



# New Mexico Tribal Broadband News & Updates

Photo by [Theophilos Papadopoulos](#) March 12, 2024

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## 2024 New Mexico Tribal Broadband Convening

The February 28th Convening at Inn of the Mountain Gods was a valuable opportunity for stakeholders to meet and receive updates on pertinent technical, legislative, and funding on broadband. Attendees included Tribal Leaders, personnel from IT, Broadband, and Education sectors, fostering a collaborative environment conducive to addressing key issues impacting tribal communities.

The convening 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 (OBAE) and the Connect New Mexico Council.

### Presentations from the Convening:

- Drew Lovelace, Acting Director, NM Office of Broadband Access and Expansion (OBAE): [OBAE Deck - 2.28.24 Tribal Convening](#)
- Natalie Runyan, NM Geospatial Information Officer and Peter Mantos, NM Special IT Projects Advisor: [OBAE-GIS 2024 Tribal Convening v1](#)
- Gabe Montoya, Broadband Program Specialist, National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA): (No presentation available)
- Mike Ripperger, Bureau Chief, NM Public Regulation Commission (PRC): [ETC Dsignation Process MR MATI Conf](#)
- Billy Kinter, NM General Field Representative, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA): [RUS Telecommunications Programs](#)
- Godfrey Enjady, President, National Tribal Telecommunication Association (NTTA):

**Thank you to the hosts:**

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

**Photos from the New Mexico Tribal Convening**



**Drew Lovelace, NM OBAAE;  
Jordan Chinana, Angela Diahkah, and Corey Yepa of Jemez Pueblo Tribal Network**





**Jerrold Baca, REDI Net; Bryan Schalipp, 10g LLC; Gabriel Montoya, NTIA; and Drew Lovelace, OBAE**



**James Smith, Eduardo Martinez, and Jack Breeding of Ribbon Communications; Michael Ripperger, NMPRC; and Godfrey Enjady, MATI**

## **NM Tribal Working Group (TWG) Meeting March 13, 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.

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

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

### **Mission**

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.

### **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!



## **Grant Writing, Engineering, and Planning (GWEP) Grant Open Application**

The Office of Broadband Access and Expansion (OBAE) will award financial assistance grants to aid Tribal governments and local governmental units in procuring grant writing, engineering, and/or planning assistance to help identify community broadband needs and to support applying for other funding sources for broadband-related projects.

### **Requirements:**

- Open application until funds are obligated
- No matching funds required
- Max award is \$100K
- Tribes are NOT required to provide a BTIN or TIN (see info and instructions below).

**Nations, Tribes, and Pueblos (NTPs) are not required to provide a TIN.** Agreements with NTPs usually occur via an Intergovernmental Grant Agreement, which does not have the same requirements as a contractor for instance.

**In the application, look for the section: New Mexico Business Tax Identification Number (BTIN): For Tribal submissions this will remain "0" as this is not required.**

Click [here](#) for more information and to apply for the grant.



## **OBAE Connect NM Fund Grant Applications Extended to **March 18** Open Office Hours **March 15****

The Office of Broadband Access and Expansion has extended the deadline for Connect New Mexico Fund grant applications. 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.

### Open Office Hours:

Mar 15, 11:00am - 12:00pm (MT)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82801737100>

Meeting ID: 828 0173 7100

Read more at [connect.nm](https://connect.nm) and review the [NOFO](#), Email [broadband@connect.nm.gov](mailto:broadband@connect.nm.gov) with questions.



## 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**.

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

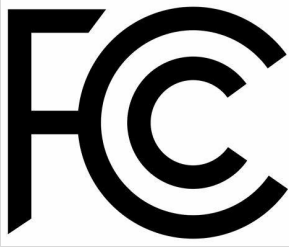


## MATI and Mescalero Apache Tribe Drive Ultra-Fast Connectivity to Remote Tribal Communities

Mescalero Apache Telecom, Inc. (MATI) is harnessing its fiber access solution to bring high-speed connectivity to rural tribal communities in New Mexico. Supported by a mix of loans and grant funds, MATI's new infrastructure is the first full FTTH XGS-PON network to be built among any tribal nation. Part of the Broadband Infrastructure Deployment initiative, the solution will deliver symmetrical Gigabit services to the Mescalero Apache reservation. The deployment is set to have a significant impact on the community, empowering residents with access to critical online resources such as education, telehealth services and remote work opportunities.

View the full release at [businesswire.com](https://businesswire.com).

## National Broadband Map Challenge Due Dates You Can (and Should) Still Challenge the Maps!



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** :

- 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).



## Tribal Broadband Leaders Network Meetings

### Tribal Broadband Leaders Network (TBLN) Meetings

- March 14th at 3PM ET
- <https://ntia-gov.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJlSfuihpzloHV6hSgjlRW-W1NyqQQmE2dQ>
- April 11th at 3PM ET
- <https://ntia-gov.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJlSfuihpzloHV6hSgjlRW-W1NyqQQmE2dQ>



# 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. View the draft agenda [here](#).

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

## National Tribal Telecommunications Association (NTTA)

- White Paper: [Evaluating the Critical Need for Broadband Sustainability Funding on Rural Tribal Lands](#)

## National Telecommunications and Information Administration (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](#)

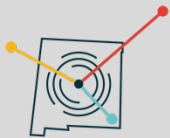
## [NTIA Digital Equity Assistance Materials](#)

- [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](#)

## [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](#)

## [Internet for All Funding Programs](#)



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Office of Broadband Access & Expansion

## Connect New Mexico Tribal Broadband Resource Library

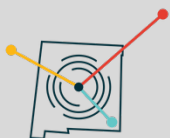
The Tribal Broadband Resource Library is a collaborative project between the New Mexico Indian Affairs Department (IAD) and the New Mexico Office of Broadband Access & Expansion (OBAE).

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.



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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](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](#).