New Mexico Tribal Broadband News & Updates

Photo by **Theophilos Papadopoulos**

NM Tribal Working Group (TWG) Meeting
May 8, 2024,
12:00pm-1:00pm, MT
Spectrum Rights

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.

May 8th Guest Speaker:
Darrah Blackwater, CEO Blackwater Consulting

Topic:
Darrah will be joining us to speak about the concept of spectrum sovereignty, Indigenous rights to air waves, and the buildout requirements of the FCC's Rural Tribal Priority Window spectrum licenses. She will give a presentation on spectrum rights, including what spectrum is, how it's regulated, and how it may fit into an Indigenous worldview, and she'll leave lots of time for questions and discussion.

NM Tribal Broadband Working Group Meetings
- Every other Wednesday at 12:00pm, MT
- Zoom Link: https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86256047626?pwd=MXdrVDJrdXFqVkNjVVVPc2U2aU1RQT09

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. 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
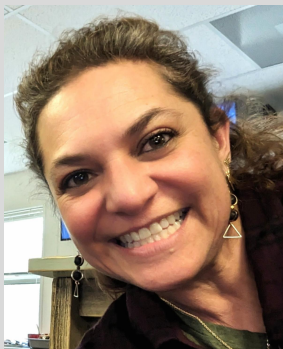
Internet Service Map Challenge Ends May 18, 2024!

Drew Lovelace, OBAE Acting Director, presented to the All Pueblo Council of Governors on April 25, 2024, at the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center.

The key message was to remind Tribes about the importance of reviewing the internet service maps by May 18, 2024.

To learn more, please visit BEAD CHALLENGE PROCESS. If you need additional support, please reach out to Valerie Quintana, NM OBAE Tribal Coordinator at (505) 699-6050 or valerie.quintana@connect.nm.gov.

OBAE Introduces Tribal Coordinator Valerie Quintana

Valerie Quintanta, the new Tribal Coordinator at the Office of Broadband Access and Expansion (OBAE), was recently introduced by Drew Lovelace, OBAE Acting Director.

Valerie brings extensive experience in program development and community engagement, especially within New Mexico Tribal communities. Her role at OBAE will involve providing program support both internally and externally with OBAE's grants. Additionally, Valerie will support OBAE and Steph Poston with tribal outreach. Valerie can be reached at (505) 699-6050 or Valerie.quintana@connect.nm.gov.

Read the Tribal Leader Letter here.

State of New Mexico
Cabinet in Your Community

Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham's administration and state agency cabinet secretaries held Resource Fairs and Community Town Halls recently in Farmington and Shiprock for a discussion about how state government can better serve the community. Attendees were able

to access resources and enroll in state programs and services that were available.

OBAE's Connect New Mexico was there to provide information to New Mexico Broadband. See the photos below.

Cabinet in Your Community Farmington 4/11/2024

Cabinet in Your Community - Shiprock 4/12/2024

OBAE Meetings and Office Hours

for BEAD Challenge Process - Meeting in Raton April 29th

Last chance to get the maps right for the federal NTIA broadband infrastructure funding program!

Agencies and organizations can attend meetings below to learn more about how to assess the accuracy of the NTIA broadband connectivity maps for your community and to submit a challenge to resolve inaccuracies if needed. All MAP CHALLENGES must be submitted by May 18, 2024.

The New Mexico Office on Broadband Access and Expansion (OBAE) invites you to Challenge Meetings and Challenge Process Office Hours for the BEAD Challenge Process.

Challenge Meetings: The meetings are open to the public, but please RSVP to broadband@connect.nm.gov.

Raton - Arthur Johnson Memorial Library
244 Cook Ave, Raton, NM 87740
Monday April 29th 1pm

BEAD Challenge Office Hours: Information can be found at:
https://connect.nm.gov/bead.html
- Thu 5/2/2024 12:30 PM - 2:00 PM
- Tue 5/7/2024 1:30 PM - 3:00 PM
- Wed 5/15/2024 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM
- Fri 5/18 end of day - Challenge Ends

BEAD Rebuttal Phase Office Hours: Information can be found at:
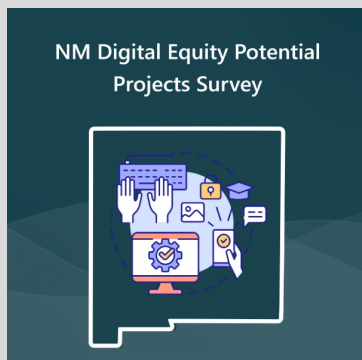https://connect.nm.gov/bead.html
- Wed 5/29/2024 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM
- Tue 6/4/2024 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM
- Thu 6/13/2024 12:30 PM - 2:00 PM
- Tue 6/18/2024 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM
- Mon 6/24/2024 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM
- Wed 6/26 end of day - Rebuttal Phase Ends

New Mexico CPC Challenge Video
OBAE BEAD Challenge Process Guide
Challenge Map

Digital Equity Potential Project Survey- Got Ideas? Submit by May 3!

Connect NM is conducting a survey to gather information about Digital Equity Programs in New Mexico. The survey is concise and should take approximately 10 minutes to complete assuming you have general information regarding the project. Whether you currently offer programs or have plans to do so, your insights are invaluable in shaping our efforts to bridge the digital divide. Survey Responses due May 3, 2024.

Click here to complete the survey.

Your participation is crucial in helping us complete our application for the Digital Equity Capacity Grant, due on May 28th. Thank you!

Broadband Communities Summit
May 6th – 8th 2024
Woodlands Waterway Marriott Hotel & Convention Center, Houston, Texas

DELIVERING CONNECTIVITY FOR COMMUNITIES

Broadband Communities Summit is the leading event for community leaders, property owners, network infrastructure builders and telco service providers to meet and discuss strategies for delivering connectivity for communities across the US.

Celebrating its 20th year, the Summit focuses on how to connect every community with next-generation communications infrastructure – from multifamily properties to master-planned developments, from rural towns to tribal nations, conurbations and more.

For more information, click here.

AI SUMMIT 2024
Virtual Conference
May 6th – 8th 2024

Presented by the SIP Forum, the AI SUMMIT 2024 is a special virtual conference focused on the Role of Artificial Intelligence in the Telecommunications Industry and its Impact as Friend and Foe.

This next iteration of the SIP Forum's acclaimed virtual SUMMITS will feature a series of free-to-attend webinars, presented by the experts leading the development of AI-powered telecommunications applications and illegal Robocall and Robotext mitigation solutions, thought leaders on the current opportunities and threats that AI technology poses to providers and users of telecommunications services, and key government regulators.
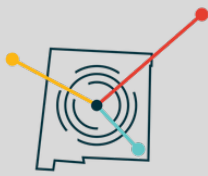
For more information, click here.

Notice of Funding Opportunity for the State Digital Equity Capacity Grant Program

Recognizing that achieving digital equity for all people, including Indigenous peoples of the United States and Territories, is a matter of social and economic justice, this NOFO seeks to enable any entity that is awarded a grant under this Program to better understand, measure, and address systemic barriers to digital equity and, in collaboration with the communities most impacted, co-create the conditions necessary for long-lasting and meaningful change to ensure a sustainable future. Focusing investments on creating these conditions for change will allow entities awarded a grant under this Program to address the causes of socioeconomic disparities and will result in improved outcomes.

Notice of Funding Opportunity for the State Digital Equity Capacity Grant Program
Read more here.

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.
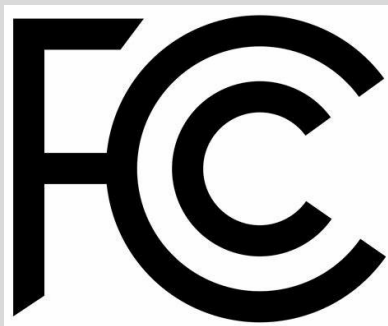
Tribal Broadband Leaders Network Meetings

The Tribal Broadband Leaders Network (TBLN) is for Tribal leaders across the country to share priorities and best practices, discuss emerging telecommunications policy issues, and identify engagement strategies with state broadband leaders. Tribal leaders and Tribal broadband providers are welcome to join.

If you are a Tribal leader or a Tribal broadband provider and would like to join TBLN or are an existing participant and have new staff to be added/contact changes, please reach out to TBLN@ntia.gov.

Next Meetings:
- Thursday, May 9: Topic TBD (Register here)
- Thursday, June 13: Topic TBD (Register here)

Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Updates and News

National Broadband Map Challenge Due Dates
You Can Still Challenge the Maps!
- All MAP CHALLENGES must be submitted by May 18, 2024.
- An effective manner to achieve meaningful broadband access for those who need it most, including the unserved and underserved in New Mexico.
- It is critically important to correct any data that may be inaccurate indicating internet

coverage.
- 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.
- Connect NM mapping and data webpage.
- How to submit a **Location Challenge**
- How to submit an **Availability Challenge**
- FCC's Broadband Data Collection: www.fcc.gov/broadbanddata.
- Questions and technical assistance:Native@fcc.gov.

Affordable Connectivity Program Reimbursement and Wind Down
- **May 2024** will be the last month for which providers will be able to seek reimbursement for the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) benefits.
- Providers are not required to pass through any benefits to ACP households after April 2024.
- Providers can choose whether to pass on and claim the partial reimbursement for May service.
- **ACP Wind-Down Order (DA 24-23)**: Provides specific guidance to prepare consumers for the end of the ACP.
- **Public Notice (DA 24-274)**
- **fcc.gov/ACP:** The most current information regarding the ACP wind-down.
- **ACP Wind-Down Fact Sheet**
- **FCC's Office of Native Affairs and Policy (ONAP): Native@fcc.gov.**

FCC's Office of Native Affairs and Policy is hiring a Tribal Policy Engagement Specialist
- The Office of Native Affairs and Policy (ONAP) in the FCC's Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau is looking to hire two Tribal Policy Engagement Specialist with experience in Tribal affairs.
- Applications should be submitted by May 1, 2024, through USAJOBS
- Information about ONAP's mission and initiatives is available at https://www.fcc.gov/office-native-affairs-and-policy.
- Questions regarding this announcement can be directed to: Kristin.Young@fcc.gov

FCC Seeks Comment on Adding a Missing and Endangered Persons Event Code to the Emergency Alert System
- The Commission released a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) seeking comment on its proposal to adopt a new Emergency Alert System (EAS) event code for Missing and Endangered Persons (MEP).
- The deadlines to submit comments and reply comments for the NPRM are May 20, 2024 and June 17, 2024, respectively.
- See the Federal Register publication of the NPRM here.
- If you would like to file comments, you may file them using the Commission's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS), under proceeding PS Docket Nos. 15-91 and 15-94, or email native@fcc.gov.

NTIA Releases Build America, Buy America Waiver for BEAD Program

NTIA recently released the Build America, Buy America (BABA) waiver for the $42.45 billion BEAD Program. This release follows over a year of careful research and deliberate engagement with stakeholders – including 385 meetings with over 50 firms and 250 individuals — representing a diverse range of manufacturers, Internet service providers, trade associations, unions, and other stakeholders who could be impacted by BABA. The BABA waiver takes the strongest approach possible to protecting American jobs while also ensuring that we can quickly build Internet networks.

BABA Act: The domestic content procurement preference requires that all iron, steel,

manufactured products, and construction materials used in covered infrastructure projects are produced in the United States.

- **BABA Waiver and FAQ**
- **HUD Information on BABA**

Indigenous Connectivity Summit (ICS) Calling Youth Leaders to Attend Connectivity Summit FOR FREE

June 4-6, 2024 | Membertou First Nation, Mi'kma'ki (Nova Scotia)

Indigenous people must lead their digital futures.ICS will return this June for three days of discussions focused on digital equity in Indigenous communities in Canada and the United States. The Summit is a community-led forum focused on collaboration to achieve digital equity for Indigenous communities. Since its inception, the ICS has become the primary convening event focused on digital equity for Indigenous leadership, community members, researchers, and other stakeholders to engage in solutions-focused discussions. Over the course of the event, Summit participants collaborate on a set of policy recommendations, which will guide advocacy efforts through the coming year.

Youth Scholarships
We know we need to hear the voices of the next generation's leaders. That's why we have specialized funding opportunities for Indigenous youth aged 18-35 to make sure you can make it to this year's summit! Our scholarships cover all travel including flights to and from the summit, accommodations and a per diem. To apply, please fill out the ICS 2024 Registration Form and indicate that you would like to apply for the Indigenous Youth Travel Scholarship. If there is an Indigenous young person aged 18-35 you believe should benefit from this scholarship, you are highly encouraged to nominate them by emailing erin@clearskyconnections.ca. Please be sure to include the youth's contact information.

Click here for more information and to register.

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
- Local Coordination Summary Report - March 2024
- Tribal Nations Resource Page
- Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program
- Tribal Broadband Planning Toolkit
- Tribal Consultations
- Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program Awards
- Webinar Recordings
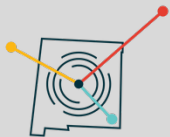- State Engagement

- 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
- Five-Year Action Plan Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment(BEAD) Program

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.

Check out their website, and sign up for the newsletter!

New Mexico Tribal Broadband

Previous New Mexico Tribal Broadband Newsletters are available **here**.