the commonwealth.

Note on Methodology: State information is gathered by BroadbandUSA using publicly available sources (e.g., state websites). The information is validated by the points-of-contact at each state-level agency(ies). This information was last updated Fall 2019. The information is reviewed and updated...
How States are Expanding Broadband Access

#PewBroadband
Scope of research

- 50-state policy and program analysis
- Selection of case study states
- Field research
  - Interviews with state broadband programs, grantees, other stakeholders
5 promising practices

Promising Practices

- Stakeholder Outreach and Engagement
- Program Evaluation and Evolution
- Policy Framework
- Funding and Operations
- Planning and Capacity Building
Stakeholder Outreach & Engagement

Stakeholder engagement informs all other practices

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Policy Framework
Defining direction, identifying barriers, connecting priorities

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Planning & Capacity Building

Adopting state plans, supporting local and regional planning

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Funding & Operations

Funding broadband deployment, addressing accountability

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Program Evaluation & Evolution

Adapting, improving programs with experience and information
5 promising practices

Promising Practices

- Stakeholder Outreach and Engagement
- Program Evaluation and Evolution
- Funding and Operations
- Planning and Capacity Building
- Policy Framework
(Near) Universal truths of broadband

• Executive and legislative leadership
• “Projects are the people”
• Trusted partners and resources

A broadband summit in Maine.
Common characteristics of state broadband efforts

- Multi-faceted challenge with no one solution
- Takes time and resources
- Respect the process

Fiber being installed in Tennessee.
“What’s changed? *I’m not explaining what broadband is [or] why it’s important…What I’m out doing is telling people how to connect with our grant program, how to form partnerships, how to find other sources of funding.* That’s a big change.”

Angie Dickison
MN Office of Broadband Development
The Role of States in Expanding Broadband Access

Thank you, Kathryn!
Legislative Background

- **Legislative Session 2018**
  - SB402 created as the framework for the Georgia Broadband Deployment Initiative (GBDI)

- **Rural study committees 2017**
  - Senate Rural Georgia Study Committee was created

- **House Rural Development Council created in 2017**

- **Senate Resolution 876 in 2016**
  - Joint High-speed Broadband Communications Access for all Georgians Study Committee
Georgia Broadband Deployment Initiative: Framework

- Georgia Broadband Deployment Initiative (GBDI) Project Management and Governance
- Broadband Plan
- Broadband Grant Program Development
- Statewide Mapping
- Community Readiness Programs
  - Broadband Ready Community Designation
  - Broadband Ready Site Designation
- State Asset Analysis
- Legislation defines broadband services and broadband eligible areas.
Broadband Mapping

FCC Mapping Lacks Accuracy
- 1 location per census block = served
- Uses 2010 census location counts

Georgia Mapping Accuracy for 25/3
- For each location (5-6 million) with location details
- Using 2019 location counts
- Determine unserved locations and census blocks
- Determine investment requirement

Mapping Pilot
- 3 counties; Lumpkin, Elbert and Tift
- 7 providers; Cable, EMC, Telco and City
- Completed in March: 44,443 locations
- Statewide mapping in progress for 156 counties, 46 providers
Pilot Results

FCC Map

Elbert Co.

Tift Co.

Lumpkin Co.

Georgia Map

Unserved 25/3

Served 25/3
Location specific accuracy:
• Identify unserved locations: 25/3
• Location details: Addresses, owner, boundaries, size, location points, structures, Structure counts and unit counts.
Georgia Broadband Deployment Initiative

- Identifying unserved locations
- Understanding Investment Requirements
- Identifying Partners

Mapping

Cost Model

Identifying Partner
Providers & Communities
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Thank you, Deana!
BROADBAND INITIATIVE
Crystal Ivey, Broadband Director
TN Broadband Accessibility Act (TBAA)

**Investment** – TBAA commits to three years of grants that focus on unserved areas.

**Deregulation** – TBAA permits the state’s private, nonprofit electric cooperatives to provide broadband service.

**Education** – Through the Rural Task Force and other efforts, existing programs and resources will be evaluated and leveraged to drive broadband adoption.
- TBAA provides grant funding opportunities to the state’s local libraries to help residents improve their digital literacy skills and maximize the benefits of broadband.
Tennessee Broadband Accessibility Grant

Program details:

- Applicants: Any entity legally authorized to provide broadband in Tennessee can apply.

- Proposed Service Areas: currently lacking fixed, terrestrial 25/3 Mbps internet speed based on FCC Form 477 data or supplemental information provided by applicants.

- Technology: Technology neutral program with speed, scalability, and affordability included in the scoring.
Tennessee Broadband Accessibility Grant

Years 1 and 2

- 22 Grants Awarded
- $24,633,173 Grant Amount Awarded
- 13,630 Contracted Passings
Tennessee Broadband Accessibility Grant

Grant Applications – Round 3

- $20M in available funding
- Application period: July 22, 2019– November 20, 2019; Announce in March 2020
- $62M in requests received on 50 applications from all nine regions
- 50% increase in applications for projects in distressed counties

Evaluation Criteria
- Eligibility
- Need for grant funding
- Sustainability and implementation readiness of applicant
- Speed, scalability, and affordability
- Community and economic development impact

Scoring conducted by
- TNECD internal team consisting of the Broadband team and members from the Community and Rural Development and Research divisions
- External broadband consultant provided technical expertise
Electric Cooperatives

TENNESSEE’S ELECTRIC CO-OPS ARE INVESTING MORE THAN 1.2 BILLION DOLLARS TO EXPAND CONNECTIVITY IN RURAL AND SUBURBAN TENNESSEE

13 OF 23 CO-OPS HAVE ACTIVE BROADBAND PROJECTS
790,000 POTENTIAL LOCATIONS
$187 MILLION ALREADY INVESTED
Digital Literacy Grants


Broadband Ready Communities

54
Broadband Ready Communities
(2017 - 2019)
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Thank you, Crystal!
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Questions and Answers

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The American Broadband Initiative – 1 year update

March 18, 2020
2:00 pm ET

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https://broadbandusa.ntia.doc.gov/event
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- 202-482-2048
- broadbandusa@ntia.gov
- https://broadbandusa.ntia.doc.gov/resources

**To Request Technical Assistance (TA):**

- Broadband TA Request Form - https://broadbandusa.ntia.doc.gov/ntia-common-content/how-we-can-help

**BBUSA Resources**

- Implementing a Broadband Network Vision: A Toolkit for Local and Tribal Governments
- Community Broadband Roadmap Toolkit
- Guide to Federal Funding of Broadband Projects
- Using Partnerships to Power Smart Cities