Housekeeping

Presentation

- The presentation along with a transcript and recording will be available on the BroadbandUSA website under Events/Past Events

- [Round Two Notice of Funding Opportunity | BroadbandUSA (doc.gov)](#)

Presenters

Presenters:

- Margaret Gutierrez, Acting Division Chief

- Isabel Lopez, Federal Program Officer, Team Lead

- Chris Becenti, Federal Program Officer

- Gabriel Montoya, Federal Program Officer

- Elaine Moran, Environmental Program Officer

- Kevin Blake, Federal Program Officer

Agenda

Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program – Accomplishments and Milestones

TBCP Accomplishments

To date, TBCP has awarded over $1.78 billion in funding to Tribal Governments, Tribal Organizations, Tribal Colleges and Universities, the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands on behalf of the Native Hawaiian Community and Alaska Native Corporations.

198
Total Awards Made

291
Participating Tribal Governments

159,870
Estimated Tribal Households with a New Connection

Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program – Round 2

Nation-to-Nation Consultation

Dialogue to inform the priorities of NTIA's Tribal Broadband Connectivity Grant Program.

September 12, 2022

September 14, 2022

September 16, 2022

Tribal Consultation Summary Report

Through robust dialogue, we are committed to building a program that meets Tribes where they are, on their path to connectivity.

Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program

How Much	Approximately $980 Million	
Who can apply	Tribal Governments, Tribal organizations, Tribal Colleges or Universities (TCUs), the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands on behalf of the Native Hawaiian Community, and Alaska Native Corporations.	
For What	To expand broadband adoption and deployment on Tribal lands, as well as to support distance learning, remote work, and telehealth for Tribal citizens.	
When	NTIA started accepting applications for the Tribal Broadband Connectivity Grants on July 27, 2023. All applications must be received (or postmarked) by January 23, 2024.	

Tribal Grant Program | Eligible Entities

Section 905(a)(8) of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (Act), stipulates the following eligible entities:

- Tribal Governments;
- Tribal Colleges or Universities;
- The Department of Hawaiian Homelands on behalf of the Native Hawaiian Community, including Native Hawaiian education programs;
- Tribal organizations; and
- Native corporations as defined under Section 3 of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act.

Eligible Entities that previously received Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program grant funding may apply for additional grant funding.

Tribal Grant Program | Eligible Lands

Section 905(a)(13) of the Act defines Tribal Land that can be served as:

- any land located within the boundaries of (i) an Indian reservation, pueblo, or rancheria; or (ii) a former reservation within Oklahoma;

- any land not located within the boundaries of an Indian reservation, pueblo, or rancheria, the title to which is held—

  - (i) in trust by the United States for the benefit of an Indian Tribe or an individual Indian;

  - (ii) by an Indian Tribe or an individual Indian, subject to restriction against alienation under laws of the United States; or

  - (iii) by a dependent Indian community;

- any land located within a region established pursuant to section 7(a) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1606(a));

- Hawaiian Home Lands, as defined in section 801 of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4221); or

- those areas or communities designated by the Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs of the Department of the Interior that are near, adjacent, or contiguous to reservations where financial assistance and social service programs are provided to Indians because of their status as Indians.

To meet the equitable distribution requirement of the Act, NTIA will allocate up to $500,000 to each of the Federally Recognized Tribes delineated by the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Indian Affairs (including those listed parenthetically). These Tribes may receive awards if:

- The application passes Initial Administrative and Eligibility Review, Merit Review, and Programmatic Review, and
- The applicant or relevant tribal government has not received funding previously under TBCP, or
- The consortium applicant represents tribal governments which have not received funding previously under TBCP.

Key Requirements of TBCP

- Eligible entities cannot be a part of more than one application

- 18 months from award for grantee to commit funds

- Up to 4-year period of performance for all awards, unless an extension is granted (see next slide)

- May only use up to 2% of grant funds received for an eligible entity's administrative expenses

- For Infrastructure Deployment, may only use up to 2.5% of the total project costs for Planning, Feasibility, and Sustainability Studies related to the project

Timeline for TBCP grant projects

The Act provides for a **four-year award period from the receipt of grant funds**.

Extensions For Infrastructure Projects: The Assistant Secretary may extend the period required for the expenditure of funds under the Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program for an eligible entity that proposes to use the grant funds for construction of broadband infrastructure if the eligible entity certifies that:

   (I) the eligible entity has a plan for use of the grant funds;

   (II) the construction project is underway; or

   (III) extenuating circumstances require an extension of time to allow the project to
        be completed.

Extensions for Broadband Use and Adoption Projects: The Assistant Secretary may, for good cause shown, extend the period of performance for a use and adoption project based on a detailed showing by the eligible entity of the need for an extension.

Key Changes in NOFO 2

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In addition to the technical amendments made under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, the following represent the major changes in NOFO 2:

- Project Types
  - Standalone Planning projects are no longer eligible
  - Standalone Use and Adoption Projects are limited to not more than $100 million.

- Eligibility, Prioritization, and Evaluation
  - Applicants can only be listed in or served through a single application to reduce duplication and confusion
  - TBCP 2 will prioritize funding for Infrastructure Deployment projects submitted by Planning or Equitable Distribution recipients, followed by applicants not funded by TBCP 1
  - Equitable Distribution is only available to those tribes who did not receive any funds under TBCP 1

Key Changes in NOFO 2

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- Eligibility, Prioritization, and Evaluation (continued from slide 15)
  - Promotion of Workforce Development projects to foster technology-based employment for Tribal members through on-the-job training/certification to increase the availability of technology-related jobs and the skilled knowledge base of the community
  - Capacity Building replaced Sustainability as an Evaluation Criteria for Use & Adoption to promote development of lasting digital skills, technology-based employment & training, and measurement of its effectiveness
  - Emphasis on network speed – Proposed networks delivering 1000Mbps receive 14 pts up from 10pts while those proposing the minimum qualifying end-user speed of 25/3Mbps go from 3pts to 1pt.
  - De-Duplication – New framework for review and potential negotiation informed by TBCP 1 that fortifies data-based analysis of service area via NBAM, FCC Funding Map, and coordination with all relevant agencies to prevent duplicative funding

Key Changes in NOFO 2

- Eligibility, Prioritization, and Evaluation (continued from slide 16)

  - Cybersecurity and Supply Chain – Applicants are required to submit "Certification Regarding Compliance with Cybersecurity and Supply Chain Management Requirements" to enforce applicable Dept and Exec Order standards for cybersecurity and supply chain risk management

  - OIG Compliance – New requirements for Disclosures, Reporting, Whistleblower Protection, and Enforcement have been added

- Mapping and Duplication of Efforts

  - Shapefiles are now required for all TBCP 2 Infrastructure Deployment applicants

  - Applicants must "self certify" to officially disclose all current and/or terminated Enforceable Buildout Commitments, broadband facilities or equipment on Tribal Land, and evidence of a challenge to the FCC's National Broadband Map if it does not reflect the Tribe's unserved status

Prioritization of Applications

Prioritizing applications in Round 2 by the following:

1. Department of Hawaiian Homelands

2. Standalone UA projects for those that did not receive funding in Round 1

3. Standalone ID projects for Planning or ED awardees in Round 1

4. Standalone ID projects that did not receive funding in Round 1

5. Dual ID and UA projects that did not receive funding in Round 1

6. Remaining awards for eligible ED recipients

7. If funding is available, NTIA will consider ID awards for Round 1 award recipients

Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program Eligible Projects

Eligible Projects - Infrastructure

- Middle mile

- Last mile

- Submarine cable landing stations

Projects cannot:

- Duplicate previous federal funding

- Rely on future satellite connections

Planning Your Broadband Application

Engage Stakeholders → Assemble a Team → Identify Community Priorities → Harness the Data → Consider Infrastructure & Inclusion → Assess Resources → Engage Partners → Evaluate Solutions → Develop & Execute Strategy
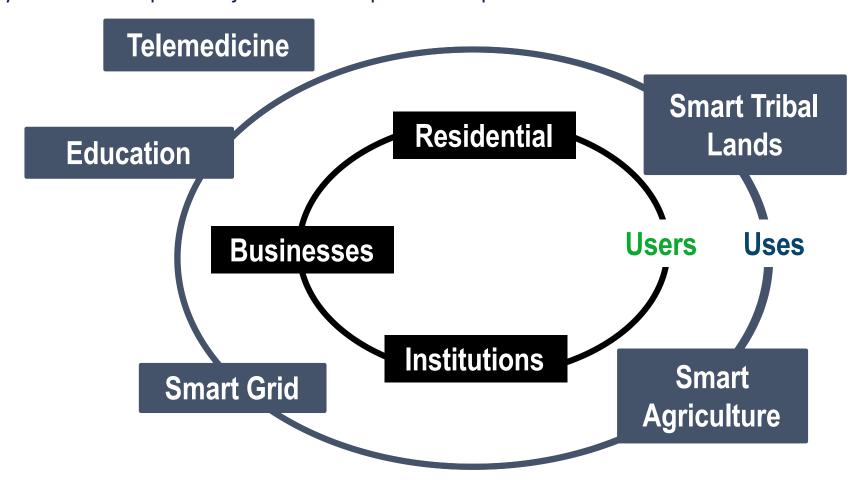
Planning Your Broadband Application

Community Priorities Shape a Project from Inception to Implementation

Telemedicine

Education

Residential

Smart Tribal Lands

Businesses

Users   Uses

Institutions

Smart Grid

Smart Agriculture

Infrastructure - Best Practices

Asset Inventories	Land, wireless, fiber, facilities Tribal, State, Federal
Permitting Processes Analysis	Tribal processes, BIA, State Dept. of Transportation, city, county, RR, Utilities
Environmental, Cultural, Historic Reviews	Compliance with NEPA, NHPA, minimize project's potential adverse impacts
Easement Analysis	Tribal Lands, allotee approvals, utilities, roadway rights of way
Outcomes	Cost savings, timely construction

Broadband Project - Business Plans

Business planning and ongoing project management improves project budgeting and sustainability, which are evaluated during an application's merit review.

Step 1. Make decisions on network types based on community roadmap & partnership assessment

Step 2. Perform market research

Step 3. Determine demand service offering

Step 4. Plan and budget for environmental, cultural, historic reviews

Step 5. Consider operational requirements

Step 6. Document financial projections

Eligible Projects - Adoption and Use

Projects that promote the adoption and use of broadband services, including:

- affordable broadband programs, such as providing free or reduced-cost broadband service and preventing disconnection of existing broadband service

- distance learning

- telehealth

- digital inclusion efforts

- broadband adoption activities

Examples of Digital Inclusion Programs

Access / Affordability

- Discounted Broadband, Public WiFi, Cell on Wheels (COWs), Mobile Hotspots, Internet in Public / Affordable Housing, WiFi Buses, FCC's Affordable Connectivity Program promotion*

Devices

- School Laptop Programs, Refurbished Computers, Discount Computers, Laptop Lending, Public Computer Centers, Mobile Computer Labs

Technical Help and Support

- Tech Support Hotlines, Digital Connectors / Navigators, Technology Organizers, Volunteers, Community Tech Events

Digital Skills Training

- Digital Literacy, Online Safety, Workforce Training and Apprenticeships, Health, STEM/STEAM

*Important Note: No Use and Adoption projects may include activities which require NEPA/NHPA clearance

How to Apply

How to Apply

Applications must be submitted by January 23, 2024 at 11:59 PM ET. Please begin the application process early to minimize the risk of problems with your submission.

Prior to submission, applicants must register in the System for Award Management. To check your registration, or to register, go to www.sam.gov.

- Submit Online: Apply electronically through www.grants.gov

- Submit by Email: Send completed applications to broadbandusa@ntia.gov. Applications submitted by email should be machine-readable and shall not be copy-protected

- Submit By Mail: Send completed applications (either in hard copy or electronic format) to:

    National Telecommunications and Information Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce

    1401 Constitution Avenue NW, Room 4878

    Attn: Douglas Kinkoph, Associate Administrator

    Washington, DC 20230

Required Forms – All Applications

All applicants must submit the following forms:

- Form SF-424

- Form CD-511

- Form LLL

- Completed TBCP2 Project Information Form

- Certification Regarding Compliance with Cyber Security and Supply Chain Management Requirements

- For projects proposing both Use and Adoption and Infrastructure Deployment activities, the above forms must be completed using the <u>total</u> requested funding amount

Required Forms – Use and Adoption (see NOFO for full detailed list of requirements)

- **Form SF-424A**

- **Project Narrative, including but not limited to:**

    - **Executive Summary**

    - **Status as an Eligible Entity**

    - **Table of Funded and Unfunded Participants**

    - **Resumes of Key Personnel**

    - **Description of Community Needs, Problems, or Challenges**

    - **Project Objectives, Activities, and Timelines**

    - **Project Performance Measures**

- **Budget Narrative**

- **Detailed Budget Justification**

- **Indirect Cost Rate Agreement**

Required Forms – Infrastructure Deployment (see NOFO for full detailed list of requirements)

- Form SF-424C

- Project Narrative, including but not limited to :

  - Executive Summary

  - Status as an Eligible Entity

  - Table of Funded and Unfunded Participants and Resumes of Key Personnel

  - Estimates for the proposed service area of:

    - Total number of households, businesses or community anchor institutions

    - Unserved households, businesses or community anchor institutions

    - Households at or above 150% of the poverty line

  - Project Objectives, Activities, and Timelines

  - Estimated number of jobs to be created, including those for Native American/Alaska Native/Native Hawaiian citizens and that are TERO compliant

  - Description of the physical area of the proposed service area, and consideration of the impact of climate and weather-related factors on the project

Required Forms – Infrastructure Deployment Cont.

- **Budget Narrative**

- **Detailed Budget Justification**

- **Pro Forma Financials**

- **Maps of Proposed Service Area**

  - **Maps must be submitted as GIS shapefiles**

  - **Maps should include all existing and proposed broadband infrastructure, proposed service locations, and network details (e.g. fiber counts, power supply, drop points)**

- **Tribal Resolution(s) of Consent**

- **Tribal Government Certification of Unserved Areas**

Required Disclosures for Certification

To be valid, an applicant's certification of unserved areas must include:

- Disclosure of all Enforceable Buildout Commitments.

- Disclosure of a terminated Enforceable Buildout Commitment. Failure to disclose may result in NTIA removing the application from consideration for TBCP funding.

- Disclosure of the presence of facilities capable of delivering qualifying broadband service, including fiber facilities or other broadband technology, deployed on Tribal Lands if the Tribe has knowledge of their locations.

- Disclosure of the Tribe's participation in the FCC's challenge process for its National Broadband Map or its participation in the state's submission for the FCC's challenge process for its National Broadband Map. Provide documentation of the challenge(s) submitted.

  - Certifications should include the total number of locations within the proposed service area included in an applicant's challenge

Broadband Resources

Tribal Broadband Leaders Network

One-stop shop for resources on broadband efforts on Tribal Land

Active network of Tribal leaders leading broadband efforts

Channel for communication and review of polices between federal agencies and Tribes

To join TBLN, email tbln@ntia.gov

NOFO 2: Technical Assistance
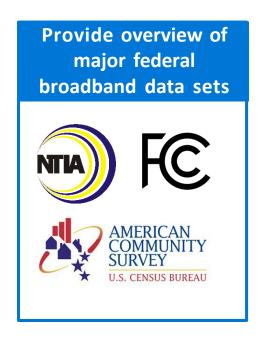
NOFO Webinars and Resources - Dates Tentative

1. 8/23 Overview Rerun

2. 9/7 Mapping

3. 9/28 Mapping Rerun

4. 10/5 Project Narratives

5. 10/25 Project Narrative Rerun

6. 11/2 Budget Narratives

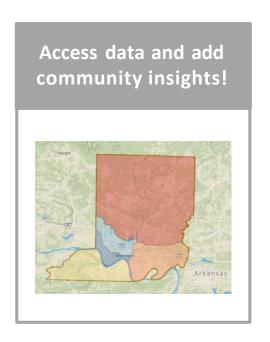7. 11/29 Budget Narratives Rerun

8. 12/5 Tentative Onsite TBLN

Use Data as a Foundation for Your Broadband Plan

Provide overview of major federal broadband data sets

Introduce federal and external tools to access data

Explore tools

Access data and add community insights!

See BroadbandUSA webinar archive:

February, 2021 Webinar: Data as the Foundation for Broadband Planning

June 2020 Webinar: Utilizing Federal Data to Measure the Digital Divide

Tools that Put Local Data in Your Hands

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FCC Broadband Data Collection		fcc.gov/BroadbandData
NTIA Data Explorer		ntia.doc.gov/data
American Community Survey		census.gov/quickfacts
BroadbandNow*		broadbandnow.com
Speedtest by Ookla*		speedtest.net
Measurement Lab*		speed.measurementlab.net
I3 Connectivity Explorer*		i3connect.org

These are not federal tools. They are external tools or products, listed here because they are used frequently by applicants and grantees to access data when developing broadband plans. NTIA cannot vouch for their accuracy.

One-Stop Permitting Information

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The federal government control 640 million acres or 28% of U.S. land. Federal lands and assets play a critical role in telecom networks – through rights-of-way access.

Federal agencies collaborated to streamline processes, identify points-of-contact, and publish a one-stop shop for permitting information at BroadbandUSA.

A number of agencies are also using a common SF-299 Common Application Form for permitting applications.

Departments:
•Department of Agriculture (USDA)
•Department of Defense (DOD)
•Department of the Interior (DOI)
•Department of Transportation (DOT)
•General Services Administration (GSA)
•Department of Energy (DOE)
Relevant Agencies:
•Federal Permitting Improvement Steering Council
•Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP)
•Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ)
•Federal Communications Commission (FCC)

Additional Resources

Tribal Broadband Planning Toolkit

Digital Equity in Tribal Communities

Broadband Asset Management and Mapping Guide

Internet For All – Funding Search

Q & A