



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Telecommunications and
Information Administration
Washington, D.C. 20230

February 18, 2022

Dear Honorable Tribal Leader:

On behalf of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), Department of Commerce, I am announcing another Tribal Consultation on the broadband monies allocated by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, Public Law 117-58 (IIJA). In addition to the additional \$2 billion for the Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program (TBCP), this funding includes:

- \$42.45 billion for the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program, for which all 50 States, the District of Columbia, and certain U.S. Territories (Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands) are eligible.
- \$2.75 billion for Digital Equity Act Programs that create three programs to support the closure of the digital divide and promote equity and digital inclusion.
- \$1 billion for a competitive Enabling Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure Program.

NTIA's previous Tribal Consultations focused on the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, Public Law 116-260 (Act), that created the TBCP and provided new sources of Tribal broadband funding to assist in mitigating the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic exacerbating the digital divide across Indian Country. NTIA received applications requesting significantly more in funding than the \$980 million available for grants under the Act. The Tribal Consultation on January 14, 2022, focused on the additional \$2 billion in funding appropriated for the TBCP by the IIJA.

NTIA is committed to holding another consultation expeditiously to ensure that your input informs the use and timing of the funding from the IIJA. In accordance with the Department of Commerce's Tribal consultation policy, I am inviting you and/or a Tribal representative with your delegation of authority 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 TBCP and the other programs authorized by the IIJA.

I respectfully invite your participation at the virtual Tribal Consultation session:

Date	Friday, March 18, 2022
Time	2:00 pm - 6:00 pm ET
Zoom Meeting Link	https://ntia-gov.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJltf-uoqzooGRkV0b5v0nnFJibh4fSnqlk

Dial-In	Phone Number Information: Meeting ID: 160 820 5123 Passcode: 650692 One tap mobile +16692545252,,1608205123# US (San Jose) +16468287666,,1608205123# US (New York) Dial by your location +1 669 254 5252 US (San Jose) +1 646 828 7666 US (New York) +1 669 216 1590 US (San Jose) +1 551 285 1373 US Meeting ID: 160 820 5123
----------------	--

The current \$980 million NTIA TCBP provides funding for the following:

- Broadband infrastructure deployment, including support for the establishment of carrier-neutral submarine cable landing stations;
- Affordable broadband programs, including:
 - providing free or reduced-cost broadband service;
 - preventing disconnection of existing broadband service;
- Distance learning;
- Telehealth;
- Digital inclusion efforts; and
- Broadband adoption activities.

The IJA did not change these eligible uses of funds for the program. Below are the questions related to NTIA’s other IJA grant programs on which NTIA seeks your input during this second consultation:

- How should NTIA work with States to ensure Tribal input and inclusion in the required BEAD 5-year State broadband plan?
- What are key considerations regarding digital equity for Tribal Communities?
- How can States coordinate with Tribes to ensure that they are included in the State Digital Equity Capacity Grant Program (including in the development of State Digital Equity Plans)?
- How should NTIA ensure that Tribal communities are included and served in the Enabling Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure Program?

To learn more about the grant programs created by the IJA, please visit [BroadbandUSA](https://BroadbandUSA.gov). Written comments can also be submitted to broadbandusa@ntia.gov with the subject line: “Tribal Broadband Grant Program IJA,” by March 18, 2022, at 6:00 pm Eastern Daylight Time.

If you have any questions regarding the Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program or these consultation sessions, you may contact Adam Geisler, (202) 494-7820, or ageisler@ntia.gov. I

look forward to our continued consultation and government-to-government engagement with Tribal leaders who are working to close the digital divide in Indian Country. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Douglas Kinkoph

Douglas W. Kinkoph
Associate Administrator
Office of Internet Connectivity and Growth