



Photo by [Theophilos Papadopoulos](#)

# New Mexico Tribal Broadband News & Updates

July 28, 2023

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## NM Tribal Working Group Meeting August 2, 12:00pm - Cyber Security Guest Speaker Secretary Sambandam, DoIT

Please join the NM Tribal Working Group for a discussion on Cyber Security. The guest speaker is [Secretary Raja Sambandam](#), Department of Information Technology Acting Cabinet Secretary and State Chief Information Officer.

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.

### NM Tribal Broadband Working Group Meetings

- Every other Wednesday at 12:00pm, MT
- <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86256047626?pwd=MXdrVDJrdXFqVkNjVVPc2U2aU1RQT09>

**Next Meeting August 2, 2023**

### Become a Member!

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!



## Second Round of Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program to Provide \$980M

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration [announced](#) that the [second round of funding through the Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program](#) will provide tribes with \$980 million

for the deployment of internet infrastructure, affordability programs, telehealth and distance learning initiatives.

The funding is made possible through the Infrastructure, Investment and Jobs Act and the Consolidated Appropriations Act, which provides \$3 billion to support tribal infrastructure. The second round of funding builds on the nearly \$1.78 billion that has already been deployed, which includes the [nearly \\$4 million NTIA announced last week](#) that will go to eight tribes.

**Read the full story from [Broadband Breakfast](#) [here](#).**



## Kimball Sekaquaptewa Discusses Tribal Broadband Challenges with *Tribal Business News*

If tribes want their share of a new \$42.5 billion broadband funding program, they'll need to insist on a seat at state-government tables and be prepared for challenges with up-to-date information on service areas and post-buildout plans, broadband experts say.

Kimball Sekaquaptewa, New Mexico Connect Council

Connectivity advocacy group New Mexico Connect Council believes tribes should be able to access that money, but without good policy and rulemaking, tribal applications for subgrants or collaboration with states could be shoved aside by the advance of telecommunications companies' plans. In particular, state enthusiasm could shrivel in the face of the comparative challenge of reaching especially rural tribal communities, says New Mexico Connect Council chair Kimball Sekaquaptewa.

"We're rural, and we're often in geographically challenging areas. When you're looking at construction costs, those can double; it hasn't been attractive to industry to make those builds," Sekaquaptewa told *Tribal Business News*. "That's really the quagmire we've been in."

However, building relationships with state governments is the most important step toward accessing the funding, Matthew Rantanen of Golden State Network said. States have to consult with the tribes, he added, but there are no set-asides or obligations in the BEAD funding opportunity.

"The state has to consult with tribes; they don't have to pay them. That's what we're hearing across the board — the state has to consult with tribes on the process, but nowhere does it say tribes have to be paid," Rantanen said. "The relationship with the state and indicating to the state and getting them to build a process where tribes can be subgrantees of that award seems to me the only path."

Sekaquaptewa agreed that state relationships are essential, especially ahead of a process that has historically not gone well for Native communities trying to maintain control of new infrastructure and have a say in how their lands play into connectivity build outs by larger telecoms. She points to FCC spectrum and connectivity auctions that awarded large companies expansive swaths of territory without any tribal consent.

Read the complete story in [Tribal Business News](#).

**Tribal Competitive Outreach Program (TCOP)**



# AFFORDABLE CONNECTIVITY PROGRAM

Helping Households Connect

## Deadline July 28, 2023

TCOP provides funding for outreach activities to increase awareness of and encourage participation in the [Affordable Connectivity Program](#) (ACP) for households on Tribal Lands.

The maximum amount TCOP applicants may apply for is \$400,000.

To access application forms and instructions, go to <https://www.grants.gov> under Assistance Listing (CFDA) Number: 32.011 - Affordable Connectivity Outreach Grant Program.

Read the full NOFO [here](#).



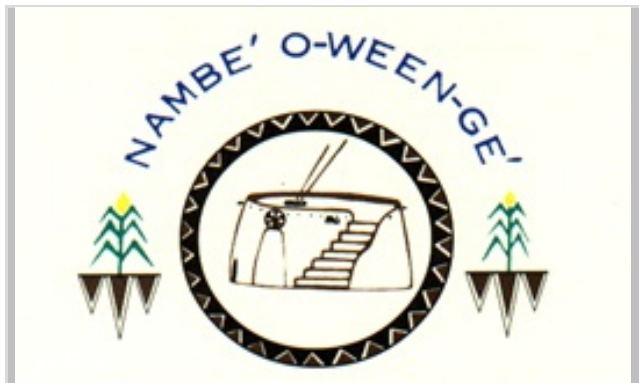
## OBAE Tribal Consultation Broadband Challenges

The Broadband Office is currently in the planning process for broadband infrastructure and digital inclusion programming across the state. Utilizing

Broadband Equity Access and Deployment Program (BEAD) and Digital Equity (DE), OBAE is creating a Five-Year Action Plan to guide the state's efforts to provide all New Mexicans with reliable broadband internet access. **This plan will help identify each unique challenge your Tribe may be experiencing regarding access to high-speed internet.** Once the challenges are identified, OBAE will assist in coordinating state and Tribal, Nations, and Pueblos resources to overcome these challenges through BEAD and DE funding.

We request permission to proceed in this unified effort with a formal Tribal consultation. Please provide your chosen date and time, if desired, and if you have any questions regarding this request, please contact Stephine Poston, OBAE Tribal Liaison at (505) 379-6172 or [stephposton@msn.com](mailto:stephposton@msn.com).

Read the full Tribal Leader Letter [here](#).



## Congratulations to Pueblo of Jemez and Pueblo of Nambe Awarded \$500,000 Each!

The Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) announced it has awarded eight grants totaling \$3,998,000 to eight Tribes as part of the [Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program](#) (TBCP).

This funding from President Biden's [Internet for All](#) initiative will help Tribes reduce monthly Internet service costs, plan for future Internet infrastructure investments, upgrade network equipment, and purchase devices.

In the next weeks, NTIA will release a second Notice of Funding Opportunity for an additional round of funding from the TBCP program.

Pueblo of Jemez will construct a new wireless tower and Pueblo of Nambe will take initial steps toward the deployment underground and aerial fiber networks.

Read the Press Release [here](#).



## Lunch and Learn Webinars

August 3, August 17, August 31  
12:30pm - 1:00pm

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.

- August 3, August 17, August 31
- Register [here](#)

[Upcoming Events Calendar](#)

YOU ARE INVITED  
**CONNECT NEW MEXICO  
ANNUAL BARBECUE**



**BBQ**



**STARTS AT 3PM**

**DIRECTIONS WILL BE  
EMAILED JULY 28TH**

<https://connect.nm.gov/summer-barbecue.html>



**SAVE THE DATE**  
**Bratwurst and Broadband**  
**July 29, 2023**  
**3:00pm**



# RESOURCES

## [Internet for All NM Broadband Summit Recording and Presentations](#)

### **Recording:**

- [Internet for All: New Mexico Broadband Summit](#)

### **Presentations:**

- [Connecting the Dots - Broadband is Everybody's Business](#)
- [Community Spotlight Mobilizing for Connectivity](#)
- [Digital Access Challenges and Solutions for New Mexico](#)
- [Connecting the Dots on the Map: FCC Data and Mapping Update](#)

## [OBAE Surveys Seek Insight about Broadband in New Mexico](#)

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

## [NTIA Tribal Nations Broadband Resources](#)

- [Tribal Consultations](#)
- [Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program Awards](#)
- [Webinar Recordings](#)
- [State Engagement](#)
- [Mapping Resources](#)
- [Additional Resources](#)
- [Contact](#)

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

## [NTIA Digital Equity Assistance Materials](#)

- [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](#)

## [Internet for All Funding Programs](#)



## 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 Guinee)
- 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](#)!



## 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 update [here](#).

## New Mexico Tribal Broadband

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