



# New Mexico Tribal Broadband News & Updates

Photo by [Theophilos Papadopoulos](#) February 5, 2024  
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## You are Invited to the Tribal Broadband Convening!

Inn of the Mountain Gods  
Ruidoso, New Mexico

connect.nm.gov

New Mexico

### Tribal Broadband Convening

February 28, 2024

8:30am to 4:30pm

A conference to update Tribal Leaders on technical, legislative, and funding issues related to broadband. Tribal leaders, IT, Broadband, and Education personnel are encouraged to attend.

**Hosted By:**

Mescalero Apache Telecom, Inc. (MATI)  
NM Office of Broadband Access & Expansion (OBAAE)  
Connect NM Tribal Working Group (TWG)  
National Tribal Telecommunications Association (NTTA)

For more info, please contact: [stephine.poston@connect.nm.gov](mailto:stephine.poston@connect.nm.gov)  
(505) 379-6172

**Registration:** Connect with the QR code or

<https://connect.nm.gov/tribal-convening-2024.html>

**Inn of The Mountain Gods:**

1-800-545-9011 or [innofthemountaingods.com/](http://innofthemountaingods.com/)  
Room block Code: MATI (February 27 and 28 )  
Double Queen \$99.00, King Superior \$89.00



## Tribal Broadband Convening Inn of the Mountain Gods February 28, 2024

A conference to update Tribal Leaders on technical, legislative, and funding issues related to broadband. **Tribal leaders, IT, Broadband, and Education personnel are encouraged to attend. Please invite your Tribal Leaders to keep them updated on Broadband!**

The New Mexico Tribal Leaders Broadband Conference is part of a multi-year effort to support internet for all in rural New Mexico and for tribal members in New Mexico on behalf of the New Mexico Office of Broadband Access and Expansion (OBAAE) and the Connect New Mexico Council.

**February 28, 2024**  
**8:30am-4:30pm**

**Registration:**

Click [here](#), or connect with the QR code (above), or visit <https://connect.nm.gov/tribal-convening-2024.html>

**Inn of the Mountain Gods**

Ruidoso, New Mexico  
Room Block Code: MATI (February 27 and 28)  
Call 800-545-9011 for group rate.  
Double-queen \$99 King Superior \$89

**Agenda:**

TBD (check back using the QR code)  
Lunch will be provided

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Acting Director Lovelace and members of the OBAE team at Broadband Day. Photo Credit: Journey Esposito

## at the Roundhouse

Thanks to the many people who helped make Broadband Day a tremendous success!

Broadband Day raises awareness about the critical efforts taking place among state, federal, industry, Tribal, and community partners in New Mexico to ensure widespread Internet access.

This year featured members of the Digital Equity working group, broadband associations, Connect New Mexico working groups, and the Office of Broadband Access & Expansion (OBAE).

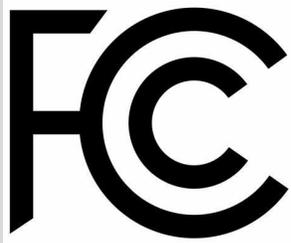
The "Broadband Jedi Awards" were presented to several New Mexico broadband champions for their incredible work in advancing the cause of universal connectivity in New Mexico, including:

- Kimball Sekaquaptewa, TBCP Project Director, Santa Fe Indian School
- Catherine Nicolaou, Broadband Program Manager, City of Albuquerque
- Eli Guinnee, New Mexico State Librarian
- Jerry Smith, Broadband Manager, Los Alamos County
- Godfrey Enjady, General Manager, Mescalero Apache Telecom
- Stephine Poston, Owner, Poston & Associates and OBAE Tribal Liaison
- Ovidiu Viorica, Broadband & Technology Manager, OBAE Broadband Development & Connectivity Program

***Congratulations to all for their hard work and dedication to Broadband!***

### **2024 Broadband Legislative Packets**

- [2024 NM Legislative Packets](#)
- [House District Breakouts](#)
- [Senate District Breakout](#)



## National Broadband Map Tribal Office Hours in February and Challenge Due Dates You Can (and Should) Still Challenge the Maps!

FCC will be hosting **Tribal Office Hours** focused on challenges to the National Broadband Map. To attend any of the sessions, please send an email to [Tribal.Events@fcc.gov](mailto:Tribal.Events@fcc.gov).

- Tuesday Feb. 6, 2024, 4-5:30 ET - Availability Challenges
- Tuesday Feb. 13, 2024, 4-5:30 ET - Fabric Location Challenges
- Tuesday Feb. 20, 2024, 4-5:30 ET - Availability Challenges
- Tuesday Feb. 27, 2024, 4-5:30 ET - Fabric Location Challenges

There are three important map challenges scheduled or underway. It is critically important to correct any data that may be inaccurate indicating internet coverage as portrayed within the maps for funding to be spent in an effective manner to achieve meaningful broadband access for those who need it most, including the unserved and underserved in New Mexico.

Please note the following important **challenge dates**:

- February 26 - March 26, 2024: NM Bead Challenge (exact dates pending NTIA Approval)
- March 8, 2024: Federal Communications Commission [FCC Challenges](#): Broadband Serviceable Locations (BSLs); Service Availability Challenges due anytime
- March 25 - April 5, 2024: Connect New Mexico Fund Challenges

To review the maps and learn more about the challenge process, go to the [Connect NM mapping and data webpage](#).

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](http://www.fcc.gov/broadbanddata). If you have any questions or would like to request technical assistance, contact [Native@fcc.gov](mailto:Native@fcc.gov).

## NM Tribal Working Group (TWG) Meeting February 14, 2024 12:00pm, MT

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:

Highlight of NM Tribal Broadband Projects

### NM Tribal Broadband Working Group Meeting February 14

- 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](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 Now Accepting Connect NM Fund Grant Applications Due by March 11

The Office of Broadband Access and Expansion is now accepting Connect New Mexico Fund grant applications through our recently launched online [portal](#). Potential eligible projects include Last-Mile Networks, Middle-Mile Projects, 5G Wireless Networks, and Special Network Projects. Please keep in mind that fiber projects for unserved and underserved locations will be prioritized. The minimum award amount for eligible entities is \$250,000 with a maximum of \$6,000,000. Eligible expenses may be incurred until 06/30/2025 however OBAE is pursuing a request for a legislative extension until 06/30/2028.

Read more at [connect.nm](https://connect.nm) and review the [NOFO](#).



## Second Round of Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program (TBCP) Funding Deadline Extended to March 22

**NTIA is extending the original submission deadlines!** The deadline extensions are intended to provide potential applicants with more time to develop competitive project proposals and project consortia. Eligible Entities that previously submitted applications may submit revised applications (entire application must be resubmitted) on or before the new submission deadline.

**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 **March 22, 2024**.

### NTIA's Event Schedule:

- February 8th at 3:00pm, ET: [Tribal Broadband Leaders Network Meeting](#)
- February 15th at 2:00pm, ET: [TBCP NOFO Round 2 Webinar - Cybersecurity](#)
- March 7th at 2:00pm, ET: [TBCP NOFO Round 2 Webinar - Sustainability](#)
- February 1st at 2:00pm, ET: [TBCP NOFO Round 2 Technical Assistance Office Hours](#)
- February 29th at 2:00pm, ET: [TBCP NOFO Round 2 Technical Assistance Office Hours](#)

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

The poster features a vibrant, colorful background with a sunset or sunrise sky in shades of orange, red, and yellow. On the left, there is a large saguaro cactus. On the right, there are flowing, wavy lines in shades of blue, purple, and pink. The text is prominently displayed in the center and right. The logo of the National Tribal Telecommunications Association (NTTA) is in the top right corner. The text reads: "SAVE THE DATE", "2024", "NTTA TRIBAL BROADBAND SUMMIT", "April 8-10, 2024", "Wild Horse Pass Hotel & Casino", "Gila River Indian Community", "Chandler, AZ", and "Sponsorship & Exhibitor Opportunities Available".

**SAVE THE DATE**

**2024**

**NTTA TRIBAL BROADBAND SUMMIT**

April 8-10, 2024  
Wild Horse Pass Hotel & Casino  
Gila River Indian Community  
Chandler, AZ

Sponsorship & Exhibitor Opportunities Available

## 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.

# 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](#)
- [Tribal Broadband Resource Library](#)

## [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 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.**



## 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](#).