**National Telecommunications**
**and Information Administration (NTIA)**

NTIA is the Executive Branch agency that is principally responsible for advising the President on telecommunications and information policy issues. NTIA's programs and policymaking focus largely on expanding broadband Internet access and adoption in America, expanding the use of spectrum by all users, and ensuring that the Internet remains an engine for continued innovation and economic growth. https://www.ntia.doc.gov

**Broadband**

NTIA is engaged in a range of efforts to increase broadband Internet access and adoption in America, which supports economic growth, job creation, and improved education, health care, and public safety. NTIA's BroadbandUSA program serves communities, industry and nonprofits that want to expand broadband infrastructure and promote digital inclusion. BroadbandUSA's services are driven by the needs and interests of state and local broadband leaders, and focus on encouraging private partnerships, supporting planning efforts, helping to identify funding, and implementing public-private broadband partnerships. NTIA also conducts research and analysis into broadband usage and adoption through our Digital Nation initiative.

**NTIA Resources**

**Crystal Hottowe**, Broadband Program Specialist
NTIA, Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program chottowe@ntia.gov
**Gabe Montoya**, Broadband Program Specialist
NTIA, Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program gmontoya@ntia.gov
**Vanesscia Cresci,** Broadband Program Specialist
NTIA, Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program scresci@ntia.gov
**Margaret Gutierrez,** Broadband Program Specialist
NTIA, Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program mgutierrez@ntia.gov
**Adam Geisler**, Division Chief, Tribal Connectivity & Nation to Nation Coordination
NTIA, Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program, ageisler@ntia.gov

**BroadbandUSA Data & Mapping**: NTIA's BroadbandUSA created the Indicators of Broadband Need map using data sourced from the American Community Survey collected by the U.S. Census, Ookla, Measurement Lab (M-Lab), Microsoft and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). BroadbandUSA also allows for Community Reports to be generated for each state and county in the United States, offering broadband and socio-economic metrics for the area selected.
https://broadbandusa.ntia.doc.gov/resources/data-and-mapping

**Federal Government Spectrum Compendium**: To address the nation's growing interest in & demand for radio spectrum, NTIA has collaborated to develop a compendium of detailed reports describing federal spectrum uses from 225 MHz to 5 GHz. www.ntia.doc.gov/other-publication/2017/federal-government-spectrum-compendium

**Broadband Availability Data**: NTIA, in collaboration with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), and in partnership with 50 states, five territories and the District of Columbia, has collected data tracking the availability of broadband in every neighborhood in America. The data were collected as part of NTIA's State Broadband Initiative, which began closing out on January 31, 2015. https://www2.ntia.doc.gov/broadband-data

**Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program (TBCP):** The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, provides new sources of tribal broadband funding to assist in mitigating the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic which is exacerbating the digital divide across Indian Country. With the designated funding, NTIA is developing the Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program (TBCP), a $1 billion program directed to tribal governments to be used for broadband deployment on tribal lands, as well as for telehealth, distance learning, broadband affordability, and digital inclusion. Entities eligible for TBCP grants include tribal governments, tribal organizations, TCUs, the Native Hawaiian Community, and Native Corporations.

**Tribal Broadband Planning Toolkit:** BroadbandUSA's Tribal Broadband Planning Toolkit provides guidance and resources to design, implement, and execute a broadband plan in tribal communities. Designed for interactive use, the toolkit walks users through seven basic, common elements that serve as the building blocks of a tribal broadband plan, each with a dedicated worksheet and a tab in an accompanying, downloadable Excel-based template. **Tribal Broadband Planning Toolkit (PDF)**: https://broadbandusa.ntia.doc.gov/sites/default/files/2022-05/Tribal%20Broadband%20Planning%20Toolkit%20%28PDF%29_1.pdf

**IIJA Tribal Consultation: September 12, 14, and 16, 2022**: To resolve questions regarding the second Tribal Broadband Connectivity NOFO, 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 are working through the critical issues related to the program. If you have any questions regarding the Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program or these consultations, please contact Adam Geisler, Division Chief, Tribal Connectivity and Nation to Nation Coordination, by phone at (202) 494-7820 or tbcpconsultation@ntia.gov. https://broadbandusa.ntia.doc.gov/sites/default/files/2022-08/DTLL-September-TBCP-Consultations.pdf

**NTIA Tribal Consultation Summary Report** (January 14, 2022)
https://broadbandusa.ntia.doc.gov/sites/default/files/2022-08/Tribal-Consultation-Summary-Report-January-2022.pdf

**NTIA Grant Resources**

NTIA administers grant programs that further the deployment and use of broadband and other technologies in America, laying the groundwork for sustainable economic growth; improved education, public safety, and health care; and the advancement of other national priorities.

**Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act Overview:** On November 15, 2021, President Biden signed the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act into law. This Act includes a significant investment of $65 billion to help close the digital divide and ensure that all Americans have access to reliable, high speed, and affordable broadband. This investment builds upon the funding for broadband deployment provided in the American Rescue Plan, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, the FCC's Universal Service program, and USDA's Rural Utilities Service broadband programs. This historic investment will lay critical groundwork for widespread access and affordability of broadband, creating new jobs and economic opportunities, providing increased access to healthcare services, enriching educational experiences of students, and improving overall quality of life for all Americans.

**NTIA will implement the following programs:**

**Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program:** Appropriates $42.45 billion for states, territories, the District of Columbia (D.C.), and Puerto Rico (P.R.) to utilize for broadband deployment, mapping, and adoption projects. Each state, D.C., and P.R. will receive an initial allocation of $100 million -- and $100 million will be divided equally among the United States Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands -- to support planning efforts including building capacity in state broadband offices and outreach and coordination with local communities. States, territories, D.C., and P.R., leveraging initial planning funds that will be made available through the program, will submit a 5-year action plan, which shall be informed by collaboration with local and regional entities. The remaining funding will be distributed based on a formula that considers the number of unserved and high-cost locations in the state, based on the maps to be published by the FCC in 2022. The first priority for funding is for providing broadband to unserved areas (those below 25/3 Mbps), followed by underserved areas (those below 100/20 Mbps), and then serving community anchor institutions (1/1 Gbps).

**Enabling Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure Program:** Establishes and funds a $1 billion program for the construction, improvement or acquisition of middle mile infrastructure. The purpose of the grant program is to expand and extend middle mile infrastructure to reduce the cost of connecting unserved and underserved areas to the internet backbone. Eligible applicants include States, political subdivisions of a State, tribal governments, technology companies, electric utilities, utility cooperatives, public utility districts, telecommunications companies, telecommunications cooperatives, nonprofit foundations, nonprofit corporations, nonprofit institutions, nonprofit associations, regional planning councils, Native entities, or economic development authorities.

**Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program:** Provides an additional $2 billion to TBCP, a NTIA program previously implemented under the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021. The TBCP directs funding to tribal governments to be used for broadband deployment on tribal lands, as well as for telehealth, distance learning, broadband affordability, and digital inclusion.

**Digital Equity Act Programs:** Dedicates $2.75 billion to establish three grant programs that promote digital inclusion and equity to ensure that all individuals and communities have the skills, technology, and capacity needed to reap the full benefits of our digital economy. The goal of these programs is to promote the meaningful adoption and use of broadband services across the targeted populations in the Act, including low-income households, aging populations, incarcerated individuals, veterans, individuals with disabilities, individuals with a language barrier, racial and ethnic minorities, and rural inhabitants.

- **State Digital Equity Planning Grant Program**: A $60M formula grant program for states, territories and tribal governments to develop digital equity plans. (Due July 2022)
- **State Digital Equity Capacity Grant Program**: A $1.44 billion formula grant program for states, territories, and tribal governments. It will fund an annual grant program for five years in support of digital equity projects and the implementation of digital equity plans.
- **Digital Equity Competitive Grant Program**: A $1.25 billion grant program. It will fund annual grant programs for five years to implement digital equity projects.

**NTIA also manages three broadband grant programs funded by the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021:**

- **Broadband Infrastructure Program**: A $288 million broadband deployment program directed to partnerships between a state, or one or more political

subdivisions of a state, and providers of fixed broadband service to support broadband infrastructure deployment to areas lacking broadband, especially rural areas.

- **Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program**: A $980 million program directed to tribal governments to be used for broadband deployment on tribal lands, as well as for telehealth, distance learning, broadband affordability, and digital inclusion.
- **Connecting Minority Communities Pilot Program**: A $268 million grant program directed to Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs), and Minority-Serving Institutions (MSIs) for the purchase of broadband internet access service and eligible equipment or to hire and train information technology personnel.

**In addition, NTIA continues to monitor the following:**
The **Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP)** and the **State Broadband Initiative (SBI)** (formerly called the State Broadband Data and Development Grant Program) invested approximately $4 billion in projects throughout the United States to support the deployment of broadband infrastructure, enhance and expand public computer centers, encourage sustainable adoption of broadband service, and promote statewide broadband planning and data collection activities. The State Broadband Initiative was also responsible for creation and maintenance of the National Broadband Map.

The **State and Local Implementation Grant Program (SLIGP)**, a $121.5 million formula-based, matching grant program administered by NTIA. The program is designed to assist regional, state, local, and tribal government entities as they plan for a nationwide public safety broadband network. The **SLIGP 2.0 round of grants** provided up to $43.4 million in matching grant funds to provide continued support to States and territories.

**Grants** awarded by the U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and **NTIA** to the states and U.S. territories to improve 911 services.

**FCC Broadband Serviceable Location Fabric (Fabric)**

The FCC's Broadband Serviceable Location Fabric (Fabric) is currently available to broadband service providers and governmental entities through CostQuest Associates, the FCC's Fabric contractor.
**Questions:** Any questions about accessing the license agreement or the Fabric data should be addressed to CostQuest at NBFsupport@costquest.com.

**The Broadband Serviceable Location Fabric (Fabric)** is a dataset that includes all locations in the United States and Territories where fixed broadband internet access service has been or could be installed.

The Fabric allows broadband data filers and the FCC to work from a single, standardized list of locations for the Broadband Data Collection (BDC). Filers of fixed broadband availability data in BDC should use the Fabric as the basis for developing their availability data. Filers who choose to submit a list of locations (rather than a polygon coverage area) must match their data on the locations they serve to the Location IDs in the Fabric. The FCC has contracted with CostQuest Associates to create the Fabric for the BDC. The version Fabric that will be used for the initial BDC availability collection – for data as of June 30, 2022 due by September 1, 2022 – is available to broadband service providers and governmental entities, subject to certain procedures. This is the "production version" of the Fabric. Note that a preliminary version of the Fabric was made available to fixed broadband providers in April 2022, but all filers should use the production version of the Fabric, which was made available June 23, 2022, when filing fixed broadband deployment data as of June 30, 2002.

**Location Fabric: Getting Started**

The Fabric license is free and Tribal owned telcos should request the Tribal version of the license agreement from the FCC's vendor CostQuest at at NBFsupport@costquest.com.

**Quick start guides** provide a step-by-step walk-through for filing based on the technology with which you are providing services:

- Quick Start Guide: Submitting Fixed Wired Broadband Subscription and Availability Data
- Quick Start Guide: Submitting Fixed Voice Subscription and Availability Data
- Quick Start Guide: Submitting Fixed Wireless Broadband Subscription and Availability Data

The FCC is available to set up a video call where we can assist with the process and answer any questions. To request one-on-one support please send an email to broadbanddatainquiries@fcc.gov.

**Obtaining the Fabric for Broadband Service Providers**
https://help.bdc.fcc.gov/hc/en-us/articles/5377509232283-How-Broadband-Service-Providers-Can-Access-the-Location-Fabric

**Obtaining the Fabric for Government Entities**
https://help.bdc.fcc.gov/hc/en-us/articles/6785010654235-How-Government-Entities-Can-Access-the-Production-Location-Fabric

**Location Fabric: Data Fields**
**CostQuest** is making a data dictionary for the Active and Secondary files and instructional video describing the fields in the Fabric data available to parties who download the data. Any questions about the Fabric data should be addressed to CostQuest at NBFsupport@costquest.com.

**Some of the key fields in the Fabric data are:**

- **Location ID:** The unique, Commission-issued identifier for each location in the data. The Location ID provided in the Fabric are different than the Location ID in the Preliminary Fabric. Preliminary Fabric Location IDS (those starting with a 9) should not be used for BDC submissions.
- **Geographic Coordinates:** The set of latitude/longitude coordinates associated with each location. These coordinates are within the boundary or footprint of the location.
- **Address:** The five fields that provide the address of the location: address_primary, state, city, zip, and zip_suffix.
- **Unit Count:** In buildings with multiple units, such as an apartment or condominium, this field represents the number of units in the location.
- **BSL Flag:** The Fabric will include both broadband serviceable locations (BSLs) and non-BSLs, and this field indicates whether a location is a BSL or not.
- **Building Type Code:** A flag identifying whether a location is business, residential, or both business and residential.
- **Census Geographies:** The data indicates the county and census block in which the location falls.

**Location Fabric: Access for Service Providers**

Broadband service providers who previously filed broadband deployment data on FCC Form 477 were invited to access a preliminary version of the Fabric earlier this year. Those that did so do not need to take further action and can access the production Fabric data files for their relevant geographic areas using a link emailed to them by CostQuest Associates.

Broadband service providers that did not access the preliminary Fabric may now access the production Fabric by sending an email to CostQuest at nbfsupport@costquest.com with the name and email of the provider's contact person, the provider's name, and the provider's FCC Registration Number (FRN). CostQuest will email the contact person instructions on how to access the Fabric, a process with which is detailed below.

**Fabric License Agreement**

To access the Fabric data, each service provider will need to execute a limited end-user license agreement. After executing the agreement, service providers will be able to access Fabric records for the counties in which they make broadband internet access service available. The base list of counties is taken from each provider's broadband deployment, as reported on their June 2021 Form 477, but providers will have an opportunity to modify this. Access to and use of the Fabric data will only be allowed via signing the published language in the agreement. For each holding company, the license agreement defines three roles: licensee, administrator, and recipient. The licensee is the person who will request and sign the license on behalf of the holding company. The licensee is typically an individual identified by the holding company who is authorized to sign agreements on behalf of that holding company. The administrator will manage geographic scope and recipients of the data. There is allowance for two data recipients on the license request form.

**LOCATION FABRIC: INSTRUCTIONS**

**Instructions for accessing the Fabric for Broadband Service Providers**

Questions about accessing the license agreement or the Fabric data should be addressed to CostQuest at NBFsupport@costquest.com

1. Send an email to CostQuest at nbfsupport@costquest.com with the name and email of the provider's contact person, the provider's name, and the provider's FCC Registration Number (FRN). You will be able to access the Fabric faster if the contract person provided in the email is someone who can sign the Fabric license agreement on behalf of the company.
2. CostQuest will email the contact person identified in Step 1 further instructions and link to CostQuest'swebsite to create a user account. Providers that did not file Form

477 in 2021 will first need to complete CostQuest's "Add New Entity" form using the link provided in email.

3. Create a user account – email and password – within CostQuest's help desk system. Note: This is a unique account, not tied to any other existing FCC accounts.
4. If you are authorized to sign a license on behalf of your company (you're the licensee), skip to step 6. If you are not authorized to sign a license on behalf of your company, submit the contact information for the individual with that authority using the **Add Licensee** form available in the **Request Your Data** section of the help desk. To complete the form, you will need (a) the Name of the Licensee and (b) the Email address of the Licensee.
5. After submitting the **Add Licensee** form, you can't immediately proceed further since only the licensee may request the license. After you complete the Add Licensee form, the Licensee will receive an email with instructions to set up an account within 1-2 days.
   Once this email is received, the Licensee can request a license.
6. If you are authorized to sign a license on behalf of your company, submit a **License Request** form, available under the "Request Your Data" section, "Step 1: Request a License" link of the help desk. To complete the request, you'll need the following info:
   - Name; Title; Principal Place of Business Address; Phone Number;
   - Name and email address of an administrator who can add other recipients or counties covered by the license; and
   - Contact information for data recipients receiving access to the data file.
7. After the **License Request** form is submitted, the Licensee will receive a confirmation email.
8. CostQuest will validate the request and if it's free of exceptions or errors, CostQuest will prepare the license and email a validation notification with links to access the license agreement. If CostQuest discovers errors or incomplete information on the form, they will reach out to the requestor for clarification. Assuming the request form is complete, the expected time from the license request to receipt of an electronic license is 1-2 business days.
9. Sign the agreement via an electronic signature platform. Once that's done, CostQuest will send a copy of the completed agreement within 1-3 business days. CostQuest will also prepare the data file, and you will receive a link to access the data through the help desk system within 1-2 business days.
10. The link to download the data file will be emailed to the license requestor, the administrator, and any recipients associated with the holding company as listed in the license request form.

**Location Fabric: Instructions**

**Instructions for Accessing the Fabric for Government Entities**

To access the Fabric data, each governmental entity must follow the steps laid out below, which include logging into the BDC system and executing a limited end-user license agreement for the Fabric. License requests will be processed as quickly as possible but depend on the number of pending requests. Due to this, delivery of the data may take up to two weeks from the time your entity information is submitted. Questions about accessing the license agreement or the Fabric data should be addressed to CostQuest at NBFsupport@costquest.com.

1. If you do not already have one, obtain an FCC username and password, and an FCC Registration Number (FRN) for your entity, in CORES (Commission Registration System). When creating your FRN, you must select the Entity Type that matches your government type (Federal, State/Local, or Tribal).
2. Log in the BDC system at bdc.fcc.gov using your CORES username and password.
3. After logging in, you should see any FRNs associated with your username. Click on the FRN for the governmental entity that is seeking access to the Fabric dataset.
4. That will take you to the Entity Information page in the BDC system. Enter the required information. Note that the Government Entity type selected on that page must match the Government Entity type selected when registering the FRN in CORES in step 1.
   If you wish to access the Fabric in order to submit challenges to the Fabric or fixed availability data, and do not plan to submit verified data on broadband availability, select only the "Bulk Crowdsourced / Challenge Data" option.
5. FCC staff will review the information and provide the contact information of approved entities to CostQuest.
6. Within 3-5 business days, CostQuest will email you (or the Certifying Official identified in step 4) further instructions and a link to CostQuest's website to create a user account.
7. Create a user account – email and password – within CostQuest's help desk system. ***Note:*** This is a unique account, not tied to any other existing FCC accounts.
8. If you are authorized to sign a license on behalf of your company, skip to step 9. If you are not authorized to sign a license on behalf of your company, submit the contact information for the individual with that authority using the Add Licensee form in the Request Your Data section of the CostQuest help desk. To complete the form, you will need:
   - the Name of the Licensee and the Email address of the Licensee.
9. After submitting the Add Licensee form, you can't immediately proceed further since only the licensee may request the license. After you complete the Add Licensee

form, the Licensee will receive an email with instructions to set up an account within 1-2 days. Once this email is received, the Licensee can request a license.

10. If you are authorized to sign a license on behalf of your company, submit a License Request form, available under the “Request Your Data” section, “Step 1: Request a License” link of the help desk. To complete the request, you’ll need the following info:
    - Name, Title, Address , Phone Number
    - Name and email address of an administrator who can add other recipients or counties covered by the license
    - Contact information for data recipients receiving access to the data file
11. After the License Request form is submitted, the Licensee will receive a confirmation email.
12. CostQuest will validate the request and if it’s free of exceptions or errors, CostQuest will prepare the license and email a validation notification with links to access the license agreement. If CostQuest discovers errors or incomplete information on the form, they will reach out to the requestor for clarification. Assuming the request form is complete, the expected time from the license request to receipt of an electronic license is 1-2 business days.
13. Sign the agreement via an electronic signature platform. Once that’s done, CostQuest will send a copy of the completed agreement within 1-3 business days. CostQuest will also prepare the preliminary data file, and you will receive a link to access the data through the help desk system within 1-2 business days.
14. The link to download the data file will be emailed to the license requestor, the administrator, and any recipients associated with the holding company as listed in the license request form.