

CLOSING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE: INTERNET FOR ALL IN NC

INTERNET
FOR ALL

MAY 23, 2023 | RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA

AGENDA

This event is co-hosted by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, N.C. Department of Information Technology Division of Broadband and Digital Equity, North Carolina Association of County Commissioners, and North Carolina League of Municipalities.

Moderator: Emily Gangi, Policy Director, Division of Broadband & Digital Equity, North Carolina Department of Information Technology

Virtual Access Link

10:00 – 10:30 am

Welcome

- **Jim Weaver**, Secretary & State Chief Information Officer, North Carolina Department of Information Technology
- **Doug Kinkoph**, Associate Administrator, Office of Internet Connectivity and Growth, NTIA

10:30 – 11:00 am

State and NTIA Updates

The state will provide an update on proposed priorities for the state broadband plan, themes heard from local engagements, execution of the BEAD and Digital Equity grant programs as it relates to existing ARPA programs, and other critical updates. NTIA will also provide an update on the BEAD and Digital Equity grant programs at the federal level.

- **Nate Denny**, Deputy Secretary for Broadband & Digital Equity, North Carolina Department of Information Technology
- **Will Rau**, Federal Program Officer for North Carolina, NTIA

11:00 – Noon

Understanding & Benchmarking Digital Equity in North Carolina

This presentation will share socioeconomic trends, digital equity metrics, and economic and workforce development metrics that should be addressed in the BEAD and Digital Equity plans. This will be an interactive session with audience input that will inform the state's broadband and digital equity plans.

- **Annette Taylor**, Director, Office of Digital Equity & Literacy, North Carolina Department of Information Technology
- **Roberto Gallardo**, Director, Purdue Center for Regional Development

12:00 – 12:30 pm

Networking Lunch

12:30 – 1:15 pm

Community Needs Panel

The state's ability to improve broadband access and digital equity relies on strong stakeholder engagement and input. This session will feature panelists from different regions of the state discussing their assets and challenges related to access, affordability, and the availability of devices and digital skills training.

Moderator: **Jon Gant**, Dean and Professor, North Carolina Central University

- **Commissioner Tracey Johnson**, Washington County and President, North Carolina Association of County Commissioners
- **Rosa Miranda**, Health Support Services Coordinator, Surry Medical Ministries
- **Mayor Scott Neisler**, City of Kings Mountain and Immediate Past President, North Carolina League of Municipalities

1:15 – 1:45 pm

Small Group Discussion to Inform the BEAD & Digital Equity Plans

Facilitator: Warren Miller, Fountainworks

1:45 – 2:15 pm

Data and Mapping in North Carolina

This session will focus on the state's efforts to determine access, affordability, adoption, and data collection methods. Speakers will also provide an update on the FCC maps and challenge process.

- **Angie Bailey**, Director, Broadband Infrastructure Office, North Carolina Department of Information Technology
- **Stephanie Jane Edwards**, Broadband Mapping & Data Lead, North Carolina Department of Information Technology

2:15 – 3:00 pm

Partnerships for Broadband Deployment & Workforce Development

Panelists will discuss innovative approaches to broadband expansion and what industry may need from state, local, and community partners on broadband projects. Panelists will also discuss partnerships to develop the workforce necessary for broadband expansion in the state.

Moderator: **Andrea DeSantis**, Policy Advisor, Office of Governor Roy Cooper

- **Victoria Bellamy**, Public Relations Manager, Focus Broadband
- **Keith Busby**, District 3 Broadband Lead, Communication Workers of America
- **Bo Coughlin**, Chief Operating Officer, Fybe

- **Robert Doreauk**, Executive Director – Legislative Affairs, AT&T
- **Brian Gregory**, Vice President, State Government Affairs, Charter Communications
- **Wes Hill**, Dean of Continuing Education, Wilson Community College
- **Deborah Kish**, Vice President of Research & Workforce Development, Fiber Broadband Association
- **Jaz Tunnell**, Director of State Government Affairs, Corning

3:00 pm

Closing and Next Steps

- **Nate Denny**, Deputy Secretary for Broadband & Digital Equity, North Carolina Department of Information Technology