



**EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER 25-071**

***STATE OF EMERGENCY
OFFICE OF BROADBAND DEVELOPMENT
AND CONNECTIVITY***

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Homeland Security and Emergency Assistance and Disaster Act, La. R.S. 29:721, et seq., confers upon the Governor of the State of Louisiana emergency powers to address disasters resulting from natural or man-made events that cause or threaten loss of life, injury, or property damage, as well as emergencies, which include actual or potential conditions created by such disasters;

WHEREAS, when the Governor determines that a disaster or emergency has occurred, or the threat thereof is imminent, La. R.S. 29:724(B)(1) empowers him to declare a state of emergency or disaster by executive order which has the force and effect of law;

WHEREAS, La. R.S. 29:724 authorizes the Governor during a declared state of emergency to suspend the provisions of any state regulatory statute prescribing procedures for conducting state business, or the orders, rules, or regulations of any state agency, if strict compliance with the provision of any statute, order, rule, or regulation would in any way prevent, hinder, or delay necessary action in coping with the emergency;

WHEREAS, the Office of Broadband Development and Connectivity was created to, among other things, promote and encourage broadband adoption for households that have not accessed services, to encourage the assistance of the private sector, including broadband service providers, to effectuate the deployment and access to broadband and other connectivity services to all residents of the state, and to apply for, receive, and administer grants or financial assistance from persons or government agencies;

WHEREAS, the State of Louisiana, through the Office of Broadband Development and Connectivity, has long been a model for broadband expansion for the country by establishing the

State's first broadband deployment program, the Granting Unserved Municipalities Broadband Opportunities ("GUMBO") grant program;

WHEREAS, the Office of Broadband Development and Connectivity ("ConnectLA") currently provides administrative duties and compliance processes for the GUMBO 1.0 grant program, set to serve over 60,000 locations with high-speed, reliable, internet service using up \$176 million in Capital Projects Funds from the U.S. Treasury by December 2026;

WHEREAS, the State of Louisiana and ConnectLA embarked on a challenge to continue to bridge the digital divide by participating in the Broadband, Equity, Access, and Deployment ("BEAD") program administered by the U.S. Department of Commerce;

WHEREAS, the Notice of Funding Opportunities that was released by the U.S. Department of Commerce stipulated numerous steps and requirements to unlock \$1.355 billion in funds to be allocated to the State of Louisiana through this program;

WHEREAS, the State of Louisiana became the first state in the nation to receive approval of the Initial Proposal document from the U.S. Department of Commerce in December of 2023;

WHEREAS, this approval from the U.S. Department of Commerce set a one year timeline to complete a Final Proposal and provided the state the ability to complete its competitive grant process to serve the remaining locations within the state with broadband services;

WHEREAS, the State of Louisiana had become the first in the nation to release results from the program in November of 2024 and secure federal approval in January of 2025 for the Final Proposal, representing a comprehensive BEAD plan totaling \$1.355 billion, through the GUMBO 2.0 program;

WHEREAS, this historic investment represents a generational opportunity to deliver high-speed internet access to approximately 140,000 unserved or underserved locations across all 64 parishes;

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Commerce recently completed a review of the BEAD program to offer changes to streamline the program for all state broadband offices across the nation;

WHEREAS, a new policy notice was released on June 6, 2025, to expedite the BEAD award process and ensure all states have completed a "Benefit of the Bargain" grant round;

WHEREAS, the State of Louisiana must complete all new actions and redo the entirety of the bidding process within a 90 day timeframe from the release of the policy notice guidance from the U.S. Department of Commerce, with all results due by September 4, 2025;

WHEREAS, strict compliance with the requirements set forth in La. R.S. 51:2370.21, et seq., do not permit ConnectLa to complete the entirety of this process as required by the U.S. Department of Commerce by September 4, 2025.

NOW THEREFORE, I, JEFF LANDRY, Governor of the State of Louisiana, by virtue of the authority vested by the Constitution and laws of the State of Louisiana, do hereby order and direct as follows:

Section 1: Pursuant to the Louisiana Homeland Security and Emergency Assistance and Disaster Act, La. R.S. 29:721, et seq., a state of emergency is hereby declared to exist as a result of the emergency conditions that currently threaten the safety and property of the citizens in Louisiana.

Section 2: Pursuant to La. R.S. 29:724(D)(1), the following provisions are hereby suspended: La. R.S. 51:2370.21-2370.35 and LAC 4:XXI.Chapters 11-17.

Section 3: All departments, commissions, boards, agencies and officers of the State, or any political subdivision thereof, are authorized and directed to cooperate in actions the State may take in response to this event.

Section 4: This Order is effective from the date of the emergency, Friday, June 20, 2025, and shall continue in effect until Sunday, July 20, 2025, unless amended, modified, terminated, or rescinded earlier by the Governor, or terminated by operation of law.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have set my hand officially and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Louisiana in the City of Baton Rouge, on this 20th day of June, 2025.


JEFF LANDRY
GOVERNOR OF LOUISIANA

**ATTEST BY THE SECRETARY OF
STATE**


NANCY LANDRY
SECRETARY OF STATE