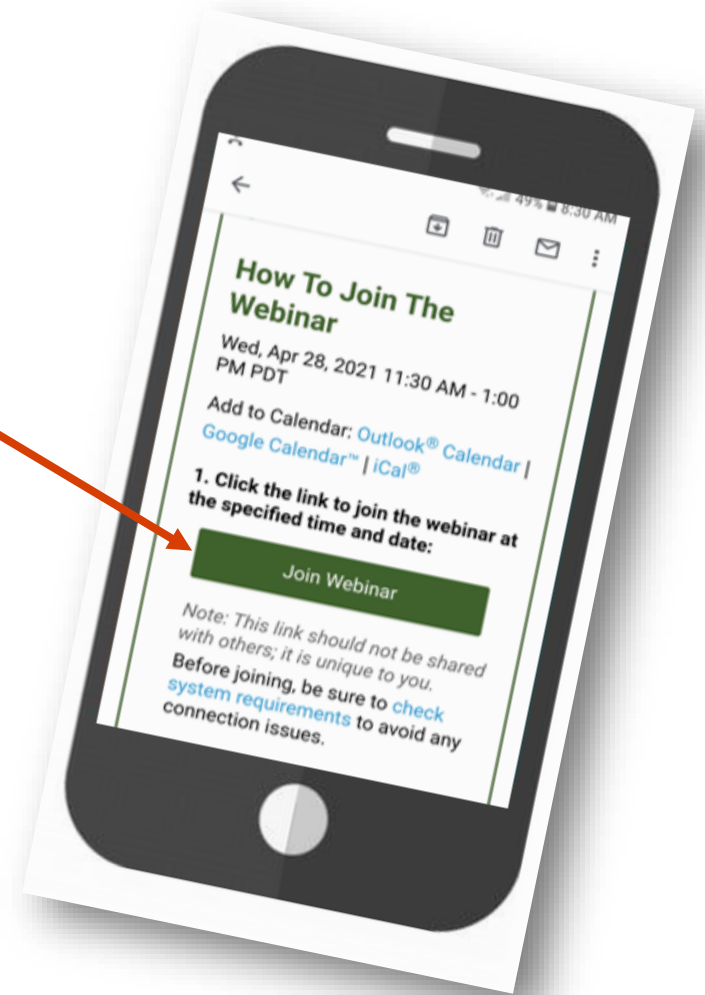


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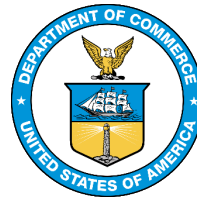


The presentation along with a transcript and recording will be available on the BroadbandUSA website under Events/Past Event on or before August 18, 2021.



Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program

Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021



Questions

- Type questions in the Q&A box on the right 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 Events on or before August 18, 2021.
- [BroadbandUSA Past Events](#)
This presentation is for informational purposes only and is intended solely to assist potential applicants in better understanding the NTIA Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program and the application requirements set forth in the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for this program. The presentation does not and is not intended to supersede, modify, or otherwise alter applicable statutory or regulatory requirements, or the specific application requirements set forth in the NOFO. In all cases, statutory and regulatory mandates, and the requirements set forth in the NOFO, shall prevail over any inconsistencies contained in this presentation.

Presenters:

- Vanessa Cresci, Broadband Program Specialist, NTIA
- Crystal Hottowe, Broadband Program Specialist, NTIA
- Amanda Pereira, Environmental/NEPA Specialist, First Responder Network Authority
- Jana Waters, Acting Division Chief, Division of Real Estate Services, Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA)
- Nick Courtney, Broadband Program Specialist, NTIA
- Adam Geisler, National Tribal Government Liaison, First Responder Network Authority
- Gabe Montoya, Broadband Program Specialist, NTIA

Moderator:

- Margaret Gutierrez, National Tribal Government Liaison, First Responder Network Authority

Agenda

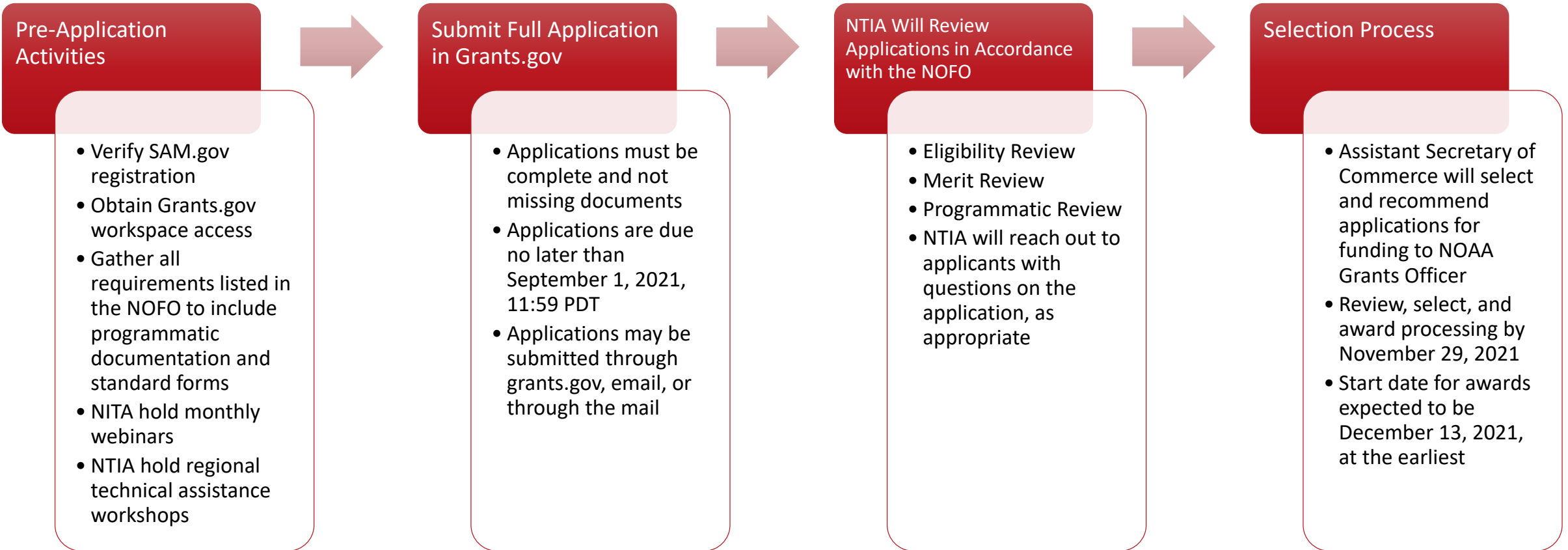
Expected Timeline

TBCP Team: Top 10 Questions & Answers

TBCP Partners: Questions & Answers

Questions & Answers

Expected Timeline



TBCP Team: Top 10 Questions & Answers

Top 10 Questions & Answers

Q1: Will federal agencies expedite the permitting process required within the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) that this grant requires?

A: NTIA is continuing its work with other federal agencies to fulfill the permitting requirements in a timely manner. NTIA's BroadbandUSA website includes links to all the federal agencies permitting websites. Additionally, on July 22, 2021, NTIA and the Bureau of Indian Affairs co-hosted a webinar on "hot topics" pertaining to the Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program application. The presentation included information about the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and permitting.

Top 10 Questions & Answers

Q2: The NOFO states that NTIA will allocate up to \$500,000 to each Tribal government. Does this mean that Tribes will receive \$500,000 regardless of the application they submit?

A: No. The Tribal Government must submit a single application by the application deadline to be eligible for program funding and propose a project consisting of eligible broadband infrastructure deployment and/or broadband use and adoption activities. The applicant must include a budget narrative and detailed budget justification consisting of allowable costs associated with the proposed project activities. The grant applicant must follow the application instructions outlined in section D of the NOFO and each application will be reviewed and scored against the evaluation criteria set forth in sections E.1 and/or E.2 of the NOFO. Note that this grant program is not a formula or block grant program and that the \$500,000 allocation is not a funding cap.

Top 10 Questions & Answers

Q3: Can a Tribal Government apply for both the Tribal Broadband Connectivity and the Broadband Infrastructure grant programs?

A: Eligible applicants for NTIA's Broadband Infrastructure Program are "covered partnerships," which means a partnership between: (A) a State, or one or more political subdivisions of a State; and (B) a provider of fixed broadband service. If the Tribal government is considered a political subdivision of a State, and can provide a citation to the specific State law that authorizes or establishes it as a political subdivision of the State in its grant application, then it may be eligible to apply to the Broadband Infrastructure Program as part of a covered partnership that must also include a fixed broadband service provider.

Top 10 Questions & Answers

Q4: Is my Tribal government eligible to apply if I am a partner/subawardee/contractor on a grant that was awarded under the Federal Communications Commission’s (FCC) Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF) funding initiative?

A: Yes, as long as there is no duplication of activities or costs in the proposed project. NTIA will also coordinate with the FCC on the status of proposed RDOF projects in order to understand if areas of proposed projects are descoped or projects are no longer eligible for federal funding. However, a Tribal Government may not certify that Tribal Lands that will receive service under an Enforceable Buildout Commitment as “unserved”, as those terms are defined in sections A.2.g and A.2.o of the NOFO. A Tribal government must disclose whether it has terminated an existing agreement qualifying as an Enforceable Buildout Commitment in anticipation of receiving funding under the TBCP.

Top 10 Questions & Answers

Q5: Can funds for infrastructure be used to overbuild an existing broadband provider who provides 25/3?

A: Section 905(c)(8) of the Act directs eligible entities to prioritize the construction of new broadband infrastructure proposals that will serve currently unserved households. NTIA permits Tribal Governments to self-certify the unserved status of proposed service areas within Tribal Lands, and lands providing services to Tribal members, with a description of how the Tribal Government determined that the area is unserved. Given this prioritization, NTIA does not expect to fund projects focused on overbuilding an existing broadband provider that provides qualifying broadband service as defined in Section A.2.j of the NOFO (25/3 with low latency).

Top 10 Questions & Answers

Q6: If asking for an extension, should we include the longer timeline provided in the application? Meaning, when showing our timeline, can we present one for longer than one year?

A: The Act requires eligible entities to complete their projects within one year of their receipt of grant funds. Therefore, applicants in their proposals should plan to spend funds within one year. The Assistant Secretary, however, may extend the award period for broadband infrastructure construction projects if the eligible entity certifies that: (1) it has a plan for the use of the grant funds, (2) the construction project is underway, or (3) extenuating circumstances require an extension of time to allow the project to be completed. With respect to infrastructure projects, the eligible entity may submit a request for an extension of the one-year award period with its application or not later than ninety (90) calendar days before the end of the award period. The eligible entity should explain in its extension request how much additional time it will need to fully complete its broadband infrastructure project.

Top 10 Questions & Answers

Q7: Can eligible entities use these funds to subsidize Tribal members' commercial broadband service?

A: Yes, funds may be used to provide affordable broadband programs, including providing free or reduced-cost broadband service and preventing disconnection of existing broadband service. See Section D.7, of the NOFO for additional information on eligible costs.

Top 10 Questions & Answers

Q8: Regarding possible broadband adoption and use projects, does application of the one-year completion deadline effectively mean that any program initiated to reduce the monthly cost of qualifying broadband services to consumers can only last a period of one year (that it must conclude at the end of the one year "completion" period)? Or could monthly reduced pricing, discounts continue for a longer period?

A: Broadband service costs are allowable beyond the one-year timeframe as long as the cost and terms are reasonable, eligible under the NOFO, and the grantee makes full payment for that service during the grant's one-year period of performance. If an applicant intends to use grant funds in this way, the applicant must include a detailed description of such proposed costs in its application, including the proposed period of service. NTIA may include a specific award condition in any such award to ensure that the funds are used appropriately, and to ensure that if the service is cancelled and/or the grantee receives a refund, any grant funds returned to the grantee are subsequently returned to the Federal government.

Top 10 Questions & Answers

Q9: What methods could be used for the Tribe to self-certify that they are unserved?

A: Section 905(c)(8) of the Act directs eligible entities to prioritize the construction of new broadband infrastructure proposals that will serve currently unserved households. NTIA will permit Tribes to self-certify the unserved status of proposed service areas within Tribal Lands, and lands providing services to Tribal members, with a description of how the Tribe determined that the area is unserved. Tribes can use a variety of data to demonstrate that the area is underserved, including Federal data found in NTIA's public-facing National Broadband Availability Map (NBAM), state or regional based data, and tribal or local community data, including surveys and speed test data.

Top 10 Questions & Answers

Q10: If I am applying for the both the Broadband Infrastructure Deployment and Broadband Use and Adoption projects, am I limited to only 20 pages single space or 40 pages double space?

A: No. If you are applying for both projects, you can allocate a total of 40 pages or 80 pages double space. The 20 single or 40 double space page limit is per project.

TBCP Partners: Questions & Answers

TBCP Partners: Questions & Answers

Q: How do I find out where my Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) service area is?

A: [You can find your BIA Region here](#) on the Bureau of Indian Affairs website. You can search by zip code, state, and/or Tribe name on the right-hand side of the page.

TBCP Partners: Questions & Answers

Q: What are the key components to be included in the narrative to provide NTIA with what it needs to determine environmental compliance?

A: A good project description should provide NTIA with sufficient information to make an *initial* determination about environmental and historic preservation (EHP) compliance requirements.

- Describe **what** the project is (e.g., construction of a 150' monopole communication tower)
- Describe **where** the project is proposed (e.g., 123 Main Street, Anytown, USA), **and** include a physical description of the site and surrounding area (e.g. developed land vs. open space; adjacent natural resources, such as rivers, wetlands, or forests; and any protected lands)
 - Include ground-level and aerial photos and project plan drawings
 - For new construction projects, include a floodplain map from the FEMA Map Service Center (free download at <https://msc.fema.gov/portal/home>) and a wetlands map from the US Fish and Wildlife Service's National Wetlands Inventory (free download at <https://www.fws.gov/wetlands/Data/Mapper.html>)
- Describe **how** the project will be implemented (e.g., requiring 1-acre of ground disturbance at an approximate depth of 5 feet, and the installation of a concrete pad, an equipment shed, and an emergency generator with a 1,000-gallon above-ground fuel storage tank)
- **Please be aware that many projects will have EHP requirements that will need to be completed post-award. This should not be considered an obstacle to successful grant execution; awardees will be required to complete those EHP requirements prior to beginning their projects, and EHP requirements are an allowable use of grant funds.**

Q & A

Contact Us

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Upcoming Events:	August 4 & 5	August 11 & 12 August 23 & 24	August 18 & 19 September 22 & 23 October 20 & 21

Webinars start at 2:30 pm ET

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