

Get the Scoop on Broadband Policy

Broadband Internet access is essential for all Americans. With an unprecedented investment of federal dollars fueling the final *broadband-ification* of America, hundreds of communities are in the planning stages of solving their local challenges.

At the Institute for Local Self-Reliance, we have been meticulously tracking the birth and development of this movement for nearly 20 years, which is why we have been called upon by everyone from small towns to the biggest cities to the White House to provide reliable information and incisive analysis of broadband issues.

Consider this an invitation for those reporters, researchers, podcasters, broadband event planners, state officials, and municipal leaders who have yet to tap into our storehouse of resources or call on one of our senior staff members for assistance.

We have recorded audio podcasts for nearly 10 years and can offer high-quality audio interviews without a studio, though we are also open to visiting a studio at your request.

Christopher Mitchell

Director, Community Broadband Networks



Christopher is one of the foremost experts in the country on all things broadband and can speak with a rare depth and breadth of knowledge on trends and developments on Internet policy. He has led the team for 15 years and built MuniNetworks.org to serve as a clearinghouse of information about local

broadband solutions and partnerships. He has hosted more than 500 shows, including 8 years of the [Community Broadband Bits podcast](#) and more than one year of [Connect This!](#) Mitchell has received numerous awards for his work on Internet policy and has been on Marketplace, 1A, the Takeaway, and many more national shows.

Contact: Christopher@ilsr.org

Sean Gonsalves

Communications Team Lead,
Senior Reporter & Editor



Sean is an excellent source of information on how federal broadband funds in the American Rescue Plan Act and the recently passed Infrastructure & Investment Jobs Act can be put to use by states and local governments. He is well-versed in the many local success stories in the creation of municipal, coop-

erative, and nonprofit community networks popping up all across the nation. A longtime former reporter, columnist, and news editor with the Cape Cod Times, he is also a former nationally syndicated columnist. Sean is currently a board member for the middle-mile network OpenCape and an advisory board member for FalmouthNet, a citizen-led nonprofit championing an effort to bring fiber-to-the-home service to the town of Falmouth, MA on Cape Cod where he lives.

Contact: SGonsalves@ilsr.org

Ry Marcattilio-McCracken

Senior Researcher and Research Team Lead



Ry can speak to what communities need to consider at the early stages in developing local solutions to expanding access to high-speed Internet service. He is also a go-to reference guide on matters related to telehealth, broadband speed tests, partnership models, fixed wireless networks,

connecting community anchor institutions, and where Starlink fits into the mix of Internet access technologies to bring greater connectivity to rural America. Ry holds a PhD in American History from Oklahoma State University.

Contact: Ry@ilsr.org

DeAnne Cuellar

Community Broadband Outreach Team Lead



DeAnne is on the front lines of local and state-wide organizing efforts to build community broadband networks. Currently focused on an initiative to bring greater connectivity to underserved parts of Los Angeles County, she is a leading source of insight for community leaders in the planning

stages of deploying digital equity initiatives in cities and towns across the country. A longtime tech equity advocate and communications strategist from San Antonio, Texas, prior to DeAnne joining ILSR, she has also served as Mayor Ron Nirenberg's digital inclusion appointee to the City of San Antonio's Innovation & Technology Committee, which led to several policy and funding priorities aimed at closing the digital divide. As a social impact entrepreneur, she has also co-organized several cross-sector nonprofit initiatives, advocating for justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion for historically underrepresented communities.

Contact: DeAnne@ilsr.org