



### Navajo Technical University Receives \$100,000 Broadband Award

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## Navajo Technical University Receives \$100,000 Broadband Planning Award



The Office of Broadband Access and Expansion (OBAE) has announced that Navajo Technical University (NTU) in Crownpoint, NM will receive \$100,000 to help the university plan for the deployment of fixed wireless internet services for unserved and underserved populations on the Navajo Nation. Planning assistance will include working with students, initial grant funding, and preparation for engineering/quotes for service.

The award marks the 21<sup>st</sup> given out by the office as part of the state's Grant Writing, Engineering and Planning Program (GWEP). The Navajo Nation becomes the eighth tribal community to receive funds under this state program. Awardees can use the money for broadband grant writing, planning services, engineering and design projects.

"This is a great use for these funds, and this important award will help deliver better, faster internet speeds out to NTU's students and the community," said OBAE Project Manager Eric Rodgers. "This is another step forward to help rural regions get high-speed internet to provide services and information that will enhance these communities."

NTU is the largest tribal college in the country with a student enrollment of 1,710. Other tribal communities that have received a state GWEP award include Pueblos of Cochiti, Isleta, Jemez, Laguna, Picuris, San Ildefonso and Tesuque.

Today's announcement comes during Native American Heritage Month, a time to honor the cultures, histories, and contributions of all New Mexico's tribal communities.

The state had allocated \$5 million to the GWEP program to help tribes, local governments and electric and telephone cooperatives obtain grants to help them provide broadband to unserved areas. OBAE has awarded \$2 million to entities. There is still \$3 million available, and the state encourages entities to seek more of these grant writing, engineering and planning grants.

Entities that have already received these awards are allowed to receive another.

The broadband grant writing, engineering and planning awards are assistance grants, meaning entities do not need to compete for the funding. The money must eventually go toward infrastructure. Internet Service Providers are not eligible to apply for GWEP dollars.

The maximum award is \$100,000, and the funding can also be used to get other grants, like the federal Broadband Equity Access and Deployment (BEAD) program.

NTU is a public tribal land-grant university chartered by the Navajo Nation in 1979 as the Navajo Skill Center. In 2006 tribal leadership renamed the institution as Navajo Technical College, and seven years later it became NTU. The school offers certificates, and associate, bachelor's and master's degrees.

To submit for a grant, [CLICK HERE](#).

If you have questions about any of these opportunities, please contact us via email at [Broadband@doit.nm.gov](mailto:Broadband@doit.nm.gov).

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