New Mexico Tribal Broadband News & Updates

Photo by **Theophilos Papadopoulos**

February 8, 2023

American Indian Day at the Legislature February 3, 2023

Zuni Pueblo Royalty

Governor Lujan Grisham Remarks at American Indian Day 2023

American Indian Day at the New Mexico Legislature is one of the most attended days during the legislative session. **Connect New Mexico Council** (CNMC) Tribal Working Group had a table, encouraging attendees to sign up for the New Mexico Tribal Broadband electronic **newsletter,** and learn more about **CNMC Tribal Working Group**.

New Mexico Broadband Day at the Roundhouse February 15, 2023

Agenda
- 9am - Press Conference in the Rotunda
- 12noon-1pm - Presentations in the Rotunda
- 2pm - Connect New Mexico Council Meeting
- 9am-2pm - Visit information tables in the East and West Wings
- 4pm-8pm - Reception at Kelly Schlegel's Home RSVP - Link to Reception Invite with RSVP

Visit **Connect New Mexico** for more details. Click **here** for the Announcement.

Bills to track that affect Broadband:
- HB 160/SB97 ROW fees
- HB 213 Private Public partnerships
- HB 262 CNMC grant funding
- HB 206/HB155: PRC Broadband loop fund
- SB197 Coordination board for BB construction and other construction
- SB076 procurement code changes
- SB93 (2021) Amendments

These bills can be found New Mexico Legislature.

NM Tribal Broadband Working Group Monthly Meetings

The NM Tribal Broadband Working Group is a part of the of Connect New Mexico Council.

You are invited to join the NM Tribal Broadband Working Group meetings, held every other Wednesday at 12:00pm, MST. The next meeting is March 1, 2023.

Zoom link:
https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86256047626?pwd=MXdrVDJrdXFqVkNjVVVPc2U2aU1RQT09
Meeting ID: 862 5604 7626, Passcode: 602095

NM Tribal Broadband Working Group Mission Statement: *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.*

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. The eligibility requirements of RAISE allow project sponsors to obtain funding for projects that are harder to support through other U.S. DOT grant programs.

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.

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. Click here for more information.

Evaluating the Critical Need for Broadband Sustainability Funding on Rural Tribal Lands

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A White Paper
By
Douglas K. Kitch, CPA
and
Christopher S. Barron
on behalf of
The National Tribal Telecommunications Association

August 2022

A White Paper By Douglas K. Kitch, CPA and Christopher S. Barron
on behalf of The National Tribal Telecommunications Association

This White Paper focuses on framing the case for critically needed "sustainability funding" in an effort toward resolving the digital divide that currently exists between broadband availability on

Tribal lands and broadband availability throughout the rest of the United States.

Click here for the White Paper.

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.

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

Broadband: National Strategy Needed to Guide Federal Efforts to Reduce Digital Divide
A GAO Report

Broadband is critical for daily life. It provides a digital lifeline to education, work, and healthcare. The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the urgent need for broadband access for all Americans. The President set a goal for universal broadband access by 2030.

The U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) was asked to review federal broadband efforts. This report examines: (1) fragmentation and overlap among federal broadband programs and potential limitations to improved alignment and (2) the extent to which interagency coordination efforts are guided by a strategy, among other objectives.

An Inventory of Federal Broadband Programs can be found on Page 44 (Appendix II) of the Report.

The full report can be read here.

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
Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) Consumer FAQ
FCC Outreach Toolkit for ACP
Tribal Broadband Planning Toolkit
Local Broadband Planning Guide

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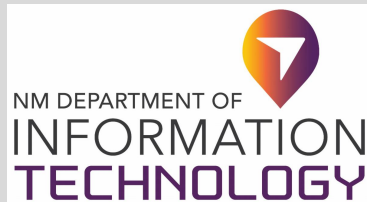
Households are likely eligible if income is below 200% of the Federal Poverty Line, or if a household member currently receives a government benefit like SNAP, Medicaid, SSI, WIC, Pell Grant, or Free and Reduced-Price Lunch.

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**.

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