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LOUISIANA RANKED NO. 1 IN THE U.S. FOR BROADBAND INITIATIVES BY AMERICAN ENTERPRISE INSTITUTE

The American Enterprise Institute has ranked Louisiana's broadband office, known as ConnectLA, first in the U.S. for implementation of broadband best practices and initiatives. AEI's Broadband Barometer Project released its annual report cards to document each state's efforts related to broadband access and programming.

Ranked first along with Idaho, Louisiana secured perfect scores on its report card by meeting all criteria in areas such as transparency, efficiency and accountability.

According to AEI's report card, transparent access to Louisiana's broadband plans and emphasis on market-based competition were significant factors that contributed to the state's ranking.

Evaluation criteria include public access to project information, cost-effectiveness of programs, methods for assessing key performance metrics and progress on achieving end goals. The project also reflects a rigorous evaluation based on

scholarly research and AEI scholars' practical experiences with related initiatives to expand broadband.

The goal of the Broadband Barometer Project is to provide guidance to public officials on effective practices of broadband initiatives, and it aims to help state and federal leaders avoid historical inefficiencies by leveraging academic research and lessons learned through previous initiatives.

Louisiana's Granting Unserved Municipalities Broadband Opportunities (GUMBO) grant program is one of the state's primary programs helping to facilitate the deployment of broadband service to unserved areas of the state.

"We are focused on moving as quickly and efficiently as possible to help all Louisianans obtain access to reliable, high-speed internet," said Governor Jeff Landry. "As our state continues to grow and innovate across the board – from industry to education – it is more important than ever that we remain connected to one other. This ranking shows the incredible progress we are already making when it comes to not only broadband access and connectivity, but the economic and community growth that it helps to support."

The state's top ranking comes as the state prepares to distribute more than \$1.3 billion through the GUMBO 2.0 program — which builds on the GUMBO 1.0 program that awarded more than \$170 million to more than 65,000 locations throughout 48 parishes. These and other ongoing state programs will ultimately ensure all Louisianians have access to high-speed internet.

AEI is a public policy think tank dedicated to defending human dignity, expanding human potential and building a freer and safer world. For more information on the AEI Broadband Barometer Project, visit [aei.org/broadband-barometer-project](https://www.aei.org/broadband-barometer-project).

For more information about ConnectLA and the GUMBO program, visit connect.la.gov.

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ConnectLA



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