



Photo by [Theophilos Papadopoulos](#)

# New Mexico Tribal Broadband News & Updates

June 19, 2023

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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](#).

## NM Tribal Working Group Meeting



## June 21, 2023 12:00pm - 1:00pm MDT Mahrinah Shije Discussing Digital Sovereignty

Join the NM Tribal Working Group on Wednesday at noon for a Zoom Meeting to discuss "Digital Sovereignty" with Mahrinah Shije.

Mahrinah Shije is an Entrepreneur and Global Development Professional. As a Partner with Zia Impact, Mahrinah provides consulting and strategic planning services with a focus on Tribal Infrastructure and Economic Development. She is Tewa and Sephardic and an impassioned advocate for Indigenous rights, leadership and visibility.

Governments, industries, and organizations of all kinds are claiming a right to gather information on everything from our spending habits to our health records. Data has become a global currency, a valuable asset, and a source of power. Indigenous Data Sovereignty (IDS) and Indigenous Data Governance are Indigenous-led movements and practices through which Indigenous peoples are setting their own visions for good data regarding data generated and collected by and about them.

### **NM Tribal Broadband Working Group Meeting**

June 21, 2023, 12:00pm - 1:00pm, MDT

Zoom Link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86256047626?pwd=MXdrVDJrdXFqVkNjVVVPc2U2aU1RQT09>

NM Tribal Broadband Working Group Meetings are every other Wednesday at 12:00pm, MDT. 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.

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!



## Broadband Lunch and Learn Webinars June 22 through August 31

### **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**

# 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>



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.

## New Mexico Tribal Broadband

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