



State Connections

The broadband working group for state legislators

Third Friday of Every Month

12:00 ET / 11:00 CT / 10:00 MT / 9:00 PT

June 2026

Agenda

Recording meeting

State Legislative Update - Rep. Louis Riggs

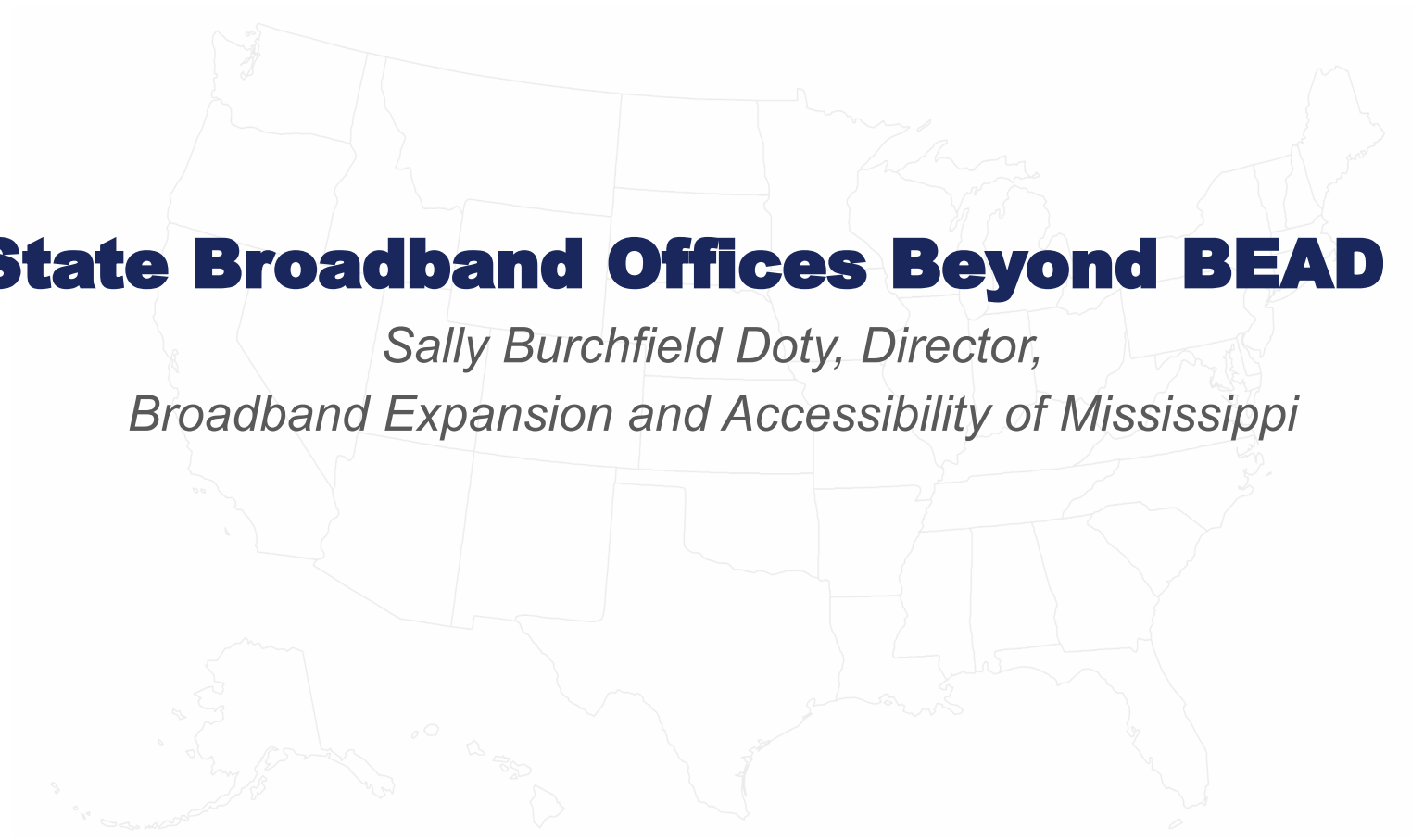
Broadband Office Update - Mississippi State Broadband Director Sally Doty

- *State Broadband Offices Beyond BEAD*

State Broadband Legislation Update - Jackson Littlewood, NCSL

Federal Broadband Updates

- ISPs decline BEAD awards
- NTIA opens two Tribal broadband grant programs
- FCC rulemaking may narrow E-Rate support for schools and libraries



State Broadband Offices Beyond BEAD

*Sally Burchfield Doty, Director,
Broadband Expansion and Accessibility of Mississippi*

DIRT ROADS *to* DIGITAL ROADS

Mississippi's Journey to High-Speed Internet



Sally Doty

Director, BEAM · June 15, 2026

WHERE WE STARTED

Mississippi Broadband — 2020



49th

in the nation for overall
internet access

21.5%

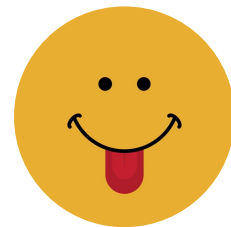
of locations had fiber

41%

had NO high-speed
option at all

WHERE WE ARE TODAY

Mississippi Broadband — 2026



20th

in the nation for fiber
coverage

61%

of locations now have
fiber

10th

for RURAL fiber
coverage

7%

still without a
high-speed option

BEAD

Broadband Equity, Access & Deployment

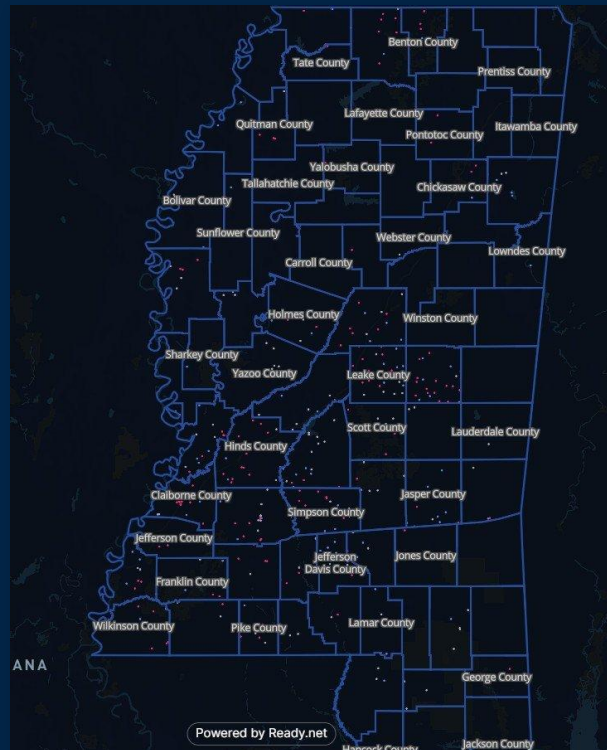
\$1.2 billion allocated

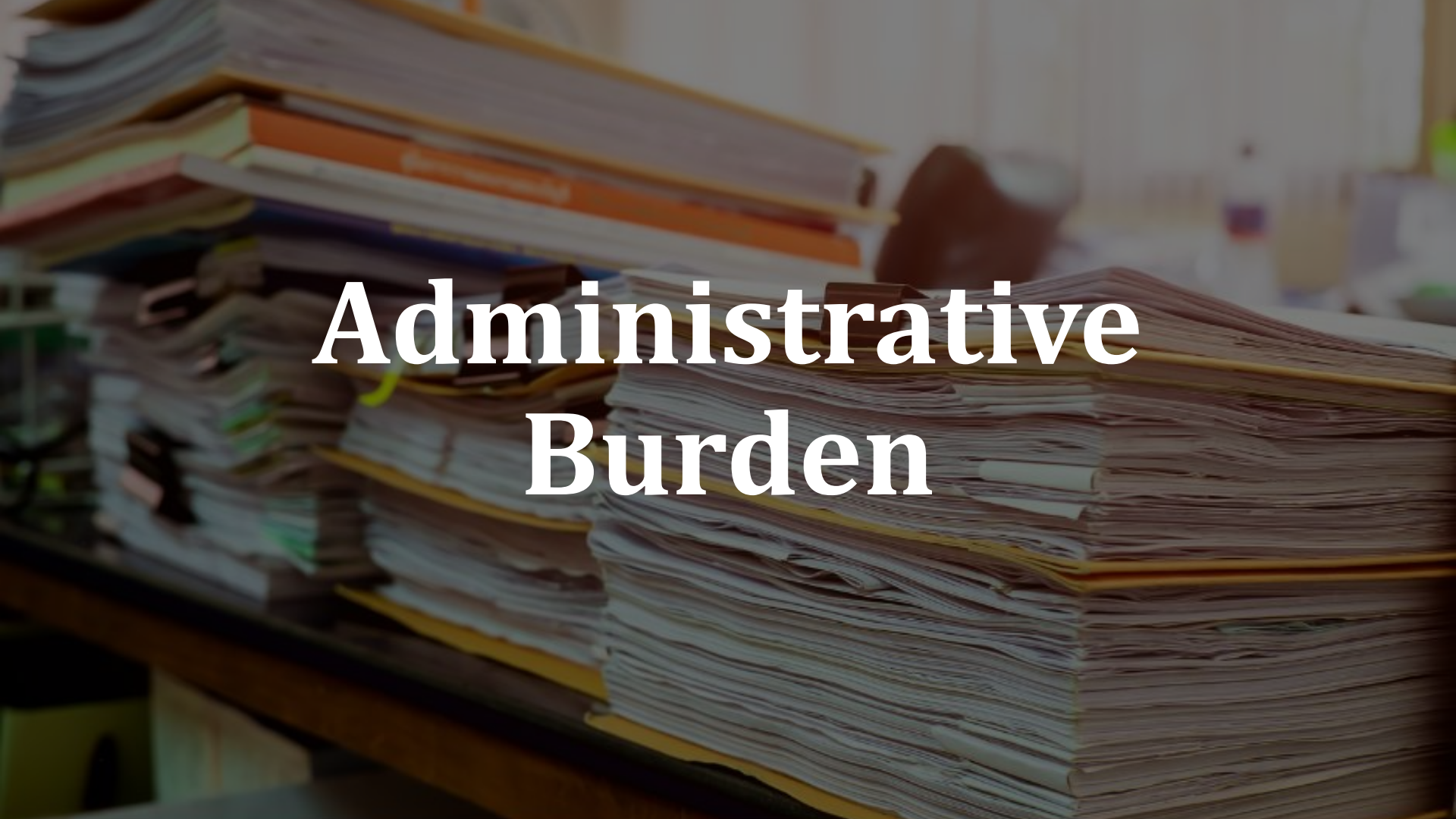
\$508 million for residential buildout

93,000 locations connected

13,000 miles of new fiber

Construction starts THIS YEAR



A photograph of a desk cluttered with numerous stacks of papers, folders, and documents. The papers are piled high, some with colorful tabs visible. The background is slightly blurred, showing more office supplies and a desk lamp. The overall tone is warm and slightly dim, emphasizing the overwhelming nature of the paperwork.

Administrative Burden



Providers

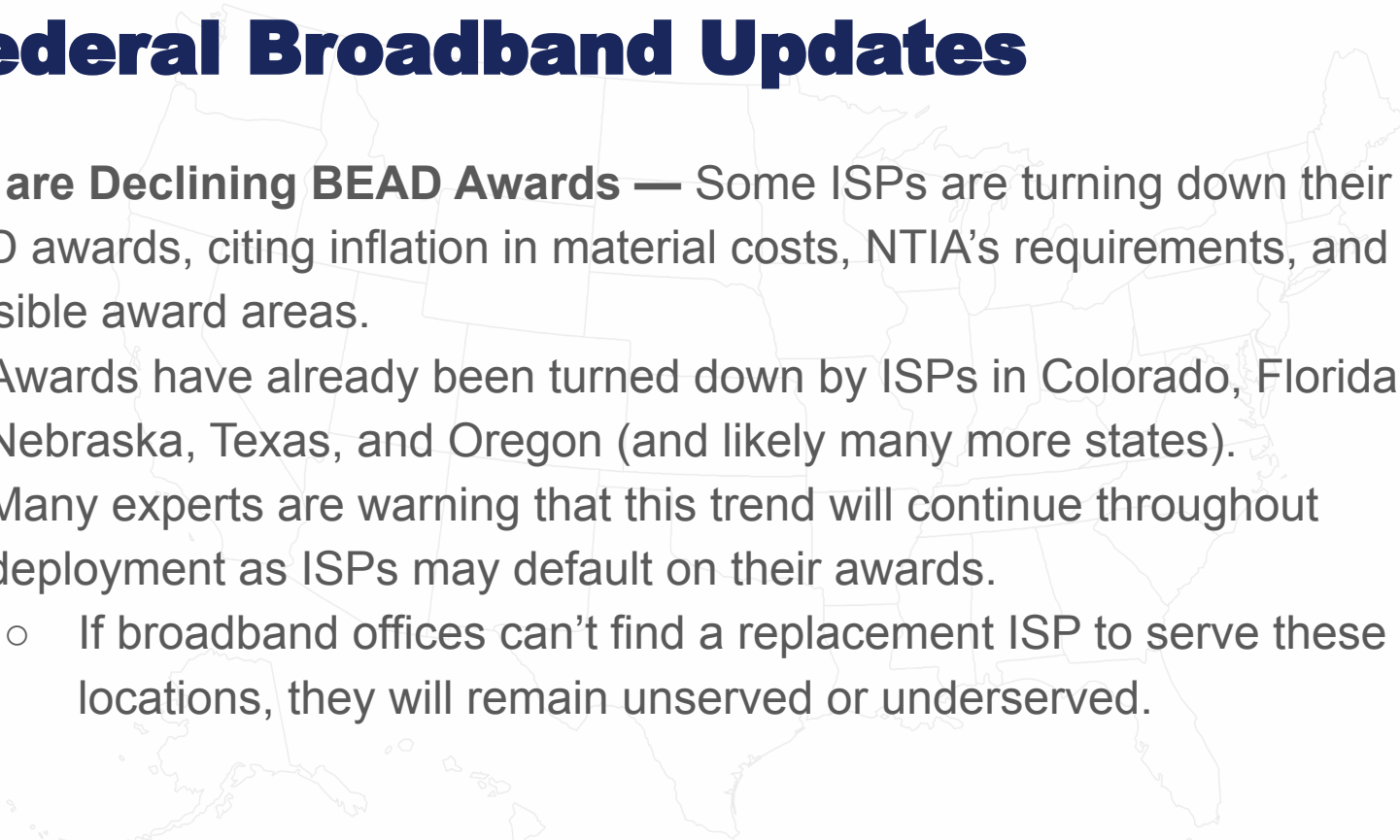
**State Broadband
Office**

WHY WE DO THIS

**The next generation
shouldn't have to leave
Mississippi to be
connected.**



Federal Broadband Updates



ISPs are Declining BEAD Awards — Some ISPs are turning down their BEAD awards, citing inflation in material costs, NTIA's requirements, and infeasible award areas.

- Awards have already been turned down by ISPs in Colorado, Florida, Nebraska, Texas, and Oregon (and likely many more states).
- Many experts are warning that this trend will continue throughout deployment as ISPs may default on their awards.
 - If broadband offices can't find a replacement ISP to serve these locations, they will remain unserved or underserved.

Federal Broadband Updates

NTIA released two new NOFOs for broadband infrastructure and adoption on tribal lands.

- \$540 million will be made available under the Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program (TBCP). Funds can be used for broadband infrastructure and adoption.
- The Native Entities Grant Program (NEGP) will release \$250 million of funds for broadband adoption uses authorized under the Digital Equity Act of 2021.

Applications are due by September 17, 2026

FCC Considers Cuts to E-Rate

E-Rate is a major FCC program that subsidizes internet connectivity and internal networking for schools and libraries. 96% of public schools and 73% of libraries rely on the program, and support amounts vary based on area income levels and rurality.

The FCC is considering fundamental changes to E-Rate, including:

1. Whether E-Rate should be sunset
2. Whether funding levels should be reduced or restricted to certain areas
3. Whether funding should be conditioned on screen time policies

If implemented, these changes could drastically reduce connectivity support for schools and libraries across the country, with the largest impacts potentially falling on lower-income and rural institutions. The proceeding will soon open for public comment.

FCC Considers Cuts to E-Rate

What happens if E-Rate support is cut or limited?

- A majority of U.S. school districts rely on E-Rate.
- 10s of millions of students are in schools that receive 80% discounts or more through E-Rate.
 - Reductions in support could disproportionately impact the most rural and impoverished districts.
- One in four families making under \$20,000/yr do not have a home internet connection. Many of these families rely on E-Rate funded networks at their local libraries daily.

ScreenTime Sidebar

Much of the proceeding stems from concerns about the harmful effects of screen time on children. While these concerns are justifiable, the proceeding does little to distinguish between educational vs. recreational screen use.

A light gray outline map of the United States, including the contiguous 48 states, Alaska, and Hawaii, serves as the background for the text.

Next Meeting

July 24th (delayed one week)

12:00 ET / 11:00 CT / 10:00 MT / 9:00 PT

Contact Information



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