



# New Mexico Tribal Broadband News & Updates

Photo by [Theophilos Papadopoulos](#) January 16, 2024  
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## OBAE - Gearing up for 2024!

Wishing everyone well as we begin 2024. Some tribal leaders remain in office from 2023 and some are new. I would like to reintroduce myself and reassure all of New Mexico's tribal leadership that the **Office of Broadband Access and Expansion (OBAE)** stands ready and prepared to continue to provide technical assistance and support for connectivity.

2023 was a super busy year. From July to November 2023, OBAE had the honor of meeting with 100% of New Mexico's Tribes, Nations and Pueblos as part of developing the **New Mexico Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program Five-Year Action** to guide the state's efforts to support reliable broadband internet access for all New Mexicans.

In an effort to remove barriers for full tribal participation in the federal BEAD program, OBAE submitted documentation for a Letter of Credit (LOC) waiver for tribal entities and is awaiting approval from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA). Additionally, I would encourage Tribes and relevant staff (broadband, IT, education) to participate in the **Tribal Working Group meetings** that happen bi-weekly on Wednesdays at noon (next one is January 17th, see below for zoom link). Please contact Steph Poston at [stephine.poston@connect.nm.gov](mailto:stephine.poston@connect.nm.gov) for more information and to be added to the mailing list.

Please visit the **Tribal Broadband Resource Library**; this 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.

### Please join us!

- **New Mexico Broadband Day at the Roundhouse**: Wednesday, January 24, 2024, 9:00am - 2:00pm.
- **RSVP Broadband Day Reception**: Wednesday, January 24, 2024, 3pm - 7:30pm.

We continue to be committed to ensuring Tribes, Nations and Pueblos can access and utilize OBAE for technical assistance and support for their broadband initiatives. Please reach out to me directly if there is anything OBAE can do to support your Tribal broadband projects. I can be reached at [drew.lovelace@connect.nm.gov](mailto:drew.lovelace@connect.nm.gov) or call me at (505) 795-7672.

Drew Lovelace, Acting Director

## **NM Tribal Working Group (TWG)** **Meeting January 17, 2024** **12:00pm, MT**

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.

### **Agenda**

1. ACP Wind Down: Godfrey Enjady, NTTA, and Doug Kitch, Moss Adams
2. FCC Provides Guidance to High-Cost Support Recipients on State and Tribal Government Engagement to Determine Eligibility of Locations for the BEAD Program: Godfrey Enjady, NTTA, and Doug Kitch, Moss Adams
3. OBAE FY25 Budget: Drew Lovelace/OBAE
4. DE Plan: OBAE
5. Invite to Broadband Day at the Legislature and Reception

### **NM Tribal Broadband Working Group Meeting January 17, 2024**

- Every other Wednesday at 12:00pm, MT
- Zoom Link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86256047626?pwd=MXdrVDJrdXFqVkJVVVPC2U2aU1RQT09>

### **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](mailto: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 how best to contact you about the status of your membership request. The Council appreciates your interest!



# BROADBAND DAY AT THE ROUNDHOUSE

New Mexico Office of Broadband Access &  
Expansion



2nd Annual Broadband Day in Santa Fe

Wednesday, January 24, 2024

9:00 AM to 2:00 PM

OBAE  
UPDATES

INFO  
BOOTHS

MEET PARTNERS  
& LEADERS



**CONNECT** new mexico

Office of Broadband Access & Expansion

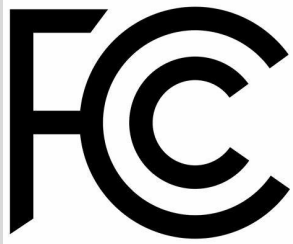
**New Mexico Broadband Day  
at the Roundhouse  
Wednesday, January 24, 2024**

Browse information tables, listen to educational presentations, and enjoy opportunities to meet broadband leaders and advocates from across the state at Broadband Day 2024!

This year will feature members of the Digital Equity working group, broadband associations, Connect New Mexico working groups, and the Office of Broadband Access & Expansion (OBAE). View the completed list [here](#).

- 9am-2pm: Tables in the East and West Wings
- 12pm-1pm: Presentations in the Rotunda
  - Welcome from Drew Lovelace, OBAE Acting Director
  - Demo: Tech Workforce Interactive Map - LANL Foundation
  - Video: Albuquerque ACP Outreach - Catherine Nicolaou
- [RSVP Broadband Day Reception](#): Wednesday, January 24, 2024, 3pm - 7:30pm

For more information, click [here](#).



## FCC Informational Webinars on ACP Wind Down Order January 17 & 18, 1:00pm, ET

On Jan. 11, 2024, the Federal Communications Commission **released an Order** associated with the potential wind-down of the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP). The Order provides specific guidance on items such as when ACP enrollments will end and also provides information about what consumers can expect to happen in the coming weeks and months.

The Consumer and Government Affairs Bureau announces two informational webinar briefings that will take place as listed below:

- **Wednesday, January 17, 2024**, at 1:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time. The briefing will be conducted virtually at the following link: [https://fcc.gov.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN\\_kAwILcEDTcG5c86YCnNQhg](https://fcc.gov.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_kAwILcEDTcG5c86YCnNQhg)
- **Thursday, January 18, 2024**, at 1:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time. The briefing will be conducted virtually at the following link: [https://fcc.gov.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN\\_kAx2\\_E2GQCGXYMwxSQCywg](https://fcc.gov.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_kAx2_E2GQCGXYMwxSQCywg)

Please join on either date to hear the latest updates regarding the ACP Wind-Down Order and what can be expected in the near future, and potential ways in which we can work together to boost awareness of the FCC's ongoing work. Both webinars will be sign language interpreted and captioned.

The FCC will welcome questions for a Q&A session as part of the webinar. Please feel free to submit your questions to [acpinfo@fcc.gov](mailto:acpinfo@fcc.gov). We will aim to answer all questions submitted during the webinar session.

In general, for more information about the ACP, visit [www.fcc.gov/acp](http://www.fcc.gov/acp).



## NOFO Round 2 Assistance Webinars, Resources, and Office Hours Next Webinar **January 18th**

The Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program (TBCP) continues to offer webinars, resources, and office hours as we approach the end of the application period for NOFO Round 2 on January 23, 2024.

**Webinars coming up (All at 3:00 pm EDT):**

- **January 18th**: Technical Assistance Office Hours: <https://ntia.gov.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJltdeuspzMqE0XaHYtnNVOBDrtM7qIJ8wc>

## Round 2 Resources

For Round 1 Awardees, this December marks the close of the eRA/GEMS extended reporting deadline, for both Performance Progress Reports and Federal Financial Reports (SF-425). These reports, normally due October 30th, must be submitted by December 31st, via the eRA/GEMS platform, and should cover all activity from April 1 to September 30<sup>th</sup>. It is imperative you check to ensure you have access to eRA/GEMS and that all previous team member assignments and roles are correct. Please reach out to the [eRA helpdesk](#) or your FPO with any questions.



## Second Round of Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program (TBCP) Funding Deadline is **January 23, 2024**

This second round of funding from the Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program will make approximately \$980 million available on Native American, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian lands for deployment of Internet infrastructure, affordability programs, telehealth and distance learning initiatives. Read the Program Overview [here](#). Visit [grants.gov](#) to apply. Applications for the TBCP must be received no later than 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time (ET) on **January 23, 2024**.

More states are releasing their Initial Proposals to the Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment (BEAD) program as well as 5-year action plans. Tribal leaders are encouraged to participate in the development of these Initial Proposals by ensuring their communities are served. NTIA is tracking the latest available plans here: [Public Notice Posting of State and Territory BEAD and Digital Equity Plans/Proposals | BroadbandUSA \(ntia.gov\)](#)

The Federal Communications Commission's **Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP)** provides a discount of up to \$30 per month toward Internet service for eligible households and up to \$75 per month for households on qualifying Tribal Lands. Visit [GetInternet.Gov](#) to sign-up.

For questions, email [InternetForAll@ntia.gov](mailto:InternetForAll@ntia.gov).



## NTTA Tribal Broadband Summit April 8-10, 2024

**Save the Date!** Wild Horse Pass Hotel and Casino, Gila River Indian Community, Chandler, AZ.

The purpose of [National Tribal Telecommunications Association \(NTTA\)](#) is to provide a forum for tribally owned companies and those who work in the telecommunications industry, to share knowledge and opportunities, discuss effects of regulation and address issues affecting tribal telcos and customers on tribal lands.

Our mission is to be the national advocate for telecommunications service on behalf of its member telephone companies and to provide guidance and assistance to members who are working to providing modern telecommunications services to tribal lands.

## Connect New Mexico Tribal Broadband



## Resource Library

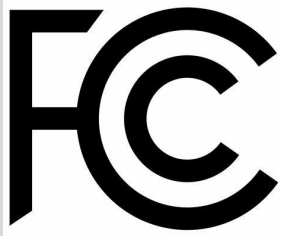
The Tribal Broadband Resource Library is a collaborative project between the New Mexico Indian Affairs Department (IAD) and the New Mexico Office of Broadband Access & Expansion (OBAE).

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.



## The Latest Version of the National Broadband Map is Now Publicly Available

You may view the map, which shows where broadband service is and is not available, at [broadbandmap.gov](https://broadbandmap.gov). This most recent version of the map includes new information – specifically, refined location and internet availability data.

On this version of the map, released November 17, 2023, there are over 25,000 more Broadband Serviceable Locations identified in Tribal areas than the previous version, and over 70,000 more Broadband Serviceable Locations than the first pre-production draft of the map. The map also shows more refined availability data in Tribal communities due to resolved challenges, the FCC's verification and audit efforts, and our continued work with providers as they refine their data matching and reporting.

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 is available at: <https://help.bdc.fcc.gov/hc/en-us/articles/10475216120475-How-to-Submit-a-Location-Challenge->
- Information about how to submit an Availability challenge is available at: <https://help.bdc.fcc.gov/hc/en-us/articles/10476040597787-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](https://www.fcc.gov/broadbanddata). If you have any questions or would like to request technical assistance, contact [Native@fcc.gov](mailto:Native@fcc.gov).

# RESOURCES

## **NTIA Tribal Nations Broadband Resources**

- [Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program](#)
- [Tribal Broadband Planning Toolkit](#)
- [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](#)

## **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](#)

## **Internet for All Funding Programs**



## **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](mailto:connectnmcouncil@state.nm.us).

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

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## New Mexico Tribal Broadband

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