



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

October 4, 2022

Dear Honorable Tribal Leader:

On behalf of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), Department of Commerce, we are initiating two Tribal Consultations for the Digital Equity Act Program. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law created the Digital Equity Act, which provides \$2.75 billion to establish three grant programs that promote digital equity and inclusion. These consultations will cover the first program, the Digital Equity Planning Grant Program.

The Digital Equity Planning Grant Program is a \$60 million formula grant program for states, territories, and tribal governments to develop digital equity plans. There is a five percent set-aside from this program to benefit Tribal entities. NTIA received 468 Letters of Intent from Tribal entities to this grant program, requesting planning funds to create digital equity plans. After one year of planning, NTIA will open the digital equity capacity program to offer funding to implement digital equity plans.

To set clear timelines and guidance regarding the Digital Equity Planning Grant Program, NTIA invites you and/or a Tribal representative to participate in the virtual National Tribal Consultation to provide your advice and insights.

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

Date	Tuesday, October 18, 2022
Time	1:00PM – 5:00PM ET
Zoom Registration Link	https://ntia-gov.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_BK_FCTLJQ4ikFb23hxAzBQ
Dial-In	Dial (for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location): US: +1 669 254 5252 or +1 551 285 1373 or +1 646 828 7666 or +1 669 216 1590 Webinar ID: 160 654 6548

Date	Thursday, October 20, 2022
Time	1:00PM – 5:00PM ET
Zoom Registration Link	https://ntia-gov.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_I0VDChcGSqqUXctmQ4M5LA
Dial-In	Dial (for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location): US: +1 669 254 5252 or +1 551 285 1373 or +1 646 828 7666 or +1 669 216 1590 Webinar ID: 160 068 1938

NTIA will summarize the Digital Equity Program and cover the following question topics during the consultation sessions:

Question Topics:

- Timing of the Application Window
- Required Components of Digital Equity Plans
- Allowable Activities to Pursue with the Digital Equity Planning Funds
- Structuring Consortia Arrangements

Written comments to the question topics can be submitted by November 4, 2022, at 6:00 pm eastern standard time to tbcpcconsultation@ntia.gov with the Subject Line: NTIA Digital Equity Planning Program.

For more information on the Digital Equity Planning Grant Program, please visit Internet For all, or by clicking [here](#). If you have any questions regarding the Digital Equity Program or these consultations, please contact Adam Geisler, Division Chief, Tribal Connectivity and Nation to Nation Coordination, by phone at (202) 494-7820 or email at tbcpcconsultation@ntia.gov. We look forward to the consultations and nation-to-nation coordination with Tribal leaders who continue to bring high-speed internet to Indian Country.

Sincerely,

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

Adam Geisler, Division Chief, Tribal Connectivity and Nation to Nation Coordination
Office of Internet Connectivity and Growth

Angela Thi Bennett, Digital Equity Director
Office of Internet Connectivity and Growth