New Mexico Tribal Broadband News & Updates

Photo by **Theophilos Papadopoulos**

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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.
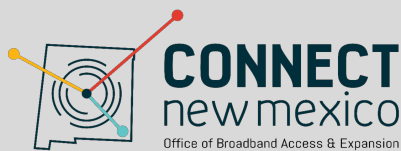
San Ildefonso and Santa Clara Have

Received $14 Million to Expand Internet Capabilities

On June 7th Alan Davidson, the head of the Commerce Department's National Telecommunications and Information Administration, visited the San Ildefonso Pueblo, which has plans to ramp up connectivity with the help of a nearly $5 million grant.

That's just a small fraction of the hundreds of millions of dollars that could flow into New Mexico in the coming years from federal grants that were included in a massive infrastructure law passed in 2021. New Mexico has also recently announced tens of millions worth of grants to expand broadband from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Some tribal and pueblo lands are particularly lacking internet services. Several of the federal grants for expanding broadband are geared specifically for Native American communities.

In the photo above, Alan Davidson, assistant commerce secretary and head of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, center, looks at a map of Santa Clara Pueblo with the pueblo's Lt. Governor James Naranjo, left, during a meeting in their tribal office Wednesday. (Eddie Moore/Albuquerque Journal)

See the full story in the Albuquerque Journal.

Broadband Listening Sessions, Lunch and Learn Webinars, Calendar of Events

Broadband Listening Sessions:
Open to the public and all community members are invited and encouraged to participate. Click on the link below to pre-register to attend virtual Broadband Listening Sessions and help Connect New Mexico!

- Monday, June 12 - 12:00 – 1:00 pm
    Business & Economic Development
- Wednesday, June 14 - 12:00 – 1:00 pm
    Business & Economic Development

Lunch and Learn Webinars:
Register to attend one or more Lunch and Learn Webinars scheduled 12:30pm-1pm every other Thursday - Learn about best practices and other projects around the state and delve into topics of interest and considered helpful to mobilizing for broadband and digital equity.
- June 22, July 6, July 20, August 3, August 17, August 31
- Register here

Upcoming Events Calendar

2023 ConnectHomeUSA Internet for All Webinar
Workforce Development Opportunities

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.

Guidebook: 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.

LET'S GET GOING
BROADBAND
BOOTCAMPS

CONNECT new mexico
Office of Broadband Access & Expansion

Wednesday, June 28 9:30am-4:30pm

Doña Ana Community College
1700 OHara Road
Anthony, NM 88021

Thursday, June 29th 9:30am-4:30pm

Pueblo of Tesuque
Tribal Administration Building
20 TP 828 Santa Fe, NM 87506

This one-day broadband bootcamp is aimed at helping participants understand broadband and digital equity basics, identify local needs, evaluate options, and chart an achievable path to their goals. From leveraging existing assets, to financing, to partnerships, to evaluating available models for success, this program is designed to demystify every step of the process.

Attendance is free but submission and acceptance of an application is required prior to the event.

More info/Registration   505-795-3253   https://connect.nm.gov/lets-get-going-bootcamps

ILSR The Institute for Local Self-Reliance has helped to organize broadband bootcamps for everyone from local activists to health care professionals to Tribal Nations. We have a proven track record of building knowledge and confidence to do this important work.

event. Space is limited and priority will be given to local community members and small local teams eager to learn together and/or mobilizing a local community coalition.

Southern Bootcamp:
Wednesday, June 28 from 9:30am-4:30pm
Location: Doña Ana Community College

Northern Bootcamp:
Thursday, June 29 from 9:30am-4:30pm
Location: Pueblo of Tesuque

Click **here** for more information on the Bootcamp.

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.
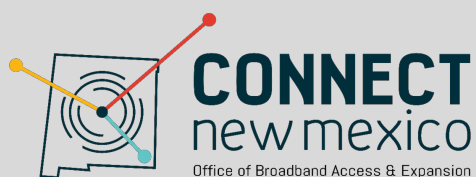
Mission of Tribal Working Group
To assist and support New Mexico Tribes in developing and deploying broadband infrastructure through tribal consultation and engagement that leads to expanded access to health care, education and economic opportunity and includes strategies for access to funding, technical 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=MXdrVDJrdXFqVkNjVVVPc2U2aU1RQT09**
- Next Meeting June 21, 2023 to discuss Digital Sovereignty

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Tribal Working Group, please send an e-mail to: 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

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.

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**

6. **Internet Service Providers Survey**

For more information, please click here.

Tribal Nations
Broadband Resources

NTIA is committed to increasing broadband Internet access across America, particularly in unserved and underserved communities. BroadbandUSA and NTIA serve federally recognized tribal governments and Hawaiian home lands that seek to expand broadband connectivity and promote digital inclusion through solution-neutral guides and resources, group technical assistance, interagency coordination, and administration of grant programs.

Resource Categories
Tribal Consultations
Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program Awards
Webinar Recordings
State Engagement
Mapping Resources
Additional Resources
Contact

Visit the **BroadbandUSA Tribal Nations webpage** for more information.

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.
- **Funding Programs** support high-speed Internet planning, infrastructure, and adoption.

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.

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**.