



Photo by [Theophilos Papadopoulos](#)

# New Mexico Tribal Broadband News & Updates

March 30, 2023



## Pueblo of Acoma Awarded the Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program Grant

*Congratulations!*

The National Telecommunications & Information Administration (NTIA) awarded the Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program (TBCP) grant award to the Pueblo of Acoma.

The TBCP, part of President Biden's Internet for All initiative, offers grants to eligible Native American, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian entities for high-speed internet deployment, digital inclusion, workforce development, telehealth, and distance learning.

The Pueblo of Acoma was awarded \$14,346,244.00. This Broadband Infrastructure Deployment project proposes to install fiber to directly connect 1,167 unserved Native American households and anchor institutions with a minimum of 25/3 Mbps service.

Click [here](#) for more information on the programs.



## 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.

**For assistance on this NOFO:**

- **Technical support** - Aquiles (Alex) Trujillo, [aquiles.trujillo@doit.nm.gov](mailto:aquiles.trujillo@doit.nm.gov)
- **Grant support** or references to a grant writer - Drew Lovelace, [drew.lovelace@doit.nm.gov](mailto:drew.lovelace@doit.nm.gov)
- **Broadband project management** – Diane Lindstrom, [dianne.lindstrom@doit.nm.gov](mailto:dianne.lindstrom@doit.nm.gov)
- **Data and mapping** - Natalie Runyan, [natalie.runyan@doit.nm.gov](mailto:natalie.runyan@doit.nm.gov)
- **General questions** - Steph Poston, [stephposton@msn.com](mailto:stephposton@msn.com)

[Link to NOFO.](#)

## NM Tribal Working Group Join the Meeting, Become a Member!

The Tribal Working Group 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.

### 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.*

### NM Tribal Broadband Working Group Meetings

- Every other Wednesday at 12:00pm, MT
- <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86256047626?pwd=MXdrVDJrdXFqVkNjVVVFc2U2aU1RQT09>
- **Next Meeting April 12, 2023**

If you are interested in becoming a member of the [Tribal Working Group](#), please send an e-mail to: [connectnmcouncil@state.nm.us](mailto:connectnmcouncil@state.nm.us). In the body of your e-mail, 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!



## NM OBAE Deputy Director Dianne Lindstrom presented at All Pueblo Council of Governors on March 23, 2023

## X. INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATIONS

- a. UNM Native American Health Services – Tahnee Pecos, **10 Minutes**
- b. New Mexico Office of Broadband Access and Expansion – Kelly Schlegel, **10 minutes**
- c. Federal Acknowledgement Process – Wilson Pipestem, Pipstem Law, **10 minutes**
- d. Technical Assistance Specialist – Desbah Padilla, Intertribal Agriculture Council, **10 minutes**



## NTIA National Spectrum Strategy (NSS) Tribal Consultation Sessions

America is increasingly dependent on secure and reliable access to radio frequency spectrum. Sufficient access to spectrum is vital and must be managed responsibly and efficiently. The Department of Commerce is therefore committed to developing the National Spectrum Strategy (NSS), based upon collaboration with both federal and non-federal stakeholders—including Tribes—and on data-driven decision-making, to fully address the needs of spectrum reliant services and missions.

In order to set clear timelines and guidance regarding the development of the NSS, **NTIA invites you and/or a Tribal representative to participate in a virtual National Tribal Consultation** to provide your advice and insights as NTIA staff are working through critical issues related to the NSS.

We respectfully request your participation at one of the following Tribal Consultation sessions:

### **Tuesday April 18, 2023**

Time: 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM EDT

Zoom Registration Link:

<https://ntia->

[gov.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJlscuCspjgoHmqURyBTYnVsiHyVjZYQbrM](https://ntia.gov/zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJlscuCspjgoHmqURyBTYnVsiHyVjZYQbrM)

Dial-In Numbers: +1 (669) 254-5252; +1 (646) 828-7666

Meeting ID: 161 594 8324

### **Thursday April 20, 2023**

Time: 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM EDT

Zoom Registration Link:

<https://ntia->

[gov.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJltdOqhrzksHdIPEVBRk6dsGUZfcjYtRWU](https://ntia.gov/zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJltdOqhrzksHdIPEVBRk6dsGUZfcjYtRWU)

Dial-In Numbers: +1 (669) 254-5252; +1 (646) 828-7666

Meeting ID: 160 339 1267

**Read the Tribal Leader Invitation Letter [here](#). Read the Request for Comments [here](#).**

For more information on the NSS, please visit <https://ntia.gov/issues/national-spectrum-strategy>. If you have any questions regarding the NSS or this consultation, then please contact Sean Spivey, Office of Spectrum Management, at: [sspivey@ntia.gov](mailto:sspivey@ntia.gov).



## National Tribal Telecommunications Association (NTAA) Held Tribal Broadband Summit March 20-22, 2023

The summit focused on helping tribes identify funding sources, build/maintain/monetize a network and plan for the future of broadband. The summit included workshops, in-depth training sessions, and opportunities to learn from experts.

The purpose of NTAA 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.

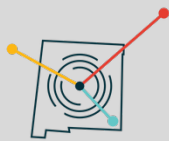
Click [here](#) for more information, and to become a member.



## New High-Speed Internet Guide Highlights Unprecedented Funding to Support Underserved Communities

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development announced a new **guidebook** for states and organizations to consider when deploying high-speed Internet service projects. The guide will help Public Housing Authorities, Multifamily Owners and Operators, and Tribes understand the mechanics of these two programs and the role they can play in ensuring that funds come to their neighborhoods – both urban and rural.

This resource provides guidance to Public Housing Authorities (PHAs), HUD-Assisted communities and other stakeholders wondering how this funding will benefit their communities and what role they can play in ensuring that funds do come to their neighborhoods.



**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](mailto: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](#)
- [NM Broadband Speed & Quality Testing](#)

## NTIA's Internet for All Initiative Request for Comment

NTIA's [Internet for All](#) initiative is to promote adoption and meaningful



use of the Internet among underrepresented communities and populations, including low-income households, veterans, aging individuals, racial and ethnic minorities, rural residents and others.

The State Digital Equity Capacity Grant and the Competitive Digital Equity Program aim to ensure that everyone in America has the skills, technology, and capacity needed to reap the full benefits of our digital economy.

Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo announced a **Request for Comment**, “We need to hear directly from those who are most impacted by the systemic barriers that prevent some from fully utilizing the Internet.”

This request for comment is part of NTIA’s larger strategy to hear from a diverse set of voices while implementing high-speed Internet grant programs. **NTIA requests feedback on the design, rules, and evaluation criteria for both digital equity programs.**

The docket established for this opportunity to comment can be found at [www.Regulations.gov](http://www.Regulations.gov), NTIA-2023-0002. Click the “Comment Now!” icon, complete the required fields, and enter or attach your comments. Submit written comments on or before 5 p.m. EST on **May 1, 2023**.



## 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:

- [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 Guide for States](#)
- [Digital Equity Plan Template](#)
- [Digital Equity Plan External Best Practices](#)
- [Digital Equity Needs Assessment Guide](#)
- [Internet for All Webinars](#)

