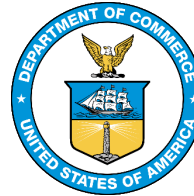# Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program

Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021

Housekeeping

Questions

- Type questions in the Q&A box on the right hand side of the screen. Questions and answers will be available on the FAQ section of our website.
- [Overview of Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 | BroadbandUSA (doc.gov)](#)

Presentation

- The presentation along with a transcript and recording will be available on the BroadbandUSA website under Events/Past Event on or before April 28, 2021.
- https://broadbandusa.ntia.doc.gov/events/past-events

Presenters

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Presenters:
- Douglas Kinkoph, Associate Administrator
    Office of Telecommunications and Information Applications, NTIA
- Adam Geisler, National Tribal Government Liaison
     First Responder Network Authority
- Jean Rice, Senior Broadband Program Specialist
      NTIA Tribal Liaison
- Karen Perry, Senior Policy Analyst, NTIA

Moderator:
- Laura Spining, Deputy Associate Administrator
    Office of Telecommunications and Information Applications, NTIA

Agenda

Biden Administration and Broadband	Doug Kinkoph
Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program Overview Nation-to-Nation Consultation on Broadband	Adam Geisler
Project Considerations and Planning Best Practices	Jean Rice
Broadband Planning Resources	Karen Perry
Questions and Answers	All

Douglas Kinkoph
Associate Administrator
Office of Telecommunications and Information Applications, NTIA

Biden Administration on Broadband

BroadbandUSA

"We need to start seeing infrastructure through its effect on the lives of working people in America. What is the foundation today that they need to carve out their place in the middle class … to live, to go to work, to raise their families with dignity … no matter who they are or what zip code they live in?"

President Joe Biden, The American Jobs Plan

NTIA's Commitment to Connecting America

The Department of Commerce supports the Biden Administration's agenda and our partner agencies to ensure that every American has access to affordable and reliable broadband and has the skills and opportunities to participate fully.

Deploy broadband infrastructure to communities with the **greatest need**.

Support job creation and workforce development by ensuring that **all Americans have broadband, devices, and digital skills**.

Collaborate with states, Tribes, industry, and federal agencies to effectively expand broadband access and digital inclusion.

Use data to inform policies and investments in broadband at all levels of government.

Millions of Americans Don't Have Reliable Broadband

- **17 million Americans do not have** basic broadband @ 25/3 Mbps.

- **20.9% of Tribal lands and 17.2% of rural lands** do not have 25/3 Mbps broadband.

- While 95.6% of household have access to 25/3 Mbps broadband, **only 68.9% of households subscribe** to service at that level or above.
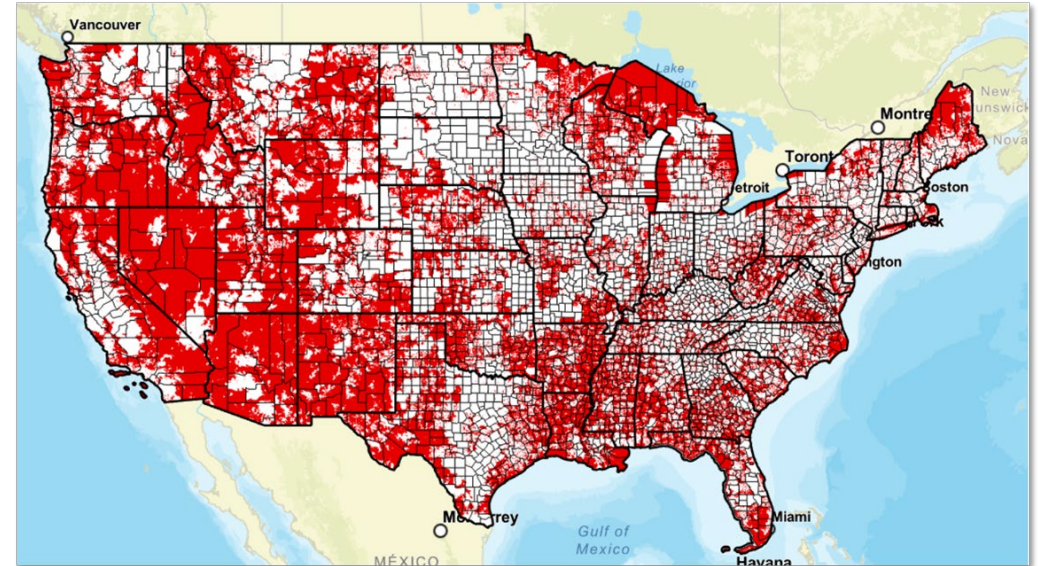
Red areas indicate where wireline broadband service is unavailable at the basic FCC benchmark speed of 25/3 Mbps based on FCC Form 477 carrier-reported data.

Visualization: NTIA National Broadband Availability Map (NBAM)
Source: FCC 2021 Broadband Deployment Report, based on ISP-reported Form 477 data

Broadband Adoption is Uneven Across Communities

- **65 million Americans** do not use the Internet at all.

- **10 million Internet users** rely solely on a mobile data plan.

- **5 Million households** not online identified **cost as their main reason** for not using the Internet.

- Under-connected Americans are disproportionally likely to be low-income, non-white, rural, Tribal, older, and differently-abled.

Source: NTIA Internet Use Survey, based on consumer 2019 surveys of 52,000 households

It's Time to Invest in the American Workforce

- **77% of all jobs** require at least some technology skills.

- **48% of hiring managers** say that candidates lack the skills needed to fill open jobs.

- **29% of students without basic digital skills** say they won't consider post-secondary studies.

- **More than 12 millions households** lack access to a computer, tablet or smartphone.

Percent of Households that Have No Computer, Smartphone, or Tablet

> 30.2
20
< 10
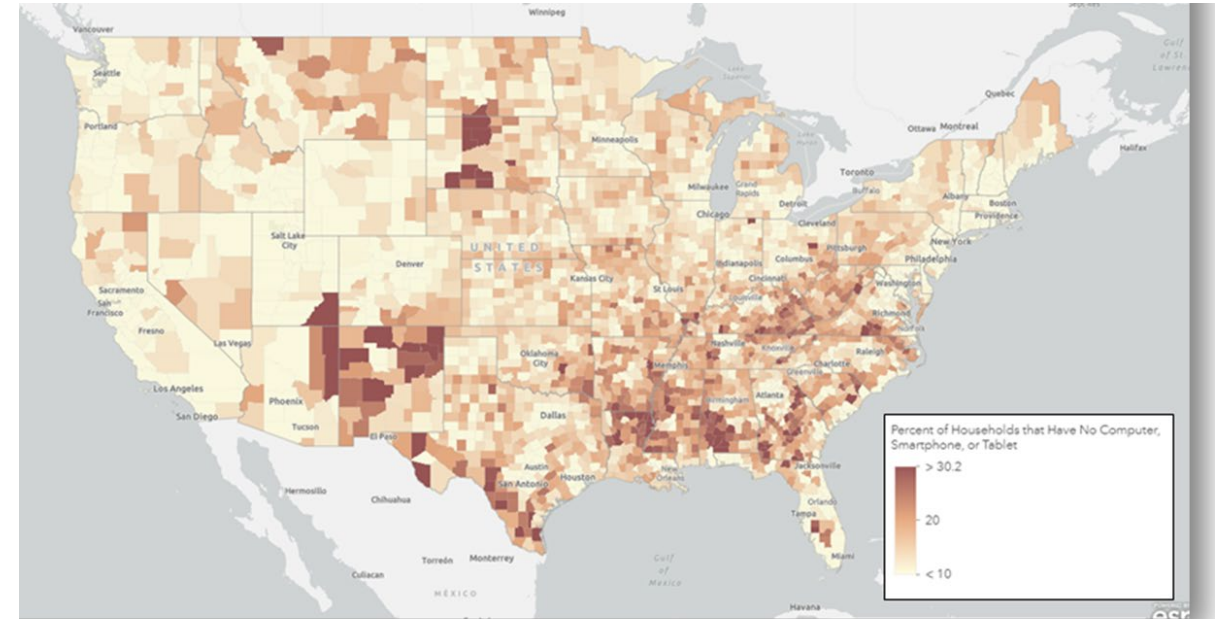
Residents without devices have fewer opportunities to hone their digital skills, access educational opportunities, and advance in the workforce.

Visualization: NTIA National Broadband Availability Map (NBAM)
Source: American Community Survey Device Ownership data 2015-2019

Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 Grant Programs Overview

1

Tribal Broadband Connectivity Grants:

Grants to expand access to and adoption of: (A) broadband service on Tribal land; or (B) remote learning, telework, or telehealth resources during the COVID-19 pandemic: $1 Billion.

Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021

2

Broadband Infrastructure Deployment Grants:

Grants for covered broadband projects, defined as competitively and technologically neutral projects for the deployment of fixed broadband service in a census block with at least one household or business that does not have access to 25/3: $300 million.

3

Connecting Minority Communities Pilot Program:

Grants to eligible recipients in anchor communities for the purchase of broadband internet access service or any eligible equipment, or to hire and train information technology personnel, $285 million.

Adam Geisler
National Tribal Government Liaison
First Responder Network Authority

Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program Overview and Nation-to-Nation Consultation on Broadband

Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program

How Much	$1 Billion	
Who can apply	Tribal Governments, Tribal organizations, Tribal Colleges or Universities (TCUs), the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands on behalf of the Native Hawaiian Community, and Native Corporations.	
For What	To expand broadband adoption and deployment on Tribal lands, as well as to support distance learning, remote work, and telehealth during the COVID-19 pandemic.	
When	NTIA anticipates accepting applications for the Tribal Broadband Connectivity Grants in Summer 2021.	

Tribal Grant Program | Eligible Entities

Eligible Entities

Section 905(a)(8) of the Act stipulates the following eligible entities:

- Tribal governments;
- Tribal colleges or universities;
- The Department of Hawaiian Homelands on behalf of the Native Hawaiian Community, including Native Hawaiian education programs;
- Tribal organizations; and
- Native corporations as defined under Section 3 of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act.

Tribal Grant Program | Eligible Lands

Eligible Lands

Section 905(a)(13) defines Tribal Land that can be served as:

- any land located within the boundaries of (i) an Indian reservation, pueblo, or rancheria; or (ii) a former reservation within Oklahoma;

- any land not located within the boundaries of an Indian reservation, pueblo, or rancheria, the title to which is held—
    - (i) in trust by the United States for the benefit of an Indian Tribe or an individual Indian;
    - (ii) by an Indian Tribe or an individual Indian, subject to restriction against alienation under laws of the United States; or
    - (iii) by a dependent Indian community;

- any land located within a region established pursuant to section 7(a) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1606(a));

- Hawaiian Home Lands, as defined in section 801 of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4221); or

- those areas or communities designated by the Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs of the Department of the Interior that are near, adjacent, or contiguous to reservations where financial assistance and social service programs are provided to Indians because of their status as Indians.

Key Requirements of the Act

- 180 days from award for grantee to commit funds

- 1 year completion deadline for digital inclusion, telehealth, education, telework projects

- 1 year completion deadline for infrastructure projects with extensions that can be requested

- Only 2% allowed by Act for an eligible entity's administrative expenses

Eligible entities receiving awards for new construction of broadband infrastructure must prioritize projects deploying that infrastructure to unserved households

Clarifications

Timeline for TBCP grant projects

The Act provides for a **one-year award period from the receipt of grant funds**.

Extensions For Infrastructure Projects: The Assistant Secretary may extend the period required for the expenditure of funds under the Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program for an eligible entity that proposes to use the grant funds for construction of broadband infrastructure if the eligible entity certifies that:

      (I) the eligible entity has a plan for use of the grant funds;

      (II) the construction project is underway; or

      (III) extenuating circumstances require an extension of time to allow the project to be completed.

Extensions are not available for Broadband Use and Adoption Projects.

Clarifications

No Match Required.

Nation-to-Nation Consultation

Dialogue to inform the priorities of NTIA's Tribal Broadband Connectivity Grant Program.

February 5, 2021

February 10, 2021

February 12, 2021

Written Comments from more than 50 Tribal Nations
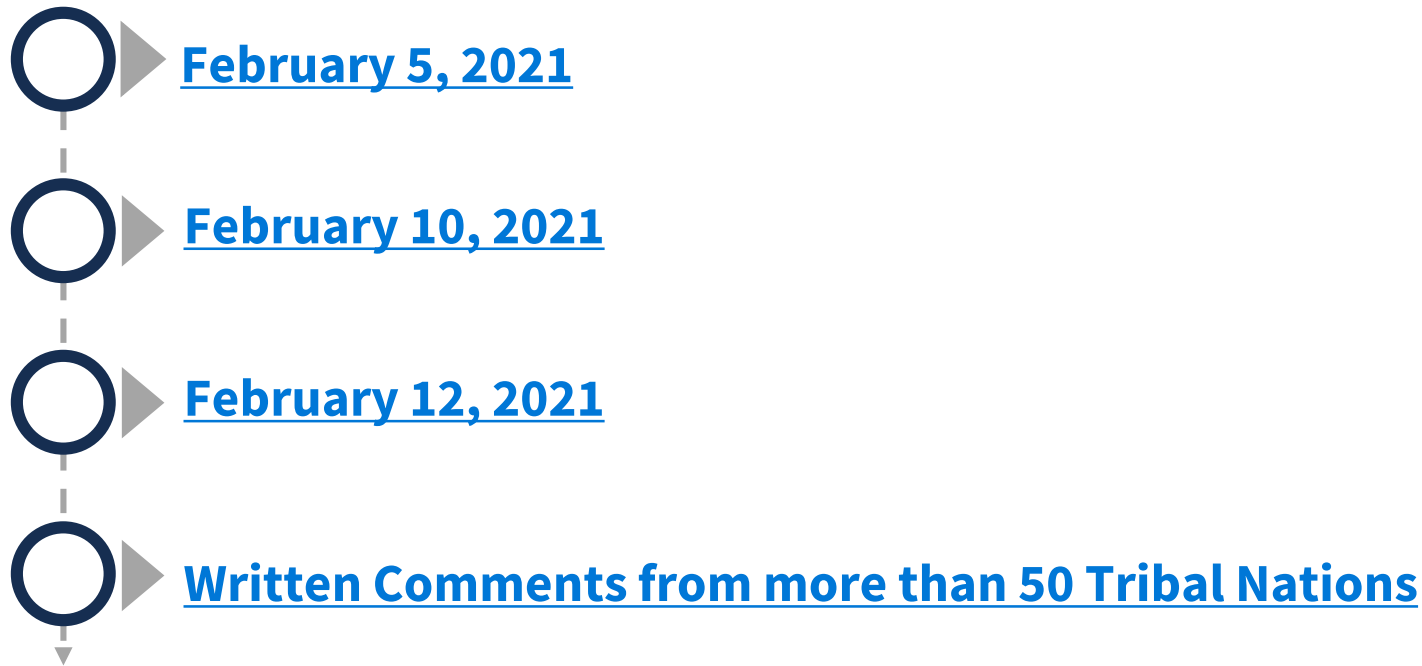
Through robust dialogue, we are committed to building a program that meets Tribes where they are, on their path to connectivity.

Tribal Consultation – Topics Covered

Tribal Priorities

Equitable Distribution

NEPA and
Cultural Resources

Unserved Areas

Reporting

Jean Rice
Senior Broadband Program Specialist
NTIA Tribal Liaison
BroadbandUSA, NTIA

Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program Eligible Projects

Eligible Projects – Infrastructure

- Middle mile
- Last mile
- Submarine cable landing stations

Eligible Projects – Broadband Planning

Engage Stakeholders → Assemble a Team → Identify Community Priorities → Harness the Data → Consider Infrastructure & Inclusion → Assess Resources → Engage Partners → Evaluate Solutions → Develop & Execute Strategy

Broadband Planning

Community Priorities Shape a Project from Inception to Implementation
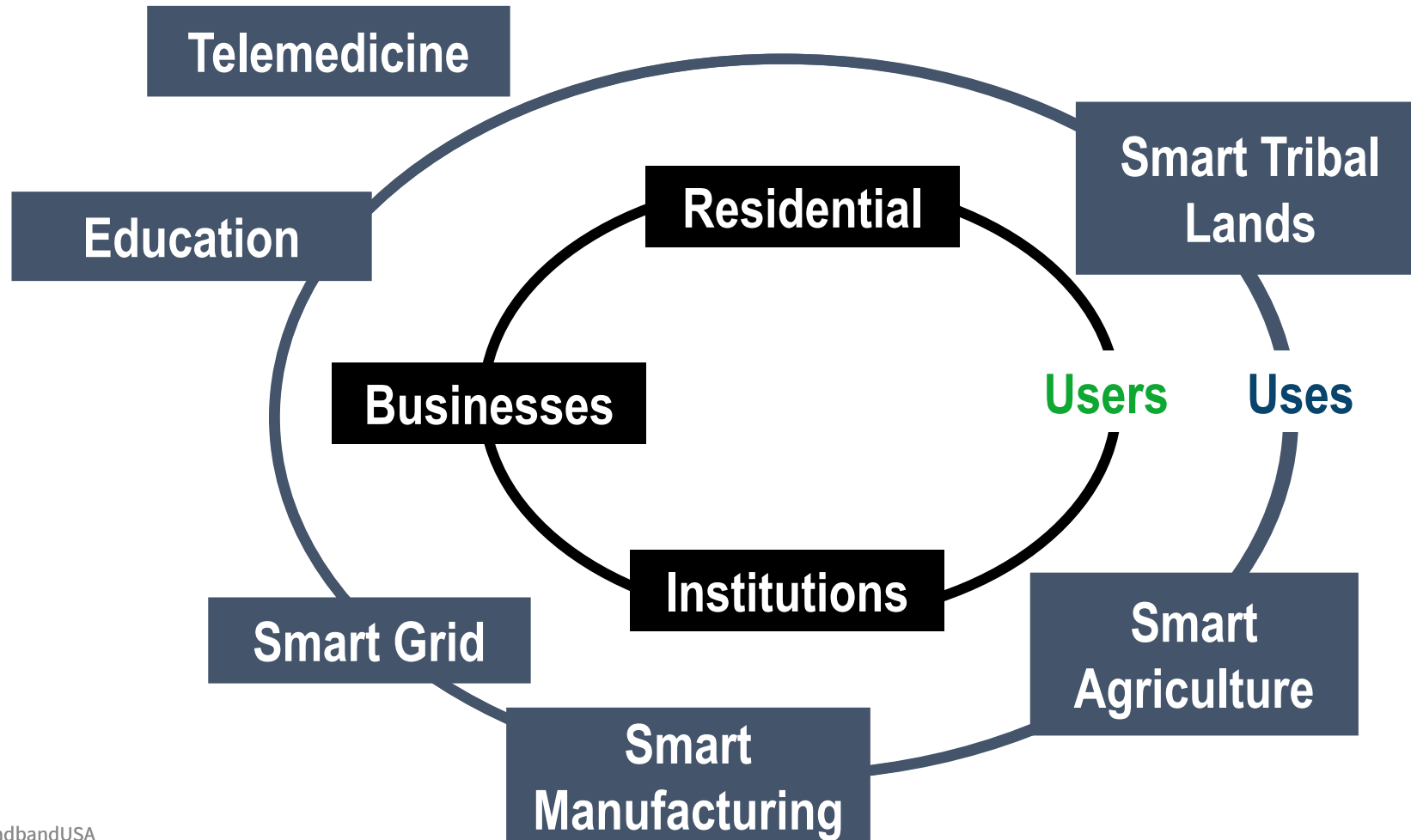
Broadband Project – Business Plans

Business planning and ongoing project management improves project sustainability.

Step 1. Make decisions on network types based on community roadmap & partnership assessment

Step 2. Perform market research

Step 3. Determine demand service offering

Step 4. Complete environmental, cultural, historical reviews

Step 5. Consider operational requirements

Step 6. Document financial projections

Infrastructure – Best Practices

Asset Inventories	Land, wireless, fiber, facilities Tribal, State, Federal
Permitting Processes Analysis	Tribal processess, BIA, State Dept. of Transportation, city, county, RR, Utilities
Environmental, Cultural, Historical Reviews	Compliance with NEPA, NHPA, minimize project's potential adverse impacts
Easement Analysis	Tribal Lands, allotee approvals, utilities, roadway rights of way
Outcomes	Cost savings, timely construction

Eligible Projects – Inclusion and Use

Projects that promote the adoption and use of broadband services, including:

- affordable broadband programs, such as providing free or reduced-cost broadband service and preventing disconnection of existing broadband service

- distance learning

- telehealth

- digital inclusion efforts

- broadband adoption activities

Digital Inclusion – Best Practices

Partner with trusted organizations schools, libraries, TCUs, community health centers, workforce and community development organizations, community-based organizations and nonprofits.

Access / Affordability

- Utilize discount broadband subscription programs.

- No one size fits all solution.

Devices

- Provide technical support and help through community-based programs.

Technical Help and Support

- Go to where people are.

Digital Skills and Training

- Train community members.

- Base digital training on community needs and wants.

Examples of Digital Inclusion Programs

Access / Affordability

- Discount Broadband, Public WiFi, Cell on Wheels (COWs), Mobile Hotspots, Internet in Public / Affordable Housing, WiFi Buses

Devices

- School Laptop Programs, Refurbished Computers, Discount Computers, Laptop Lending, Public Computer Centers, Mobile Computer Labs

Technical Help and Support

- Tech Support Hotlines, Digital Connectors / Navigators, Technology Organizers, Volunteers, Community Tech Events

Digital Skills Training

- Digital Literacy, Online Safety, Workforce Training and Apprenticeships, Health, STEM/STEAM

Karen Archer Perry
Senior Policy Analyst
BroadbandUSA, NTIA
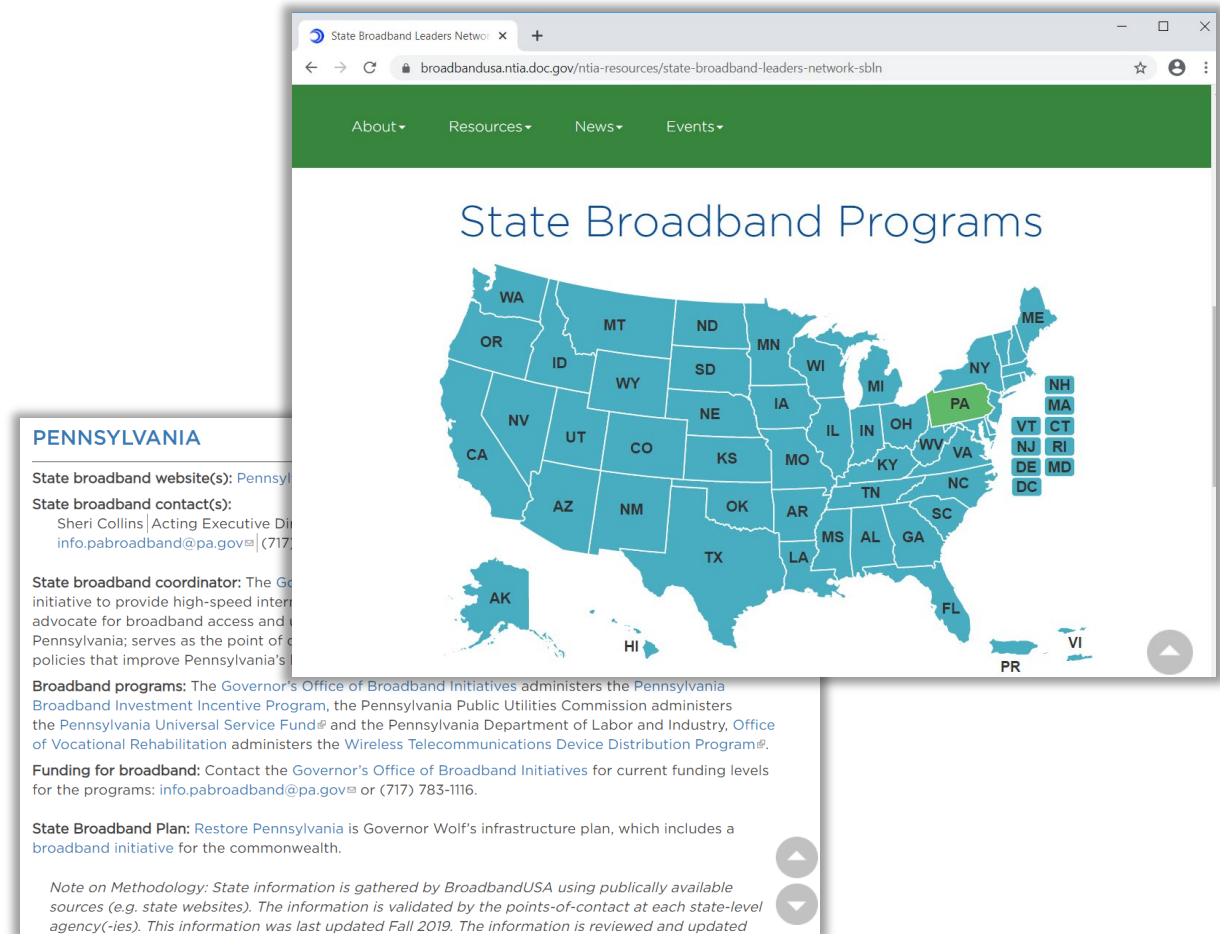
Broadband Planning Resources

State Broadband Leaders Network

One-stop shop for resources on state broadband efforts

Active network of state leaders leading state-level broadband efforts

Channel for communication and review of polices between federal agencies and states

One–Stop Permitting Information

The federal government control 640 million acres or 28% of U.S. land. Federal lands and assets play a critical role in telecom networks – through rights-of-way access.

Federal agencies collaborated to streamline processes, identify points-of-contact, and publish a one-stop shop for permitting information at BroadbandUSA.

A number of agencies are also using a common SF-299 Common Application Form for permitting applications.

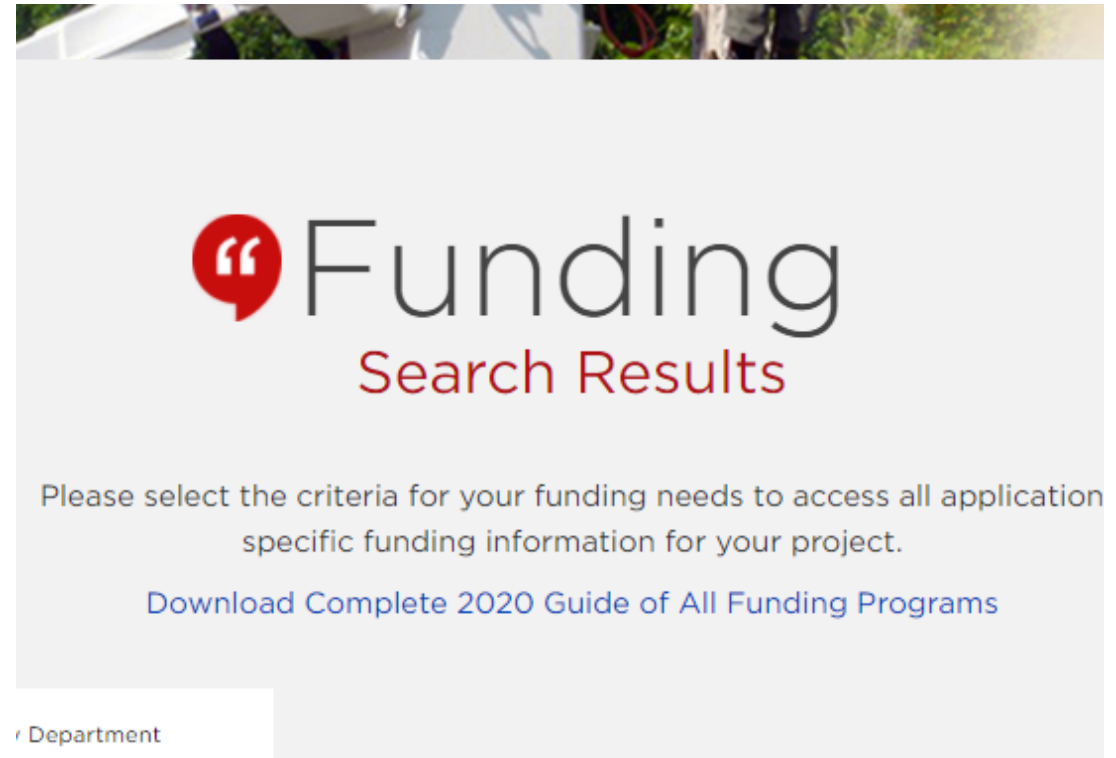| Departments: |
| --- |
| • Department of Agriculture (USDA) |
| • Department of Defense (DOD) |
| • Department of the Interior (DOI) |
| • Department of Transportation (DOT) |
| • General Services Administration (GSA) |
| • Department of Energy (DOE) |
| **Relevant Agencies:** |
| • Federal Permitting Improvement Steering Council |
| • Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) |
| • Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) |
| • Federal Communications Commission (FCC) |

BroadbandUSA Resources and Funding Search

One-Stop for information on broadband funding across all federal agencies through searchable database.

- [BroadbandUSA Funding Search](#)

- [BroadbandUSA: Broadband Glossary](#)

- [What Speed Do You Need](#)

- [Costs-at-a Glance: fiber and Wireless Networks](#)

- [Planning a Community Broadband Roadmap: A Toolkit for Local and Tribal Governments](#)

NTIA Broadband Planning Roadmap

Engage Stakeholders → Assemble a Team → Identify Community Priorities → Harness the Data → Consider Infrastructure & Inclusion → Assess Resources → Engage Partners → Evaluate Solutions → Develop & Execute Strategy

Planning a Community Broadband Roadmap: A Toolkit for Local and Tribal Governments
New NTIA Broadband Planning Roadmap modules coming soon!
Check the BroadbandUSA website for the latest updates

Roadmap Considers Infrastructure and Inclusion

New NTIA Broadband Planning Roadmap has increased focus on using data as a foundation for broadband planning and integrating digital inclusion, adoption, and digital skills planning into your strategy.
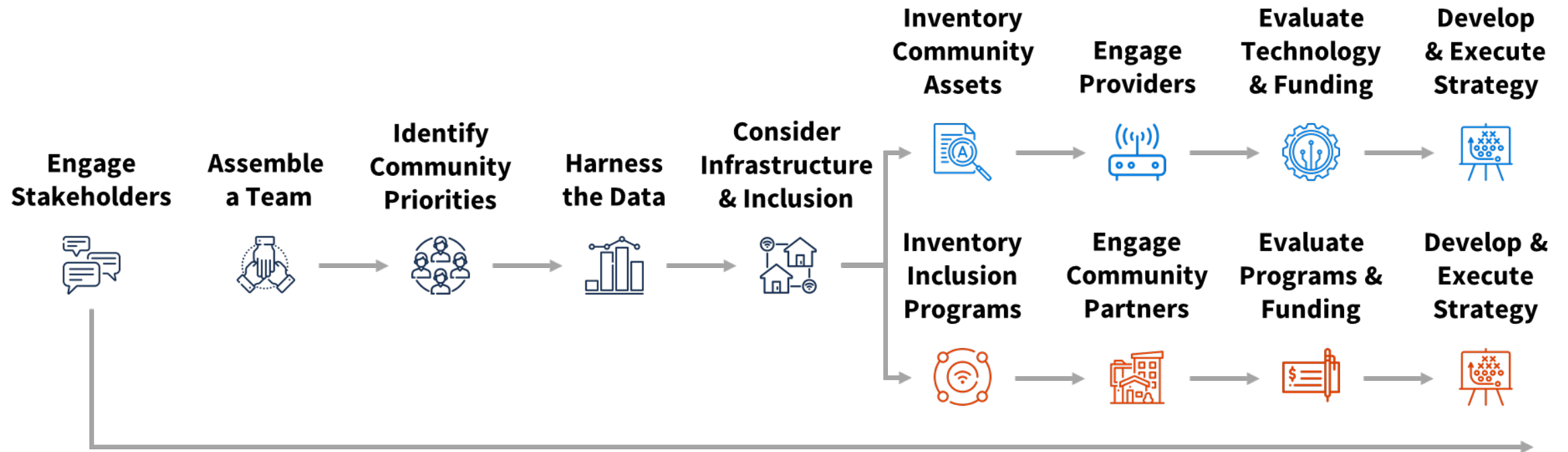
Digital Inclusion Resources

State and Local Government Digital Inclusion Programs

One-stop shop for resources on government inclusion programs

Searchable map of national programs examples

BroadbandUSA webinar archives:

- October 2020 Webinar: Digital Inclusion and K-12 Education: The Impact of COVID-19 on Students and Educators

- November 2019 Webinar: Building Digital Workforce Skills at the Local Level

- September Webinar: Digital Training and Workforce Development Discussion
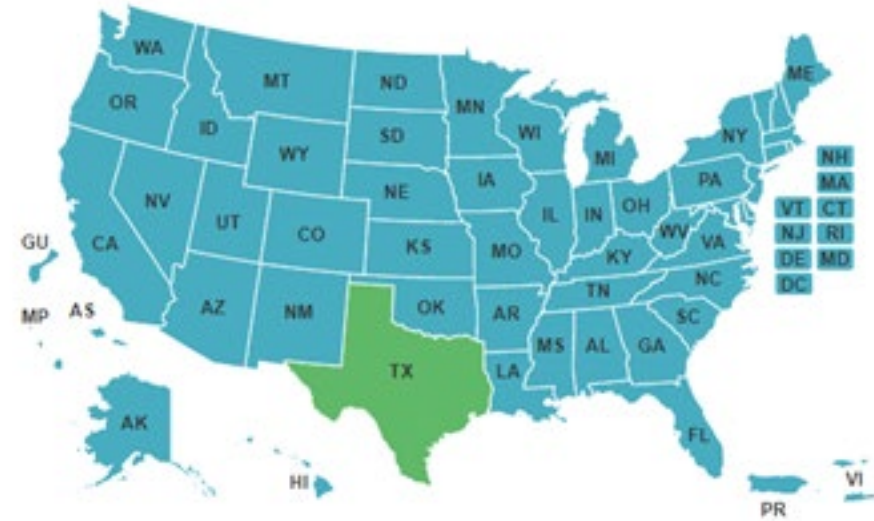
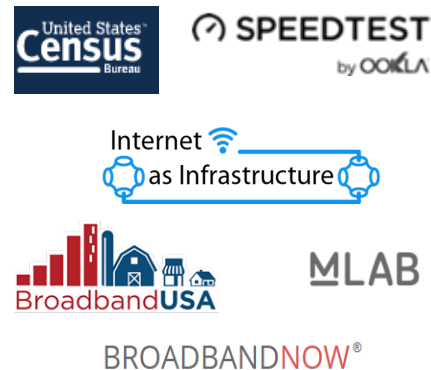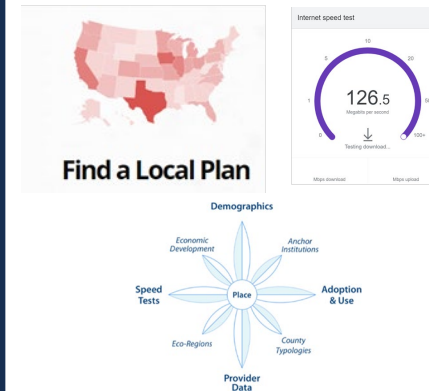# Use Data as a Foundation for Your Broadband Plan
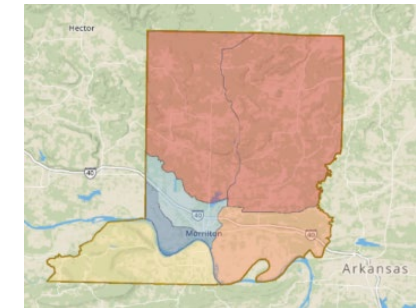

Provide overview of major federal broadband data sets

Introduce federal and external tools to access data

Explore tools

Access data and add community insights!

See BroadbandUSA webinar archive:

February, 2021 Webinar: Data as the Foundation for Broadband Planning

June 2020 Webinar: Utilizing Federal Data to Measure the Digital Divide

Tools that Put Local Data in Your Hands

NTIA	NTIA Data Explorer	ntia.doc.gov/data
United States Census Bureau	American Community Survey	data.census.gov
	QuickFacts	census.gov/quickfacts
BROADBANDNOW®	BroadbandNow*	broadbandnow.com
SPEEDTEST by OOKLA	Speedtest by Ookla*	speedtest.net
MLAB	Measurement Lab*	speed.measurementlab.net
Internet as Infrastructure	I3 Connectivity Explorer*	i3connect.org

These are not federal tools. They are external tools or products, listed here because they are used frequently by our clients to access data when developing broadband plans.

Q & A

Join again for the grants webinar series!

Broadband Infrastructure Program	Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program	Connecting Minority Communities Pilot Program
April 28 & 29	April 21 & 22	May 5 & 6
May 12 & 13	May 19 & 20	May 26 & 27
June 9 & 10	June 16 & 17	June 23 & 24
July 14 & 15	July 21 & 22	July 28 & 29

Webinars start at 2:30 pm ET

Registration is required for each webinar and is limited to 1,000

https://broadbandusa.ntia.doc.gov/events/latest-events

Thank you for attending

The slides, transcript, and a recording will be posted on the BroadbandUSA website by April 28.

https://broadbandusa.ntia.doc.gov/events/past-events