



N A R U C  
National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners

**NOTICE VIA ELECTRONIC FILING**

*September 16, 2016*

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20554

**RE: Notice of Written Ex Parte from the State Members of the FCC's Federal State Joint Conference on Advanced Services filed:** *In the Matter of Inquiry Concerning the Deployment of Advanced Telecommunications Capability to All Americans in a Reasonable and Timely fashion, and Possible Steps to Accelerate Such Deployment Pursuant to Section 706 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, as Amended by the Broadband Data Improvement Act, GN Docket No. 16-245.*

**Secretary Dortch:**

Commissioners **Gregg C. Sayre** (NY), **Betty Ann Kane** (DC), **Catherine Sandoval** (CA), **Lynn Slaby** (OH), **Paul Kjellander** (ID), and **Elliott Elam, Jr** (SC) are the current **State Members** of the Federal Communications Commission's **Federal-State Joint Conference on Advanced Services**. The **State Members** routinely elect a State Chair to streamline State-federal communications. The current State Chair is **Commissioner Sayre**. Commissioner **Sayre** facilitated the filing of this letter.

Earlier this year, after discussions with the FCC at the February NARUC meetings, the **State Members** determined that a survey to establish the current status of State programs that promote broadband deployment might provide some useful data points for the Commission in its deliberations in the above-captioned proceeding. Under Section 706, Congress also explicitly charged both the FCC and "each State commission with regulatory jurisdiction over telecommunications services" to encourage the deployment of advanced telecommunications capability to all Americans. The **State Member's** May 2016 survey (which garnered updates from 34 states and contains information on all 50 States plus the District of Columbia) is attached.

*If you have questions about this letter, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned (or you can call Brad Ramsay at 202.898.2207 (w), 202.257.0568(c) or at [jramsay@naruc.org](mailto:jramsay@naruc.org)).*

**Respectfully Submitted on Behalf of the State Members by:**

**THE HONORABLE GREGG C. SAYRE**  
**"STATE CHAIR" OF THE STATE MEMBERS OF**  
**THE FEDERAL STATE JOINT CONFERENCE ON ADVANCED SERVICES**

cc *Stephanie Weiner, Senior Legal Advisor to the Chairman on Wireline*  
*Claude Aiken, Legal Advisor to Commissioner Clyburn on Wireline*  
*Travis Litman, Senior Legal Advisor to Commissioner Rosenworcel*  
*Nicholas Degani, Legal Advisor to Commissioner Pia on Wireline*  
*Amy Bender, Legal Advisor to Commissioner O'Reilly on Wireline*

**STATE MEMBERS OF 706 JOINT CONFERENCES  
SURVEY ON 50 STATES BROADBAND PROGRAMS  
(Completed September 2016)**

**[1] ALABAMA [Updated 08/05/16]**

**A. PROGRAMS**

**Alabama Broadband Initiative – ACTIVE:**

In May 2008, Governor Bob Riley signed [Executive Order #42](#) creating the Alabama Broadband Initiative (ALBI). This effort was launched to extend the benefits of advanced broadband technology to every community in the state through collaborative partnerships with governmental and private sector stakeholders. The scope of this project includes broadband research, mapping, deployment and adoption across all 67 counties of the state. ALBI will contract with an organization to implement a statewide deployment strategy and adoption effort to ensure ubiquitous access to reliable and affordable high-speed Internet service. The effort will also improve technology literacy, increase computer ownership and use among residents and businesses, establish local grassroots technology teams to improve technology use across multiple community sectors, and create an environment that fosters broadband access and technology investment.

**ConnectingAlabama – ACTIVE:**

[ConnectingALABAMA](#) is a statewide-initiative launched in 2008 under the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs to promote the deployment and adoption of broadband internet access across Alabama as part of the Alabama Broadband Initiative. The goal of the project is to provide mapping of where broadband service is available, as well as to work with state leaders to develop a strategy for broadband deployment in Alabama. The ConnectingALABAMA team is also working with State and Regional Broadband Action Teams to determine barriers to deployment and adoption. <http://broadbandnow.com/Alabama>

**B. RECENT LEGISLATION** N/A

**C. PUC BASED FUNDING/MECHANISM** N/A

**[2] ALASKA [Updated 05/16/16]**

**A. PROGRAMS**

**Alaska Broadband Task Force – INACTIVE**

On February 23, 2011, the [Alaska Broadband Task Force](#) was formed to develop a statewide broadband plan. The Task Force comprised of representatives from state agencies, broadband providers and suppliers, and community anchor institution and users groups. The Task Force met regularly over a two-year period, and worked to develop a comprehensive broadband plan, executed a technology summit, and awarded contracts and sub-grants to improve economic development through technology. The Alaska Broadband Plan was finalized in October, 2014: <http://www.alaska.edu/oit/bbtaskforce/docs/Statewide-Broadband-Task-Force-Report-FINAL.pdf> which developed specific recommendations for deploying high-speed broadband across Alaska. The Task Force adopted a goal of providing every household of Alaska with 100 Mbps broadband connectivity by 2020. Further recommendations covered general areas of interest as well as jobs, education and public safety. *Since completing its goals, the Alaska Broadband Task Force no longer meets regularly.*

**B. RECENT LEGISLATION** N/A

**C. PUC BASED FUNDING/MECHANISM** N/A

**[3] ARIZONA [12/2014]**

**A. PROGRAMS**

**Digital Arizona Council – ACTIVE:**

The [Digital Arizona Council](#) was created in 2011 as part of the Arizona Strategic Enterprise Technology division of the Arizona Department of Administration's [Digital Arizona Project](#). The [purpose](#) of the Council is to provide governance, advice, and balanced representation for Arizona's diverse broadband stakeholders.

**B. RECENT LEGISLATION** N/A

**C. PUC BASED FUNDING/MECHANISM** N/A

**[4] ARKANSAS [12/2014]**

**A. PROGRAMS**

**Arkansas Broadband Advisory Council – ACTIVE:**

On March 28, 2007, Governor Beebe signed [Act 604](#) into law creating the Arkansas Broadband Advisory Council (re-named the [Arkansas Broadband Council](#) by Act 947 of 2009) and encouraging the non-profit Arkansas Capital Corporation to create a non-profit [Connect Arkansas](#). While Connect Arkansas's initiatives are focused on broadband education and facilitation, the Arkansas Broadband Council advises the Governor and the General Assembly on policies related to making affordable broadband available to every Arkansas home and business. The council also monitors the broadband based development efforts of other states and nations in areas such as business, education, and health. The expiration date of the council was removed by an amendment under [2011 H.B. 1312](#). SIDE NOTE - "Arkansas State Broadband Manager's Report" (December 31, 2014), <http://stc.arkansas.gov/Documents/Reduced-Broadband%20Manager%27s%20Activities-Operations%20Report%20%28PE%2012.31.pdf>,

**B. RECENT LEGISLATION**

[S.B. 146](#) Status: March 13, 2014, Signed by governor, Chapter 298 - Provides for the Department of Education grants and aid to local school districts supplemental appropriation, provides for the Broadband Facilities Matching Grant Program.

[H.B. 1493](#) Status: April 22, 2013; [Act No. 1454](#) -Provides for the secretary of state - public notice calendar and broadband services enhancements and appropriation for the 2013-2014 fiscal year.

[S.B. 680](#) Status: April 4, 2013; [Act No. 672](#) - Makes an appropriation to the department of education for grants and personal services and operating expenses for empowering students to understand entrepreneurship and leverage broadband technologies.

[S.B. 797](#) Status: March 19, 2013; [Act No. 442](#) - Ensures continued broadband expansion in rural areas within the state; provides 911 emergency service to rural areas within the state; enhances the 911 emergency system and assists its funding; defines Interconnected VoIP service; provides for the implementation of a specified plan in certain circumstances; makes changes concerning Arkansas High Cost Fund charge levels, funding categories, intrastate Carrier Common Line charges, universal service, the phase-out of the High Cost Fund, and certain rates.

[S.B. 926](#) Status: April 12, 2013; [Act No. 1168](#) Creates a state broadband manager to promote, develop, and coordinate broadband expansion and appropriate broadband infrastructure for all areas of the state.  
(Additional broadband appropriations are included in Arkansas [H.B. 1053](#), [H.B. 1154](#), [H.B. 2232](#), [S.B. 364](#), [S.B. 614](#), [S.B. 618](#).)

**C. PUC BASED FUNDING/MECHANISM** N/A

**[5] CALIFORNIA [Updated 06/24/16]**

**A. PROGRAMS**

**California Broadband Council – ACTIVE:**

The [California Broadband Council](#) was created by [2010 SB 1462](#) ([Cal. Gov. Code § 8885](#)) to promote broadband deployment in unserved and underserved areas of the state, and broadband adoption throughout California. The council is charged with reviewing implementation of the 2008 Broadband Task Force Report recommendations and improving coordination among state agencies. The council assists applicants in becoming more competitive for federal funds made available through the National Broadband Plan, building on the \$420 million in broadband infrastructure grants from the federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) and the \$57 million in California Advanced Services Fund grants already awarded in the state.

**B. RECENT LEGISLATION**

[A.B. 2292](#) *Status:* Sept. 29, 2014, Signed by governor, Chapter 783 -Authorizes an infrastructure financing district to finance public capital facilities or projects that include broadband.

[S.B. 740](#) *Status:* Oct. 3, 2013; *Chapters by Secretary of State.* [Chapter No. 522](#) - Increases the amount the Public Utilities Commission is authorized to collect of a surcharge deposited into the State Advanced Services Fund. Requires deposits into the Broadband Infrastructure Grant Account for grants for infrastructure projects to provide broadband universal service. Provides applicants and challenging parties the opportunity to demonstrate broadband service in a project area. Provides for the Broadband Public Housing Account and last-mile broadband access to unserved areas.

[A.B. 1299](#) *Status:* Oct. 3, 2013; *Chapters by Secretary of State.* [Chapter No. 507](#) - Requires that a specified amount of additional moneys collected that are deposited into the Broadband Infrastructure Account, be used to support programs designed to increase adoption rates for broadband service for residents of publicly supported communities, and not more than a specified amount of funds in additional funds in the account be used to connect broadband networks to publicly supported communities.

**C. PUC BASED FUNDING/MECHANISM**

**California Advanced Services fund** (CASF) increased from \$3M in 2012 to \$22M in 2014. This change drove a 62% increase in the value of the broadband fund. The California Advanced Services Fund provides grants and loans for broadband deployment. The grants range from 60% of infrastructure costs for underserved areas to 70% for unserved areas. The program does not cover on-going operations and maintenance costs. The loan program was implemented in 2012. The CASF originally provided support only to certificated telecommunications companies (ILECs, CLECs, and IXCs). Senate Bill 740, enacted in 2014, expanded the program to include non-telephone corporations, including municipal utilities.

**[6] COLORADO [Updated 07/07/16]**

**A. PROGRAMS**

**Governor’s Office of Information Technology (OIT) – ACTIVE:**

State of Colorado’s broadband efforts are primary organized through the Governor’s Office of Information Technology (OIT). The State has a broadband portal that discusses all efforts at <http://broadband.co.gov> The Broadband Strategy group within OIT is currently responsible for the coordination and implementation of all efforts surrounding broadband. Included in their responsibilities are coordinating local outreach and activities, planning for the FirstNet initiative and working towards a coordinated strategy for the E-Rate program. This group also works with other state agencies (Department of Local Affairs, Office of Economic Development and International Trade, Department of Regulatory Affairs, Public Utilities Commission and Department of Transportation) and local jurisdictions to develop and implement regional plans throughout the state that are focused on identifying key gaps to local broadband issues and identifying solutions. From a financial perspective, the state has created the Broadband Deployment Board and associated Broadband Fund to provide infrastructure grants for last-mile projects in unserved areas of the state. The money for the fund comes from the state’s High Cost Support Mechanism (HCSM) from areas that have been determined to be effectively competitive and therefore not in need of traditional voice subsidies. Finally, the Department of Local affairs has been distributing infrastructure grants

to local governments for middle-mile and community anchor institutions (CAI) projects through its energy and mineral impact fund. The state has also continued and expanded the broadband mapping efforts began under the SBI program. The state has adopted the FCC's benchmark of 25 Mbps download and 3 Mbps upload as the definition of basic broadband § 40-15-102 (3.3), (3.5) and (3.7) and § 40-15-509.5. Brian Shepherd, Broadband Program Manager within OIT is the primary contact. [Brian.Shepherd@state.co.us](mailto:Brian.Shepherd@state.co.us), 303-764-7826

#### **Broadband Mapping Initiative – ACTIVE:**

Starting from the State Broadband Initiative (SBI) grants, Colorado has continued to invest and expand the efforts to map broadband service throughout the state. The current program is continuing to poll broadband providers twice a year and map the service availability throughout the state. The team is working to identify service levels at a more granular geographic level than the initial Census Block and are also working on mechanisms to verify the data provided by carriers. The map can be found at, [http://maps.co.gov/HTML5Viewer\\_2\\_5/?viewer=Map](http://maps.co.gov/HTML5Viewer_2_5/?viewer=Map). Contact: Jon Gottsegen, [Jon.Gottsegen@state.co.us](mailto:Jon.Gottsegen@state.co.us), 303-764-7712.

#### **Broadband Deployment Board – ACTIVE:**

[The Colorado Broadband Fund](#) was established through HB14-1328 and was created to implement and administer the deployment of broadband service in unserved areas of the state by awarding grants from the Broadband Fund. Money is allocated to the Broadband Fund from the High Cost Support Mechanism (HCSM) using monies originally designated for high cost support in areas subsequently deemed to be "competitive" and thus no longer requiring high cost subsidies. The Public Utilities Commission has authority over the HCSM and controls the transfer of funds to the Broadband Fund. Minimum grant requirements and award criteria can be found in the Board's [Policy for Funding Broadband Infrastructure Projects](#). The Broadband Deployment Board has made available up to \$2,400,000 for the inaugural Broadband Fund grant cycle. The grant application will be made available on the Board's website on April 20, 2016 and must be submitted no later than June 30, 2016. Contact: Jordan Beezley, [Jordan.Beezley@state.co.us](mailto:Jordan.Beezley@state.co.us), 303-894-7752

#### **Dept. of Local Affairs (DOLA) Local Planning and Infrastructure Grants Program – ACTIVE:**

[The DOLA Broadband Program](#) supports the efforts of local governments to improve Broadband service to their constituents to achieve enhanced community and economic development. The initiative, promotes inter-jurisdictional communication, supports better access to services available over Broadband, such as distance learning opportunities and telemedicine and provides planning and middle mile infrastructure grants. The program is focused on two areas, regional planning grants and middle-mile/Community Anchor Institution (CAI) grants. Do date the program has awarded approximately \$18 million. Contact: Brian Shepherd, [Brian.Shepherd@state.co.us](mailto:Brian.Shepherd@state.co.us), 303-764-7826 or Greg Winkler, [Greg.Winkler@state.co.us](mailto:Greg.Winkler@state.co.us), 970-668-6160.

#### **FirstNet Initiative – ACTIVE:**

As the designated Single Point of Contact (SPOC) for the FirstNet initiative, OIT is leading the effort to educate and coordinate Colorado's first responders and other stakeholders as it relates to the efforts to develop the Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network (NPSBN). This program focuses on interacting with FirstNet as part of the formal consultation as well as advocating for the adoption of broadband communications within public safety. Additionally, the team is focused on developing an alternative plan that will be used to compare against the state plan eventually provided by FirstNet. Contact: Brian Shepherd, [Brian.Shepherd@state.co.us](mailto:Brian.Shepherd@state.co.us), 303-764-7826.

### **B. RECENT LEGISLATION**

H.B. 1327 - Status: May 9, 2014, Signed by governor, Chapter 149 - Enacts the Broadband Deployment Act, relates to local government processing of applications for wireless service facilities, consolidation of applications and receipt of single permits for small cell networks, access to public rights-of-way for broadband providers, including cable operators, construction of facilities along public highways, taxes, fees and charges, notice of utility trenching projects, and sales and use tax exemptions for the sale or lease to a provider of property used in a network.

H.B. 1328 - Status: May 10, 2014, Signed by governor, Chapter 173 - Enacts the Connect Colorado to Enhance Economic Development, Telehealth, Education and Safety Act, concerns the deployment of broadband into unserved areas of the State through grant-making from moneys allocated from the Colorado high cost support mechanism (HCSM), provides that the HCSM reimburses telecommunication service providers for some of the cost of providing telephone services to rural areas.

C. PUC BASED FUNDING/MECHANISM N/A

**[7] CONNECTICUT [Updated 06/28/16]**

**A. PROGRAMS**

**Office of State Broadband (OSB) within the Office of Consumer Counsel (OCC) – ACTIVE:**

The OSB is charged with working to facilitate the availability of broadband access to every state citizen and to increase access to and the adoption of ultra-high-speed gigabit capable broadband networks. The OCC may work in collaboration with public and nonprofit entities and state agencies, and may provide advisory assistance to municipalities, local authorities and private corporations for the purpose of maximizing opportunities for the expansion of broadband access in the state and fostering innovative approaches to broadband in the state, including the procurement of grants for such purpose. The OSB Includes a Broadband Policy Coordinator and other staff perform its duties of the Office of State Broadband. The Office of State Broadband can be accessed through the Office of Consumer Counsel’s website at: [www.ct.gov/occ](http://www.ct.gov/occ).

**B. RECENT LEGISLATION**

In 2015, the Connecticut legislature established the OSB via legislation.

C. PUC BASED FUNDING/MECHANISM N/A

**[8] DELAWARE [Updated 07/13/16]**

**A. PROGRAMS**

**Delaware Broadband Mapping Project – ACTIVE:**

The [Delaware Broadband Mapping Project](#) was initiated in 2010 by the Department of Technology and Information. The project’s work includes data collection, the development of a statewide broadband availability map, transmission of that data to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) for the development of its national broadband map, and the long-term maintenance of this data by the state. To date, DTI, working with selected vendors, has provided NTIA with two data sets that include broadband providers and community anchor institutions (K-12 schools, universities, libraries, etc.) in Delaware. DTI has also created an interactive map for citizen use to identify broadband coverage based on citizen-entered parameters.

**B. RECENT LEGISLATION**

[H.B. 288](#) - Status: July 15, 2014, Signed by governor, Chapter 309 - Clarifies that the assessment paid into the Delaware Broadband Fund applies only to telecommunications service providers and not to all entities governed by the Public Service Commission. *HB 288 only applied to telecom companies for 3.5 years after which they have no assessment or funding requirements. It was expected that the assessments would contribute approximately \$500k per year or roughly \$2.0 million during the life of the assessment legislation through 2016.* (Delaware established a new broadband fund in 2014. The Delaware broadband fund was expected to provide up to \$2M for broadband projects in 2014.)

[H.J.R. 6](#) Status: July 31, 2013; Signed by Governor. This House Joint Resolution re-establishes a Communications Tax Review Group to study and make recommendations for a modernized, competitively neutral tax system that encourages investment in broadband networks and eliminates the disparate tax treatments of like communications providers.

C. PUC BASED FUNDING/MECHANISM N/A

**[9] FLORIDA [Updated 07/01/16]**

**A. PROGRAMS**

**Broadband Florida Initiative – ACTIVE:**

[2009 SB 2626](#) (Fla. Stat. §[364.0135](#)) authorizes the Florida Department of Management Services to apply for grants and lead broadband planning and development efforts in Florida. The Department used the funds from federal grants to establish the [Broadband Florida Initiative](#). The initiative leads collaborative efforts in broadband capacity building across local, regional, and state public and private institutions. The [Broadband Florida Initiative](#) includes a [grant development team](#) and an [E-rate program team](#). The E-rate team provides direct support to eligible community anchor institutions so that Florida can best leverage available funding opportunities. The initiative also created the now defunct [Florida Broadband Joint Work Group](#), which produced the [Florida's Broadband Strategy White Paper](#) in June 2009. The Broadband Florida Initiative also created the [Florida Broadband Mapping Project](#). The Florida Broadband Mapping project is mapping landline and wireless services using information from providers and other sources. The collected and verified broadband mapping information will support the broadband development objectives identified in Fla. Stat. §364.0135.

**B. RECENT LEGISLATION** N/A

**C. PUC BASED FUNDING/MECHANISM** N/A

**[10] GEORGIA [12/2014]**

**A. PROGRAMS**

**Georgia Broadband Mapping Program – ACTIVE:**

In 2009, the Georgia Technology Authority received a \$5.2 million grant from the US Commerce Department for the statewide [Georgia Broadband Mapping Program](#). The goal of the program is to partner with Georgia telecommunications carriers to collect broadband data on coverage and speeds across technology types to assess unserved and underserved areas. The program creates maps, analysis, and tabular data twice a year, including the [Georgia Broadband Map](#).

**B. RECENT LEGISLATION**

[H.B. 176](#) Status: April 21, 2014, Signed by governor, Act 569 - Relates to local government, changes certain provisions applicable to counties and municipal corporations related to advanced broadband.

**C. PUC BASED FUNDING/MECHANISM** N/A

**[11] HAWAII [12/2014]**

**A. PROGRAMS**

**Hawaii Broadband Initiative – ACTIVE:**

Following the sunset date of the Hawaii Broadband Task Force, an [executive memorandum](#) by the governor in August 2011 created the [Hawaii Broadband Initiative](#). The memorandum directs the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism and the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs to lead the Hawaii Broadband Initiative in providing all of Hawaii's citizens with access to ultra-high-speed gigabit broadband services at affordable prices by 2018.

**Hawaii Broadband Map Initiative – ACTIVE:**

In 2010, Hawaii's Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (DCCA) was awarded a grant to assist the state in gathering and verifying data on the availability, speed, location, and type of technology broadband services through the [Hawaii Broadband Map Initiative](#). The data collected and compiled under the initiative is used to develop the publicly available statewide [Hawaii Broadband Map](#). This activity is to be conducted on a semi-annual basis between 2010 and 2014, with the data to be presented in a clear and accessible format to the public, government, and the research community. To facilitate the Hawaii Broadband Map Initiative, DCAA has teamed with University of Hawaii's Pacific Disaster Center.

**B. RECENT LEGISLATION**

[S.B. 2981](#) - Status: June 24, 2014, Signed by governor, Act 133 - Encourages entrepreneurship within the state and promotes innovative activity that may lead to commercial opportunities and enhance the economy of the state. Provides emphasis on investment in the export of services of products or substitution of imported services or products, health care and health care information technology, and broadband and wireless communication capability and infrastructure by mainland and foreign-based companies.

[H.B. 635](#) - Status: May 6, 2013; Act 264 ORequires the state and the counties to approve, approve with modification, or disapprove all broadband-related permits within sixty business days of submitting a permit application and a fee; provides that if no action is taken on the sixty- first business day, the application will be deemed approved.

**C. PUC BASED FUNDING/MECHANISM N/A**

**[12] IDAHO [Updated 05/04/16]**

**A. PROGRAMS**

**LinkIdaho – ACTIVE:**

[LinkIDAHO](#) is a statewide project launched by the governor and funded through a federal grant. The project team is accountable to the governor’s office and the offices of the Idaho CIO and GIO. The project is designed to address Idaho’s broadband priorities and related federal data submission requirements regarding the development of a national broadband map.

**LinkIDAHO Broadband Advisory Team – ACTIVE:**

The [LinkIDAHO Broadband Advisory Team](#) (LBAT) is convened under the Idaho Rural Partnership and the LinkIDAHO project. The LBAT interacts with policy makers and informs them about broadband needs and benefits in Idaho, providing input on the statewide broadband framework. The LBAT also develops and suggests strategic partnerships and funding opportunities to improve broadband availability and use in Idaho.

**B. RECENT LEGISLATION**

S.B. No. 1333 Status: Passed; effective 3/24/16. Creates the Broadband Infrastructure Investment Grant Fund for school districts. The fund provides school districts with access (up to 10%) of the district’s project costs which then allows the district to receive additional e-rate funding and greater e-rate discounts to further lower costs. <https://legislature.idaho.gov/legislation/2016/S1333.pdf>

**C. PUC BASED FUNDING/MECHANISM N/A**

**[13] ILLINOIS [12/2014]**

**A. PROGRAMS**

**Illinois Broadband Deployment Council – ACTIVE:**

The [Illinois Broadband Deployment Council](#), established by [Executive Order No. 9](#) in 2005, exists to improve access to broadband networks for public, private and not-for-profit organizations all across the state. The council assists in Illinois broadband policy formation and serves as [an information clearinghouse](#) on broadband funding and projects in Illinois.

**B. RECENT LEGISLATION N/A**

**C. PUC BASED FUNDING/MECHANISM N/A**

**A. PROGRAMS**

**Indiana Broadband Mapping Program – INACTIVE:**

**Indiana Broadband Map displays data, as of 12/31/2014.**

**Indiana Broadband Development Program – INACTIVE:**

Lieutenant Governor's [Indiana Rural Broadband Working Group](#) issued a report Dec. 5, 2014, which lists various proposals to increase broadband deployment and adoption in rural areas; the report also includes definitions for the terms "broadband" and "rural".

**B. RECENT LEGISLATION**

[H.R. 74](#) Status: March 12, 2014, Passed House, Adopted - A house resolution recognizing the importance of all schools and libraries being equipped with high-capacity, high-speed broadband connectivity.

[S.R. 48](#) - Status: March 3, 2014, Passed Senate, Adopted - Recognizes the importance of all schools and libraries being equipped with high-capacity, high-speed broadband connectivity.

[S.R. 28](#) – Status: April 9, 2015, Passed Senate, Adopted - Urges all wireless carriers doing business within Indiana to activate the FM radio receivers in all smartphones sold by the carriers.

[HR 79](#) – Status: April 28, 2015, Passed House, Adopted – Urges the Interim Study Committee on Energy, Utilities, and Telecommunications to study the “provision of affordable broadband services in under-served areas.

[S.E.A. 492](#) - Status: May 13, 2013; Public Law No. 256-2013 -Deletes expired provisions concerning rate transition periods for telecommunications service providers; provides that a tariff filed by a telecommunications provider serves as public notice; repeals rate reduction programs and settlement agreements; provides that a communications service provider is not eligible for property tax exemptions for broadband service if the facilities or technologies are used in a location where wireline broadband service is provided; repeals the Indiana lifeline assistance program (ILAP).

[S.E.A. 560](#) -Status: May 1, 2013; Public Law No. 133-2013-Provides for the establishment by counties of infrastructure development zones in which natural gas, broadband and advanced services, and water infrastructure is exempt from property taxation; allows certain electric customers to petition for rate discounts; authorizes a utility that provides electric or gas service to petition to recover transmission, distribution, and storage improvement costs; provides for coordination of public right-of- way use for transportation infrastructure improvement projects.

[H.E.A. 1101](#) (Broadband Ready Communities) –Status: April 15, 2015; Public Law No. 18-2015 -Establishes the broadband ready communities development center (center) within the Indiana Economic Development Corporation to facilitate certain communications projects. Provides that the center may designate a unit of local govt. as a broadband ready community if the unit establishes a procedure to review applications and issue permits for the communications projects.

[H.E.A. 1318](#) (Communications Services and Energy Production) – Status: May 4, 2015; Public Law No. 145-2015 – Effective January 1, 2016, HEA 1318: (1) eliminates a requirement under existing state statutes (IC 8-1-2-5), which predated the federal interconnection requirements in Section 251 of TA-96 or related FCC rules, that a public utility engaged in the “conveyance of telephone messages” must allow other public utilities to physically interconnect with its telephone systems and toll lines. (2) adds communications service providers (CSPs) to the types of companies that must permit others to use, and must be permitted to use, conduits, poles, and other equipment “on, over, or under any street or highway”, for reasonable compensation. (These “use” obligations and rights formerly applied only to public utilities engaged in the conveyance of telephone messages and municipalities owning a utility; HEA 1318 extended both the obligations and rights to CSPs.) In the context of IC 8-1-2, the term communications service provider has the meaning set forth in IC 8-1-2.6-13, which relies on IC 8-1-32.5-4 for the actual definition of a CSP. A communications service provider is defined in IC 8-1-32.5-4 as any person or entity offering a communications service. Communications service specifically includes not just telecommunications service but also information service, video service not relying upon the public right of way, broadband service, advanced services, and IP enabled services. (3) Establishes a more uniform statewide procedure for the application and issuance or permits for construction and modification of structures and facilities for use with

wireless communications services, and declares that these provisions apply to local zoning and planning laws; (4) grants CSPs access to *public* rights of way to the same extent as public utilities, excluding rights of way controlled by certain public-private partnerships. (5) Defines the term “utility” to include communications service providers (CSPs), for purposes of state law concerning access to easements across state parks and other land under the jurisdiction of the Dept. of Natural Resources (DNR).

S.E.A. 80 (Taxation of Internet Access) – *Status: April 23, 2015; Public Law No. 44-2015* - Provides that neither the state nor a political subdivision may impose, assess, collect, or attempt to collect a tax on Internet access. References the purchase, use, or sale of communications services, including telecommunications services as defined in IC 6-2.5-1-27.5.

**C. PUC BASED FUNDING/MECHANISM N/A**

**[15] IOWA [Updated 06/28/16]**

**A. PROGRAMS**

**Iowa Communications Network – ACTIVE:**

The [Iowa Communications Network](#) (ICN) is the country's premier distance learning and state government broadband carrier network, committed to providing Iowa strong broadband solutions for the education, government, and healthcare sectors of Iowa. ICN provides high-speed flexible broadband Internet, data, video conferencing, and voice (phone) services to authorized users, under Code of Iowa, which includes: K-12 schools, higher education, hospitals and clinics, state and federal government, National Guard armories, and libraries. The Iowa Telecommunications and Technology Commission (ITTC) was established, in 1994 by statute, with the sole authority to supervise the management, development, and operation of the Iowa Communications Network. The Commission's duty is to ensure that the Network operates in an efficient and responsible manner and provides the best economic service attainable to its authorized users consistent with the state's financial capacity.

**Connect Every Acre Initiative – ACTIVE:**

On June 22, 2015, Iowa Gov. Terry E. Branstad signed the Connect Every Acre high-speed broadband bill into law. The bill, [House File 655](#), encourages the expansion of high-speed broadband internet to all corners of the state helping to foster growth for modern agriculture, increase access for rural communities and school districts and connecting small business to the global marketplace.

**Connect Every Iowan Initiative – ACTIVE:**

[Created in September 2013](#) by Gov. Terry Branstad, the goal of the [Connect Every Iowan Initiative](#) is to “to increase the access, adoption, and use of broadband technology.” Under the initiative, the STEM Advisory Council’s Broadband Committee is tasked with developing legislative recommendations to encourage broadband build-out throughout Iowa, particularly in unserved or underserved areas. The Committee is also charged with creating a long-term strategic plan for broadband in Iowa by January 1, 2015, in addition to identifying and pursuing any possible federal funding opportunities or public private partnerships. The Committee released its report [on how to improve broadband connectivity](#) in the state to the Governor’s office in November, 2013

**Connect Iowa – ACTIVE:**

[Connect Iowa](#) has been instituted as a subsidiary of Connected Nation and operates as a non-profit. Connect Iowa was recommended to Gov. Terry Branstad by the Iowa Utilities Board to work with all broadband providers to create an [Iowa Broadband Map](#) in order to accurately pinpoint remaining gaps in broadband availability in Iowa.

**B. RECENT LEGISLATION N/A**

**C. PUC BASED FUNDING/MECHANISM N/A**

**[16] KANSAS [Updated 05/04/16]**

**A. PROGRAMS**

**Connect Kansas – INACTIVE:**

[Connect Kansas](#) was commissioned by the Kansas Department of Commerce to work with all broadband providers in Kansas to create detailed maps of broadband coverage to accurately pinpoint remaining gaps in broadband availability in Kansas. Connect Kansas developed and updated broadband data as it was collected and identified the services that were available to public and private entities as well as citizens. The federal grant that funded the Connect Kansas program ended July 2015.

**B. RECENT LEGISLATION**

[H.B. 2201](#) *Status: April 17, 2013; Chapter No. 2013-110* Creates the Telecommunications Study Committee to study telecommunications issues (study committee sunset June 30, 2015), the KUSF, the federal Universal Service Fund (FUSF), the state’s public policy on telecommunications, and the possibility of establishing a Kansas Broadband Fund. Deregulates telecommunications in the state; makes changes to distributions from the state Universal Service Fund; allows the Board of Regents to charge fees for services provided by the KAN-ED program; creates the state broadband fund; relates to voice traffic.

[H.B. 2326](#) *Status: June 28, 2013; Chapter No. 2013-66* Provides that no VoIP and IP enabled services shall be subject to the jurisdiction of, regulation by, supervision of or control by any state agency or political subdivision of the state.

[Sen. Sub. for HB 2131](#): *Status: May 4, 2016*; Creates a process for the siting of wireless telecommunications infrastructure and the permit application process between wireless service providers and municipalities; amends existing law regarding rural telephone companies and the KUSF; allows price cap and rural telephone companies to increase local rates to ensure FCC funding it not reduced; amends KUSF contribution methodology requirements; and clarifies that rural telephone companies that use VoIP or IP-enabled services remain subject to KCC jurisdiction.

**C. PUC BASED FUNDING/MECHANISM N/A**

**[17] KENTUCKY [Updated 6/29/16]**

**A. PROGRAMS**

**ConnectKentucky – ACTIVE:**

[ConnectKentucky](#), Kentucky's technology-based economic development partnership, is an alliance of technology-minded businesses, government entities, and universities working together to accelerate technology in the Commonwealth. ConnectKentucky supports statewide broadband infrastructure expansion, technology planning, and public policy.

**B. RECENT LEGISLATION N/A**

**C. PUC BASED FUNDING/MECHANISM N/A**

**[18] LOUISIANA [12/2104]**

**A. PROGRAMS**

**Louisiana Broadband Advisory Council- INACTIVE:**

**B. RECENT LEGISLATION N/A**

**C. PUC BASED FUNDING/MECHANISM N/A**

**[19] MAINE [Updated 06/30/16]**

**A. PROGRAMS**

**Maine ConnectMe Authority – ACTIVE:**

The [Maine ConnectME Authority \(35 M.R.S. §9201\)](#) was created by the legislature with the goal of expanding broadband access in the most rural, unserved areas of the state that have little prospect of service from a traditional provider. The authority's purpose is to identify unserved areas of the state; develop proposals for broadband expansion projects, demonstration projects and other initiatives; and administer the process for selecting specific broadband projects and providing funding, resources, and incentives. The authority is funded by a 0.25 percent surcharge on in-state retail communications services and funds proposals through grants, direct investments, or loans made on behalf of, in partnership with, or in support of, one or more communications service providers. (Note - Broadband funding in Maine remained relatively the same between 2012 and 2014, increasing just \$51,000 to \$1,248,324 in 2014.) Funding is declining slightly due to the dependence on landline telephone service. Cellular service is exempt. Assessments received for FY 2016 are expected to be slightly less than \$1.2 million. The Authority will be issuing an RFP July 2016 to solicit bids for a mapping and data gathering contractor, similar to what was funded by BTOP funds from the NTIA.

**B. RECENT LEGISLATION**

LD 1063 (passed over Governor veto, June 30, 2015) rewrote the Policy and Duties sections of the ConnectME statute (<http://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/statutes/35-A/title35-Ach93sec0.html>). Significant changes direct the Authority to fund community planning grants for broadband projects, eliminate the broadband sustainability fee on the use of the Three Ring Binder, prepare a triennial strategic plan, and eliminates the ConnectME Advisory Council. A number of bills would have provided additional resources to the Authority through increasing the surcharge and making bonding funds available. None of those bills passed. While the Authority has more duties, there are no additional funds available.

[S.B. 301](#) Status: May 22, 2013; Became law without governor's signature. Resolve No. 28 (Resolve) Directs the ConnectME Authority to establish a working group to identify technical, legal, funding and jurisdictional challenges to the deployment of broadband conduit for fiber-optic communications and to develop solutions to facilitate deployment of broadband infrastructure; directs the authority to submit a written report of findings and recommendations to the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology and to the Joint Standing Committee; includes road and bridge construction.

**C. PUC BASED FUNDING/MECHANISM N/A**

**[20] MARYLAND [12/2014]**

**A. PROGRAMS**

**Maryland Rural Broadband Coordination Board – ACTIVE:**

The [Maryland Rural Broadband Coordination Board](#) was established in July 2006 by [S.B. 753](#). The board reviews and approves the disbursement of funds from the Rural Broadband Assistance Fund, and through cooperation with other public, private, and nonprofit entities, obtains further resources for establishing broadband communication services in rural and underserved areas in Maryland. The board consists of nine members, including the Secretary of Business and Economic Development; the Secretary of Transportation; a representative from the Department of Information Technology; the chair of the Rural Maryland Council; and the chair or designee from five regional councils. The board is staffed by the Rural Maryland Council. Authorization for the board extends through [June 30, 2020](#); however [the board ceased meeting in 2010](#). The board issued a [final report](#) in August 2010.

**B. RECENT LEGISLATION**

[H.B. 1388](#) Status: April 14, 2014, Signed by governor, Chapter 209 - Requires the State Department of Education to report to the General Assembly on matters relating to broadband capabilities in local school systems on or before a specified date.

[S.B. 988](#) Status: April 14, 2014, Signed by governor, Chapter 208 - Requires the State Department of Education to report to

the General Assembly on specified matters relating to broadband capabilities in local school systems on or before a specified date.

**C. PUC BASED FUNDING/MECHANISM N/A**

**[21] MASSACHUSETTS [Updated 08/30/16]**

**A. PROGRAMS**

**Massachusetts Broadband Institute – ACTIVE:**

[2008 H.B. 4864 \(ALM GL ch. 40J, § 6B\)](#) established the [Massachusetts Broadband Institute](#) (MBI) as a new division within the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative. The act gave the MBI the authority to invest up to \$40 million of state bond funds in necessary and long-lived infrastructure assets, such as conduits, fiber-optic cable and wireless towers. The MBI now continues its mission to expand affordable high-speed Internet or broadband access across the Commonwealth, which recognizes that broadband is critical to strengthening our economy, improving educational opportunities and enhancing the delivery of health care, public safety and other government services. The MBI works closely with municipalities, broadband service providers and other key stakeholders to create new economic opportunities and bridge the digital divide in Massachusetts. The MBI currently manages two programs to help encourage and teach non-users from across the Commonwealth how to use the Internet effectively and help them cross the digital divide: (i) [Mass VetsAdvisor Project](#) & (ii) [Small Business Technical Assistance Program](#). The MBI is also focused on building the physical infrastructure that makes it possible to deliver broadband services. The MBI's investments center around the [MassBroadband 123](#) network recently deployed in the western and central regions of the Commonwealth, but also includes support for communities, organizations and providers statewide.

The MBI also provides grants and technical support and continues to build collaborations designed to leverage the deployment of new [Last Mile](#) networks and improve broadband access in Massachusetts.

**Digital Connections Initiative – ACTIVE:**

The [Digital Connections Initiative](#) provides tools, assistance, and funding to bridge the digital divide that exists in some schools across the Commonwealth and strengthen twenty-first century teaching and learning. The initiative is a partnership between the Office of Digital Learning (ODL) within the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (ESE), the Massachusetts Department of Information Technology (MassIT), and the nonprofit EducationSuperHighway (ESH).

**Commonwealth Public Safety Broadband Office (PSBO) – ACTIVE:**

The Executive Office of Public Safety and Security established the [Public Safety Broadband Office](#) to coordinate Commonwealth activities with the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet). Congress established FirstNet in 2012 to provide emergency responders with a nationwide, high-speed, wireless network dedicated to public safety. This National Public Safety Broadband Network (NPSBN) will provide prioritized data communications to first responders during emergencies and reliable, secure access every day. A primary responsibility of the PSBO is to conduct outreach throughout the Commonwealth to inform public safety entities and personnel about the NPSBN, as well as collect information to improve how the network will be deployed in Massachusetts. Since January 2014, the PSBO has conducted 5 regional information sessions, 2 advisory council meetings, and numerous stakeholder group presentations.

**B. RECENT LEGISLATION**

[H.B. 4355](#) Status: Aug. 6, 2014, Signed by governor, Chapter 257 -Provides for a program of capital information technology improvements to various state institutions and properties and to fund the State Broadband Institute.

[S.B. 2184](#) Status: July 30, 2014, Signed by governor, Chapter 198 -Relates to the Relates to the Massachusetts Broadband Institute; provides that the corporation shall leverage private sector and federal investment by financing the construction and acquisition of broadband infrastructure to promote the development and promotion of broadband usage and to expand public benefits, particularly among vulnerable or disadvantaged populations that underutilize broadband technologies; provides for grants

**C. PUC BASED FUNDING/MECHANISM N/A**

There is no PUC-based funding mechanism or state Universal Service Fund.

**[22] MICHIGAN [Updated 08/09/16]**

**A. PROGRAMS**

**ConnectMichigan – ACTIVE:**

[Connect Michigan](#) is a subsidiary of Connected Nation and operates as a non-profit in Michigan. Connect Michigan partnered with the Michigan Public Service Commission to engage in a comprehensive broadband planning and technology initiative as part of the national effort to map and expand broadband. The program began by gathering provider data to form statewide broadband maps and performing statewide business and residential technology assessments, but has since progressed to working with localities on community plans through the Michigan Collaborative Broadband Committee.

**B. RECENT LEGISLATION N/A**

**C. PUC BASED FUNDING/MECHANISM NONE.**

The current program funding source ends Sept. 30, 2016; without a new funding source the program is in jeopardy.

**[23] MINNESOTA [Updated 07/13/16]**

**A. PROGRAMS**

**Minnesota Office of Broadband Development (OBD) at the MN Dept. of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) – ACTIVE:**

The Office of Broadband Development at DEED was created by statute in June 2013. By statute, the purpose of the OBD “is to encourage, foster, develop, and improve broadband within the state in order to: (1) drive job creation, promote innovation, and expand markets for Minnesota businesses; (2) serve the ongoing and growing needs of Minnesota’s education systems, health care system, public safety system, industries and businesses, governmental operations, and citizens, and (3) improve accessibility for underserved communities and populations.” Duties of the OBD are outlined in statute at [116J.39](#) In 2014, the Minnesota Legislature created the Border Broadband Grant Program to be administered by the OBD and appropriated \$20 million for broadband grants that year. In 2015, the Minnesota Legislature appropriated \$10.588 million for the grant program; and in the 2016 legislative session, \$35 million was appropriated for the grant program. The 2016 grant application will open on July 22, 2016 and close on October 3, 2016. More information on the grant program is available at <http://mn.gov/deed/programs-services/broadband/grant-program/>

For purposes of administering the grant program, the legislature has also established definitions for broadband. An area is considered to be unserved by broadband if it does not have service as tied to the FCC definition of at least 25Mbps download and 3Mbps upload. The definition for an area underserved by broadband was changed in the 2016 Legislative session to an area that has service of at least 25Mbps download/3Mbps upload but does not have service of at least 100Mbps download and 20Mbps upload. The 2016 legislative changes have not yet been reflected in the statutes available online, but will be reflected in Minn. Stat. [116J.394](#) as the statutes are updated. The 2016 Legislature also established new broadband goals for Minnesota: No later than 2022, all Minnesota businesses and homes have access to high-speed broadband that provides minimum download speeds of at least 25 megabits per second and minimum upload speeds of at least three megabits per second; and no later than 2026, all Minnesota businesses and homes have access to at least one provider of broadband with download speeds of at least 100 megabits per second and upload speeds of at least 20 megabits per second. (These goals will be reflected in Minn. Stat. [237.012](#) as the statutes are updated to reflect the 2016 changes.)

The OBD is also continuing the broadband mapping and data collection effort begun under the ARRA-funded State Broadband Initiatives program. Connected Nation is under contract with the OBD to collect the data and prepare broadband availability maps reflecting Minnesota’s broadband speed goals and information necessary to administer the broadband grant program. In June 2015, Connected Nation provided updated maps and data on broadband deployment in Minnesota.

Connected Nation's second data collection efforts were completed in June 2016 and new maps and updated data will be posted July 2016.

The Executive Director of the Office of Broadband Development is Danna MacKenzie and she can be reached at [danna.mackenzie@state.mn.us](mailto:danna.mackenzie@state.mn.us) or 651/259-7611. The general e-mailbox for the office is [DEED.broadband@state.mn.us](mailto:DEED.broadband@state.mn.us) and telephone number 651/259-7610. Information on broadband is available on the OBD at DEED website at: <http://mn.gov/deed/programs-services/broadband/> The most recent published report of the OBD is available at [Broadband Development Report](#)

#### **Minnesota Governor's Task Force on Broadband – ACTIVE:**

In August 2011, Governor Mark Dayton issued [Executive Order 11-27](#), which created the [Governor's Task Force on Broadband](#). The task force is made up of 15 members appointed by the Governor and representing a variety of broadband interests, including business, residential users, educational and health care institutions, telephone and cable companies, wireless providers, and both municipal and county governments. The task force, which meets monthly, is charged with expanding broadband in Minnesota in order to provide "border-to-border" high-speed Internet and cell phone access throughout Minnesota. **The Governor's Task Force on Broadband also submits an annual report and the most recent is available at [2015 Annual Report](#)**

#### **Connect Minnesota – INACTIVE:**

[Connect Minnesota](#) was a subsidiary of Connected Nation and operated as a non-profit in the state of Minnesota in partnership with the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development to carry out the responsibilities of the SBI program as funded by ARRA. The SBI program concluded on Jan 31, 2015.

#### **Minnesota High-Speed Broadband Task Force- INACTIVE:**

Task force expired March 1, 2010. Its report is at <https://www.leg.state.mn.us/docs/2009/mandated/091056.pdf>

#### **B. RECENT LEGISLATION**

[HF2749](#) Status: June 1, 2016, Signed by governor. Session Law Chapter [189](#). Appropriated \$35 million for the Border to Border Broadband Development Grant program for FY17. Up to \$5 million is for applications from underserved areas (areas that have a wired broadband service of at least 25Mbps download/3Mbps upload but do not have service of at least 100Mbps download/20Mbps upload) and up to \$500,000 is for applications for broadband availability and adoption in low income areas (defined as at or below 200 percent of federal poverty guidelines).

[HF3](#) Status: June 13, 2015, Signed by governor. Session Law Chapter [1](#) – Appropriated \$10.588 million for the Border to Border Broadband Development Grant program for FY16. Information on awards granted at <http://mn.gov/deed/programs-services/broadband/grant-program/> under "2015 Grantees" tab.

[H.F. 3172](#) Status: May 20, 2014, Signed by governor, Chapter [312](#) –Established the Border to Border Broadband Development Grant program and allocated \$20 million towards broadband infrastructure grants. Grants of a maximum award per project of \$5 million and up to 50% of eligible infrastructure costs towards unserved and underserved areas without wireline broadband service to match state broadband speed goals. Information on awards granted at <http://mn.gov/deed/programs-services/broadband/grant-program/> under "2014 Grantees" tab.

[H.B. 729](#) Status: May 23, 2013, Signed by governor. Filed with Secretary of State. [Chapter No. 2013-85](#) This statute created the Office of Broadband Development at DEED.

#### **C. PUC BASED FUNDING/MECHANISM                      NONE**

Funding for broadband by statute is through the Office of Broadband Development at the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development.

**A. PROGRAMS**

**Mississippi Broadband Task Force – INACTIVE as of February, 2015**

The [Mississippi Broadband Task Force](#) (MBTF) was created by Governor Haley Barbour in [April 2009](#). The task force was charged with overseeing the state’s broadband technology strategy for the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, otherwise known as “the stimulus package.” Stimulus broadband funding has been made available through the State Broadband Data and Development (SBDD) program and the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP). Beginning in 2009, the Mississippi Broadband Task Force (MBTF), in conjunction with BroadMap, reached out to providers supplying broadband service available in Mississippi. Following the initial outreach, the team worked collaboratively with the providers to standardize the information compiled and created a geographic representation of their coverage via the [Mississippi Broadband Mapping Initiative](#). The last submission to NTIA for Mississippi mapping was in 2014. The mapping for Mississippi now relies on the National Broadband Map.

**Connect Mississippi <http://www.connectmississippi.org/> f/k/a Mississippi Broadband Connect Coalition – ACTIVE:**

In 2010, Mississippi was awarded a State Broadband Initiative grant through NTIA, which was used to fund the Mississippi Broadband Connect Coalition. This study group developed a report entitled, “Mapping Mississippi’s Digital Future,” outlining recommendations to increase digital literacy through broadband adoption and access strategies. Among the earliest and most impactful successes was the creation of the Mississippi Telehealth Association. Mississippi is nationally recognized as the leader in telehealth advances and is one of only seven states to receive an “A” grade from the American Telemedicine Association. Now, Connect MS continues to orchestrate policy forums and adoption strategies to bolster our state’s economic growth through broadband innovation. This is part of the Mississippi State University’s Extension Service. Contact: Roberto Gallardo ([robertog@ext.msstate.edu](mailto:robertog@ext.msstate.edu))

**Gulf Coast Broadband Initiative: GoCoast <http://www.restore.ms/gocoast-2020-2015-update/>** “GoCoast 2020 was created by Executive Order by Governor Phil Bryant, and serves as the official advisory body to the Governor for allocation of monies received by the State of Mississippi under the [RESTORE Act](#). RESTORE is a federal act which directs that 80% of certain penalties assessed as a result of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill be directed to the five Gulf states impacted by the spill. Composed of more than one-hundred business and community leaders, and elected officials from across the Mississippi Gulf Coast, GoCoast was tasked with charting a 2020 vision for the Gulf Coast and making important recommendations to the Governor for initiatives and projects related to eco-restoration, economic development, small business, seafood, tourism, education, infrastructure, and workforce development. The group also relies on input from the entire public to help in the process of integrating existing plans and resources into the effort but will also strive to create a bold, ambitious, and comprehensive picture of a vibrant Gulf Coast of the future. GoCoast 2020 engages leaders from the Mississippi Gulf Coast and public input to form the road map to assure restoration of the Gulf’s environmental treasures, to fuel important economic and infrastructure advances, and to galvanize long range strategies related to education and research. Members of the group distilled the thinking and passion of the entire Gulf Coast community into a living and lasting plan to preserve and advance the unique region we call our Mississippi Gulf Coast. The GoCoast 2020 Report was produced in January, 2013, and includes recommendations and ideas accessible to policymakers and citizens. Through this public process, the recommendations and ideas contained within the Report should have the endorsement of the Coast community. The report’s audience is twofold: 1) The Governor and MDEQ regarding State specific money provided for in the RESTORE Act, and 2) It should be used as foundation for what will become the Mississippi Plan as envisioned by the RESTORE Act to fund as many Mississippi projects as possible.” *News coverage of the broadband initiative part of this plan are at:* <http://www.wlox.com/story/30544077/gulf-coast-broadband-initiative-gains-momentum> and <http://www.gulflive.com/news/index.ssf/2015/06/mississippi-to-put-up-15-milli.html>

**B. RECENT LEGISLATION**

[S.B. 2829](#) Status: June 3, 2013; Chapter No. 462 Extends the sales tax exemption on sales of equipment to telecommunications enterprises that is used in the deployment of broadband technologies; extends the ad valorem tax exemption for equipment used in the deployment of broadband technologies by telecommunications enterprises.

**C. PUC BASED FUNDING/MECHANISM N/A**

**[25] MISSOURI [12/2014]**

**A. PROGRAMS**

**Missouri Broadband Now Initiative (MoBroadbandNow) – ACTIVE:**

[MoBroadbandNow](#), a private-public partnership, was launched in 2009 under the [Transform Missouri Initiative](#) established through [Executive Order 09-12](#). The MoBroadbandNow Initiative is a five-year project to expand broadband accessibility from 79.7 percent to 91.5 percent of the total population with federal funds, under the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). In pursuing these objectives, the initiative has established regional teams to develop grassroots-level strategic broadband plans and holds an annual broadband summit. The initiative also collects broadband data to produce semi-annual interactive mapping information and reports on the status of other broadband infrastructure projects.

**B. RECENT LEGISLATION**

[H.B. 331](#) Status: July 5, 2013; Signed by Governor. The Uniform Wireless Communications Infrastructure Deployment Act." Intended to encourage and streamline the deployment of broadband facilities and to help ensure that robust wireless communication services are available throughout Missouri.

**C. PUC BASED FUNDING/MECHANISM** N/A

**[26] MONTANA [12/2014]**

**A. PROGRAMS**

**Montana Broadband Program – ACTIVE:**

The [Montana Broadband Program](#) is funded through the State Broadband Data and Development (SBDD) program that is administered by the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA). This project, working in collaboration with the Montana Department of Administration, was originally funded for broadband planning activities and two years of data collection. In September of 2010, this project was amended to extend data collection activities for an additional three years and to identify and implement best practices. Using the data collected, the information is compiled into the [Montana Broadband Map](#). The Montana Broadband Program is currently developing a broadband advisory council.

**B. RECENT LEGISLATION**

[H.B. 4](#) Status: April 25, 2013. Chaptered. [Chapter No. 294](#) Appropriates money that would usually be appropriated by budget amendment to various state agencies for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2013; provides that certain appropriations continue into state and federal fiscal years 2014 and 2015.

**C. PUC BASED FUNDING/MECHANISM** N/A

**[27] NEBRASKA [Updated 05/26/16]**

**A. PROGRAMS**

**Nebraska Broadband Initiative – ACTIVE:**

The [Nebraska Broadband Initiative](#), funded through a grant to the Nebraska Public Service Commission (NPSC) by the U.S. Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration, was created to increase broadband access and adoption through better data collection and broadband planning. While the NTIA no longer provides funding, the core group continues to meet and works to address challenges to access and adoption. A broadband conference, designed to promote broadband availability and use, has been planned for May, 2016, through a partnership between the group and private industry. The NPSC has continued to collect broadband deployment data, in the form of FCC Form 477 deployment files, from carriers that provide service within the state. The Nebraska State Broadband Map (<http://broadbandmap.nebraska.gov>) remains functional and current thanks to this effort. The collected and verified broadband mapping information will be used to support future broadband development objectives.

## **B. RECENT LITIGATION**

The 911 Service System Act [LB 938] was passed into law on April 18, 2016. The purpose this Act is to establish the Public Service Commission as the statewide implementation and coordinating authority to plan, implement, coordinate, manage, maintain, and provide funding assistance for Next-generation 911 which is defined as an Internet protocol-based system (1) comprised of networks, functional elements, and data bases that replicate basic 911 service and enhanced-911 service features and functions and provide additional capabilities and (2) designed to provide access to emergency services from all connected communications sources and to provide multimedia data capabilities for public safety answering points and other emergency services organizations. The link to the legislation is <http://nebraskalegislature.gov/FloorDocs/Current/PDF/Slip/LB938.pdf>.

## **C. PUC BASED FUNDING/MECHANISM**

The Nebraska Universal Service Fund (NUSF) established the Broadband Pilot Program in 2011 to encourage broadband deployment to unserved and underserved areas in the state. Using the outcomes of that pilot program and working to best align state funding programs with federal mechanisms, the NUSF continues to provide broadband funding through a variety of programs. Currently, the NUSF provides \$9.4 million annually to price cap carriers operating in the state to be used specifically for capital improvement projects for areas in which they are not receiving federal CAF II funding. The NUSF also provides \$4 million annually for Wireless Broadband Infrastructure projects to fund tower construction for rural areas, coverage on state highways and public recreation areas. In recognition that infrastructure availability is not the only barrier to broadband adoption, the NUSF also provides \$500,000 annually to fund projects that address education and affordability issues that may prohibit broadband adoption. Due to continuing federal universal service fund reform, the Commission is currently evaluating where we continue to operate in this space without duplicating federal support. We are currently exploring ways to measure broadband deployment and considering a shift in our focus from cost-based regulation to goal-based regulation.

### **[28] NEVADA [Updated 06/27/16]**

#### **A. PROGRAMS**

##### **Nevada Broadband Taskforce – ACTIVE:**

In 2009, Connect Nevada was established as a subsidiary of Connected Nation, the United States Department of Commerce’s State Broadband Initiative grant. The public-private initiative was established to work with each broadband provider in the state to create detailed maps of broadband coverage and assess the state of broadband adoption across Nevada, to help communities plan for technology expansion. In furtherance of this nation-wide broadband effort, Governor Gibbons issued an executive order to create the State Broadband Task Force. The Task Force was charged with identifying and removing barriers to broadband access and identifying opportunities for increased broadband applications and adoption in unserved and underserved areas of Nevada.

During the 2015 Legislative Session, the Nevada Legislature passed Assembly Bill 485, which made certain revisions to the Governor’s Office of Science Innovation and Technology (OSIT). One aspect of the bill was to place OSIT in charge of coordinating activities in this State relating to the planning mapping and procurement of broadband service. In furtherance of this bill, Governor Sandoval issued a new Executive Order re-establishing the Nevada Broadband Task Force (“Task Force”).

The 2015 Task Force will consist of 12 members, appointed by the Governor, who will represent rural health and hospitals, rural K-12 school districts, distance education/higher education, public safety, transportation, data and telecommunications industries and local government. The Task Force will work in conjunction with the OSIT Broadband Manager, and will be responsible for assisting the Nevada Department of Education in carrying out its Nevada Ready 21 plan to improve technology in Nevada schools, overseeing the continued mapping of broadband infrastructure in the state, evaluate the present and future needs for broadband throughout Nevada, evaluating the existing capacity of public and private broadband infrastructure, evaluating the existing capacity of public and private broadband infrastructure and providing recommendations regarding priorities for expansion, developing statewide policy that will help improve access to and the development of broadband infrastructure throughout the state, and advancing any other policy recommendations set forth in The Nevada State Broadband Action Plan.

**B. RECENT LEGISLATION**

[S.B. 41](#) Status: May 22, 2013; Chaptered. Chapter No. 55 Revises the regulation of providers of telecommunication services by the state Public Utilities Commission; authorizes the commission to regulate broadband services in this state under certain circumstances; revising provisions relating to the eligibility of persons with low incomes for reductions in rates for certain telephone services; amends provisions regarding hearings and approval of rate changes; relates to small scale providers of last resort; relates to rates of return and waivers.

[A.B. 486](#) Status: June 2, 2013; Chaptered. Chapter No. 368 Revises provisions relating to telecommunication providers; authorizes competitive telecommunication providers to apply to the State Public Utilities Commission for relief from the obligations and status of a provider of last resort when alternative services are available; revises provisions relating to the regulation of Internet Protocol-enabled service or Voice over Internet Protocol service.

Maybe new legislation in January 2017.

**C. PUC BASED FUNDING/MECHANISM N/A**

**[29] NEW HAMPSHIRE [12/2014]**

**A. PROGRAMS**

**New Hampshire Broadband Mapping and Planning Program – ACTIVE:**

The [New Hampshire Broadband Mapping and Planning Program](#) (NHBMPP) is a comprehensive program that seeks to understand where broadband is currently available in New Hampshire, how it can be made more widely available in the future, and how to encourage increased levels of broadband adoption and usage. Funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act through the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), the NHBMPP comprises two main components: a broadband availability inventory and mapping effort, and a suite of planning and technical assistance initiatives. Technical assistance initiatives include establishing broadband stakeholder groups that will focus on collecting and analyzing relevant information, identifying barriers to broadband deployment, promoting collaboration with service providers, and facilitating information sharing.

**B. RECENT LEGISLATION**

[H.B. 368](#) - Status: May 16, 2013; Signed by Governor. [Chapter 29](#) = Extends the telecommunications planning and development initiative; changes certain provisions of the telecommunications planning and development advisory committee.

**C. PUC BASED FUNDING/MECHANISM N/A**

**[30] NEW JERSEY [12/2014]**

**A. PROGRAMS**

**New Jersey Broadband Mapping Program – ACTIVE:**

Using funding from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration's (NTIA) State Broadband Data and Development Grant Program (Broadband Mapping Program), the New Jersey Office of Information Technology (OIT) created the [New Jersey Broadband Mapping Program](#) in 2010. Under the program, OIT works with facilities-based providers of broadband services, as well as local government organizations and community anchor institutions, to collect, validate, verify and deliver certain data on broadband services available to end user locations in the state through the creation of the [New Jersey Broadband Map](#).

**B. RECENT LEGISLATION N/A**

**C. PUC BASED FUNDING/MECHANISM N/A**

**[31] NEW MEXICO [Updated 08/05/16]**

**A. PROGRAMS**

**New Mexico Broadband Executive Committee – ACTIVE:**

The [New Mexico Broadband Executive Committee](#) is a statewide collaborative committee formed under the Department of Information Technology's [New Mexico Broadband Program](#). These groups form a core component to a number of conferences and focus forums to identify gaps, clarify issues, and provide action items toward solutions (legislation, funding, construction, regulation, etc.). All of these efforts are incorporated into the [New Mexico Broadband Strategic Master Plan](#).

**B. RECENT LEGISLATION** N/A

**C. PUC BASED FUNDING/MECHANISM**

In an Order Adopting Rule dated January 13, 2016, in Case No. 15-00264-UT, the Commission established a Broadband grant program that would be funded by “a reduction in the total SRUSF (State Rural Universal Service Fund” revenue requirements due to the application of the rural area limitations.” The program has not been implemented, and the January 13 Order is on appeal to the NM State Supreme Court by Windstream (affected company regarding new rural area limitations) and CTIA (appeal challenging Commission jurisdiction including ability to fund broadband). To date, no stay of the Commission’s order has been either sought or granted by the NM Supreme Court. Also of significance is an Order of the NM Supreme Ct issued in March of 2016 that rejected a previously issued Commission SRUSF Order and remanded the Orders and rule back to the Commission for further action. The rule adopted January 13, 2016 has many of the same provisions that were rejected by the NM Supreme Ct, but the broadband funding issues are new to the 2016 rule.

**[32] NEW YORK [Updated 05/05/16]**

**A. PROGRAMS**

**Broadband for All/New NY Broadband Program – ACTIVE:**

Created in 2015 by Gov. Andrew Cuomo, the goal of the initiative is to ensure high-speed Internet access for every New Yorker. The NYS Broadband Program Office is administering the \$500M grant program which aims to ensure universal high speed access for all residents by 2018. (<http://nysbroadband.ny.gov/new-ny-broadband-program> ). Funding is targeted at projects providing broadband at speeds of at least 100 megabits per second (Mbps) (download) in most places, and 25 Mbps (download) in the most remote, unserved parts of the State.

**Connect New York – ACTIVE:**

Administered by the NYS Broadband Program Office, **the** Connect NY Broadband Program provided grants through the Regional Councils and Empire State Development to expand promote and expand high-speed Internet access in rural upstate and underserved urban areas of the State. The program started in 2011 and targeted expanding access where the then minimum state defined speeds of 6 Mbps download and 1.5 Mbps upload was not available. More than \$70 million has been made available to expand broadband access: <http://nysbroadband.ny.gov/state-funding>

**B. RECENT LEGISLATION**

A7167 -E Status: L.2014, Ch. 438, Enacted Nov. 21, 2014: Amends the public service law to authorize telephone and telegraph corporations to issue stocks, bonds or other forms of indebtedness for the purposes of expanding broadband services when such corporation is receiving a federal grant or loan. Bill available under Chapter Law (Ch. #) and year: <http://public.leginfo.state.ny.us/navigate.cgi>

A 8557-D & S 6357-D - L.2014, Ch. 57 (Part R), enacted Mar. 31, 2014: Amended PSL 222(3) (b) regarding cable television system transfers, renewal or amendment of franchises, and transfer of control over franchises and system properties to require petitioners to establish that the transfer is in the “public interest”. Prior to this change, the law required approval of such transfer unless the Commission found it violated the public interest; thus, the burden shifted from the Commission to Petitioners. The Commission’s approval of the Charter and Time Warner transfer was given under this new

law and required the petitioners to agree to certain conditions that supported establishment of the “public interest”. (e.g., commitments to: (1) offer broadband Internet service with speeds up to 100 Mbps and 300 Mbps to all customers served by its New York networks by the end of 2018 and 2019, respectively, (2) provide a low-income broadband offering to eligible customers throughout its New York footprint; and (3) required to extend the network to pass an additional 145,000 “unserved” and “underserved” residences or businesses within four years.) Bill available under chapter law (Ch. #) and year: <http://public.leginfo.state.ny.us/navigate.cgi>

**C. PUC BASED FUNDING/MECHANISM N/A**

**[33] NORTH CAROLINA [12/2014]**

**A. PROGRAMS**

**NC Broadband – ACTIVE:**

The North Carolina Department of Commerce created the [NC Broadband](#) Division in 2011 after the e-NC Authority transferred its ARRA federal funds and authority to the North Carolina Department of Commerce. The broadband division of the North Carolina Department of Commerce is a new initiative dedicated to encouraging the adoption and use of broadband Internet, identifying unserved and underserved areas and working to promote greater broadband availability across the state.

**B. RECENT LEGISLATION N/A**

**C. PUC BASED FUNDING/MECHANISM N/A**

**[34] NORTH DAKOTA [Updated 08/05/16]**

**A. PROGRAMS**

**North Dakota Broadband Mapping Program – ACTIVE:**

North Dakota received an initial grant in 2009 of approximately \$1.3 million to map broadband services under the State Broadband Data and Development Grant Program to fund the North Information Technology Department’s North Dakota Broadband Mapping Program (<http://broadband.nd.gov/>). The program serves as a state broadband program office to oversee the data collection for the [North Dakota Broadband Map and](#) technical assistance projects. It also coordinates broadband planning activities across the state.

**B. RECENT LEGISLATION N/A**

**C. PUC BASED FUNDING/MECHANISM N/A**

**[35] OHIO [Updated 05/03/16]**

**A. PROGRAMS**

**Connect Ohio – INACTIVE:**

At the close of 2015, funds from the state that support Connect Ohio’s broadband outreach, education, and assistance programs ceased. Connect Ohio has stated that they will seek to restore state funding through the General Assembly in order to continue to serve as the state’s reliable resource for broadband questions and concerns from providers, state and local officials, businesses, and residents. <http://connectohio.org/> Governor Ted Strickland on Dec. 17, 2007 launched [Connect Ohio](#), a public-private partnership that seeks to expand broadband services across the state by working with local communities and providers to map gaps in access. Connect Ohio’s three-year strategy involved a partnership between the state and broadband providers to create detailed maps of broadband coverage in order to accurately pinpoint remaining gaps in broadband availability in Ohio. Connect Ohio will also work to establish public-private partnerships that will assist in supplying computers to areas that have broadband service but lack computer access.

**Ohio Broadband Council- INACTIVE:**

On July 27, 2007, Governor Ted Strickland signed [Executive Order 2007 - 24S](#), creating an Ohio Broadband Council to coordinate efforts to extend access to the Broadband Ohio Network to every county in Ohio. In addition to developing a plan for statewide broadband deployment, the Ohio Broadband Council was charged with coordinating all state-funded broadband initiatives, pursuing additional federal investments in broadband, promoting public and private broadband initiatives and addressing the digital divide in Ohio’s rural and urban areas. The council expired in 2010 with the end of Governor Strickland’s term.

**Ohio Academic Resources Network (OARnet’s) – ACTIVE:**

In 2012, Ohio invested \$13.1 million in upgrades to increase OARnet’s network capacity tenfold to 100 Gigabits per second (Gbps) – 50,000 times faster than average smartphone wireless speeds. The enhanced network provides Ohio connections to 10 major cities, 90 colleges and universities, numerous data centers and application service providers that serve education, research and government, and Internet2’s international research and education network. <https://www.oar.net/>

**B. RECENT LEGISLATION**

Section 749.10 Amended H.B. 64 of the 131<sup>st</sup> General Assembly effective September 28, 2015 requires the PUCO to establish a collaborative process to address the Internet-protocol network transition. <http://www.puco.ohio.gov/puco/index.cfm/be-informed/consumer-topics/telephone-network-transition/> . The act also requires the PUCO to use its appropriation for Utility and Railroad Regulation in part to plan for the transition, consistent with the directives and policies of the FCC, from the current public switched telephone network to an Internet-protocol network that will stimulate investment in the Internet-protocol network in Ohio and that will expand the availability of advanced telecommunications services to all Ohioans. The transition plan must include a review of statutes or rules that may prevent or delay an appropriate transition. The act requires the PUCO to report to the General Assembly on any further action required to be taken by the General Assembly to ensure a successful and timely transition.

[S.C.R. 15](#) Status: June 26, 2013; Passed House Urges the United States House of Representatives Committee on Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Communications and Technology to hold regular hearings regarding the nationwide broadband public safety network; requires the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) to identify the costs of such network to Ohio, and include related amendments to the law governing FirstNet.

H.B. 360 Status: December 2012 the Ohio General Assembly created a Statewide Emergency Services Internet Protocol Network Steering Committee to prepare the State of Ohio for Next Generation 9-1-1 (NG9-1-1). <http://911.ohio.gov/ESINet> <http://911.ohio.gov/>

In 2012, Ohio invested \$13.1 million in upgrades to increase OARnet’s network capacity tenfold to an impressive 100 Gigabits per second (Gbps) – 50,000 times faster than average smartphone wireless speeds. The enhanced network provides Ohio connections to 10 major cities, 90 colleges and universities, numerous data centers and application service providers that serve education, research and government, and Internet2’s international research and education network.

**C. PUC BASED FUNDING/MECHANISM N/A**

**[36] OKLAHOMA [12/2014]**

**A. PROGRAMS**

**Oklahoma Broadband Initiative – ACTIVE:**

Oklahoma was awarded a grant in January 2010 under the State Broadband Data Development (SBDD) program to fund the [Oklahoma Broadband Initiative](#). The first phase of the initiative is the [Oklahoma Broadband Mapping Project](#), which includes the collection of the necessary data to identify broadband assets, gaps in broadband services, and opportunities for expansion of broadband services. This data has been consolidated into the [Oklahoma Broadband Map](#) and depicts what areas of the state are served, underserved and unserved by broadband. The second phase of this initiative is the Oklahoma Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) grant application to build the [Oklahoma Community Anchor](#)

[Network \(OCAN\)](#), a 1,005 mile middle-mile infrastructure that will connect 32 anchor institutions in underserved or unserved areas of the state.

**B. RECENT LEGISLATION** N/A

**C. PUC BASED FUNDING/MECHANISM** N/A

**[37] OREGON [Updated 05/06/16]**

**A. PROGRAMS**

**Oregon Broadband Advisory Council – ACTIVE to 2020:**

The [Oregon Broadband Advisory Council](#) was created in the [2009 legislative session to help ensure the implementation of statewide broadband strategies](#). The council’s mission is to encourage coordination and collaboration between organizations and economic sectors to leverage the development and utilization of broadband for education, workforce development and telehealth, and to promote broadband utilization by citizens and communities. It provides a report to the legislature in even numbered years.

**B. RECENT LEGISLATION**

**2015 Oregon Legislative Session - Law relating to broadband telecommunications:**

- [\[HB 3274\]](#) Oregon Business Development Department shall conduct a study and submit a report by 12/31/16, to the interim legislative committees on economic development regarding methods to expand broadband and telecommunications infrastructure in rural cities and counties in Oregon.

- [\[SB 611\]](#) Enacted a property tax exemption for a company subject to central assessment for property tax purposes, if the company invests in providing a certain form of symmetrical gigabit broadband service through a “qualified project.”

**C. PUC BASED FUNDING/MECHANISM** N/A

**[38] PENNSYLVANIA [Updated 05/10/16]**

**A. PROGRAMS**

**Broadband Deployment Under Chapter 30 of the Public Utility Code:** Pennsylvania has adopted a statutory framework for the incentive regulation of incumbent local exchange carriers (ILECs) and the deployment of broadband networks and access services under Chapter 30 of the Pennsylvania Public Utility Code, 66 Pa. C.S. § 3011 *et seq.* The majority of Chapter 30 ILECs with Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (Pa. PUC) approved alternative regulation and network modernization plans (NMPs) are entitled to annual revenue and rate increases under price stability mechanisms (e.g., price cap formulas), and with corresponding commitments for the deployment and availability of broadband networks and access services within applicable time frames.

**Completion of Chapter 30 Broadband Deployment Commitments:** Smaller Chapter 30 rural ILECs completed their respective broadband deployment commitments by December 31, 2008. CenturyLink and Windstream completed their respective deployment commitments as of December 31, 2013. Verizon Pennsylvania and Verizon North completed their broadband deployment as of December 31, 2015. The Chapter 30 “broadband” definition involves a “communication channel using any technology and having a bandwidth equal to or greater than 1.544 megabits per second (Mbps) in the downstream direction and equal to or greater than 128 kilobits per second (Kbps) in the upstream direction.” 66 Pa. C.S. § 3012.

**Chapter 30 – Bona Fide Retail Request (BFRR) Program:** The Chapter 30 BFRR program involved the CenturyLink, Windstream, Verizon Pennsylvania, and Verizon North Chapter 30 ILECs. This program accelerated broadband deployment within identifiable and qualifying demand clusters within the service areas of these four (4) ILECs. This program has ended following the completion of the Chapter 30 broadband deployment commitments of these ILECs.

**Chapter 30 – Broadband Outreach and Aggregation Fund (BOAF):** The BOAF was a grant program that was administered by the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED). The program was

designed to assist communities with the demand aggregation for broadband access services (e.g., use of seed grants), and for relevant DCED outreach activities to public entities, anchor institutions (e.g., schools, health care facilities), and business and residential consumers. The program was funded by annual Pa. PUC fiscal assessments on the relevant and actual Chapter 30 NMP revenue increases of CenturyLink, Windstream, Verizon Pennsylvania and Verizon North. This program has ended following the completion of the Chapter 30 broadband deployment commitments of these ILECs.

**Chapter 30 – Education Technology Fund (E-Fund) and Education Technology Program:** The E-Fund and the related Education Technology Program were in place during the period of June 30, 2005 to June 30, 2011. 66 Pa. C.S. § 3015(d). The E-Fund and the related program administered by the Pennsylvania Department of Education authorized grants for the purchase or lease of “telecommunications services, infrastructure or facilities to establish and support broadband networks between, among and within school entities,” for the purchase or lease of related premises equipment, distance learning initiatives through the “foregoing broadband networks,” and for relevant technical support services. 66 Pa. C.S. § 3014(j)(2). The E-Fund was financed through certain fiscal assessments on the Chapter 30 non-rural ILECs (Verizon Pennsylvania and Verizon North), and partially through the fiscal assessments of the BOAF mechanism (*see* Item No. A-4 above). 66 Pa. C.S. §§ 3015(c)(3) and 3015(d)(3).

**Chapter 30 & Municipal Broadband Networks:** Pennsylvania’s Chapter 30 law permits the deployment and operation of municipal broadband networks under limited circumstances. Such circumstances involve municipal broadband networks that were in place before the 2004 enactment of the Chapter 30 law, and where the municipality requests the deployment of broadband access services and the serving ILEC or one of its affiliates has not agreed to provide such services within two months of the request. 66 Pa. C.S. § 3014(h). A municipal broadband network is operated by the Borough of Kutztown (initially municipal electric utility fiber optic network utilized for various services including video delivery and retail broadband access to the Internet). The City of Philadelphia was engaged in efforts to deploy a wireless Wi Fi network. In February 2015, the City of Lancaster, after contacting the ILEC serving the area, decided to proceed with the deployment of a municipal Wi-Fi network that will be based on fiber optic network facilities. The Borough of Pitcairn in Western Pennsylvania operates a municipal cable television (CATV) network, the Pitcairn Community Cable TV. However, it is unclear whether Pitcairn offers retail broadband access services.

**Federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009 Broadband Projects:** Federal ARRA funding enabled a number of broadband network deployment projects within Pennsylvania. These include the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania wireless broadband access network (often referenced as the “Northern Tier” project) that is based on an existing emergency radio communications tower network with a microwave backbone (broadband access services to community anchor institutions); and, the non-profit Keystone Initiative for Network Based Education and Research (KINBER) “middle mile” fiber optic network (broadband access and services connections over the 1,800 mile Pennsylvania Research and Education Network or PennREN).

**Pennsylvania and the Federal Connect America Fund:** A number of federal price cap ILECs operating in Pennsylvania have accepted Connect America Fund Phase II (CAF II) cost model support and the related broadband deployment obligations under applicable Federal Communications Commission (FCC) guidelines and standards (e.g., 10 Mbps download and 1 Mbps upload speeds). The annual CAF II support for five (5) federal price cap ILECs amounts to \$27.69 million, or \$166.17 million over a 6-year period, for 76,777 eligible locations. An additional annual amount of \$23.27 million, or \$139.62 million over a 6-year period, and for 64,620 eligible locations will be subjected to competitive bidding under applicable FCC procedures.

**The Pennsylvania Universal Service Fund (Pa. USF):** While there is no specific broadband build-out state fund, the Pennsylvania Universal Service Fund (Pa. USF), which currently underwrites reductions in intrastate access charges, indirectly supports broadband deployment for those ILECs that rely on both the Pa. USF and federal USF/CAF support to build and/or upgrade physical networks. By providing funds to support physical networks, the Pa. USF and federal USF/CAF indirectly support the services provided over the networks, including broadband. This is important given that approximately 60% to 70% of the revenues for Pennsylvania’s rural ILECs come from state and federal USF support mechanisms as well as access payments, all of which are being reduced under FCC regulation. The Pa. USF annually distributes approximately \$34 million of funding support to 32 rural ILECs. The contribution base of the Pa. USF is funded by an annual assessment on the intrastate retail revenues of all wireline telecommunications carriers operating in Pennsylvania. [http://www.puc.pa.gov/utility\\_industry/telecommunications/pa\\_universal\\_service\\_fund.aspx](http://www.puc.pa.gov/utility_industry/telecommunications/pa_universal_service_fund.aspx) (Pa. PUC, Pennsylvania USF mechanism)

**Pilot Program – Wireless Telecommunications Device Distribution Program (TDDP):** The Pa. PUC has approved the funding for a 2-year pilot program distribution of wireless devices (Apple iPhones, etc.) to eligible recipients with disabilities under the existing TDDP. These wireless devices can provide broadband access. This pilot program is managed by the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry, Office of Vocational Rehabilitation. The Pennsylvania Telecommunications Relay Service (TRS) Fund, administered by the Pa. PUC, covers the cost of the distributed devices and other pilot program costs. The eligible and participating end-users bear any wireless service subscription costs.

NOTE - The Pa. PUC exercises regulatory oversight over the Chapter 30 law ILEC broadband network deployment commitments and availability. The Pa. PUC also manages the Pa. USF program through a third party Administrator. Contact: Jani Tuzinski Manager, Telecommunications & Water Bureau of Technical Utility Services Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission P.O. Box 3265 Harrisburg, PA 17105-3265 Tel.: (717) 783-6175 E-Mail: [jtuzinski@pa.gov](mailto:jtuzinski@pa.gov)

The Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) manages various initiatives relating to broadband deployment and adoption. DCED is also the responsible agency for broadband mapping in Pennsylvania. Contact: Lorri Roush Shaver Economic Development Analyst III Pennsylvania Department of Community & Economic Development Commonwealth Keystone Building 400 North Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Harrisburg, PA 17120-0225 Tel.: (717) 346-9798 E-Mail: [lshaver@pa.gov](mailto:lshaver@pa.gov) See - [http://www.puc.state.pa.us/consumer\\_info/telecommunications/broadband\\_high\\_speed\\_internet\\_service.aspx](http://www.puc.state.pa.us/consumer_info/telecommunications/broadband_high_speed_internet_service.aspx) (Pa. PUC and Pa. DCED Broadband Initiatives web page) & <http://www.newpa.com/broadband-initiatives/> (Pa. DCED Broadband Initiatives web page)

- B. RECENT LEGISLATION N/A.
- C. PUC BASED FUNDING/MECHANISM See discussion of Title 30 supra.

**[39] RHODE ISLAND [12/2014]**

**A. PROGRAMS**

**Broadband Rhode Island Initiative – ACTIVE:**

[Broadband Rhode Island](#) (BBRI) is an initiative of the Rhode Island Economic Development Corporation that works to create new opportunities by expanding broadband use and digital literacy across Rhode Island. One of BBRI's purposes is to map and verify broadband throughout Rhode Island. BBRI is funded through December 2014 by the State Broadband Data and Development Grant Program as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. BBRI's programs address public awareness and education about broadband and study and develop plans to increase broadband adoption and usage. The first BBRI white paper, "[Broadband Policy for Rhode Island, Achieving Competitive Advantage in the Internet Age](#)," published in January 2012, calls for the creation of a Governor's Broadband Policy Advisory Board.

**B. RECENT LEGISLATION**

[H.B. 8136 Sub A / S.B. 2827](#) Status: July 8, 2014, (Joint resolution), Enacted. Creates a special legislative commission on broadband services and accessibility to identify the current level of broadband service state-wide, explore opportunities for public/private sector partnerships, review the security actions necessary to ensure the reliability of high-speed broadband, explore the economic development opportunities made possible by the wide dissemination of high-speed broadband, and assess future plans to enhance access to underserved communities throughout the state.

- C. PUC BASED FUNDING/MECHANISM N/A

**[40] SOUTH CAROLINA [Updated 08/05/16]**

**A. PROGRAMS**

**Connect South Carolina – ACTIVE:**

[Connect South Carolina](#) is a subsidiary of Connected Nation and operates as a non-profit in the state of South Carolina. Connect South Carolina was commissioned by the Office of the Governor to work with each of the state's broadband

providers to create detailed maps of broadband coverage and to assess the current state of broadband adoption across the state. Connect South Carolina's efforts are funded by the U. S. Department of Commerce's State Broadband Initiative (SBI) Grant Program through the National Telecommunications and Information Administration. Connect South Carolina works under the direction of the Governor's Office, and previously in coordination with the [South Carolina Broadband Advisory Committee](#).

**B. RECENT LEGISLATION** N/A

**C. PUC BASED FUNDING/MECHANISM** N/A

**[41] SOUTH DAKOTA [Updated 05/16/16]**

**A. PROGRAMS**

**South Dakota Broadband Advisory Team – INACTIVE:**

The [South Dakota Broadband Advisory Team](#) is made up of a cross section of education and medical groups and telecommunication businesses, as well as other business leaders throughout the state. The group assists the South Dakota Bureau of Information and Telecommunications (BIT) staff in coordinating outreach projects, including broadband technology events and meetings with stakeholders across government, private industry, and the general public. The SD Broadband Initiative was dependent on the federal funding for broadband mapping which has now ceased. We are not aware of any other state broadband deployment programs. The South Dakota Broadband Initiative website is still up, at <http://broadband.sd.gov/Default.aspx>, but it explains on its home page, “*With the ceasing of the federal grant our program operated under, our program offerings are regrettably greatly reduced. While we are unable to offer technology planning and assistance, grant-funded equipment, or newer broadband mapping data, we can still make efforts to answer any broadband related questions as they relate to South Dakota. Please [contact us](#) for details.*”

**B. RECENT LEGISLATION** N/A

**C. PUC BASED FUNDING/MECHANISM** N/A

**[42] TENNESSEE [Updated 07/22/16]**

**A. PROGRAMS**

**Connected Tennessee – ACTIVE:**

In 2007, [Connected Tennessee](#) was established as an independent non-profit organization after [the recommendation](#) of the Tennessee Broadband Task Force. Connected Tennessee aims to accelerate the availability and use of technology towards creating a better business environment, more effective community and economic development, improved healthcare, enhanced education, and more efficient government. Under the Connected Tennessee Initiative, the state established a [Steering Committee](#) comprised of public and private partners representing all sectors from across the state to provide an environment for interactions that support and generate statewide and regional economic development and measures that benefit the public.

**B. RECENT LEGISLATION**

[S.B. 776](#) Status: April 26, 2013; Public Chaptered. [Chapter No. 204](#) Relates to Telecommunications; repeals the broadband task force.

**C. PUC BASED FUNDING/MECHANISM** N/A

**[43] TEXAS [12/2014]**

**A. PROGRAMS**

**Connected Texas – ACTIVE:**

[Connected Texas](#) is a subsidiary of Connected Nation and operates as a non-profit. Connected Texas was commissioned by the Texas Department of Agriculture to work with all broadband providers in the state to create detailed maps of broadband coverage in order to accurately pinpoint remaining gaps in broadband availability in Texas. Connected Texas will work with Texas Councils of Governments (COGs) and establish approximately 29 planning teams at a regional or local level. Both planning teams and the Texas Broadband Task Force will participate in annual statewide strategic planning meetings to share best practices and identify and resolve any new barriers or challenges.

**Texas Broadband Task Force – ACTIVE:**

The Texas Department of Agriculture created [the Texas Broadband Task Force](#) in 2009 to guide efforts to make broadband services available across the state. The Texas Broadband Task Force assists the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) and the Public Utilities Commission in maximizing broadband programs created through the Broadband Data Improvement Act of 2008 and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

**B. RECENT LEGISLATION** N/A

**C. PUC BASED FUNDING/MECHANISM** N/A

**[44] UTAH [12/2014]**

**A. PROGRAMS**

**Utah Broadband Advisory Council – Active** - The [Utah Broadband Advisory Council](#) was formed in June 2011, and meets monthly to examine the condition of broadband adoption and deployment in the state. The council will provide the governor and legislature with recommendations and policy guidance. Members of the council represent a diverse group of interests including legislators, state and local government, healthcare, education, libraries, and public safety, economic development, and tribal entities. SIDE NOTE - In 2012, Utah's Office of the Legislative Auditor General issued a [performance audit](#) of the Utah Telecommunication Open Infrastructure Agency (UTOPIA). UTOPIA is an inter-local agency formed by 11 Utah cities in 2002 to build a wholesale fiber-optic gigabit broadband network. (The audit generally focuses on issues with UTOPIA's development and performance, and not the network's broader economic impact.)

**B. RECENT LEGISLATION**

[H.B. 336](#) Status: April 26, 2013; Chaptered. Chapter No. 372 Repeals provisions regarding the Governor's Office of Economic Development; repeals the State Pioneer Communities Program Act; repeals the Rural Broadband Service Account Act.

**C. PUC BASED FUNDING/MECHANISM** N/A

**[45] VERMONT [Updated 08/05/16]**

**A. PROGRAMS**

**Vermont Telecommunications Authority – ACTIVE:**

The Vermont Legislature enacted [2007 H.B. 248, Act 79](#), creating the [Vermont Telecommunications Authority](#) (VTA), charging it to ensure that high-speed Internet and cell phone service is available in every corner of Vermont by the end of 2010. The VTA was charged with the following powers and duties: to issue revenue bonds up to \$40 million to fund broadband and wireless telecommunications projects; gather data on wireless and broadband infrastructure and services; provide financial assistance in the form of loans, grants, guarantees and other financial instruments to fill in gaps in wireless and broadband coverage; incorporate one or more non-profits to take advantage of grants and other financing available only to non-profits; own, lease, and contract for telecommunications facilities and services for unserved areas;

provide assistance to municipalities to deploy infrastructure and attract services; and waive fees required for access to state-owned transportation rights of way for broadband and wireless telecommunications providers in exchange for comparable value to the state.

**B. RECENT LEGISLATION**

[H.B. 485](#) Status: June 19, 2014, Signed by governor, Act 1090 - Upgrades the State's telecommunications objectives and reorganizes functions in a manner that results in more coordinated and efficient programs and policies and produces operational savings that may be invested in broadband and mobile telecommunications service deployment. Provides for a more equitable application of the Universal Service Fund surcharge; creates a certain commission; provides for public highway conduit standards; and makes changes related to renewable energy plants

**C. PUC BASED FUNDING/MECHANISM** N/A

**[46] VIRGINIA [Updated 05/05/16]**

**A. PROGRAMS**

**Virginia Office of Telework Promotion and Broadband Assistance – ACTIVE:**

In 2006, Governor Kaine signed [Executive Order 35](#) creating the [Office of Telework Promotion and Broadband Assistance](#). The duties of the office include promoting and encouraging use of telework alternatives for public and private employees, including appropriate policy and legislative initiatives, and supporting the efforts of both public and private entities within the commonwealth to enhance or facilitate the deployment of, and access to, competitively priced, advanced broadband services.

**Virginia Broadband Advisory Council – ACTIVE:**

The [Virginia Broadband Advisory Council](#) was created by [2009 S.B. 1336](#) (codified in [Va. Code Ann. § 2.2-2699.3](#)) and expires July 1, 2018. The Broadband Advisory Council was established to help determine the Commonwealth's goals for broadband and how best to achieve them. It is comprised of eleven members: four legislators, two ex-officio members, five citizen members, the Secretary of Technology, and the Secretary of Commerce and Trade.

**B. RECENT LEGISLATION** N/A

**C. PUC BASED FUNDING/MECHANISM** N/A

**[47] WASHINGTON STATE [Updated 08/08/16]**

**A. PROGRAMS**

**Washington State Broadband Office - ACTIVE:**

In 2009, the Washington Department of Information Services (DIS) created the [Washington State Broadband Office](#) through supplemental grants to increase Washington's existing broadband program capabilities for a total of five years. In the third through fifth years of the grant, \$250,000 will be used annually to develop and support local technology planning teams. Semiannual data collection and updates to the broadband map will continue. The total funding for the program from American Reinvestment and Recovery Act Broadband stimulus funds is \$7.3 million, administered by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA).

**B. RECENT LEGISLATION** N/A

**C. PUC BASED FUNDING/MECHANISM** N/A

**[48] WEST VIRGINIA [12/2014]**

**A. PROGRAMS**

**West Virginia Broadband Deployment Council – ACTIVE:**

The [West Virginia Broadband Deployment Council](#) was created by [2008 H.B 4637 \(W. Va. Code § 31-15C-3\)](#). The purpose and function of the Broadband Deployment Council is to administer and oversee broadband deployment in the state, especially in regard to bringing broadband service to unserved or underserved areas. As part of this function, the council provides consultation services to project sponsors for the planning, acquisition, improvement, construction or development of any broadband deployment project. In doing so, the council is authorized to make and execute contracts, commitments and other agreements, including the hiring of consultants, to assist in the mapping of the state, categorization of areas within the state, and evaluation of project applications. In support of this mission, the West Virginia Legislature has appropriated \$5 million dollars per year for the next three years toward the administration and oversight of broadband deployment. Under W. Va. Code [§31-15C-14](#), the council is *set to expire on December 31, 2014*.

**B. RECENT LEGISLATION**

[H.B. 2979](#) Status: May 15, 2013; Act No. 18 Relates to the Broadband Deployment Council; clarifies that the data rate for broadband will be the same as specified by the Federal Communications Commission; requires reports to the Joint Committee on Government and Finance; extends the council's outreach and education efforts beyond unserved areas, rule-making and emergency rule-making authority; revises the council's guidelines and criteria for funding assistance; modifies the application process for project assistance; revises publication requirements.

[S.B. 250](#) Status: May 15, 2013; Act No. 121 Relates generally to the promulgation of administrative rules by the Department of Commerce; relates to broadband deployment grants, standards for certification of coal mine electricians, special motorboating, hunting and trapping, fishing, bedding and upholstered furniture, amusement rides and attractions, supervision of elevator mechanics and apprentices and crane operators certification.

**C. PUC BASED FUNDING/MECHANISM N/A**

**[49] WISCONSIN [Updated 08/26/16]**

**A. PROGRAMS**

**Wisconsin Broadband Office at the Wisconsin Public Service Commission– ACTIVE:**

The Wisconsin Broadband Office (1) provides leadership and vision in advancing the state's broadband program and provides policy recommendations on broadband issues, (2) monitors broadband availability, including broadband coverage data collection and mapping, (3) administers broadband improvement funding through an annual Broadband Expansion Grant Program. Contact: Angie Dickison, State Broadband Director. [Angie.Dickison@wisconsin.gov](mailto:Angie.Dickison@wisconsin.gov) 608-267-9138. Program website: [www.link.wisconsin.gov](http://www.link.wisconsin.gov)

**Broadband Expansion Grant Program – ACTIVE:**

Created by 2013 Act 20 (the 2013-15 Biennial Budget Act) to provide funding for the construction of broadband infrastructure in underserved areas of the state. The PSC administers the program through the Wisconsin Broadband Office. 2015 Act 55 (the 2015-17 Biennial Budget Act) authorized the PSC to annually award a total of \$1.5 million in broadband expansion grants in FY 2015-16 and FY 2016-17. To fund the grants, the Act created an appropriation for the program using a one-time transfer of \$6.0 million from a fund balance that had accumulated in the USF. [s. 20.155 (3) (r), Stats.] Since FY 2014, the state has awarded nearly \$4 million in broadband expansion grants. Contact: Angie Dickison, State Broadband Director. [Angie.Dickison@wisconsin.gov](mailto:Angie.Dickison@wisconsin.gov) 608-267-9138. Program website: <http://psc.wi.gov/utilityInfo/tele/broadband/grants/bbGrantApplicationPage.htm>

**Broadband Demand Survey – ACTIVE:**

In August 2016, the Wisconsin Broadband Office announced the release of its High Speed Internet Access Demand Survey. Used as a tool to allow residents and businesses the opportunity to voice their need for improved internet access or service,

the goal of the survey is to help state planners and policy makers better understand consumer demand for internet access in Wisconsin. [www.psc.wi.gov/BroadbandSurvey.htm](http://www.psc.wi.gov/BroadbandSurvey.htm). Those unable to access the website may take the survey by calling, toll-free, (877)360-2973.

## B. RECENT LEGISLATION

**2015 Act 55 – Broadband Expansion Grant Program** (the 2015-17 Biennial Budget Act) authorized the PSC to annually award a total of \$1.5 million in broadband expansion grants in FY 2015-16 and FY 2016-17. To fund the grants, the Act created an appropriation for the program using a one-time transfer of \$6.0 million from a fund balance that had accumulated in the USF. [s. 20.155 (3) (r), Stats.]

**2015 ACT 278 - Broadband Forward! Communities.** Imposed additional duties on the PSC related to the expansion of broadband access in Wisconsin. The PSC must: (1) encourage the development of broadband infrastructure in underserved areas of the state; (2) make comprehensive information about permits for broadband network projects and related business activities available to any person; (3) work with other government offices, at the state and local levels, to encourage the timely and efficient issuance of permits and the resolution of related issues; and (4) encourage local and federal agencies to coordinate activities relating to the application, approval, and issuance of permits for broadband network projects.

**Act 278** also created a process by which the PSC may certify political subdivisions as Broadband Forward! communities. To become certified, a political subdivision must adopt an ordinance that establishes an efficient process, as described in the Act, for the application, approval, and issuance of broadband network-related permits. The Act prescribes the content of the required ordinance, prohibits Broadband Forward! communities from imposing certain conditions on broadband network project permit applicants, and grants the PSC the authority to resolve certain disputes between Broadband Forward! communities and broadband service providers. <http://psc.wi.gov/utilityInfo/tele/broadband/bbForward.htm>  
Effective date: March 26, 2016

## C. PUC BASED FUNDING/MECHANISM

Under current law, funding for the Broadband Expansion Grant Program is limited to the unspent funds remaining from the \$6.0 million transfer. [s. 196.504 (2) (a), Stats.] The PSC is not authorized to raise additional funding for the program through the assessments paid by telecommunications providers. [s. 196.218 (3) (a) 3., Stats.]

### [50] WYOMING [Updated 06/24/16]

#### A. PROGRAMS

##### Wyoming Dept. of Enterprise Technology Services, Office of Enterprise Architecture - ACTIVE:

Housed in the Office of the Director, the Office of Enterprise Architecture (OEA) (<http://ets.wyo.gov/office-of-enterprise-architecture>) is home to a team of Enterprise Architects specializing in the areas of Broadband, Data Coordination, Systems, Information Technology (IT) Governance, Solutions and Cloud Technologies. Leveraging this diverse team in an open and collaborative environment, the OEA works to (i) increase transparency and efficiency of government, (ii) work collaboratively with agencies to implement technology solutions; (iii) promote proper management of executive branch information technology resources; and (iv) encourage coordination and collaboration among State agencies.

B. RECENT LEGISLATION N/A

C. PUC BASED FUNDING/MECHANISM N/A

### [51] DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA [Updated 09/15/16]

#### A. PROGRAMS

##### The District of Columbia's Community Access Network (DC-CAN) – ACTIVE:

The DC Community Access Network (DC-CAN) is a District government initiative that encourages public-private partnership in the delivery of affordable broadband services to residents and businesses in underserved areas of the District (in particular Wards 5, 7, and 8) – spurring broadband adoption and economic development in underserved areas. DC-CAN

is part of a \$36 million program (including \$25 million in grants) to help bridge the Digital Divide within the District of Columbia. It was originally funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 with the federal grant of \$17.5 million. The project is managed by the DC-Net program in the Office of the Chief Technology Officer (OCTO). It brings affordable, value-added broadband services to nearly 300 health care, educational, public safety and other community anchor institutions primarily in broadband-underserved areas of the District. It also creates a high speed middle mile network with points of interconnection for last mile service providers to deliver affordable broadband access to residents and businesses in underserved areas. Specifically, the project has already deployed a high-speed middle mile broadband infrastructure to provide direct Internet connections for community anchor institutions located predominantly in the city's economically distressed areas. The project plans to serve approximately 190 anchor institutions, including four community colleges, 58 public safety entities, 38 schools, 23 libraries, and 64 health care facilities largely in Wards 5, 7, and 8, including the communities of Eckington, Kenilworth and Anacostia, which have unemployment rates substantially higher than the national average. DC-CAN proposes to upgrade and augment the District of Columbia's existing 293-mile fiber network with over 170 new fiber miles and to provide anchor institutions and last mile broadband providers with speeds of up to 10 Gbps. Broadband providers can use the DC-CAN open access network to bring Internet to residents and businesses across the District. DC-Net's middle mile services offered at cost-effective pricing and special discounts for providers serving Wards 5, 7 and 8 reward providers for extending affordable Internet where it is needed most in the District. Key network features include: • 50+ mile, 100 gigabits per second fiber backbone throughout the city. • Extensive underground backbone fiber in underserved Wards 5, 7 and 8. • 14 Points-of-Presence (including 3 Service POPs for Internet service interconnection) strategically located across all wards. • Up to 80 handhole and/or manhole meet-me locations. Ability to interconnect at many DC-Net sites. Sources: [http://dcnet.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/dcnet/publication/attachments/DC-CAN\\_Product\\_Guide\\_1.5.pdf](http://dcnet.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/dcnet/publication/attachments/DC-CAN_Product_Guide_1.5.pdf) <http://www.ntia.doc.gov/legacy/broadbandgrants/applications/factsheets/5116FS.pdf>

#### **CONNECT.DC Initiative – ACTIVE:**

Created by the DC Office of the Chief Technology Officer (OCTO) in 2010, Connect.DC works to bridge this digital divide by making technology easier to use, more accessible, more affordable, and more relevant to the everyday lives of District residents. Connect.DC works with residents and community stakeholders to build a basic foundation in technology through digital literacy training, summits, and workshops; partners with local government agencies and nonprofits to increase the number of public computing locations in the city; provide free computer and Internet access to residents through our Mobile Tech Lab; provides affordable Internet and computer offers to low-income District residents; builds relationships with community institutions and stakeholders to create a culture of digital inclusion and excellence; share useful content and create tools for new technology users; collect data on digital inclusion and discuss important technology trends; and uses awareness campaigns, social media, and mobile updates to promote the benefits of technology and inform stakeholders about our services.

Specifically, Connect.DC conceptualized, built and maintains the Mobile Tech Lab (MTL) as a way to provide free computer and Internet access to low-income areas of Washington, DC. Connect.DC provides the vehicle and computer equipment, while partners like nonprofit organizations and other government departments provide the content and programming. In order to increase Internet usage in low-income neighborhoods, Connect.DC turned an old 'bookmobile' into a Mobile Tech Lab (MTL) by outfitting it with computers and Wi-Fi. Local nonprofit partners provide classes on the MTL as it visits neighborhoods with limited access to broadband. As part of the city's Connect.DC program, residents complete computer trainings and pursue long-term goals, such as earning a GED. From 2010 to 2013, the Mobile Tech Lab trained 7,784 individuals.

In November 2015, Connect.DC Program was selected as Winner for First Digital Inclusion Leadership Awards. The Government of the District of Columbia's Mobile Technology Lab (MTL) initiative was selected as one of six winners of the inaugural Digital Inclusion Leadership Awards, presented by Next Century Cities, the National League of Cities, and Google Fiber at the National League of Cities Congress of Cities event in Nashville, TN. The MTL initiative, part of the Office of the Chief Technology Officer's (OCTO) Connect.DC digital inclusion program, was selected from among more than 30 submissions as the most innovative approach award winner for the Leader in Most Promising New Plan award.

Other initiatives of Connect.DC include partnering with EveryoneOn to provide six months of free Internet service to 500 DC families. The applicants can sign up by visiting <https://internetessentials.com/>. At Connect.DC, the public awareness and engagement extends naturally to social media such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, FourSquare, YouTube and SlideShare where Connect.DC shares photos and videos, inspiring quotes, technology news, product information, and more. Source: [http://nextcenturycities.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/DC\\_DILAW\\_v3.pdf](http://nextcenturycities.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/DC_DILAW_v3.pdf)

## FIRSTNET DC Initiative – Planning Phase

FirstNet is a national wireless network that will facilitate communication for public safety users within and across jurisdictions. The U.S. Department of Commerce State and Local Implementation Grant Program (SLIGP) awarded the District \$795,903 to plan its FirstNet participation. • In 2014, the Office of the Chief Technology Officer and the Office of Unified Communications led outreach to public safety agencies and other stakeholders, including utilities, to determine how they would use FirstNet and how FirstNet may impact day-to-day operations and emergency response. • The District began its formal consultation process with FirstNet in March 2015. FirstNet will likely present a Radio Access Network plan to the District by 2017. FirstNet DC will: • Provide wireless coverage for public safety users to transmit and receive mission-critical and routine data, video, images, and information. • Provide priority access among DC public safety users (unlike commercial wireless networks). • Give DC incident commanders and local officials control over user assignments and application access. • Fundamentally change the way public safety operates, just as smartphones have changed our personal lives. • Save time during emergencies when seconds count. Source: [http://dcnet.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/dcnet/publication/attachments/District%20of%20Columbia%20FirstNet%20F act%20Sheet%20032115.pdf](http://dcnet.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/dcnet/publication/attachments/District%20of%20Columbia%20FirstNet%20Fact%20Sheet%20032115.pdf)

### Public Wi-Fi Hotspot Initiative – ACTIVE:

DC WiFi helps users find hotspots near their location and provides directions to the selected hotspot. OCTO has deployed over 600 Wi-Fi hotspots throughout the city, including at all public libraries, at many city parks, and on the National Mall. Since 2010, DC-Net has not only brought fiber-based broadband services to community anchor locations throughout the District, such as charter schools, health clinics and other non-profits. It has also upgraded network infrastructure at many public libraries, FEMS locations and police stations. At many of these new community anchor sites and at all DC government upgrade sites DC-Net was added one or more public Wi-Fi hotspots. Available at all times, this outdoor Wi-Fi service has enhanced the public's experience at events including the 2013 Presidential Inauguration, the Marine Corps Marathon, the Smithsonian Folklife Festival, the US Science and Technology Festival and many more. Source: <http://dcnet.dc.gov/release/wireless-initiatives-expand-free-public-internet-access>

<b>B.</b>	<b>RECENT LEGISLATION</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>C.</b>	<b>PUC BASED FUNDING/MECHANISM</b>	<b>N/A</b>