



# New Mexico Tribal Broadband News & Updates

Photo by [Theophilos Papadopoulos](#) January 2, 2024  
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## NM Tribal Working Group (TWG) Meeting January 3, 2024

### *Happy New Year!*

At this meeting we will discuss prepping for NM Legislative Session. The guest speaker, Drew Lovelace, Acting Director of OBAE, will discuss lobbying, advocacy, funding and more!

### **NM Tribal Broadband Working Group Meeting January 3, 2024**

- Every other Wednesday at 12:00pm, MT
- Zoom Link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86256047626?pwd=MXdrVDJrdXFqVknjVVVFc2U2aU1RQT09>

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

### **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!



## State of New Mexico Digital Equity Plan Public Comment Sessions Next Session **January 4**

New Mexico is Working to Create Digital Equity for All! Digital Equity is the condition in which internet access, affordability, and the ability to use digital technologies to reach important goals is possible for everyone.

Across the state we encourage residents, community organizations, businesses, and local authorities, to participate in the public comment period for the New Mexico Digital Equity Plan (DE Plan). The document adheres to NTIA guidelines and includes a description of each requirement along with attachments, available for public inspection and comments.

The New Mexico DE Plan serves as a crucial tool in applying for federal funding, addressing the digital divide in the state. OBAE will use your input to enhance this plan, focusing on vital aspects to bridge the digital gap among New Mexicans. Its core objective is to devise comprehensive strategies beyond infrastructure, encompassing affordability, digital literacy, and accessibility issues.

**Read the draft Digital Equity Plan [here](#).** All are welcome to submit comments regarding the draft document. **Comments regarding the draft should be submitted via the online comment portal at <https://connect.nm.gov> by 11:59 p.m. on **January 21, 2023**.**

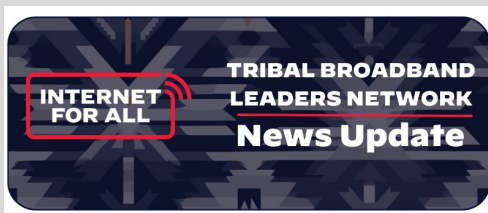
**Public Comment Virtual Sessions will be held to review and discuss the Digital Equity Plan:**

January 4 @ 11am  
January 11 @ 11am

**Zoom Link:** <https://nmculture-org.zoom.us/j/86004116476?pwd=QVR4SlhCazhxSzdqS1VJc1NaRVZFQT09>

Meeting ID: 860 0411 6476

Passcode: 539399



## NOFO Round 2 Assistance Webinars, Resources, and Office Hours Next Webinar **January 4th**

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 4th:** Technical Assistance Office Hours: <https://ntia.gov.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJltce2hqjwiHvYHWGk2XBqgmUeK8RQBNSA>
- **January 16th:** Award Overview and Application Submission: [https://ntia.gov.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN\\_IHzmgkg7SKO\\_XLjVu2xeFA](https://ntia.gov.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_IHzmgkg7SKO_XLjVu2xeFA)
- **January 18th:** Technical Assistance Office Hours: <https://ntia.gov.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJltdeuspzMqE0XaHYtnNVOBDrtM7qIJ8wc>

### Upcoming TBLN Meetings:

- **January 11th 3PM ET:** TBLN Meeting on NOFO 2 Submission: <https://ntia.gov.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJltdeCgrT4vE5ht039CrzGRBiNCzEGf5ZU>

### 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.



## FEMA and CISA Tribal Cybersecurity Grant Program Deadline **January 10, 2024**

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) opened the application process for a new grant program to help tribes shore up their defenses against cyber-attacks.

- [FY 2023 Tribal Homeland Security Grant Program Fact Sheet](#)
- Read more [here](#).
- Apply for the grant [here](#).

Eligible applicants can apply for a grant to fund new or existing cybersecurity programs. The grant can be used for a variety of activities, including establishing critical governance frameworks, identifying key vulnerabilities, implementing mitigation measures, and developing a 21st-century cyber workforce.

Deadline to apply for the grant is **January 10, 2024**.



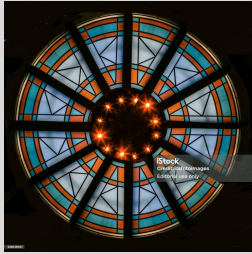
## Second Round of Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program (TBCP) Funding Deadline is **January 23, 2024**

**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](https://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](https://www.getinternet.gov) to sign-up.

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



## 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

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



## Tohono O'odham Utility Authority Tribal Broadband Bootcamp January 29 - February 1, 2024

Three-day intensive learning experience focused on building and running Tribal Internet networks. Make connections and learn from experienced network operators, industry professionals, and broadband experts. All levels welcome!

TBBs are for folks in Indian Country interested in or focused on broadband. We recommend bringing a small team as many have reported this approach is helpful for team building. At previous bootcamps, people who worked on billing, who had no interest in technology, left wanting to climb towers and help on installations. Technicians left with an understanding of how the ISP must work as a business, or how federal policy has shaped connectivity in Indian Country. In a few days, we prepare people to be much more effective in this work.

**We are now accepting registrations for our next bootcamp!** Please click [here](#) for more information and request registration.

All meals during the bootcamp are covered. Housing and travel support are also available. Once you receive an invitation to attend the bootcamp, please complete the registration form that will be sent to you over email.

## OBAE Announces Connect New Mexico Fund



OBAE recently announced the launch of the Connect New Mexico Fund in conjunction with the release of the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO). The Connect New Mexico Fund includes a \$70 million grant program to foster the deployment

of broadband access to unserved and underserved locations (residents, businesses, and community institutions).

**Please save the date for the following online opportunities to learn more:**

- January 8: NOFO Overview
- January 9: Location Eligibility and New Mexico Broadband Map
- January 10: Scoring Rubric
- January 11: Application

Webinar links will be posted to [connect.nm](http://connect.nm) via their new portal after Jan. 5

**The deadline to apply to the Connect New Mexico Fund is **March 11, 2024****

**Click [here](#) for more information.**

**Read the NOFO [here](#).**

**How to Apply:** The portal is live and can take applications soon; click [here](#) to apply:



## OBAE Announces Grant Writing, Engineering, and Planning Grant (GWEP)

The Office of Broadband Access and Expansion (OBAE) is pleased to announce the Grant Writing, Engineering, and Planning (GWEP) Grant, aimed at providing crucial financial assistance to Tribal governments and local governmental units. This grant is designed to support the procurement of grant writing, engineering, and planning services. These services will aid in identifying community broadband needs and facilitate the application process for various funding sources dedicated to broadband-related projects.

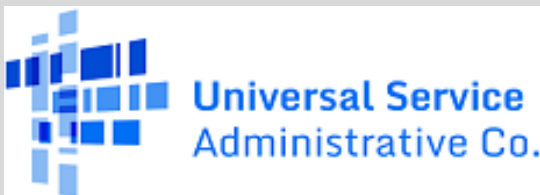
**Who Can Apply?** Tribal governments and local governmental units, including federal government entities, state governments, local/municipal governments, and public or municipal organizations that are government-owned and operated, as well as units of a state university system, are eligible to apply for the GWEP Grant.

*Please note: Rulemaking is currently underway to extend this opportunity to rural telephone cooperatives and rural electric cooperatives. Further announcements will be made once these entities become eligible.*

**Funding Details:** The maximum grant award is \$100,000. Grant funds are limited, and the application process will remain open until all funds are obligated. Matching funds are not required, making this an accessible funding opportunity for eligible applicants.

Click [here](#) for more information.

**How to Apply:** The portal is live and can take applications immediately; click [here](#) to apply:



## Apply for the Tribal Libraries Pilot Program

USAC and the FCC are now accepting applications to participate in the Tribal Libraries Pilot Program.

To [apply](#) for the Tribal Libraries Pilot Program, libraries must complete a brief questionnaire detailing information about your library, your IT needs, and your readiness to participate in the E-Rate program.

Please note that participating in the Tribal Libraries Pilot Program will provide your library with training and support to apply for E-Rate funding. Your library will still have to complete the E-Rate application process.

Based on last year's Pilot Program, libraries that were most successful in applying for E-Rate funding had support and participation from Tribal leadership, library leadership, and IT leadership. We encourage interested libraries to engage those groups when applying for the Tribal Libraries Pilot Program.

Click [here](#) for more information.

**Need Help?** If you have questions about the Tribal Libraries Pilot Program or the E-Rate program, please contact USAC at [TribalTraining@usac.org](mailto:TribalTraining@usac.org).

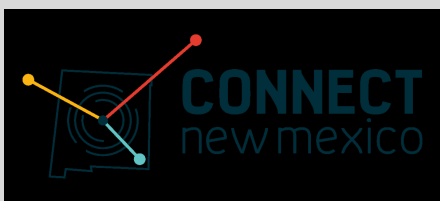


## NTTA Tribal Broadband Summit April 8-10, 2024

**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).

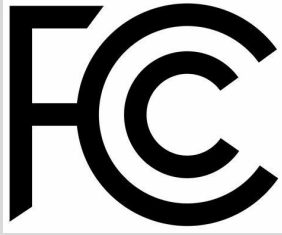
Supported by the Tribal Broadband Task Force, it demonstrates New Mexico's dedication to enhancing Tribal connectivity through infrastructure development, adoption programs, and effective digital resource utilization.

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](#)!

## **New Mexico Tribal Broadband**

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



