

Introduction



Brian P. Kemp
GOVERNOR



STATE OF GEORGIA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
ATLANTA 30334-0090

April 26, 2019

As our state has transitioned to a digital economy, many areas – mostly rural – have been left behind. Broadband has become essential to business, education, healthcare, agriculture, and quality of life, yet an estimated 1.6 million Georgians currently lack access to vital high-speed internet service. As I outlined in my plan, [A New Day for Rural Georgia](#), I am committed to ensuring we improve access to healthcare, enhance educational outcomes, support small businesses, and foster economic growth. Access to broadband is fundamental to these goals.

Through 2018 legislation, we launched the Georgia Broadband Deployment Initiative. The purpose of the Initiative is simple: facilitate deployment of essential broadband services – specifically in currently unserved areas – so that all Georgians can have access to quality healthcare, enhanced educational resources, essential small business resources, and an attractive quality of life. Each of these elements is necessary to realize economic growth, which has been lacking in some rural parts of our state.

I am pleased to share the state's first Broadband Plan. This plan highlights significant coordination and progress over a relatively short period of time. As you will see in the following pages, the collective efforts have initially focused on building a framework outlined in legislation. Moving forward, we will continue to hone our focus to encourage the private sector to help us address key objectives and priorities.

I appreciate the investment that private providers, state agencies, and local officials have contributed to date. With an engaged group of experienced providers, along with local communities and our federal partners – such as USDA and the ReConnect Program – the State of Georgia is well positioned to address the broadband need.

Thank you for your interest in and continued support of the Georgia Broadband Deployment Initiative.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "B. Kemp". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Brian P. Kemp