

GMA 2023 Broadband Summit Agenda



10:00 am

Welcome, Introductions, and Opening Remarks

- Larry Hanson, GMA CEO/ Executive Director

10:05 – 10:50

State Broadband Update

A discussion and update on previous state work in broadband. This can transition to capacity grant, digital equity planning, devices, and turn towards what they have up the pipeline. This panel could catch local leaders up on less highlighted areas of infrastructure projects.

Moderator: Jessica Simmons, Deputy CIO and Executive Director, Georgia Broadband Program

- Oneisha Freeman, Digital Connectivity Manager, Georgia Technology Authority
- Julie Walker, Vice Chancellor for Libraries & Archives/ State Librarian, Georgia Public Library Service
- Bob Swiggum, K12 Connectivity Officer, Office of Technology Services, Georgia Department of Education
- Michell Morton, Acting Deputy Director, Digital Equity Program, NTIA

10:50 – 11:35

Partnerships, Case Studies, Success Stories

Moderator: Terrell Jacobs, GMA Member Services Consultant

- Steven Ferguson, Chief Information Officer, Information Technology & Data Resources, Technical College System of Georgia
- Jamal Lewis, Economic Opportunity Manager, Partnership for Inclusive Innovation
- Venus R. Lockett, Bank on Atlanta Program Manager
- Mayor Kenneth Sumpter, City of Fort Gaines, Empower Southwest Georgia

11:35 – 11:55

Survey Feedback at Your Table and Introduce Sponsors

Networking lunch and meet our sponsors.

- Larry Hanson, GMA CEO/ Executive Director

11:55

Keynote

Representatives from the State Broadband Office will provide an update on the state's activities since our 2022 Broadband Summit including their statewide coordination strategy to bring stakeholders together, implementation of the BEAD and DE Grant Programs, and what's to come.

- Jessica Simmons, Deputy CIO and Executive Director, Georgia Broadband Program
- Jen Wade, Grants Division Director, Governor's Office of Planning and Budget

12:35-12:40

GMA and DEI: Meet the Team - Georgia City Solutions

- Kay Love, GCS Managing Director
- Freddie Broome, GMA Director of Equity and Inclusion

12:40 – 1:25

Provider Update: Accomplishments and Initiatives Around Georgia

Panelists will discuss initiatives the industry is engaged in getting broadband infrastructure to rural and underserved areas; attracting and training a skilled workforce to meet the needs for broadband expansion; and will describe their efforts to engage in work around digital equity.

Moderator: Terrell Jacobs, GMA Member Services Consultant

- Rich Johnson, AVP - Legislative & Regulatory Affairs, AT&T Georgia
- Catherine Fleming, Director, State Government Affairs – Georgia, Charter Communications
- Herschel Arant, PE, Sr. VP of Energy Supply and External Services, Central Georgia EMC
- Carla French, President & CEO, TruVista

1:25 – 1:55

Best Practices and Tips for Local Government

What should city officials be doing now? What are some tips for success? What information should city officials be ready to provide to the Georgia Broadband Office, Georgia OPB, NTIA, and other partners?

- Oneisha Freeman, Digital Connectivity Manager, Georgia Technology Authority
- Amy Stone, Broadband Consultant, Georgia Department of Community Affairs

1:55 – 2:00

Survey Feedback

2:00 – 2:45

Resources to Help Communities and Residents

Grants for devices, ACP, Digital navigators, DE planning – best practices and how to maximize resources for your city.

- Michell Morton, Acting Deputy Director, Digital Equity Program, NTIA
- Alice Bennett, Associate State Director for Advocacy, AARP Georgia
- Ernesto González, Business Development Manager / ACCIONA Business Accelerator at the Latin American Association
- Oneisha Freeman, Digital Connectivity Manager, Georgia Technology Authority

Adjourn