



**INTERNET  
FOR ALL**

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# Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program

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August 23, 2023



# Housekeeping

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## 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
- [Notice of Funding Opportunity](#)

## Presentation

- The presentation along with a transcript and recording will be available on the BroadbandUSA website on the TBCP Round Two webpage: [Round Two Notice of Funding Opportunity | BroadbandUSA \(doc.gov\)](#)

*This presentation is for informational purposes only and is intended solely to assist applicants in better understanding the NTIA Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program, and the requirements set forth in the program's second Notice of Funding Opportunity (Second TBCP NOFO). This 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 Second TBCP NOFO. In all cases, statutory and regulatory mandates and the requirements set forth in the Second TBCP NOFO shall prevail over any inconsistencies contained in this presentation.*



# Agenda

- 1** TBCP Round 1 – Accomplishments and Milestones
- 2** TBCP Round 2
- 3** Eligible Projects
- 4** How to Apply
- 5** Broadband Resources
- 6** Q&A

# **Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program – Accomplishments and Milestones**

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# TBCP Accomplishments



To date, TBCP has awarded over \$1.78 billion in funding to Tribal governments, Tribal Organizations, Tribal Colleges, and Alaska Native Corporations.

**191**

Total Awards Made

**284**

Participating Tribal  
Governments

**159,228**

Estimated Tribal  
Households with a New  
Connection



# **Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program – Round 2**

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# Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program



How Much	Approximately \$980 Million
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 Alaska Native Corporations.
For What	To expand broadband adoption and deployment on Tribal lands, as well as to support distance learning, remote work, and telehealth for Tribal citizens.
When	NTIA started accepting applications for the Tribal Broadband Connectivity Grants on July 27, 2023. All applications must be received (or postmarked) by January 23, 2024.



# Tribal Grant Program | Eligible Entities



Section 905(a)(8) of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (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.

Eligible Entities that previously received Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program grant funding may apply for additional grant funding





# Tribal Grant Program | Eligible Lands



Section 905(a)(13) of the Act 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.



To meet the equitable distribution requirement of the Act, NTIA will allocate up to \$500,000 to each of the Federally Recognized Tribes delineated by the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Indian Affairs (including those listed parenthetically). These Tribes may receive awards if:

- The application passes Initial Administrative and Eligibility Review, Merit Review, and Programmatic Review, and
- The applicant or relevant tribal government has not received funding previously under TBCP, or
- The consortium applicant represents tribal governments which have not received funding previously under TBCP.

# Key Requirements of TBCP



- Eligible entities cannot be a part of more than one application
- 18 months from award for grantee to commit funds
- Up to 4-year period of performance for all awards, unless an extension is granted (see next slide)
- May only use up to 2% of grant funds received for an eligible entity's administrative expenses
- For Infrastructure Deployment, may only use up to 2.5% of the total project costs for Planning, Feasibility, and Sustainability Studies related to the project

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



# Timeline for TBCP grant projects



The Act provides for a **four-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 for Broadband Use and Adoption Projects: The Assistant Secretary may, for good cause shown, extend the period of performance for a use and adoption project based on a detailed showing by the eligible entity of the need for an extension.



# Nation-to-Nation Consultation



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

- ► [September 12, 2022](#)
- ► [September 14, 2022](#)
- ► [September 16, 2022](#)
- ► [Tribal Consultation Summary Report](#)

*Through robust dialogue, we are committed to building a program that meets Tribes where they are, on their path to connectivity.*



# **Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program Eligible Projects**

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# Eligible Projects - Infrastructure



- Middle mile
- Last mile
- Submarine cable landing stations

## Projects cannot:

- Duplicate previous federal funding
- Rely on future satellite connections



# Planning Your Broadband Application

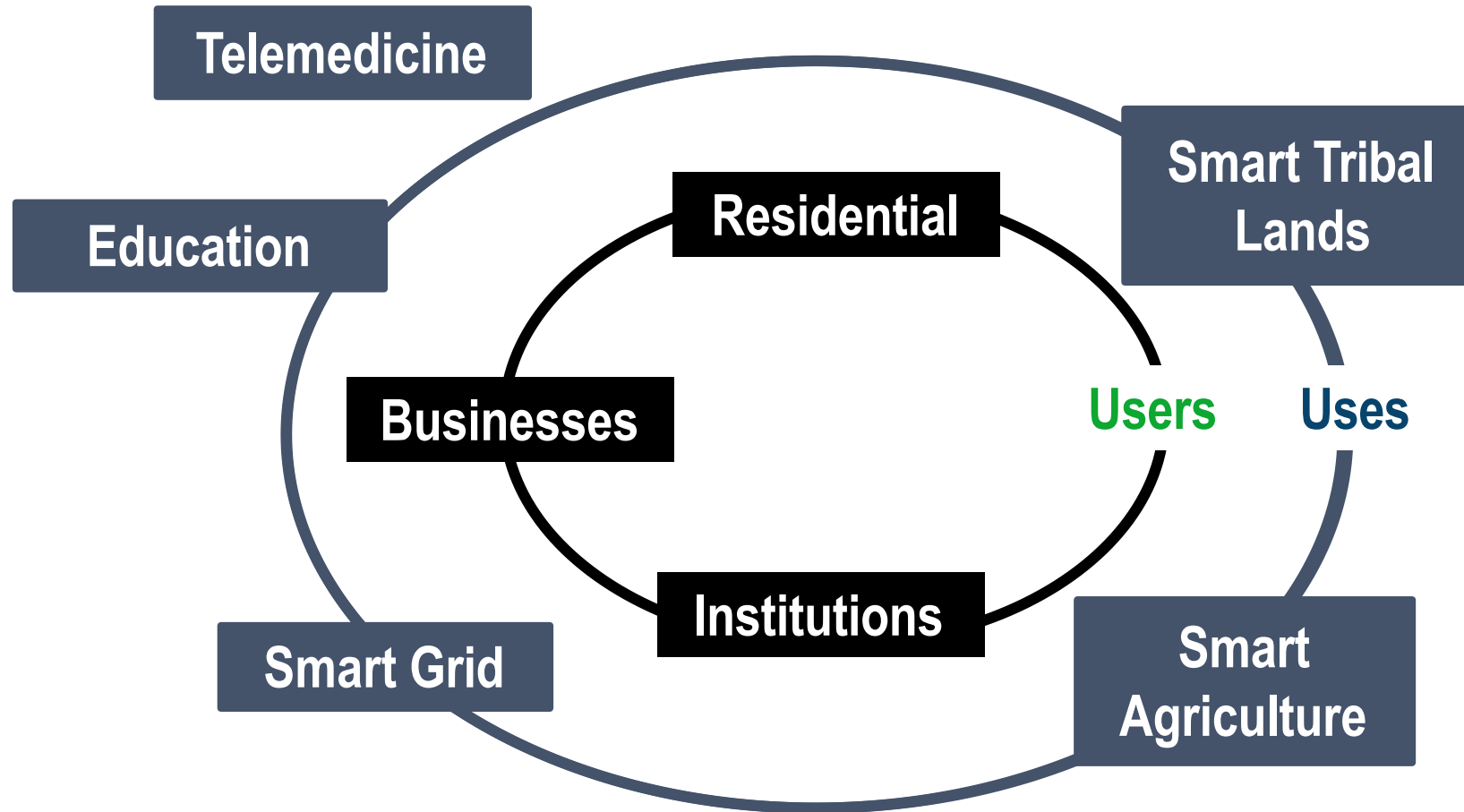




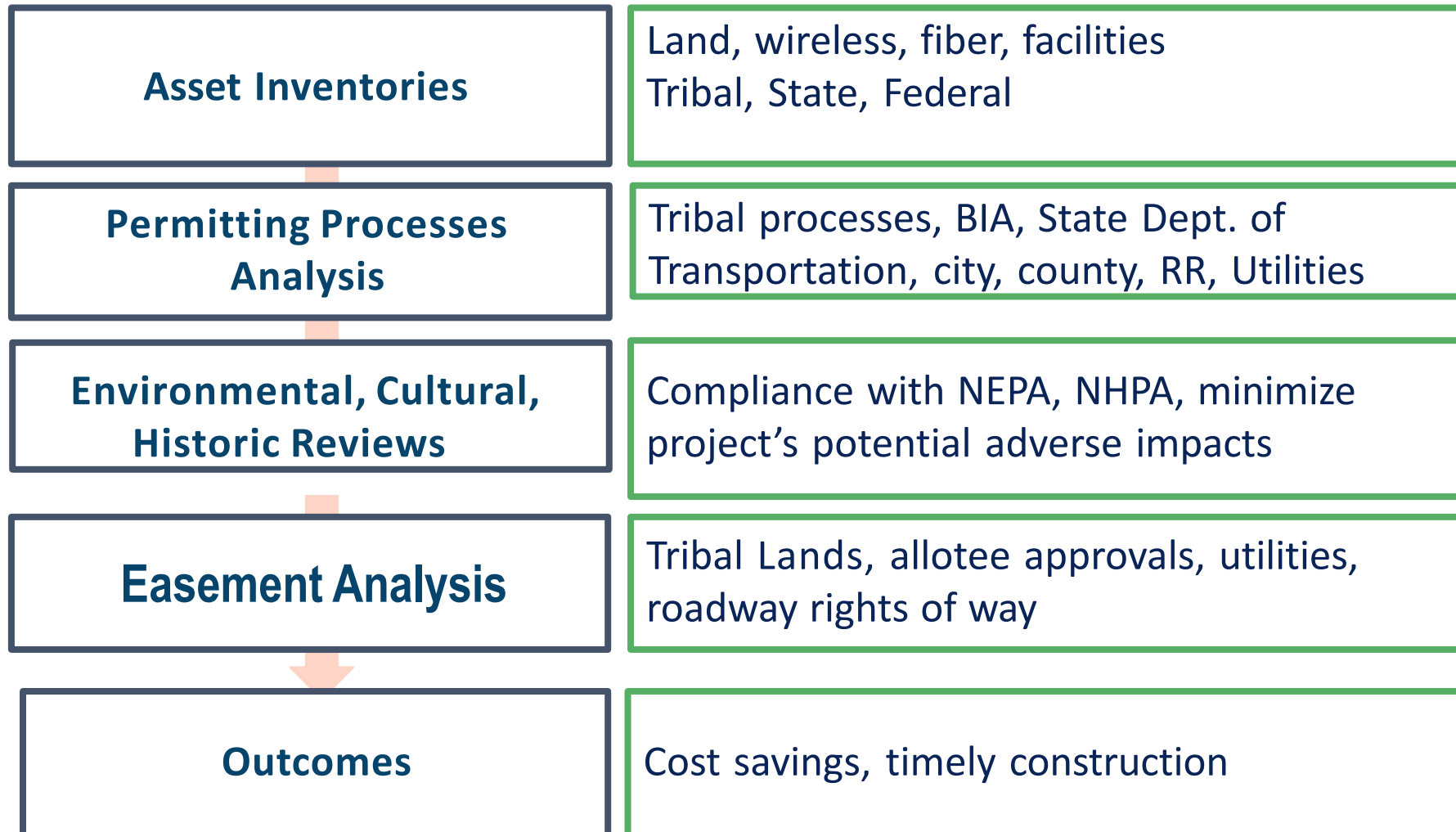
# Planning Your Broadband Application



Community Priorities Shape a Project from Inception to Implementation



# Infrastructure - Best Practices



# Broadband Project - Business Plans



Business planning and ongoing project management improves project budgeting and sustainability, which are evaluated during an application's merit review.



**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.** Plan and budget for environmental, cultural, historic reviews



**Step 5.** Consider operational requirements



**Step 6.** Document financial projections



# Eligible Projects - Adoption 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



# Examples of Digital Inclusion Programs



## Access / Affordability

- Discount Broadband, Public WiFi, Cell on Wheels (COWs), Mobile Hotspots, Internet in Public / Affordable Housing, WiFi Buses, FCC's Affordable Connectivity Program promotion\*

## 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

**\*Important Note:** No Use and Adoption projects may include activities which require NEPA/NHPA clearance



# How to Apply

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# How to Apply



**Applications must be submitted by January 23, 2024 at 11:59 PM ET. Please begin the application process early to minimize the risk of problems with your submission.**

**Prior to submission, applicants must register in the System for Award Management. To check your registration, or to register, go to [www.sam.gov](http://www.sam.gov).**

- **Submit Online:** Apply electronically through [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov)
- **Submit by Email:** Send completed applications to [broadbandusa@ntia.gov](mailto:broadbandusa@ntia.gov). Applications submitted by email should be machine-readable and shall not be copy-protected
- **Submit By Mail:** Send completed applications (either in hard copy or electronic format) to:  
National Telecommunications and Information Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Avenue NW, Room 4878  
Attn: Douglas Kinkoph, Associate Administrator  
Washington, DC 20230



# Required Forms – All Applications



All applicants must submit the following forms:

- Form SF-424
- Form CD-511
- Form LLL
- Completed TBCP2 Project Information Form
- Certification Regarding Compliance with Cyber Security and Supply Chain Management Requirements
- For projects proposing both Use and Adoption and Infrastructure Deployment activities, the above forms must be completed using the total requested funding amount





# Required Forms – Use and Adoption (see NOFO for full detailed list of requirements)



- **Form SF-424A**
- **Project Narrative, including but not limited to:**
  - **Executive Summary**
  - **Status as an Eligible Entity**
  - **Table of Funded and Unfunded Participants**
  - **Resumes of Key Personnel**
  - **Description of Community Needs, Problems, or Challenges**
  - **Project Objectives, Activities, and Timelines**
  - **Project Performance Measures**
- **Budget Narrative**
- **Detailed Budget Justification**
- **Indirect Cost Rate Agreement**



# Required Forms – Infrastructure Deployment (see NOFO for full detailed list of requirements)



- **Form SF-424C**
- **Project Narrative, including but not limited to :**
  - **Executive Summary**
  - **Status as an Eligible Entity**
  - **Table of Funded and Unfunded Participants and Resumes of Key Personnel**
  - **Estimates for the proposed service area of:**
    - **Total number of households, businesses or community anchor institutions**
    - **Unserved households, businesses or community anchor institutions**
    - **Households at or above 150% of the poverty line**
  - **Project Objectives, Activities, and Timelines**
  - **Estimated number of jobs to be created, including those for Native American/Alaska Native/Native Hawaiian citizens and that are TERO compliant**
  - **Description of the physical area of the proposed service area, and consideration of the impact of climate and weather-related factors on the project**



- **Budget Narrative**
- **Detailed Budget Justification**
- **Pro Forma Financials**
- **Maps of Proposed Service Area**
  - **Maps must be submitted as GIS shapefiles**
  - **Maps should include all existing and proposed broadband infrastructure, proposed service locations, and network details (e.g. fiber counts, power supply, drop points)**
- **Tribal Resolution(s) of Consent**
- **Tribal Government Certification of Unserved Areas**

# Required Disclosures for Certification



To be valid, an applicant's certification of unserved areas must include:

- Disclosure of all Enforceable Buildout Commitments.
- Disclosure of a terminated Enforceable Buildout Commitment. Failure to disclose may result in NTIA removing the application from consideration for TBCP funding.
- Disclosure of the presence of facilities capable of delivering qualifying broadband service, including fiber facilities or other broadband technology, deployed on Tribal Lands if the Tribe has knowledge of their locations.
- Disclosure of the Tribe's participation in the FCC's challenge process for its National Broadband Map or its participation in the state's submission for the FCC's challenge process for its National Broadband Map. Provide documentation of the challenge(s) submitted.
  - Certifications should include the total number of locations within the proposed service area included in an applicant's challenge



# Broadband Resources

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# Tribal Broadband Leaders Network



One-stop shop for resources on broadband efforts on Tribal Land

Active network of Tribal leaders leading broadband efforts

Channel for communication and review of policies between federal agencies and Tribes



To join TBLN, email [tbln@ntia.gov](mailto:tbln@ntia.gov)



# 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



FCC Broadband Data Collection

[fcc.gov/BroadbandData](https://www.fcc.gov/BroadbandData)



NTIA Data Explorer

[ntia.doc.gov/data](https://www.ntia.doc.gov/data)



American Community Survey

[census.gov/quickfacts](https://www.census.gov/quickfacts)

BROADBANDNOW®

BroadbandNow\*

[broadbandnow.com](https://www.broadbandnow.com)



Speedtest by Ookla\*

[speedtest.net](https://www.speedtest.net)

MLAB

Measurement Lab\*

[speed.measurementlab.net](https://speed.measurementlab.net)



I3 Connectivity Explorer\*

[i3connect.org](https://www.i3connect.org)

*\*These are not federal tools. They are external tools or products, listed here because they are used frequently by applicants and grantees to access data when developing broadband plans. NTIA cannot vouch for their accuracy.*





# 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)



# Additional Resources



[Tribal Broadband Planning Toolkit](#)

[Digital Equity in Tribal Communities](#)

[Broadband Asset Management and Mapping Guide](#)

[Internet For All – Funding Search](#)





# Q & A

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**THANK YOU**

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