AGENDA

This event is co-hosted by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, New Jersey Board of Public Utilities, Office of Broadband Connectivity, and New Jersey League of Municipalities

Virtual Access Link

Moderator: Valarry Bullard, Broadband Director, New Jersey Office of Broadband Connectivity, Board of Public Utilities

8:30 – 9:00 am	**Welcome and Introduction of New State Broadband Director**

- **Brian Wahler**, Mayor Piscataway Township, Past President, League of Municipalities
- **Joseph Fiordaliso**, President, Board of Public Utilities
- **Courtney Dozier**, Deputy Director, Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD), NTIA
- **Alan Davidson**, Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information, NTIA *(Recorded)*
- **Valarry Bullard**, Broadband Director, New Jersey Office of Broadband Connectivity, Board of Public Utilities

9:00 – 9:45 am	**State Update on Implementation of Federal Broadband Programs**

The State will provide an update on the status of the FCC fabric maps for the state, the BEAD and Digital Equity applications and timelines for implementation, and the Capital Projects Fund grants for broadband. This session will also feature a brief overview of the BEAD and Digital Equity programs from NTIA and efforts to help New Jersey with their local coordination strategy to bring stakeholders together on the development of the state's five-year broadband plan.

Moderator: **Veda Shamsid-Deen**, Esq., Member, Broadband Access Study Commission
- **Elena Thaxton**, Project Manager, New Jersey Board of Public Utilities
- **Jennifer Nelson**, State Librarian, New Jersey State Library
- **Brynn Deprey**, PhD, Federal Program Officer – New Jersey NTIA

9:45 – 10:30 am   **Coordination on Infrastructure Expansion**
The session will look at how the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act/Bipartisan Infrastructure Law created funding for New Jersey's critical infrastructure and will feature representatives to discuss their coordination efforts to maximize the way these dollars will be spent. The session will also address local actions that can be taken such as changes to permitting, easements, and dig-one policies that can help maximize investments in the State's infrastructure.

Moderator: **Jayné Johnson**, Office of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging of the Governor's Equity Office, State of New Jersey, Office of the Governor
- **Garth Naar**, CTO, Avatech
- **Steven Burton**, Chair of New Jersey Commission on American Indian Affairs, Tribal member of Ramapough Lenape Nation *(Virtual)*
- **David Cook**, Senior Public Safety Advisor, FirstNet

10:30 – 10:45 am   **Break**

10:45 – 11:30 am   **Strategies for Broadband Infrastructure Development**
Panelists will discuss innovative approaches to broadband expansion and what industry may be looking for in state, local, and community partners on broadband projects.

Moderator: **Forough Ghahramani**, EdD, Associate Vice President for Research, Innovation, and Sponsored Programs, Edge
- **Aaron Meyerson**, Chief Innovation Economy Officer & Director of Broadband, Invest Newark
- **Robert Boyle**, Chief Executive Officer, Planet Networks
- **Michael Ruger**, Vice President, Local Government Affairs Policy and Operations, Comcast
- **Ava-Marie Madeam**, Vice President, State and Local Government Affairs, Verizon

11:30 am – 12:15 pm   **Telehealth**
This panel will feature examples of how localities are incorporating telehealth access into their community planning. Panelists will talk about the intersection of broadband with the delivery of healthcare services, needs of the community, and digital learning.

Moderator: **Joseph Rivera**, Manager of Broadband Access, New Jersey Board of Public Utilities

- **Marisol Meyer**, Rural Health Project Officer, New Jersey Department of Health
- **Stephanie McGowan**, EdD, Dean & Professor, Felician School of Education, International Center for Autism, Disabilities, and Research in Education (I-CAdRE), Principal Investigator for Project Felice, Felician University
- **Jane Asselta**, New Jersey State Director for Rural Development, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)
- **Evelyn Liebman**, Director of Advocacy, AARP New Jersey

12:15 – 1:15 pm   **Lunch**

1:15 – 2:00 pm   **Fireside Chat: Input on 5-Year and Digital Equity Plans**
State representatives will start collecting input on the development of their 5-Year and Digital Equity Plans. Following the fireside chat, participants will be asked to have small group discussions at their tables on infrastructure and digital access needs; discussion questions will be provided. Each discussion will be followed by a report out.

- **Angela Bennett**, Digital Equity Director, NTIA
- **Ann Lippel,** President, Montclair Gateway to Aging in Place
- **Allison Strobel,** Chief of Staff, Jersey City Housing Authority

2:00 – 2:45 pm   **Digital Access Challenges and Solutions for New Jersey**
There is no one size fits all approach to addressing the unique digital equity challenges in the state. Panelists will discuss some of the critical challenges communities face with regard to broadband adoption and use and how to focus efforts to address those challenges.

Moderator: **Angela Bennett,** Digital Equity Director, NTIA
- **Amber Randolph,** Sr. Vice Chancellor for Administration, Economic Development and Chief Financial Officer, Rutgers University – Newark
- **Melissa Chalker,** Deputy Division Director, Division of Aging, New Jersey Department of Health and Human Services
- **Ed Bethea**, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, Gateway Community Action Partnership, and Council President for City of Bridgeton Council Gateway Community

2:45 – 3:30 pm   **Think Locally, Plan Regionally**
Local and regional government representatives will discuss partnerships and solutions they have developed to meet their communities' digital equity needs

and how a regional approach to broadband can help create efficiencies and leverage expertise from a wide and diverse stakeholder group.

Moderator: **Alexis Bailey**, Vice President of Government Affairs at New Jersey Business & Industry Association (NJBIA)

- **Gary Altman**, Acting Executive Director, New Jersey State Employment and Training Commission
- **Johanna Calle**, Director, Office of New Americans, New Jersey Department of Human Services
- **Rana Shanawani**, Executive Director, Women's Center for Entrepreneurship

3:30 – 4:15 pm   **Workforce Strategy Panel**
Local coordination on broadband planning will be critical to the success of ensuring affordable connectivity to everyone in the state. This panel will feature some of the state's stakeholders discussing their perspectives and outcomes they expect today's convening and going forward.

Moderator: **Taryn Boland**, Chief of Staff, Board of Public Utilities

- **Robert Speer**, Business Manager, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW)
- **Stephanie Staub**, Director of Infrastructure & Energy Sectors, Strategy and Workforce Partnerships, New Jersey Pathways to Career Opportunities
- **Amanda Bergson-Shilcock**, Senior Fellow, National Skills Coalition

4:15 pm   **Closing and Next Steps**
Valarry Bullard, Broadband Director, New Jersey Office of Broadband Connectivity, Board of Public Utilities

4:15 – 4:45 pm   **Office Hours with NJ SBO and NTIA**