



Photo by [Theophilos Papadopoulos](#)

New Mexico Tribal Broadband News & Updates

September 25, 2023
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OBAE Director Schiegel Retires, Drew Lovelace Steps In as Interim Director

Drew Lovelace has served as Deputy Director and Operations Manager at the Office of Broadband Access and Expansion (OBAE). Drew has over 20 years of private sector business experience in fields ranging from IT to Outdoor Industry and he has spent the last four years working for the

State of New Mexico.

Drew is committed to collaborating with the tribes of New Mexico on broadband initiatives.

Gov. Lujan Grisham [announced](#) Director Kelly Schlegel's retirement, stating, *“Under Kelly’s leadership, hundreds of millions of dollars have gone into broadband projects in communities around the state. Director Schlegel’s work to realize a more connected New Mexico will benefit our state for generations to come. I want to thank Kelly for her fantastic work over the past year and wish her the very best in her future endeavors.”*

Thank you Kelly and welcome to Drew!



NM Tribal Working Group (TWG) Meeting September 27, 2023 12:00pm - 1:00pm, MDT

TWG 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.

AGENDA - September 27, 2023

1. [Overview of Connect NM Pilot Program and Tribal Awards](#) - Sandeep Taxali, NM OBAE
2. [National Tribal Broadband Update](#) - Godfrey Enjady, TWG Chair
3. [Review Mission and Purpose of Tribal Working Group \(TWG\)](#) - Godfrey Enjady, TWG Chair
4. [Next Steps/Solutions/Agenda for October 11, 2023](#) - Godfrey Enjady, TWG Chair

NM Tribal Broadband Working Group Meetings

- Every other Wednesday at 12:00pm, MT
- September 27, 2023
- <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86256047626?pwd=MXdrVDJrdXFqVkNjVWVFc2U2aU1RQT09>
- Meeting ID: 862 5604 7626; Passcode: 602095

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!



Congratulations to Pueblo of Pojoaque for Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program Award!

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.

Pueblo of Pojoaque was awarded the NM Broadband Infrastructure Deployment in the amount of \$500,000.00. This Broadband Infrastructure Deployment project will provide affordable, reliable, high-speed Internet service via fiber to 75 tribal households.

Jenelle Roybal, Pueblo of Pojoaque, Governor stated, *"We are happy to receive this award and it will go a long way towards providing high-speed Internet to our Tribal members. Reliable, high-speed Internet is no longer a wishlist item. It has become a staple utility along with electricity and water. Our children depend on it for their education, our elders depend on it for online medical visits, our businesses depend on it to survive and grow, and our remote workers depend on it for a paycheck. This grant provides a tremendous boost in completing our broadband projects."*

Read the full press release at [Internet for All](#).



Second Round of Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program to Provide \$980 Mapping Webinar September 28th

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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.

Additionally, the Federal Communications Commission's Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) provides a discount of up to \$30 per month toward Internet service for eligible households and up to \$75 per month for households on qualifying Tribal Lands. Visit [GetInternet.Gov](https://www.getinternet.gov) to sign-up.

Webinar: Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program Round 2 Webinar: Mapping Requirements

- Sep 28, 2023, 1:00pm, MT
- Register [here](#)

Upcoming Webinars:

- October 5th & 25th: Project Narrative Requirements and sample Templates.
- November 2nd & 29th: Budget Narratives, Justifications, & Templates.
- December (Date TBD): Environmental and Historic Preservation Essentials.
- January Webinar: Grants Online Navigation and Submission.

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

Read the Program Overview [here](#).



Please Participate in NTIA's Virtual National Tribal Consultation October 17th or October 19th

To seek your input regarding its Digital Equity Act Programs, NTIA invites you and/or a Tribal representative to participate in the virtual National Tribal Consultation to provide your advice and insights as NTIA staff work through the critical issues related to these programs.

We respectfully request your participation at one of two virtual Tribal Consultation sessions:

Date: Tuesday, October 17, 2023

Time: 2:00pm – 5:00pm EDT, 11:00am – 2:00pm PDT

Zoom Registration Link: <https://ntia->

gov.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_LISkfi0NQqtq3c7QOBY6CRw

Dial-in: (for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):

US: +1 669 254 5252 or +1 646 828 7666 or +1 646 964 1167 or +1 551 285 1373 or +1 669 216 1590 or +1 415 449 4000

Webinar ID: 160 209 5390

Date: Thursday, October 19, 2023

Time: 2:00pm – 5:00pm EDT, 11:00am – 2:00pm PDT

Zoom Registration Link: https://ntia-gov.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_ZFOI-axxRE-mCfuUYQhlg#/registration

Dial-in: (for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):

US: +1 669 254 5252 or +1 646 964 1167 or +1 646 828 7666 or +1 669 216 1590 or +1 415 449 4000 or +1 551 285 1373

Webinar ID: 160 881 2425

For more Tribal Resources, visit the [Tribal Nations Page](#) on the Broadband USA website.



Tribal Libraries Eligible for Hands-On Support Through E-Rate Application & Funding Process

USAC and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) announced that the E-Rate Tribal Libraries Pilot Program will return for Funding Year 2024, providing one-on-one assistance to Tribal libraries applying for the E-Rate program.

The E-Rate Tribal Libraries Pilot Program provides hands-on assistance to participating Tribal libraries in all aspects of applying for and receiving E-Rate support during the upcoming funding year. This includes sharing information about program rules and requirements, providing training on how to use the E-Rate Productivity Center (EPC), and walking through the competitive bidding and application processes. The pilot will also support participants during the invoicing and other post-commitment processes, including the service confirmation, the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) certification, or service substitution requests.

Visit the [Tribal Libraries Pilot Program page](#) to learn more about the pilot.

Expanded E-Rate Tribal Library Eligibility

Tribal college and university (TCU) libraries are eligible for E-Rate funding if they also serve as public libraries for their community and meet the E-Rate definition of a library – specifically having regularly scheduled hours, staff, and materials for library users. On July 20, 2023, the FCC adopted a [Report and Order](#) amending program rules to enhance TCU applicants' access to the E-Rate program.

Learn More

USAC held an informational webinar about the Tribal Library Pilot on September 12. USAC will repeat this session on October 3 at 4 p.m. ET. [Register](#) for the October 3 E-Rate Tribal Library Pilot overview.

If you have additional questions about the Tribal pilot program, please join our Tribal Pilot **Question and Answer session** on October 10 at 4 p.m. ET. [Register](#) for the Q&A session.

Apply for the E-Rate Tribal Library Pilot Program

To apply for the Tribal Libraries Pilot Program, please complete a [brief survey](#) to tell us more about your library. Pilot Program applications will be accepted on a rolling basis. Trainings will begin in October, so apply now to secure your spot!

Need Help? If you have questions about the Tribal Libraries Pilot Program or the E-Rate program, please contact USAC at TribalTraining@usac.org.



The NTTA Tribal Broadband Summit Pathways to Success - August 2023 Was a Success!

The [NTTA](#) Tribal Broadband Summit continues to grow & be the must-attend event for anyone involved in Tribal Broadband. Native Network was once again honored to sponsor this incredible time when Tribal leaders and industry experts converge to network, learn, and share.

The mission of NTTA is *"to be the national advocate for telecommunications service on behalf of its member telephone companies and to provide guidance and assistance to members who are working to providing modern telecommunications services to tribal lands"*.

Mark your calendar for next year! The 2024 NTTA Summits will be April 8-10th and September 23-25th at Wild Horse Pass. Make sure to follow [NTTA on LinkedIn](#) to be informed about the 2024 Summits.



One of the Presentations at the NTTA Summit

Federal Permitting Improvement Steering Council, “*Bringing Clarity to the Permitting Process for Tribal Broadband Projects through FAST-41*”

On the Panel:(left to right)

- Craig Litteken, Infrastructure Project Advisor, Federal Permitting Improvement Steering Council
- Phoebe Suina, Project Manager, Environmental Specialist for the Pueblo Education Network
- Kimball Sekaquaptewa, Chief Technology Officer, Santa Fe Indian School
- PoQueen Rivera, Director of Tribal Affairs, Federal Permitting Improvement Steering Council



OBAE Tribal Consultation Broadband Challenges

OBAE 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.

For more information about tribal consultation, 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
Closes November 8, 2023

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

[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 Broadband Connectivity Program](#)
- [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](#)

- [Digital Equity in Tribal Communities](#)
- [FCC Report - Spectrum Access and Data in Tribal Communities](#)
- [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 and Co-Chair Catherine Nicolau)
- Mapping, Data & Evaluation (Acting Chair Natalie Runyan)
- Regional Planning & Community Engagement (Acting Chair Jerry Smith and Council Representative Katherine Crociata)
- Tribal Working Group (Chair Godfrey Enjady and Co-Chair Stephine Poston)
- Permits, Poles, and Attachments (Chair: Ovidiu Viorica)
- Connect New Mexico Grant Program and Rule Making Working Group (Chair Kimball Sekaquaptewa and Lead Vanessa Willock)

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

NTIA and the FCC have worked closely with states to assist them in the process of improving the [National Broadband Map](#).

Learn more about the [FCC Broadband Data Collection Challenge Processes](#).

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](#).

