



Photo by [Theophilos Papadopoulos](#)

# New Mexico Tribal Broadband News & Updates

July 17, 2023

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## NM Tribal Working Group Next Meeting July 19, 12:00pm

*Kelly Schlegel, Director of the New Mexico Office of Broadband Access and Expansion (OBAE), is the guest speaker at the meeting. She will be discussing NTIA Funding.*

The Tribal Working Group 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.

### Mission of Tribal Working Group

*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.*

### NM Tribal Broadband Working Group Meetings

- Every other Wednesday at 12:00pm, MT
- <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86256047626?pwd=MXdrVDJrdXFqVkJVVVPc2U2aU1RQT09>
- **Next Meeting July 19, 2023 - Kelly Schlegel, Director of the New Mexico Office of Broadband Access and Expansion (OBAE) to discuss NTIA Funding.**

### Become a Member!

If you are interested in becoming a member of the [Tribal Working Group](#), please send an e-mail to: [connectnmcouncil@state.nm.us](mailto:connectnmcouncil@state.nm.us). In the body of your e-mail, please include a brief statement of interest, including your experience relating to the work group's mission. Also, let us know how best to contact you about the status of your membership request. The Council appreciates your interest!



## AFFORDABLE CONNECTIVITY PROGRAM

Helping Households Connect

## Tribal Competitive Outreach Program (TCOP) Deadline July 28, 2023

TCOP provides funding for outreach activities to increase awareness of and encourage participation in the [Affordable Connectivity Program \(ACP\)](#) for households on Tribal Lands.

The maximum amount TCOP applicants may apply for is \$400,000.

To access application forms and instructions, go to <https://www.grants.gov> under Assistance Listing (CFDA) Number: 32.011 - Affordable Connectivity Outreach Grant Program.

Read the full NOFO [here](#).



## OBAE Tribal Consultation Broadband Challenges

The Broadband Office is currently in the planning process for broadband infrastructure and digital inclusion programming across the state. Utilizing Broadband Equity Access and Deployment Program (BEAD) and Digital Equity (DE), OBAE is creating a Five-Year Action Plan to guide the state's efforts to provide all New Mexicans with reliable broadband internet access. **This plan will help identify each unique challenge your Tribe may be experiencing regarding access to high-speed internet.** Once the challenges are identified, OBAE will assist in coordinating state and Tribal, Nations, and Pueblos resources to overcome these challenges through BEAD and DE funding.

We request permission to proceed in this unified effort with a formal Tribal consultation. Please provide your chosen date and time, if desired, and if you have any questions regarding this request, please contact Stephine Poston, OBAE Tribal Liaison at (505) 379-6172 or [stephposton@msn.com](mailto:stephposton@msn.com).

Read the full Tribal Leader Letter [here](#).



## NTIA's Upcoming Internet For All Webinars July 19th and 26th

### Introduction to the BEAD Challenge Process

Wednesday, July 19, 3:00-4:00pm ET

This webinar will provide an introduction to this BEAD state challenge process, including:

- The BEAD Initial Proposal's description, volume approach, and timeline
- The BEAD Initial Proposal Volume I NOFO requirements
- Challenge submission steps and the roles of NTIA, Eligible Entities, and Challengers
- Next steps and additional resources

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

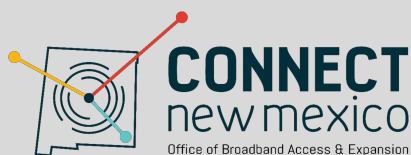
### Data Collection Tools to Support the Digital Equity Act

Wednesday, July 26, 2:00-3:00pm ET

In this webinar, we will:

- Demo the latest version of the [Digital Equity Act Population Viewer](#)
- Explain its applicability to the Digital Equity Act programs
- Share experiences from users who are using these estimates to help understand needs in their communities.

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



## Lunch and Learn Webinars

July 20, August 3, August 17, August 31  
12:30pm - 1:00pm

Register to attend one or more [Lunch and Learn Webinars](#) scheduled 12:30pm-1pm every other Thursday -

Learn about best practices and other projects around the state and delve into topics of interest and considered helpful to mobilizing for broadband and digital equity.

- July 20, August 3, August 17, August 31
- Register [here](#)

### [Upcoming Events Calendar](#)



## NM Awarded \$675M from White House High-Speed Broadband Internet Initiative

New Mexico will receive \$675 million from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to expand broadband access across the state.

Godfrey Enjady, NM Tribal Broadband Workinggroup (left), Alan Davidson, NTIA Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information (middle), and Kelly Schlegel, Office of Broadband Access and Expansion (right) at the White House event in the East Room on June 26, 2023.

“It is no accident that this funding made up the largest percentage of the federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law; broadband projects are incredibly expensive and a vital part (of) every aspect of our lives,” Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham said in a press release. “This funding empowers New Mexico to continue to bridge the digital divide and create equal opportunities for our residents. I’m grateful to President Biden and New Mexico’s Congressional delegation for their roles in securing this funding for our state.”

The \$675,372,311 in funding comes from the federal Broadband Equity Access and Deployment program under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

Read the full story from the [NM Political Report](#).



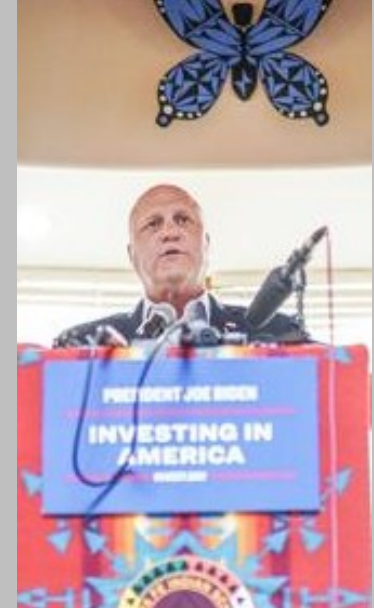


Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham at Santa Fe Indian School gathering to hear the announcement New Mexico will receive \$675 million in federal funding for broadband initiative.



Sen. Ben Ray Luján speaks at the news conference.

Photos by: Gabriela Campos, *The New Mexican*



White House senior adviser Mitch Landrieu praised New Mexico officials for moving quickly to secure \$675 million from the federal government for broadband initiatives.

## Biden Official Praises New Mexico's Broadband Work Announcement Made at Santa Fe Indian School

The state is poised to receive more than \$675 million from the \$1 trillion infrastructure law passed in 2021 to expand broadband in underserved communities.

As New Mexico gears up for an influx of federal funding to enhance broadband access for residents, a leading Biden administration official praised state leaders for moving quickly to secure the money.

New Mexico is “leading on this issue from soup to nuts,” Mitch Landrieu, President Joe Biden’s point person on infrastructure, said Thursday afternoon at a news conference at Santa Fe Indian School.

Read the complete story in the [Santa Fe New Mexican](#).



## OBAE Director, Kelly Schlegel, on panel on Tribal Infrastructure at the NM Indian Affairs Department State Tribal Leaders Summit in Mescalero

The panel discussion focused on the current and future outlook of Tribal infrastructure.

Discussion topics included Tribal, State and Federal Partners, use of funding and identifying opportunities and barriers.

Panelists included:

- Governor Everett P. Herrera, Cochiti Pueblo
- 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Governor Gaylord Siow, Laguna Pueblo
- Senator Benny Shendo
- Secretary Wayne Propst, Dept. of Finance Administration
- Director Kelly Schlegel, Office of Broadband Access and Expansion
- Elroy Keetso, TIF/Capital Outlay Manager, Indian Affairs Dept.
- Moderator: Secretary Designate James R. Mountain, Indian Affairs Dept.



## Honoring Joe Garcia A Champion of Ensuring Tribes Had Access to Broadband

In May of 2023, Indian Country lost a great tribal leader, Mr. Joe Garcia. Mr. Garcia was an electrical engineer by profession, earning an electrical engineering degree from the University of New Mexico. In June 2003, he retired from the Los Alamos National Laboratory after 25 years of service. As a tribal leader for his Pueblo Ohkay Owingeh in New Mexico and a national leader as President of the National Congress of American Indians, he was a longtime

proponent of education and a champion of ensuring tribes had access to broadband.

Read the [Official Press Release](#) from Santa Fe Indian School.



## Biden-Harris Administration Announces \$4.5 Million in Internet for All Grants to Tribal Lands

The Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) announced on May 24th it has awarded grants totaling \$4.5 million to 9 Tribes as part of the [Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program](#) (TBCP).

With funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, these new grants bring the total of the program to over \$1.77 billion awarded to 166 Tribal entities. Record investments in high-speed internet deployment are a key part of President Biden's Investing in America agenda.

These grants from President Biden's [Internet for All](#) initiative will help reduce monthly Internet service costs, plan for future Internet infrastructure investments, upgrade network equipment, and purchase devices.

**In the next few months, NTIA will release a second Notice of Funding Opportunity for an additional round of funding from the TBCP program.**

Read the full [NTIA Press Release](#).



Photo - Tesuque Pueblo Governor Milton Herrera and OBAE Broadband and Digital Equity Support Team Jennifer Nevarez

## Let's Get Going One-Day Broadband Bootcamp Photos from the Event on June 29th

Photo - Jeremy Yepa, Tesuque Pueblo IT and Chris Mitchell,



ILSR

Tesuque Pueblo Governor Milton Herrera opened the OBAE Broadband Bootcamp held at the Pueblo's tribal administration building on June 29, 2023. There were approximately 24 attendees from surrounding communities aimed at helping participants understand broadband digital equity basics. The information was presented by the Institute for Local Self-Reliance (ILSR).



YOU ARE INVITED  
**CONNECT NEW MEXICO  
ANNUAL BARBECUE**



**BBQ**



**STARTS AT 3PM**

**DIRECTIONS WILL BE  
EMAILED JULY 28TH**

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<https://connect.nm.gov/summer-barbecue.html>



**SAVE THE DATE**  
**Bratwurst and Broadband**  
**July 29, 2023**  
**3:00pm**

# RESOURCES

## [Internet for All NM Broadband Summit Recording and Presentations](#)

### **Recording:**

- [Internet for All: New Mexico Broadband Summit](#)

### **Presentations:**

- [Connecting the Dots - Broadband is Everybody's Business](#)
- [Community Spotlight Mobilizing for Connectivity](#)
- [Digital Access Challenges and Solutions for New Mexico](#)
- [Connecting the Dots on the Map: FCC Data and Mapping Update](#)

## [OBAE Surveys Seek Insight about Broadband in New Mexico](#)

- [Vulnerable Populations Broadband Barriers Survey](#)
- [Digital Equity Program Inventory](#)
- [Community Anchor Institution Broadband Access Survey](#)
- [New Mexico Infrastructure Asset Inventory Survey](#)
- [Workforce Development Opportunity Survey](#)
- [Internet Service Providers Survey](#)

## [NTIA Tribal Nations Broadband Resources](#)

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

## [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](#)
- [NM Broadband Mapping Program](#)

## [NTIA Digital Equity Assistance Materials](#)

- [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](#)

## [Internet for All Funding Programs](#)



# 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.

## **Connect New Mexico Council Working Groups**

- Connect New Mexico Grant Program
- Digital Equity & Inclusion (Chair: Eli Guinee)
- Mapping, Data & Evaluation (Chair: Peter Mantos)
- Regional Planning & Community Engagement (Chair: Katherine Crociata)
- Tribal Working Group (Chair: Godfrey Enjady)
- Permits, Poles, and Attachments (Chair: Ovidiu Viorica)

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

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



## **NTIA Advancing Internet For All Mapping Challenge Continues**

In order to meet the urgency of this moment to connect the unconnected, NTIA will continue to target June 30 as the date by which they will allocate each state and territory's BEAD Program funding for high-speed Internet service. NTIA and the FCC have worked closely with states to assist them in the process of improving the [National Broadband Map](#) to achieve this goal.

**NTIA encourages states to continue to submit challenges to this map**, which is meant to be a living document. Continued improvements will move us that much closer in making Internet for All a reality. Read the complete update [here](#).

## **New Mexico Tribal Broadband**

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