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# New Mexico Tribal Broadband News & Updates

May 22, 2023



## Internet for All NM Broadband Summit Buffalo Thunder May 24, 2023, 9am - 3pm

The New Mexico Office of Broadband Access and Expansion (OBAE), Connect New Mexico Council (CNMC), New Mexico Association of Counties (NMC), New Mexico Municipal League of Municipalities (NMML), and the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) invite you to the Internet for All: New Mexico Broadband Summit in Santa Fe and the Pueblo of Pojoaque.

This day long workshop will bring together critical stakeholders in New Mexico from the federal, state, tribal, and local governments, industry, and other key collaborators to discuss coordination on broadband efforts as the state prepares to receive significant broadband funds from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

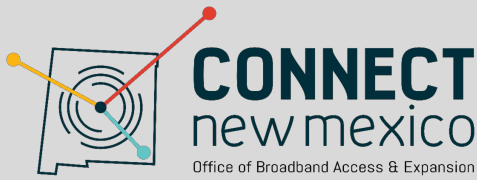
Connecting all people in New Mexico to affordable, reliable high-speed internet is critical to our economic stability and this event will provide an opportunity for us to discuss ways we can work together to efficiently and effectively utilize these federal dollars to the maximum extent.

There is no fee to attend this event.

**Join the NM Tribal Working Group at the Tribal Round Table Discussion, 3:00pm at the Summit!**

Click [here](#) for more information and for the Agenda.  
Click [here](#) to register.

## Virtual Broadband Listening Sessions



Broadband Listening Sessions are open to the public and although an impact area may be highlighted, all community members are invited and encouraged to participate in any of the virtual Broadband Listening Sessions. Pre-register now to attend one or all of the upcoming virtual Broadband

Listening Sessions and help Connect New Mexico!

Click on the links below to pre-register and receive the zoom link for each virtual Broadband Listening Sessions.

Monday, May 22 - 12:00 – 1:00 pm  
[Digital Equity Organizations/ Covered Populations](#)

Friday, May 26 - 12:30 – 1:30 pm  
[Digital Equity Organizations/Covered Populations](#)

Tuesday, May 30 - 12:00 – 1:00 pm  
[Workforce Development](#)

Wednesday, May 31 - 12:00 – 1:00 pm  
[Workforce Development](#)

Wednesday, May 31 - 1:30 – 2:30 pm  
[Local and Regional Governments](#)

Monday, June 5 - 12:00 – 1:00 pm  
[Internet Service Providers](#)

Thursday, June 8 - 12:00 – 1:00 pm  
[Internet Service Providers](#)

Friday, June 9 - 12:00 – 1:00 pm  
[Tribal Governments and Agencies](#)

Monday, June 12 - 12:00 – 1:00 pm  
[Business & Economic Development](#)

Wednesday, June 14 - 12:00 – 1:00 pm  
[Business & Economic Development](#)

## 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=MXdrVDJrdXFqVkNjVWVPc2U2aU1RQT09>
- **Next Meeting May 31, 2023 to discuss Middle Mile Technology**
- **Join us at the Tribal Round Table Discussion, May 24th, 3:00pm at the NM Broadband Summit, Buffalo Thunder.**

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!



## Surveys Seek Insight about Broadband in New Mexico Please Respond By June 1

New Mexico and the OBAE team are seeking to collect information from government agencies, community organizations, community stakeholders, and employers about their experience and needs in accessing broadband. **Survey responses will help shape the state's broadband infrastructure expansion and digital equity planning efforts.** State, county, tribal, and local government agencies, employers, internet service providers, and community organizations (nonprofit, school, library, health, housing, faith-based, etc.), and broadband stakeholders are invited to complete the surveys below that best apply to them by **June 1, 2023.**

- [1. Vulnerable Populations Broadband Barriers Survey](#)
  - [2. Digital Equity Program Inventory](#)
  - [3. Community Anchor Institution Broadband Access Survey](#)
  - [4. New Mexico Infrastructure Asset Inventory Survey](#)
  - [5. Workforce Development Opportunity Survey](#)
- [Internet Service Providers Survey](#)

For more information, please click [here](#).

## 2023 ConnectHomeUSA Internet for All: Workforce Development Opportunities HUD Sponsored Webinar June 14, 2023 2:00 PM - 3:30 PM EDT

The new Internet for All programs, such as the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) and the Connecting Minority Communities (CMC) grant programs, are supporting the development of new workforce opportunities tied to expanding high-speed internet infrastructure across America. The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) is responsible for administering the Internet for All grant programs and recently issued a workforce planning guide for the BEAD Program. BEAD eligible entities and state and territory broadband offices are encouraged by NTIA to collaborate with local partners to develop a workforce that is prepared for the various types of employment opportunities expected for BEAD implementation.

**This webinar will:**

- Provide an overview of the Internet for All programs
- Review BEAD workforce development requirements
- Identify opportunities and strategies for HUD-assisted communities and state broadband leaders to work together to prepare communities for the new employment opportunities made possible by BEAD investments
- Introduce minority-serving institutions of higher education funded under NTIA's CMC Program that could assist in delivering workforce training to HUD-assisted residents

This webinar is part of an ongoing series that aims to help ConnectHomeUSA communities, other HUD-assisted communities, and tribes achieve their goals in connecting households to affordable broadband service, devices, and digital literacy training. View all webinars in the [ConnectHomeUSA Webinar Series](#).

***Click [here](#) for more information, and to register for the webinar.***

## **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.



## **Broadband Technical Assistance Funding Opportunity Deadline June 20, 2023**

The newly announced Broadband Technical Assistance (BTA) [Funding Opportunity Announcement](#) (FOA) has been published in the Federal Register. The \$20 million available for BTA is made possible by funding the USDA Rural Utilities Service (RUS) received in the [Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act](#) (IIJA) (Pub. L. 117-58).

Broadband Technical Assistance refers to activities that support broadband expansion into rural areas and may include:

- Project planning and community engagement
- Financial sustainability
- Environmental compliance
- Construction planning and engineering
- Accessing federal resources
- Data collection and reporting

The RUS is accepting applications from broadband technical assistance providers, recipients, and entities proposing projects that would support the growth or expansion of a broadband cooperative that would serve rural communities. Applications must be submitted through <https://grants.gov> by 11:59 PM Eastern on **June 20, 2023**.

Visit the [Broadband Technical Assistance](#) website for resources and more information including:

- [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#)
- [Application Guide](#)
- [BTA Map](#)
- [Application Forms and Resources](#)

Please submit any Broadband Technical Assistance questions using the [Contact Us Form](#).



## Resources to Support the State Digital Equity Planning Grant Program

- [Working with Libraries](#) highlights the importance of libraries in advancing digital literacy and inclusion, with recommendations for the role libraries can play in the planning processes for the BEAD and DE programs.
- [Digital Equity Outcomes and Impacts](#) connects digital inclusion activities with their impacts on health, civic participation, employment, education, and essential services.
- [Digital Equity in Tribal Communities](#) shares effective digital inclusion practices in tribal communities.
- [Community Preparation for State Broadband Office Engagement](#) is a resource for local stakeholders looking to contribute to DE and BEAD planning efforts.



## 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 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](#)
- [NM Broadband Mapping Program](#)
- [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](#)

## New Mexico Tribal Broadband

Previous New Mexico Tribal Broadband Newsletters are available [here](#).