



Photo by [Theophilos Papadopoulos](#)

New Mexico Tribal Broadband News & Updates

November 15, 2023
nmtribalbroadband@gmail.com

NM Tribal Working Group (TWG) Meeting November 22, 2023 10:00am - 11:00am, 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.

Please notice the change of time for this meeting only.

Agenda November 22, 2023

1. Discussion: Letter of Credit Follow Up
2. Discussion: [Eight Northern Indian Pueblos Council Inc. Resolution: Support and Approval of the FCC and USDA to Expedite The Obligation of Funds for Broadband Infrastructure on Tribal Lands](#)

NM Tribal Broadband Working Group Meetings

- Every other Wednesday at 12:00pm, MT
- Zoom Link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86256047626?pwd=MXdrVDJrdXFqVkJVVVp2U2aU1RQT09>

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. 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!



NEW MEXICO **BROADBAND** SUMMIT

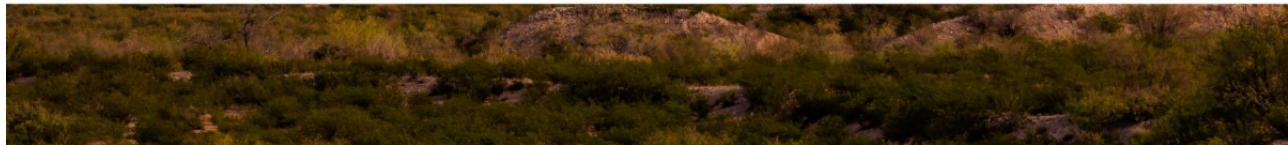
DECEMBER 13, 2023

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PRESENTED BY

KELLY
CABLE OF NEW MEXICO

A PEAK UTILITY SERVICES COMPANY



CONNECT! COMMUNICATE! COLLABORATE! **2023 NM Broadband Summit presented by the New Mexico Chamber of Commerce and Kelly Cable of NM**

Don't miss out on this must attend day-long event that will bring together ISPs, industry experts, government officials from all levels, tribal entities, rural electric cooperatives, rural telecommunications cooperatives, business leaders and more to participate in discussions and panels aimed at expanding high-speed internet throughout New Mexico.

The summit will feature important updates for 2024 from NM OBAE, NMDOT, USDA, City of ABQ, NTIA and the National Tribal Telecommunications Association. A 3-hour technical assistance workshop for Phase 2 grant writing is included.

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



Second Round of Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program (TBCP) Funding Deadline is **January 23, 2024 Next Webinar **November 15th****

Turning to the next round of funding for the TBCP, NTIA will continue hosting webinars on the Notice of Funding Opportunity for Round 2. See the webinar dates and topics below.

Additionally, NTIA will be starting monthly Technical Assistance Office Hours for applicants.

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://www.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**.

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.

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

- November 15th: [Technical Assistance Office Hours](#)
- November 29th: [Budget Narratives, Justifications, & Templates](#)
- December 5th: Environmental Assessments, Sustainability and Cybersecurity.
- December 12th: [Technical Assistance Office Hours](#)
- January NOFO Webinars (Date TBD): Grants Online Navigation and Submission.

For questions, email InternetForAll@ntia.gov.



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.



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:



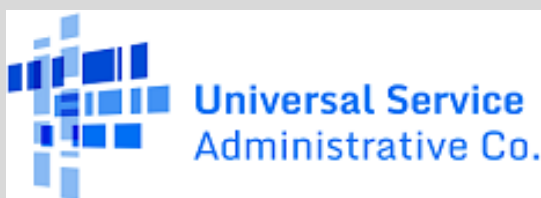
FEMA and CISA Tribal Cybersecurity Grant Program Deadline **January 10, 2024**

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**.



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.



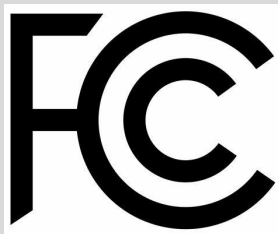
Digital Equity in Tribal Communities Guide

Digital equity is the goal of the Digital Equity Act Programs and the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Programs. The term Digital Equity means “the condition in which individuals and communities have the information technology capacity

that is needed for full participation in the society and economy of the United States.

Digital inclusion refers to the activities “necessary to ensure that all individuals and communities, including the most disadvantaged, have access to and use of Information and Communication Technologies.”² Investing in digital inclusion includes providing Internet access, teaching digital skills, and providing devices.

Read the guide [here](#).



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.

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](#)

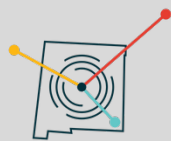
[Connect New Mexico](#)

- [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
newmexico
Office of Broadband Access & Expansion

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.

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](#).