



# New Mexico Tribal Broadband News & Updates

Photo by [Theophilos Papadopoulos](#)

October 18, 2023  
[nmtribalbroadband@gmail.com](mailto:nmtribalbroadband@gmail.com)



## NM Tribal Working Group (TWG) Meeting October 18, 2023 12:00pm -1:00pm, MDT

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 Oct 18, 2023

#### **NM Tribal Broadband Working Group Meetings**

- Every other Wednesday at 12:00pm, MT
- <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86256047626?pwd=MXdrVDJrdXFqVknjVVVVPc2U2aU1RQT09>
- Meeting ID: 862 5604 7626; Passcode: 602095

#### **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!



## 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.

**How to Apply:** The portal is live and can take applications immediately; here is the link to the portal to apply:

<https://obae.submittable.com/submit/276140/nm-obaoe-grant-writing-engineering-and-planning-grant-gwep>



## Second Round of Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program to Provide \$980

The Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program (TBCP) is a \$3 billion program, from President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the Consolidated Appropriations Act, to support Tribal governments bringing high-speed Internet to Tribal lands, including telehealth, distance learning, affordability, and digital inclusion initiatives. The program seeks to improve quality of life, spur economic development, and create opportunities for remote employment, online entrepreneurship, remote learning, and telehealth by expanding broadband access and by providing digital training and inclusion programs to Native American communities.

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.

Additionally, 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.

Visit [grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) to apply. Applications must be received no later than 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time (ET) on **January 23, 2024**.

Read the Program Overview [here](#).



## Grant Funding and Data/Mapping Session November 7, 2023 10am - 3pm

Tribal Leaders and Tribal IT/Broadband Staff are invited to attend this session. **Invitations will go out soon.**

**Agenda:**

10:00am: TBCP NTIA awards application

11:00am: NM BEAD application tips

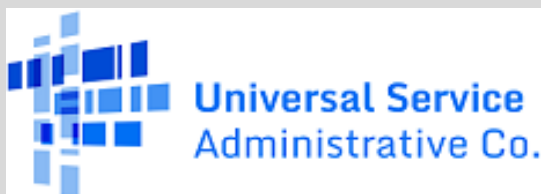
Lunch noon: (provided)

12:30pm to 2:00pm: Mapping

2:00pm to 3:00pm: Community Survey and Digital Equity

3:00pm: Wrap up/next steps/solutions

Email questions to [nmtribalbroadband@gmail.com](mailto:nmtribalbroadband@gmail.com).



## WCB Seeks Tribal Member Nomination for USAC's Board of Directors

Wireline Competition Bureau (WCB) Seeks Nomination For Tribal Board Member Position On The Universal Service Administrative Company Board Of Directors. The Commission recently adopted rules to add a Tribal representative to the USAC Board of Directors, recognizing that the Board would benefit from having a Tribal perspective that could speak to the unique political and geographical identity of Tribal communities.

We encourage nomination of a Board member with substantive areas of expertise relevant to running a large and complex organization with such skills as accounting, finance, auditing, procurement, data management and information technology will improve the management, administration and oversight of USAC. Nominations must include the name of the nominee, along with relevant professional and biographical information about the nominee.

All nominations must be filed with the Office of the Secretary by **November 20, 2023**.

Read the [Public Notice](#) here.



## Please Participate in NTIA's Virtual National Tribal Consultation October 19th

To seek your input regarding its Digital Equity Act Programs, NTIA invites you and/or a Tribal representative to participate in the virtual National Tribal Consultation to provide your advice and insights as NTIA staff work through the critical issues related to these programs.

We respectfully request your participation at one of two virtual Tribal Consultation sessions:

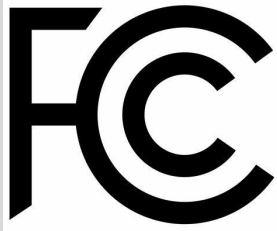
**Date: Thursday, October 19, 2023**

Time: 2:00pm – 5:00pm EDT, 11:00am – 2:00pm PDT

Zoom Registration Link: [https://ntia-gov.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN\\_ZFOI-axxRE-mCfuUYQhlgv#/registration](https://ntia-gov.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_ZFOI-axxRE-mCfuUYQhlgv#/registration)

Dial-in: (for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):

US: +1 669 254 5252 or +1 646 964 1167 or +1 646 828 7666 or +1 669 216 1590 or +1 415 449 4000 or +1 551 285 1373



## Tribal Libraries Eligible for Hands-On Support Through E-Rate Application and Funding Process

USAC and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) announced that the E-Rate Tribal Libraries Pilot Program will return for Funding Year 2024, providing one-on-one assistance to Tribal libraries applying for the E-Rate program.

The E-Rate Tribal Libraries Pilot Program provides hands-on assistance to participating Tribal libraries in all aspects of applying for and receiving E-Rate support during the upcoming funding year. This includes sharing information about program rules and requirements, providing training on how to use the E-Rate Productivity Center (EPC), and walking through the competitive bidding and application processes. The pilot will also support participants during the invoicing and other post-commitment processes, including the service confirmation, the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) certification, or service substitution requests.

Visit the [Tribal Libraries Pilot Program page](#) to learn more about the pilot.

### Expanded E-Rate Tribal Library Eligibility

Tribal college and university (TCU) libraries are eligible for E-Rate funding if they also serve as public libraries for their community and meet the E-Rate definition of a library – specifically having regularly scheduled hours, staff, and materials for library users. On July 20, 2023, the FCC adopted a [Report and Order](#) amending program rules to enhance TCU applicants' access to the E-Rate program.

### Apply for the E-Rate Tribal Library Pilot Program

To apply for the Tribal Libraries Pilot Program, please complete a [brief survey](#) to tell us more about your library. Pilot Program applications will be accepted on a rolling basis. Trainings will begin in October, so apply now to secure your spot!

**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).



## FCC Announces Upcoming Filing Window for Applications for Low Power FM Radio New Station Construction Permits Closes November 8, 2023

The Federal Communications Commission released a Public Notice announcing the opening of an application filing window for new Low Power FM (LPFM) radio stations. This upcoming filing window provides Tribes, among others, the opportunity to apply for a new LPFM station that can cover a localized service area in need of radio service.

The [Public Notice](#) provides an overview of the application procedures, filing requirements, and comparative selection process that will apply to the upcoming filing window for LPFM new station construction permits. A construction permit is required before an applicant is allowed to construct an LPFM station and a license is required before operation of an LPFM station can

begin. This will be the first LPFM filing window since 2013. Potential applicants should carefully review the application procedures and filing requirements in the Public Notice.

The FCC will accept LPFM applications for the entire FM band (channels 201-300) during the filing window, which opens at 12:01am ET on November 1, 2023, and closes at 6:00 pm ET on **November 8, 2023**. Applicants must file their applications electronically through the [FCC Media Bureau's Licensing and Management System](#).

# RESOURCES

## [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 Broadband Connectivity Program](#)
- [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](#)

- [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](#)





## 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](#)!



## NTIA Advancing Internet For All Mapping Challenge Continues

NTIA and the FCC have worked closely with states to assist them in the process of improving the [National Broadband Map](#).

Learn more about the [FCC Broadband Data Collection Challenge Processes](#).

**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](#).