New Mexico Tribal Broadband News & Updates

Photo by **Theophilos Papadopoulos**

Internet Service Map Challenge Ends May 18, 2024!

Successful challenges will make challenged locations available for BEAD-funded infrastructure. Increasing Tribal participation in the BEAD Challenge process will assist states and NTIA in having accurate information in order to ensure that this critical funding reaches intended areas. If Tribal Governments do not challenge the **enforceable commitments** on their land, then locations may be marked as "served" (and ineligible for BEAD) even though the commitment does not include a legally binding agreement or Tribal Government Resolution.

Challenge Process _ Participation by Tribes
Tribal BEAD Participation Outreach
Tribal Leader Letter_TBLN_May 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.

BEAD Challenge Process

Last chance to get the maps right for the federal NTIA broadband infrastructure funding program! All MAP CHALLENGES must be submitted by May 18, 2024.

The New Mexico Office on Broadband Access and Expansion (OBAE) invites you to Challenge Process Office Hours for the BEAD Challenge Process. Click on the links below for helpful information.

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

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

NM Tribal Working Group (TWG) Meeting
May 22, 2024, 12:00pm, MDT
Featuring *Nambe Broadband Network Project*

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:
- Updates from OBAE
- Updates from Connect NM
- Tony Flores F5, Owner, Planning and Consulting (see below for more)
- Carrie Rogers-Whitehead, Founder & CEO of Digital Respons-Ability (see below for more)
- Announcements

Topics:
- **Tony:** Will be discussing the implementation of the Pueblo of Nambe's Broadband Network Project from a Project Development and Management perspective.
- **Carrie:** Digital Respons-Ability, is a mission-based company that teaches digital citizenship to tens of thousands of parents, students and educators each year. To support New Mexico's commitment to digital equity, Digital Respons-Ability, in partnership with New Mexico's Public Education department, will be providing digital citizenship professional development opportunities and resources to educators across the state. Details of this program, enrollment, timelines and more will be shared at the meeting.

NM Tribal Broadband Working Group Meeting
- Every other Wednesday at 12:00pm, MT - May 22 next meeting
- Zoom Link: https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86256047626?pwd=MXdrVDJrdXFqVkNjVVVPc2U2aU1RQT09

If there are topics you would like to see covered in future meetings, please email nmtribalbroadband@gmail.com

Highlighted Story: Darrah Blackwater
Discussing Spectrum Rights

Darrah Blackwater was the guest speaker at the May 8th TWG meeting. She is an attorney and the owner of Blackwater Consulting LLC. Darrah is a proud citizen of the Navajo Nation, from Farmington, New Mexico.With a law degree from University of Arizona Law School and and a lifetime of experience, She is using her background and skills to help tribes, companies, and organizations achieve common goals of connectivity, collaboration, and cultivating mutually beneficial relationships.

Darrah informed us 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. Her presentation informed us on spectrum rights, including what spectrum is, how it's regulated, and how it may fit into an Indigenous worldview.

For more information on Spectrum Rights, click on the links below:
- **Read the Spectrum Presentation here.**
- **Spectrum Sovereignty Resources**
- **Read Darrah's article published in ICT, *Time for the 'well-meaning man' to return***

spectrum rights to Native American tribes.

TWG 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 your interest!

Tribal Broadband Leaders Network News and 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. if there are topics you would like to see covered in future TBLN meetings, please email tbln@ntia.gov.

NTIA announced that more than 160 applications were submitted for the Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program Round II. We will hear more updates about this during the nextTBLN meeting which is scheduled to take place Thursday, May 9 at 3:00 pm ET. We will also be discussing How Tribes can get involved in the BEAD Challenge Process, Enforceable Buildout Commitment, post award updates, grants management updates in eRA/GEMS, and Site Visits. If you do not have this meeting on your calendar, please contact Mykah Alverson at malverson@ntia.gov for the meeting invite.

Next Meetings:
- June 13: Topic TBD (Register here)
- July 11: Topic TBD (Register here)

Webinar:
- May 15, 3:00 pm: Stories from NTIA's Enabling Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure Program (Register here)

State Digital Equity Capacity Grant Program NOFO Update

NTIA recently announced the availability and individual state allocations of $811 million in funding to states, territories, and native entities. The State Digital Equity Capacity Grant Program (SDECG) allows States and territories to apply for funding to begin implementation of their Digital Equity Plans approved under the State Digital Equity Planning Grant Program. The overall purpose of the SDECG Program is to create the conditions where individuals and

communities have the information technology capacity that is needed for full participation in the society and economy of the United States.

NTIA held a webinar on April 2, 2024 to cover the SDECG Program's Notice of Funding Opportunity and answer live audience questions. The recording and presentation are available on the BroadbandUSA website.

Native Entities (Indian Tribes, Alaska Native Entities, and Native Hawaiian Organizations): The application window will open September 25, 2024 and close on February 7, 2025.

Broadband Deployments in State DOT Rights-of-Way
Webinar May 21, 2:00pm-4:30pm, ET

The American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO), Federal Highways Administration (FHWA), and NTIA will jointly host a webinar on *Broadband Deployments in State DOT Rights-of-Way*. The event will cover NTIA's Internet For All programs (with a specific introduction to BEAD) and conceptual permitting timelines; provide a FHWA Explanation of Broadband Rule and Fair Market Value (FMV) Provisions; discuss Section 106 and state historic preservation reviews of broadband deployments in DOT Rights-of-Way; and share lessons learned on coordinating broadband projects with state transportation planning. (Register here)

Broadband Future

5G

A Collaborative 4 Corners Pathway Conference
JUNE 25, 2024

REGISTER HERE

Gathering of key regional participants in all aspects of broadband to share information and gather feedback on the current state of planning in and around the great Four Corners area.

- Understand the level of effort and progress for Broadband in our area.

- Meet those who are participating in cooperation and collaboration.

- Learn what opportunities for funding are available.

- Provide input to maximize the successful outcomes for your specific area.

AGENDA

Time	Item
7:30 am	Coffee & Sweets
8:00 am	Launch & Motivation
9:00 am	Legislative Panel
10:00 am	Higher Education Panel
11:00 am	Updates from Tribal Broadband
Noon	Lunch (Provided)
1:00 pm	Communities and Counties Panel
1:45 pm	Farmington Electric Utility Service Project Updates
2:00 pm	Federal Lands Panel
3:00 pm	NTIA and OBAE BEAD Updates
4:00 pm	Digital Equity Planning Updates
5:00 pm	Wrap-up: Feedback Survey

Henderson Fine Arts Center - San Juan College - 4601 College Blvd. Farmington NM

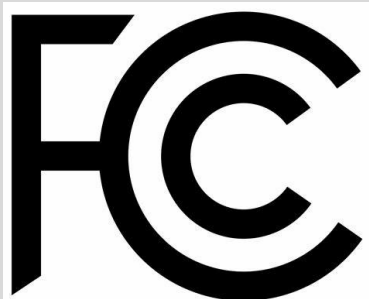REGISTER HERE https://alliancefornavajobroadband.regfox.com/broadband-future-a-collaborative-4-corners-pathway

FOUR CORNERS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Alliance for Navajo Broadband

RESOURCES

FC

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 (ACP) 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 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.

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
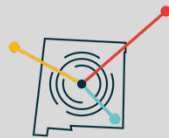- State Engagement
- Mapping Resources
- Additional Resources
- Contact

NTIA Digital Equity Assistance Materials

- State Digital Equity Planning Grant
- Office of Internet Connectivity and Growth 2023 Annual Report
- The Office of Internet Connectivity and Growth 2023 Annual Report
- 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

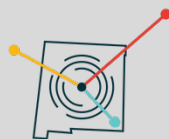## Connect New Mexico Tribal Broadband Resource Library

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**.