



Photo by [Theophilos Papadopoulos](#)

New Mexico Tribal Broadband News & Updates

February 27, 2023



NM Tribal Working Group ~ Message from Chair Godfrey Enjady

Greetings!

My name is Godfrey Enjady, enrolled member of the Mescalero Apache Tribe. I am the founder and General Manager of the Mescalero Apache Telecom Inc. (MATI) and Chair of the National Tribal Telecommunications Association. I also currently chair the Tribal Working Group for the Connect New Mexico Council (CNNMC). CNMC has an expansive mandate to coordinate state agency broadband programs and broadband projects in accordance with the statewide broadband plan; adopt rules establishing a competitive grant program; evaluate and prioritize grant proposals and make grant awards from the Connect New Mexico fund. The Tribal Working Group (TWG) is part of CNMC and works closely with the New Mexico Office of Broadband Access and Expansion (OBAAE) to include Tribal needs and identify unique challenges that Tribes might encounter to maximize the potential community benefits from this once in a lifetime funding opportunity. The TWG meets twice a month, with the next meeting scheduled for March 1, 2023, at noon, details below.

Mission of Tribal Working Group

To assist and support New Mexico Tribes in developing and deploying broadband infrastructure through tribal consultation and engagement that leads to expanded access to health care, education and economic opportunity and includes strategies for access to funding, technical assistance, project management support, workforce development and sustainability in ways that protect tribal sovereignty.

Broadband networks cannot simply be built, they must also be maintained. **Sustainability** is vital when planning broadband infrastructure. **Workforce, supply chain, and now inflation** are also essential to address in broadband planning. Most importantly tribal engagement and consultation is crucial and the TWG is committed to ensuring New Mexico tribes are actively part of these historic broadband initiatives that will enhance tribal communities access to education, healthcare and economic development. Let's work together to close the digital divide

for our future generations.

Sincerely,

Godfrey Enjady

genjady@matinetworks.net

NM Tribal Broadband Working Group Meetings

- Every other Wednesday at 12:00pm, MT
- Next Meeting March 1, 2023, 12:00pm MT

If you are interested in becoming a member of the [Tribal Working Group](#), please send an e-mail to: connectnmcouncil@state.nm.us. Join the New Mexico Broadband Community, click [here](#) to receive the New Mexico Broadband Connections Newsletters.



2023 RAISE Grant Program Deadline February 28, 2023

RAISE discretionary grants help project sponsors at the state and local levels, including municipalities, Tribal governments, counties, and others complete critical freight and passenger transportation infrastructure projects.

Half of the funding will go to projects in rural areas, and half of the funding will go to projects in urban areas. At least \$15 million in funding is guaranteed to go towards projects located in Areas of Persistent Poverty or Historically Disadvantaged Communities, and projects located in these areas will be eligible for up to 100 percent federal cost share, as directed by Congress in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

The NOFO is available [here](#).



Preliminary Call for Congressionally Directed Spending

Requests for Fiscal Year 2024 Deadline February 28, 2023

Congressionally Directed Spending supports community priorities for federal funding and is a critical tool for local governments and non-profit organizations in New Mexico to voice their priorities to the federal government. This is a preliminary interest form is intended to gauge interest, and to allow the office to offer feedback and guidance on any project ideas you are interested in pursuing.

Only non-profit entities, public institutions, and state, local, and Tribal government entities are eligible to make requests for Congressionally Directed Spending.

The preliminary form is due by Tuesday, **February 28, 2023**. Should you or anyone have questions regarding this process, please have them contact Senator Lujan's Appropriations team directly at appropriations@lujan.senate.gov. Once you fill out this form, the Office of Senator Lujan will reach out in March/April with the full form required to request Congressionally Directed Spending funding.

Click [here](#) for the form.

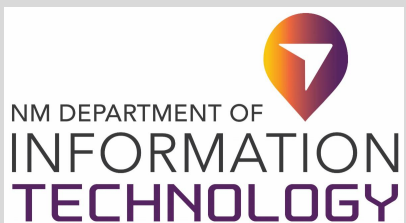


Important FCC Broadband Data Collection Deadlines

March 1, 2023: Deadline for broadband service providers to submit their availability filings (as of December 31, 2022) in the Broadband Data Collection (BDC) system (more details below).

March 15, 2023: Target for Tribal governments or other Tribal entities that want to submit challenges to the second version of the Fabric, which is the list of locations that will be included in the updated National Broadband Map.

Click [here](#) for more details.



Connect New Mexico Pilot Program Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Deadline Extended to April 3, 2023.

The Connect New Mexico Pilot Program (“Pilot Program”) aims to bridge the digital divide and foster socioeconomic progress by providing infrastructure grants for broadband deployment to unserved and underserved communities across New Mexico.

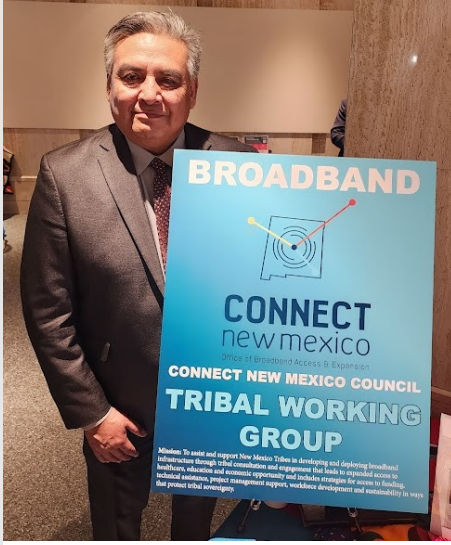
The NOFO formally establishes the funding opportunity for the Connect New Mexico Pilot Program. Please review the NOFO to learn about the program purpose, eligibility factors (e.g., project types, service areas, entities), allowable expenditures, key performance requirements (e.g., network performance, service offerings), evaluation criteria, and compliance requirements.

[Link to NOFO.](#)

Photos from the Inaugural New Mexico Broadband Day at the Roundhouse February 15, 2023



Kimball Sekaquaptewa, Chair of



Godfrey Enjady, Chair of NM Tribal Broadband Working Group

Connect New Mexico Council and Chief Technology Director at Santa Fe Indian School



Cultivating Our Own to Lead (COOL) Building and Maintaining Sustainable Pueblo Networks



Kelly Schlegel, Director OBAE and Godfrey Enjady, Chair of NM Tribal Broadband Working Group



Great turnout for Inaugural New Mexico Broadband Day!



Jennifer Case Nevarez, Broadband Team, Ryan Begay, Kelly Schlegel, Director OBAE



Broadband Day ~ Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham and Director Kelly Schlegel, Office of Broadband Access and Expansion (OBAE)

March is Declared Connect New Mexico Month

On February 15, 2023, during New Mexico Broadband Day at the Roundhouse, Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham announced the official Executive Office Proclamation



declaring March 2023 as "Connect New Mexico Month." Read the proclamation, click [here](#).



CONNECT
new mexico
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.

Connect New Mexico Council Working Groups

- Connect New Mexico Grant Program
- Digital Equity & Inclusion (Chair: Eli Guinnee)
- Mapping, Data & Evaluation (Chair: Peter Mantos)
- Regional Planning & Community Engagement (Chair: Katherine Crociata)
- Tribal Working Group (Chair: Godfrey Enjady)
- Permits, Poles, and Attachments (Chair: Ovidiu Viorica)

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](#)!

Resources
[New Mexico Office of Broadband Access & Expansion \(OBAE\)](#)
[Connect New Mexico Broadband Grant Program Map](#)
[NM Broadband Speed & Quality Testing](#)



AARP Community Challenge Grant Program Deadline March 15, 2023

AARP is accepting applications for its seventh annual Community Challenge grant program, a funding source for nonprofit organizations and governmental entities to apply for “quick-action” projects that make communities more livable and have the potential to seed long-term change.

This year, two new grant award categories have been established in addition to the Flagship Grants awarded in previous years. The two new grant categories are Capacity-Building Microgrants and Demonstration Grants.

Applications are due by **March 15, 2023**. Click [here](#) for more information.



Internet for All Grant Awarded to SIPI *Congratulations!*

The Department of Commerce’s National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) announced on February 27, 2023 that it has awarded more than \$175 million to 61 colleges and universities as part of the Connecting Minority Communities Pilot Program (CMC). These new awards cover colleges and universities in 29 states and four territories. It was announced that Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute (SIPI) would be awarded \$1,645,133.56.

SIPI’s “Parallel Network Upgrade” project aims to expand broadband to improve campus-wide network technology accessibility for students, staff, and faculty. Ultimately, SIPI will install new network-related equipment and replace outdated equipment and software technologies, including firewalls and cloud service servers.

Read the complete announcement [here](#).



Broadband USA Grant Programs

- State Digital Equity Planning Grant Program: A \$60 million grant program for states and territories to develop digital equity plans.
- State Digital Equity Capacity Grant Program: A \$1.44 billion grant program for states and territories. It will fund an annual grant program for five years in support of digital equity projects and the implementation of digital equity plans.
- Digital Equity Competitive Grant Program: A \$1.25 billion grant program. It will fund annual grant programs for five years to implement digital equity projects.

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

Guides, Templates, and Toolkits

- [Asset Mapping Guide](#)
- [Digital Equity Plan Guidance](#)
- [Digital Equity Plan Template](#)
- [Digital Equity Guide for States Digital Equity Plan External Best Practices](#)



NTIA Advancing Internet For All Mapping Challenge Continues

In order to meet the urgency of this moment to connect the unconnected, NTIA will continue to target June 30 as the date by which they will allocate each state and territory's BEAD Program funding for high-speed Internet service. NTIA and the FCC have worked closely with states to assist them in the process of improving the National Broadband Map to achieve this goal.

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 blog [here](#). Read the **Dates related to the FCC's National Broadband Map**

Digital Equity Assistance Materials:

- [Hi-Speed Internet Page](#)
- [NTIA's Digital Equity Act Program technical assistance materials](#)
- [What is Permitting?](#)
- [Environmental & Historic Preservation Checklist for BEAD](#)
- [Environmental & Historic Preservation Factsheet](#)
- [Digital Equity Guide for States](#)
- [Digital Equity Plan External Best Practices](#)
- [Digital Equity Needs Assessment Guide](#)
- [Digital Equity Asset Mapping Guide](#)
- [Internet for All Webinars](#)

New Mexico Tribal Broadband

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