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New Mexico Tribal Broadband News & Updates

January 5, 2023



Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) Outreach Grant Program Deadline January 9, 2023

The FCC ACP helps ensure that qualifying low-income households can afford the broadband they need for work, school, healthcare and more. The FCC seeks to enlist and empower trusted community messengers to develop innovative outreach strategies to reach historically underserved and unserved communities, including low-income households, aging populations, individuals with disabilities, individuals with language barriers, racial and ethnic minorities, and rural inhabitants.

The ACP Outreach Grant Program application forms and instructions may be accessed [here](#). The deadline is **January 9, 2023**.

FCC Mapping Challenge



Deadline January 13, 2022

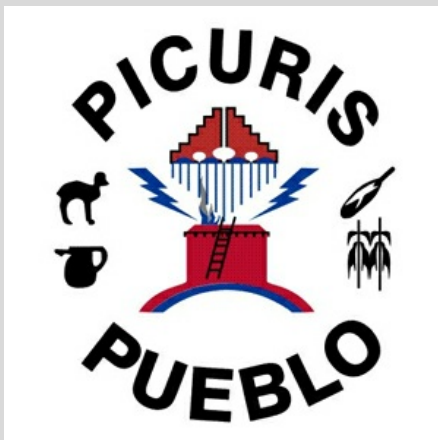
The first iteration of the FCC's broadband [mapping tool](#) is now available. Required by the [Broadband DATA Act](#) of 2020, the new map displays location level information on broadband availability throughout the country and allows individuals to search for their address, as well as review and dispute services at their location.

For providers, the release of the first map comes alongside efforts already underway for submitting challenges of and corrections to the underlying "fabric" of locations that can be served by broadband providers. [The commission has stressed that this pre-production draft of the map is far from final.](#)

The accuracy of the maps and documenting the need will ultimately determine future funding. Following the fabric and coverage data challenge processes, an updated version of the FCC map will be used to determine the allocation of \$42.5 billion in Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program funds to each state and territory, as well as determining eligibility of areas for funding under various programs. The map, particularly after the challenge processes are implemented, aims to be the most comprehensive collection of broadband data to date.

The [Benton Institute for Broadband & Society](#) supported a webinar featuring national perspectives on these federal mapping feedback processes. This [recording](#) and [summary](#) provide helpful information regarding the processes.

Picuris and Santa Clara Pueblos Awarded the Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program Grant



Congratulations!

The National Telecommunications & Information Administration (NTIA) awarded the Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program (TBCP) grant awards to the Pueblos of Picuris and Santa Clara on December 16, 2022.

The TBCP, part of President Biden's Internet for All initiative, offers grants to eligible Native American, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian entities for high-speed internet deployment, digital inclusion, workforce development, telehealth, and distance learning.

The **Picuris Pueblo Indian Tribe** was awarded \$3,742,991.00. The Broadband Infrastructure

Deployment project proposes to install fiber directly connecting 79 unserved Native American households, 15 Tribal offices, 2 Tribal businesses, and 3 community anchor institutions with qualifying broadband service with up to 1Gbps symmetrical speeds.

Pueblo of Santa Clara was awarded \$9,175,946.00. The Broadband Infrastructure Deployment project proposes to install fiber directly connecting 600 unserved Native American households with fiber to the home service of 1 Gbps symmetrical and 50/10 Mbps wireless service.

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



Connect New Mexico Council Chairwoman Sekaquaptewa Testifies Before Subcommittee of U.S. Senate

On December 13, 2022, Kimball Sekaquaptewa (*Hopi Tribe*), Chair, Connect New Mexico Council; Chief Technology Director, Santa Fe Indian School **testifies** before a subcommittee of the US Senate: “Ensuring Solutions to Meet America’s Broadband Needs.” Sekaquaptewa is also the Chief Technology Director at the Santa Fe Indian School.

U.S. Senator Ben Ray Luján (D-N.M.), Chair of the Subcommittee on Communications, Media and Broadband, will convened the subcommittee hearing to “examine ongoing and past efforts within the public and private sectors to bring affordable, resilient and secure broadband to all communities.” The Subcommittee is housed under the US Senate Committee on Commerce, Science & Transportation.



Asset Mapping for Digital Inclusion

Asset mapping is an approach to planning and community development centered on identifying and building on a community’s existing resources. Deep community engagement is a key part of asset mapping, used to uncover existing strengths, skills, and connections that can be leveraged.

As an approach to data collection and documenting the current state of digital equity, asset mapping is inherently solution-oriented. This makes it a valuable counterbalance to more traditional assessments of needs and existing conditions, which tend to emphasize the deficiencies and barriers to digital equity that a community faces. While quantifying needs is an important step in the planning process, solely focusing on challenges tends to disregard the aspirations and strengths of community members. Rooted in the concepts of **Asset Based Community Development**, asset mapping recognizes that, with the necessary resources and

structural support, communities possess the knowledge and skills to develop solutions from within.

National Digital Inclusion Alliance (NDIA) provides Free, Easy-to-Use Asset Mapping Tools:

[Digital Inclusion Asset Inventory Template](#)
[Digital Inclusion Asset Mapping Survey](#)
[State Digital Equity Plan Toolkit](#)

NDIA advances digital equity by supporting community programs and equipping policymakers to act. Visit [NDIA](#) to learn more.



The Affordable Connectivity Program

Households May Receive \$30-\$75/month Discount on Internet Service

The **Affordable Connectivity Program** (ACP) is a U.S. government program run by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) program to help low-income households pay for internet service and connected devices like a laptop or tablet.

Households are likely eligible if income is below 200% of the Federal Poverty Line, or if a household member currently receives a government benefit like SNAP, Medicaid, SSI, WIC, Pell Grant, or Free and Reduced-Price Lunch.

If a household is eligible, they could receive:

- Up to a \$30/month discount on internet service
- Up to a \$75/month discount if household is on qualifying Tribal lands
- A one-time discount of up to \$100 for a laptop, tablet, or desktop computer (with a co-payment of more than \$10 but less than \$50)
- A low cost service plan that may be fully covered through the ACP*

* Through a separate non-FCC initiative, additional no cost plans may be available to Affordable Connectivity Program enrollees. To learn more please visit [GetInternet.gov](#).

Only one monthly service discount and one device discount is allowed per household. To receive the connected device discount, consumers need to enroll in the ACP with a participating provider that offers connected devices (Note: not all internet company offer device discounts.) The internet company will provide the discount to the consumer. **Free & Low Cost Internet Plans.**



TRIBAL RECOVERY REPORT

American Rescue Plan Act
Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

Department of the Treasury Tribal Recovery Report

At the recent White House Tribal Nations Summit, the U.S. Department of the Treasury released the Tribal Recovery Report for the State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund. The report highlights the historic investment of federal funds into Indian Country and calls attention to the impressive and inspiring work Native communities are doing to recover from the pandemic.



Pathways to Digital Equity

How Communities Can Reach Their Broadband Goals and How Philanthropy Can Help - FREE GUIDEBOOK

For community leaders striving for digital equity, this guidebook, written by Robbie McBeath and Published November 2022 by the [Benton Institute for Broadband & Society](#) will help communities evaluate and meet specific connectivity needs. They chart three pathways—Access, Adoption, and Use—that together offer a comprehensive approach to guide communities' digital equity planning and provide structure for implementing effective solutions.

[Pathways to Digital Equity](#) builds off of the belief that digital equity starts at the local level. As states, territories, and tribes develop digital equity plans, the stories, tools, and resources found here offer both guidance and inspiration for what's possible when community members have a seat at the table.



New Mexico Broadband Program

The New Mexico Department of Information Technology is the enterprise technology partner serving and supporting state agencies with innovative solutions to advance the delivery of their core missions and create progress for all New Mexicans.

To better coordinate broadband deployment efforts among different state entities, 2021 Legislation established the Office of Broadband Access and Expansion and Connect New Mexico Council. To subscribe to receive e-mail notification of Council news and events, including public meeting schedules, [join the NM-DoIT Subscriber Alerts mailing list](#).

Visit the [New Mexico Department of Information Technology](#) for resources and information.

New Mexico Tribal Broadband