



New Mexico Tribal Broadband News & Updates

Photo by [Theophilos Papadopoulos](#) April 22, 2024

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NM Tribal Working Group (TWG) Meeting April 24, 2024, 12:00pm, MT *Billing & Operations Support Systems*

TWG is committed to ensuring New Mexico tribes are actively part of the historic broadband initiatives that will enhance tribal communities' access to education, healthcare and economic development. You are invited to join the meetings.

April 24th Guest Speakers:

Hannah Bowser, Comsoft Product Manager / Customer Success Champion
Missy Frenyea, Business Operations Consultant

Topic:

"Billing & Operations Support Systems: How Can They Help You Succeed?"

Billing & Operations Support Systems (B/OSS) can be a valuable tool for Service Providers. These solutions can help you run your business efficiently and provide excellent customer service. Join us for this discussion to talk about the wonderful world of B/OSS. We'll cover the basics about what these systems can do for you and the benefits of using a B/OSS system. Along the way, our industry experts will share some tips and best practices to help ensure the solutions you choose meet your needs and help you succeed.

NM Tribal Broadband Working Group Meetings

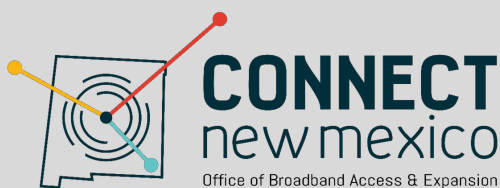
- Every other Wednesday at 12:00pm, MT
- Zoom Link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86256047626?pwd=MXdrVDJrdXFqVkJVVVFc2U2aU1RQT09>

Mission

To assist and support New Mexico Tribes in developing and deploying broadband infrastructure through tribal consultation and engagement that leads to expanded access to health care, education and economic opportunity and includes strategies for access to funding, technical assistance, project management support, workforce development and sustainability in ways that protect tribal sovereignty.

Become a Member!

If you are interested in becoming a member of the [Tribal Working Group](#), please send an email to: connectnmcouncil@state.nm.us. In the body of your email, please include a brief statement of interest, including your experience relating to the work group's mission. Also, let us know



OBAE Meetings and Office Hours for BEAD Challenge Process - Deadline May 18

Last chance to get the maps right for the federal NTIA broadband infrastructure funding program!

Agencies and organizations can attend meetings below to learn more about how to assess the accuracy of the NTIA broadband connectivity maps for your community and to submit a challenge to resolve inaccuracies if needed. All MAP CHALLENGES must be submitted by May 18, 2024.

The New Mexico Office on Broadband Access and Expansion (OBAE) invites you to Challenge Meetings and Challenge Process Office Hours for the BEAD Challenge Process.

Challenge Meetings: The meetings are open to the public, but please RSVP to broadband@connect.nm.gov.

Roswell Public Library

301 N Pennsylvania Ave, Roswell, NM 88201

Monday April 22nd 3pm

Farmington Muni School

3401 E 30th St, Ste A. Farmington NM 87402

Tuesday April 23rd 10am

Pueblo of Jemez

38 Bear Canyon Rd, Jemez Pueblo, NM 87024

Wednesday April 24th 2pm

Las Cruces - Thomas Brannigan Library

200 E Picacho Ave, Las Cruces, NM 88001

Thursday April 25th 1pm

Silver City Library

515 W College Ave, Silver City, NM 88061

Friday April 26th 11am

Raton - Arthur Johnson Memorial Library

244 Cook Ave, Raton, NM 87740

Monday April 29th 1pm

BEAD Challenge Office Hours: Information can be found at:

<https://connect.nm.gov/bead.html>

- Tue 4/23/2024 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM
- Thu 5/2/2024 12:30 PM - 2:00 PM
- Tue 5/7/2024 1:30 PM - 3:00 PM
- Wed 5/15/2024 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM
- Fri 5/18 end of day - Challenge Ends

BEAD Rebuttal Phase Office Hours: Information can be found at:

<https://connect.nm.gov/bead.html>

- Wed 5/29/2024 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM
- Tue 6/4/2024 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM
- Thu 6/13/2024 12:30 PM - 2:00 PM
- Tue 6/18/2024 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM
- Mon 6/24/2024 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM
- Wed 6/26 end of day - Rebuttal Phase Ends

[New Mexico CPC Challenge Video](#)
[BEAD Challenge Process Guide](#)
[Challenge Map](#)

Outlined in the State of New Mexico's BEAD Initial Proposal Volume I, the process provides a structured framework for stakeholders to contest broadband service classifications. It involves multiple phases over approximately 14 weeks, including publication of eligible locations, submission of challenges, rebuttals by those challenged, verification of evidence, and final determination by OBAE. Challenges can be made by nonprofit organizations, local governments, Tribal Nations, and broadband service providers, covering aspects like community anchor institution eligibility, existing broadband service listings, enforceable commitments, and planned service. The process ensures transparency, fairness, and evidence-based decision-making.



Digital Equity Potential Project Survey- Got Ideas? Submit by May 3!

Connect NM is conducting a survey to gather information about Digital Equity Programs in New Mexico. The survey is concise and should take approximately 10 minutes to complete assuming you have general information regarding the project. Whether you currently offer programs or have plans to do so, your insights are invaluable in shaping our efforts to bridge the digital divide. Survey Responses due **May 3, 2024**.

Click [here](#) to complete the survey.

Your participation is crucial in helping us complete our application for the Digital Equity Capacity Grant, due on May 28th. Thank you!



Indigenous Connectivity Summit (ICS) Calling Youth Leaders to Attend Connectivity Summit FOR FREE

June 4-6, 2024 | Membertou First Nation, Mi'kma'ki (Nova Scotia)

Indigenous people must lead their digital futures. ICS will return this June for three days of discussions focused on digital equity in Indigenous communities in Canada and the United States. The Summit is a community-led forum focused on collaboration to achieve digital equity for Indigenous communities. Since its inception, the ICS has become the primary convening event focused on digital equity for Indigenous leadership, community members, researchers, and other stakeholders to engage in solutions-focused discussions.

The ICS is a truly unique event. In contrast to many other conferences, we at the Summit believe that knowledge and solutions don't necessarily rest with the people on the stage. ICI attendees work together as a team to advance digital equity. Over the course of the event, Summit participants collaborate on a set of policy recommendations, which will guide advocacy efforts through the coming year.

Youth Scholarships

We know we need to hear the voices of the next generation's leaders. That's why we have specialized funding opportunities for Indigenous youth aged 18-35 to make sure you can make

it to this year's summit! Our scholarships cover all travel including flights to and from the summit, accommodations and a per diem. To apply, please fill out the ICS 2024 Registration Form and indicate that you would like to apply for the Indigenous Youth Travel Scholarship. If there is an Indigenous young person aged 18-35 you believe should benefit from this scholarship, you are highly encouraged to nominate them by emailing erin@clearskyconnections.ca. Please be sure to include the youth's contact information.

Click [here](#) for more information and to register.



NTIA's Digital Equity Webinar April 25, 2:00pm-3:00pm ET *The Impact of High-Speed Internet Access on Incarcerated and Justice-Impacted Individuals*

Accessing high-speed Internet in correctional settings can serve as a conduit for incarcerated individuals to receive vocational and technology training programs and set them on a path to success. This webinar will highlight state and local examples of how leaders in this space are creating economic development opportunities for justice-impacted individuals and how they are defining their digital equity baselines, indicators, and goals as well as tools they use to measure success.

Click [here](#) to register.



Notice of Funding Opportunity for the Rural eConnectivity Program for Fiscal Year 2024 - Round 5 Deadline **April 22, 2024**

USDA is accepting applications for its fifth round of funding for the ReConnect Program to connect millions of people in rural America to affordable high-speed Internet. In order to continue connecting rural families, business owners, and agricultural producers to reliable, affordable high-speed Internet, USDA is making several Program improvements under Round 5. This will further increase the availability of funding in rural areas where residents and businesses lack access to affordable, high-speed Internet.

Deadline **April 22, 2024**

[Press Release](#)

[Notice of Funding Opportunity](#)



State Digital Equity (DE) Capacity Grant Program Notice of Funding Opportunity

Recognizing that achieving digital equity for all people, including Indigenous peoples of the United States and Territories, is a matter of social and economic justice, this NOFO seeks to enable any entity that is awarded a grant under this Program to better understand, measure, and address systemic barriers to digital equity and, in collaboration with the communities most impacted, co-create the conditions necessary for long-lasting and meaningful change to ensure a sustainable future. Focusing investments on creating these conditions for change will allow

entities awarded a grant under this Program to address the causes of socioeconomic disparities and will result in improved outcomes.

[Notice of Funding Opportunity for the State Digital Equity Capacity Grant Program](#)



Grant Writing, Engineering, and Planning (GWEP) Grant Open Application

The Office of Broadband Access and Expansion (OBAE) will award financial assistance grants to aid Tribal governments and local governmental units in procuring grant writing, engineering, and/or planning assistance to help identify community broadband needs and to support applying for other funding sources for broadband-related projects.

Requirements:

- Open application until funds are obligated
- No matching funds required
- Max award is \$100K
- Tribes are NOT required to provide a BTIN or TIN (see info and instructions below).

Nations, Tribes, and Pueblos (NTPs) are not required to provide a TIN. Agreements with NTPs usually occur via an Intergovernmental Grant Agreement, which does not have the same requirements as a contractor for instance. **In the application, look for the section: New Mexico Business Tax Identification Number (BTIN): For Tribal submissions this will remain "0" as this is not required.**

Click [here](#) for more information and to apply for the grant.



Affordable Connectivity Program Reimbursement and Wind Down

The Federal Communications Commission's Wireline Competition Bureau released a [Public Notice \(DA 24-274\)](#) to remind providers that **May 2024** will be the last month for which providers will be able to seek reimbursement for the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) benefits passed through to ACP households. Providers are not required to pass through any benefits to ACP households after April 2024. Providers can choose whether to pass on and claim the partial reimbursement for May service.

- [ACP Wind-Down Order \(DA 24-23\)](#): Provides specific guidance to prepare consumers for the end of the ACP.
- [fcc.gov/ACP](https://www.fcc.gov/ACP): The most current information regarding the ACP wind-down.
- [ACP Wind-Down Fact Sheet](#)

If you have any questions, please reach out to the FCC's Office of Native Affairs and Policy (ONAP) at Native@fcc.gov.

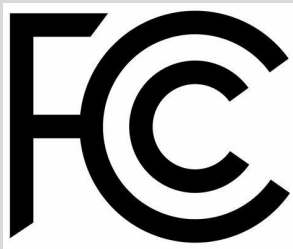
NTIA Releases Build America, Buy America Waiver for BEAD Program



NTIA recently released the Build America, Buy America (BABA) waiver for the \$42.45 billion BEAD Program. This release follows over a year of careful research and deliberate engagement with stakeholders – including 385 meetings with over 50 firms and 250 individuals — representing a diverse range of manufacturers, Internet service providers, trade associations, unions, and other stakeholders who could be impacted by BABA. The BABA waiver takes the strongest approach possible to protecting American jobs while also ensuring that we can quickly build Internet networks.

BABA Act: The domestic content procurement preference requires that all iron, steel, manufactured products, and construction materials used in covered infrastructure projects are produced in the United States.

[BABA Waiver and FAQ](#)



National Broadband Map Challenge Due Dates You Can (and Should) Still Challenge the Maps!

It is critically important to correct any data that may be inaccurate indicating internet coverage as portrayed within the maps for funding to be spent in an effective manner to achieve meaningful broadband access for those who need it most, including the unserved and underserved in New Mexico.

Please note the following important **challenge dates**:

- NM Bead Challenge: Challenge Phase April 18- May 18, 2024; Rebuttal Phase May 27 - June 26, 2024
- FCC Location Challenges - Current (V4) challenges being adjudicated by FCC. Next round of challenges (V5) expected June 30, 2024.
- FCC Service Availability Challenges - due anytime.

To review the maps and learn more about the challenge process, go to the [Connect NM mapping and data webpage](#).

The National Broadband Map is an evolving data collection and has been providing more precise internet availability data with each update. While we have made significant improvements in the identification of Broadband Serviceable Location data in Tribal areas, we encourage you to review the map for your community. If you identify any remaining locations that are missing or misidentified, or availability data which you believe is inaccurate, you may submit a challenge to help improve the data.

- Information about how to submit a [Location Challenge](#)
- Information about how to submit an [Availability Challenge](#)

You can learn more about the National Broadband Map and the FCC's Broadband Data Collection by visiting: www.fcc.gov/broadbanddata. If you have any questions or would like to request technical assistance, contact Native@fcc.gov.

Tribal Broadband Leaders Network Meetings



The Tribal Broadband Leaders Network (TBLN) is for Tribal leaders across the country to share priorities and best practices, discuss emerging telecommunications policy issues, and identify engagement strategies with state broadband leaders. Tribal leaders and Tribal broadband providers are welcome

to join.

If you are a Tribal leader or a Tribal broadband provider and would like to join TBLN or are an existing participant and have new staff to be added/contact changes, please reach out to TBLN@ntia.gov.

Next Meetings:

- Thursday, May 9: Topic TBD ([Register here](#))
- Thursday, June 13: Topic TBD ([Register here](#))



FCC's Office of Native Affairs and Policy is hiring a Tribal Policy Engagement Specialist

The Office of Native Affairs and Policy (ONAP) in the FCC's Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau is looking to hire two Tribal Policy Engagement Specialist with experience in Tribal affairs.

Applications should be submitted by **May 1, 2024**, through USAJOBS (www.usajobs.gov). The Tribal Policy Engagement Specialist announcement detailing duties and requirements is available at <https://www.usajobs.gov/job/784469500>.

ONAP plans and leads the FCC's outreach to Tribal governments and organizations and oversees the work of the Native Nations Communications Task Force.

Information about ONAP's mission and initiatives is available at <https://www.fcc.gov/office-native-affairs-and-policy>. Further questions regarding this announcement can be directed to: Kristin.Young@fcc.gov

RESOURCES

National Tribal Telecommunications Association (NTTA)

- White Paper: [Evaluating the Critical Need for Broadband Sustainability Funding on Rural Tribal Lands](#)

National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) Tribal Nations Broadband Resources

- [Local Coordination Summary Report - March 2024](#)
- [Tribal Nations Resource Page](#)
- [Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program](#)

- [Tribal Broadband Planning Toolkit](#)
- [Tribal Consultations](#)
- [Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program Awards](#)
- [Webinar Recordings](#)
- [State Engagement](#)
- [Mapping Resources](#)
- [Additional Resources](#)
- [Contact](#)

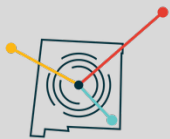
NTIA Digital Equity Assistance Materials

- [Digital Equity in Tribal Communities](#)
- [FCC Report - Spectrum Access and Data in Tribal Communities](#)
- [Grant List](#)
- [Hi-Speed Internet Page](#)
- [Asset Mapping Guide](#)
- [NTIA's Digital Equity Act Program technical assistance materials](#)
- [What is Permitting?](#)
- [Environmental & Historic Preservation Checklist for BEAD](#)
- [Environmental & Historic Preservation Factsheet](#)
- [Digital Equity Plan Template](#)

Connect New Mexico

- [New Mexico Office of Broadband Access & Expansion \(OBAE\)](#)
- [Connect New Mexico Broadband Grant Program Map](#)
- [NM Broadband Speed & Quality Testing](#)
- [Connect New Mexico Working Groups](#)
- [Tribal Broadband Resource Library](#)
- [Five-Year Action Plan Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment \(BEAD\) Program](#)

Internet for All Funding Programs



CONNECT
new mexico
Office of Broadband Access & Expansion

Connect New Mexico Tribal Broadband Resource Library

The Tribal Broadband Resource Library is a collaborative project between the New Mexico Indian Affairs Department (IAD) and the New Mexico Office of Broadband Access & Expansion (OBAE).

Supported by the Tribal Broadband Task Force, it demonstrates New Mexico's dedication to enhancing Tribal connectivity through infrastructure development, adoption programs, and effective digital resource utilization.

The Office of Broadband Access and Expansion is committed to providing dependable, affordable, and equitable Internet access to all 23 sovereign Pueblos, Tribes, and Nations while respecting their unique needs and cultural diversity.

The webpage serves as a comprehensive resource center tailored for Tribal entities. It offers valuable information, including federal and state funding statistics, workforce development resources, and funding opportunities for connectivity initiatives.

Click [here](#) to connect to the Tribal Broadband Resource Library.

**Connect New Mexico
Connecting Our Communities**



Connect New Mexico is a community-driven and community-focused resource to gather and share benchmark data and support local and regional community efforts to plan, fund, and implement broadband initiatives that provide reliable, affordable, high-speed broadband for all in New Mexico.

They honor the many community organizations, agencies, and individuals working to support Broadband for New Mexico, and invite you to get involved.

Review the Tribal Broadband Task Force Paper

Connect New Mexico Council Working Groups

- Connect New Mexico Grant Program
- Digital Equity & Inclusion (Chair Eli Guinnee and Co-Chair Catherine Nicolau)
- Mapping, Data & Evaluation (Acting Chair Natalie Runyan)
- Regional Planning & Community Engagement (Acting Chair Jerry Smith and Council Representative Katherine Crociata)
- Tribal Working Group (Chair Godfrey Enjady and Co-Chair Stephine Poston)
- Permits, Poles, and Attachments (Chair: Ovidiu Viorica)
- Connect New Mexico Grant Program and Rule Making Working Group (Chair Kimball Sekaquaptewa and Lead Vanessa Willock)

If you are interested in becoming a member of any of these groups, e-mail: connectnmcouncil@state.nm.us.

Check out their [website](#), and sign up for the [newsletter](#)!

New Mexico Tribal Broadband

Previous New Mexico Tribal Broadband Newsletters are available [here](#).