



# **NARC Executive Director Meeting**

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**BroadbandUSA**

October 23, 2017

San Antonio, TX

# National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA)

- NTIA is the Executive Branch agency in the U.S. Department of Commerce that is principally responsible for advising the President on telecommunications and information policy issues
- NTIA's programs and policymaking focus largely on:
  - Expanding broadband Internet access and adoption in America,
  - Expanding the use of spectrum by all users, and
  - Ensuring that the Internet remains an engine for continued innovation and economic growth.



## Efforts to expand broadband and digital inclusion are helping but the digital divide still persists



**10% of all Americans** (34 million people) and **39% of rural Americans** (23 million people) lack access to broadband speeds



Approximately **21 million children** do not have the bandwidth needed for digital learning



**34% of non-metro healthcare facilities** lack sufficient broadband connectivity for electronic medical records and information exchange



**42% percent of public libraries** have 10 Mbps or slower connections

# Regions face a number of challenges to their broadband efforts:



Identifying key issues, options and opportunities to begin stakeholder outreach and broadband planning



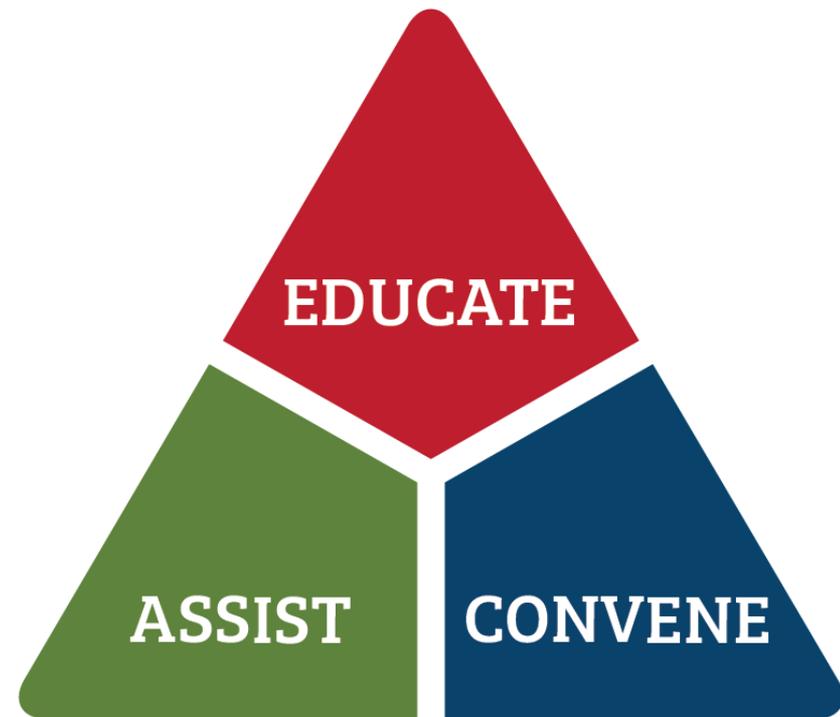
Communicating why broadband is important to residents



Exploring funding options and potential partnerships

## NTIA's BroadbandUSA launched BroadbandUSA to:

- ***Arm stakeholders and community leaders with information*** to make the right decisions
- ***Develop guidance for pursuing solutions*** to broadband challenges.
- ***Convene and facilitate the right conversations*** with the right people to increase project success





# BroadbandUSA: Technical Assistance



## Planning

RFP Development/Review, Asset Inventory, Digital Inclusion Surveys



## Funding

Partnership Facilitation, Funding Option Assessments



## Implementation

Network Design, Regulatory Approvals, Interconnection, Permitting

90% of technical assistance (TA) requests involve broadband planning  
62% involve questions related to funding

## Global Cities Team Challenge (GCTC)

- GCTC brings together experts and practitioners to share knowledge and best practices on smart community technologies
- Led by National Institute of Standards and Technology, in partnership with the National Science Foundation, International Trade Administration and NTIA and more
- BBUSA facilitated the Public Wi-fi SuperCluster, focusing on tactical planning and advice related to building public Wi-fi spaces—particularly in large, outdoor spaces
- BBUSA is facilitating Agriculture/Rural Supercluster, focusing on helping farmers use broadband-related technology to optimize operations and supporting rural communities to close the digital divide, improve healthcare and spur economic development
- <https://pages.nist.gov/GCTC/> for more information

# BroadbandUSA is available to help communities with their broadband access and digital inclusion efforts

## Publications:

- [Smart Cities Toolkit](#)
- [Federal Funding Guide](#)
- [Public-Private Partnerships Guide](#)
- [Community Broadband Roadmap Toolkit](#)

## For General Information:



202-482-2048



<http://www.ntia.doc.gov/broadbandusa>

## To Join our Mailing List:



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