



**Bambi Kraus**, Chief  
Office of Native Affairs & Policy  
**[bambi.kraus@fcc.gov](mailto:bambi.kraus@fcc.gov)**

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## Office of Native Affairs & Policy (ONAP)

The Office of Native Affairs and Policy (ONAP) was established by FCC Order in 2010 to further the Commission's efforts to bring the benefits of modern communications to all Native communities. ONAP assists the Commission in developing policies and programs to address the lack of adequate communications services on Tribal lands nationwide. ONAP plans and leads the Commission's outreach to Tribal governments and organizations, with the objective of increasing their awareness of, and participation in, Commission programs and proceedings.

**[www.fcc.gov/office-native-affairs-and-policy](http://www.fcc.gov/office-native-affairs-and-policy)**

## Availability



Broadband Maps w/  
Household Level Data

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**Broadband  
Data  
Collection**

## Choice



Consistent Consumer  
Information

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**Broadband  
Nutrition  
Labels**

## Affordability



Bridging the Broadband  
Affordability Gap

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**Affordable  
Connectivity  
Program (ACP)**

## Accessibility



Preventing Digital  
Discrimination

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**GN Docket No.  
22-69**

## Impact



Inclusive Policy  
Process

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**Community  
Engagement &  
Impact**

# Agenda – Topics to be Covered

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- Update: Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP)
- Update: Preventing Digital Discrimination
- Update: E-Rate Program for Schools and Libraries
- New: FCC Seeks Comment On Tribal Nation And Native Hawaiian Access To Spectrum And Related Data
- New: Broadband Deployment Data Available through FCC Form 481
- New: Low Power FM Radio Filing Window

# Affordability



Bridging the Broadband  
Affordability Gap

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**Affordable  
Connectivity  
Program (ACP)**



# 20 Million+

Total Households Enrolled

### Consumer Benefits

- 17,00+ Participating ISPs
- 8 Million + Devices Distributed
- 46% of enrolled households use ACP for fixed connections in the home

### ACP/HUD Navigator Pilot Program ACP/Navigator Pilot Program

### Consumer Support

### FCC Outreach & Engagement

- 228 ACP Outreach Grants issued to trusted state, local and Tribal governments and community partners with \$72 million invested.
- National Paid Media Campaign
- Federal Agency Partnerships
- 1,400+ FCC Supported Outreach/Enrollment events
- Program Education & Outreach Materials in 10 Languages

- Multilingual ACP Support Center
- FCC rules to protect consumers participating in the ACP
- Dedicated FCC process for ACP complaints

**More information**

**[www.GetInternet.gov](http://www.GetInternet.gov)**

# Affordable Connectivity Program

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- Since the Program launched on December 31, 2021, over 20 million households have enrolled in it, including over 287,000 households on qualifying Tribal lands
- On August 4, 2023, the Commission released an Order that will provide participating providers in high-cost areas, as defined by NTIA for purposes of its BEAD program, with an enhanced \$75 discount to eligible subscribers living in such areas, which includes households located in rural, remote areas
- During Round 1 of the Tribal Competitive Outreach Program (TCOP), twenty awardees received a total of \$6,022,243 for outreach activities on qualifying Tribal lands
- The application filing window for Round 2 of TCOP has closed and awardees of the available \$5 million in support will be announced in November

# Update: Preventing Digital Discrimination

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## **Background:**

- The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act: tasked the FCC with establishing model policies to achieve the Prevention and Elimination of Digital Discrimination (GN Docket No. 22-69).
- The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act tasked the FCC with several directives to combat digital discrimination.
  - implementation of Section 60506 of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act regarding the prevention and elimination of digital discrimination.
  - the development of model policies and best practices states and local governments can adopt that ensure that internet service providers do not engage in digital discrimination.
  - overseeing the FCC's efforts to allow its public complaint process to seek feedback more prominently from consumers who may be facing digital discrimination in their communities.

**The taskforce is interested in a robust and substantive stakeholder engagement process. We are interested in hearing from local leaders and learn about the unique barriers stalling broadband access/adoption in your community, how you would define disparate impact, and how we can work collaboratively to achieve this important task.**

**You can learn more by visiting:**

FCC webpage: <https://www.fcc.gov/task-force-prevent-digital-discrimination>

Meeting Requests: [PreventDigitalDiscrimination@fcc.gov](mailto:PreventDigitalDiscrimination@fcc.gov)

# Update: E-Rate for Schools and Libraries

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In the past two years, the FCC has made it a priority to enhance Tribal Library access to the E-Rate program that can benefit Tribal communities.

- Two recent Orders updated E-Rate program rules in ways that support Tribal Library E-Rate applicants and call for increased Tribal outreach and training
  - Tribal Library E-Rate Pilot Program renewed for this year – this is a Tribal library specific program to provide Tribal Libraries with assistance in applying for E-Rate
- Most recently in July 2023 the Commission amended its rules to enhance the E-Rate program for Tribal Libraries through program simplification and increased access to funding with the Tribal E-Rate Order (FCC 23-56).
- Changes effective for E-Rate applicants for 2024. Applicants can start preparing now for the upcoming funding window which typically opens in January.



# Update: E-Rate for Schools and Libraries (continued)

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Changes include:

- Making Tribal College and University (TCU) Libraries eligible for E-Rate if they act as a public library in their community
  - Limited to eligible equipment and services to the library, not the rest of the college or university
  - Must have dedicated library staff, regular hours, and a collection available for public use
- Increasing Category Two funding opportunities (e.g., Wi-Fi network funding).
- Creating a competitive bidding exemption for libraries seeking \$3,600 or less for Category Two equipment and services
- Creating a cost allocation safe harbor to simplify E-Rate applications
- Adding a Tribal representative to the USAC Board of Directors
- Adopted a definition of Tribal based on suggestions received in comments and during Tribal consultations and outreach



# New: FCC Seeks Comment On Access To Spectrum And Related Data

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On August 4, 2023, ONAP and the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau released a [Public Notice](#) (Notice) seeking public comment on how and the extent to which Tribal Nations and Native Hawaiian Community are able to access wireless spectrum

- Includes through direct licensing or other means

Commission's current wireless licensing application forms do not collect information to identify Tribal or Native Hawaiian applications, thus seeking comment on the potential addition of categories or questions to better identify applicants seeking to obtain or currently holding spectrum licenses

# New: FCC Seeks Comment On Access To Spectrum And Related Data (continued)

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Notice seeks comment on the following, for consideration:

- What are appropriate categories, questions, and terminology that will recognize both the sovereign status of Tribal Nations, as well as the broad diversity of Tribal Nations and the Native Hawaiian Community?
- If categories or questions are added to the Commission's wireless licensing forms to more readily identify Tribal or Native Hawaiian applicants, should this additional information be mandatory or optional?
- Should the forms collect responses only from Tribal Nations or Tribal government entities, or should they also collect responses from non-governmental Tribal entities, such as businesses, or individual Tribal citizens?

# New: FCC Seeks Comment On Access To Spectrum And Related Data (continued)

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- To what extent have Tribal Nations and the Native Hawaiian Community been able to successfully access licensed spectrum through secondary market transactions in the recent past (for example, leasing arrangements and the partitioning or disaggregation of licenses held by carriers or other non-Tribal entities)?
- Are there ways in which the Commission can expand awareness among Tribal Nations and the Native Hawaiian Community about how they can access spectrum without applying for a license (for example, General Authorized Access Tier of the Citizen's Broadband Radio Service, unlicensed use in White Spaces, and the 5 GHz band)?

Comments to the Notice must be filed by November 30, 2023.

- [Submit a Standard Filing](#) of the Commission's Electronic Comment Filing System, enter the docket number "23-265" in the "Proceeding(s)" field.

# New: Broadband Deployment Data Available through FCC Form 481

- Tribal Governments can access filings submitted by telecommunications carriers that serve their tribal lands with USF High Cost program funds (use “Form 481” process)
- All eligible telecommunications carriers (ETCs) participating in High Cost and/or Lifeline programs must file Form 481 annually.
- Form 481 collects financial and operational information used to validate carrier support.
- This will be covered in-depth by USAC on Wednesday morning

## Why and what information is available?

Carriers are required to certify that they have addressed the following items in annual discussions with the Tribes if Tribal lands are included in their build out:

- A needs assessment and deployment planning with a focus on Tribal community anchor institutions
- Feasibility and sustainability planning
- Marketing services in a culturally sensitive manner
- Rights-of-way processes, land use permitting, facilities siting, environmental and cultural preservation review processes
- Compliance with Tribal business and licensing requirements

Tribal Officials can download and view FCC Form 481 data submitted by carriers that serve their lands using the 54.314 System in E-File.

# Low Power FM Radio Filing Window

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- The upcoming filing window provides Tribes, among others, with the opportunity to apply for a new LPFM station permit that can cover a localized service area in need of radio service
- A new station construction permit is required before an applicant is allowed to build an LPFM station and a separate license is required before operation of an LPFM station can begin
- Tribal Nations or Tribally–controlled entities are among the entities eligible to file an application for the entire FM band (channels 201-300) during the filing window
- The Media Bureau released a [Public Notice](#) that outlines the application procedures and selection process for the upcoming filing window
- **The Media Bureau will only accept online applications from 12:01am ET on November 1, 2023, until 6pm ET on November 8, 2023, through its Licensing and Management System**

# Contact Information

## ONAP Staff:

- Bambi Kraus, Chief, [Bambi.Kraus@fcc.gov](mailto:Bambi.Kraus@fcc.gov)
- Derik Goatson, Attorney Advisor, [Derik.Goatson@fcc.gov](mailto:Derik.Goatson@fcc.gov)
- Lloyd Collier, Attorney Advisor, [Lloyd.Collier@fcc.gov](mailto:Lloyd.Collier@fcc.gov)

**ONAP's general email address (all inquiries):** [Native@fcc.gov](mailto:Native@fcc.gov)

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**Contact USAC directly:** [Form481@usac.org](mailto:Form481@usac.org) or [hcquestions@usac.org](mailto:hcquestions@usac.org)

**USAC Tribal Liaison:** Gem Labarta ([Gem.Labarta@usac.org](mailto:Gem.Labarta@usac.org))