New Mexico Tribal Broadband News & Updates

Photo by **Theophilos Papadopoulos**

NM Tribal Working Group Meeting
August 16, 12:00pm-1:00pm
Last Mile Application

The Guest Speaker at the meeting will be Zeke Hiott, Calix Territory Sales Executive, discussing "Building your network for your last mile", concepts for a 10G network and what you need to do".
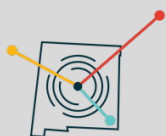
NM Tribal Broadband Working Group Meetings
- Every other Wednesday at 12:00pm, MT
- https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86256047626?pwd=MXdrVDJrdXFqVkNjVVVPc2U2aU1RQT09
    - Meeting ID: 862 5604 7626; Passcode: 602095

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.

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!

Lunch and Learn Webinars
August 17 and August 31
12:30pm - 1:00pm

Register to attend one or more Lunch and Learn Webinars scheduled 12:30pm-1pm on August 17 and August 31.

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.

Register **here**
Upcoming Events Calendar

Free Fiber Optic Technician Class Starting August 28

FREE for qualifying residents of Santa Fe County thanks to support from Santa Fe County. Limited number of scholarships available for qualifying New Mexico residents outside of Santa Fe County thanks to support from Encantado Foundation. Other Counties, Tribes, or agencies interested in funding students should contact Kris Swedin at ce@sfcc.edu. Paid participation is also optional.

Class Schedule: August 28-September 1, 2023, 8 am to 5 pm daily

Location: Intensive will be held at the Higher Education Center
1950 Siringo Road in Santa Fe, New Mexico

This a FREE five-day, hands-on intensive program gives students the opportunity to earn three certifications from the Fiber Optic Association that are recognized throughout the world and aligned to industry standards. These credentials will remain valid for three years, after which they can be renewed by the student. Students can earn the following certifications: Certified Fiber Optic Technician, Certified Fiber Optic Specialist in Splicing, and Certified Fiber Optic Specialists in Testing and Maintenance.

Read more **here**.

BEAD Implementation Summit September 21, 2023 Washington D.C.

Broadband Breakfast is pleased to announce the BEAD Implementation Summit, taking place on September 21, 2023, in Washington D.C. As state broadband offices work to prepare their five-year plans for the $42.5 billion Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment, this timely event will discuss the challenges, controversies and solutions surrounding this historic push for universal high-speed connectivity.

Bead Implementation Summit Program
- Panel 1: Roundtable for State Broadband Leaders
- Panel 2: Precursors to BEAD: ARPA, Capital Projects Fund and Middle Mile Deployment
- Panel 3: Matching Funds and Private Sector Investment
- Panel 4: Town Hall on Buy America and Other Regulatory Compliance Matters

Click here for more information.

Second Round of Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program to Provide

$980M

The Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program (TBCP) is a $3 billion program, from President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the Consolidated Appropriations Act, to support Tribal governments bringing high-speed Internet to Tribal lands, including telehealth, distance learning, affordability, and digital inclusion initiatives. The program seeks to improve quality of life, spur economic development, and create opportunities for remote employment, online entrepreneurship, remote learning, and telehealth by expanding broadband access and by providing digital training and inclusion programs to Native American communities.

This second round of funding from the Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program will make approximately $980 million available on Native American, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian lands for deployment of Internet infrastructure, affordability programs, telehealth and distance learning initiatives.

Visit grants.gov to apply. Applications must be received no later than 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time (ET) on January 23, 2024.

Read the 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. P lease 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.

Read the full Tribal Leader Letter here.

Letter Urging Tribal Consent For Broadband Infrastructure on or Near Tribal Lands

The letter is from Senators Luján and Murkowski to the USDA, FCC, and NTIA urging action to strengthen the nation-to-nation relationships with Tribal governments by requiring internet service providers and awardees obtain Tribal consent before awarding funds for broadband infrastructure activities on Tribal lands.

"Tribal consent is a fundamental aspect of respecting the rights and interests of Tribal Nations, and should be a prerequisite for any infrastructure development that impacts their lands".

Read the letter **here.**

FCC Announces Upcoming Filing Window for Applications for Low Power FM Radio New Station Construction Permits

AFFORDABLE CONNECTIVITY PROGRAM
Helping Households Connect

The Federal Communications Commission released a Public Notice announcing the opening of an application filing window for new Low Power FM (LPFM) radio stations. This upcoming filing window provides Tribes, among others, the opportunity to apply for a new LPFM station that can cover a localized service area in need of radio service.

The Public Notice provides an overview of the application procedures, filing requirements, and comparative selection process that will apply to the upcoming filing window for LPFM new station construction permits. A construction permit is required before an applicant is allowed to construct an LPFM station and a license is required before operation of an LPFM station can begin. This will be the first LPFM filing window since 2013. Potential applicants should carefully review the application procedures and filing requirements in the Public Notice.

The FCC will accept LPFM applications for the entire FM band (channels 201-300) during the filing window, which opens at 12:01am ET on November 1, 2023, and closes at 6:00 pm ET on November 8, 2023. Applicants must file their applications electronically through the FCC Media Bureau's Licensing and Management System.

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

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!](#)

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**.